

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2748
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2021**

Request for increase in Mid-Day Meal funds for Kerala

2748. Dr. V. Sivadasan:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received request for the increase in the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) funds in the yearly work plan 2020-21 from the State Government of Kerala;
- (b) the progress regarding the same;
- (c) whether Government intends to increase the honorarium of the Mid-Day Meal cooking workers, as per the request from the State Government of Kerala;
- (d) if so, by when it is going to be achieved; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)**

- (a) & (b): State Government of Kerala, in Annual Work Plan & Budget 2019-20 submitted proposals requesting an amount of Rs. 21537.92 lakhs under PM POSHAN Scheme (earlier known as 'National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools'). In Annual Work Plan & Budget 2020-21, the State Government has submitted proposals for an amount of Rs. 29268.77 lakhs. These proposals were considered in the Programme Approval Board Meetings and the entire proposed amount for the year 2020-21 was approved.
- (c) to (e): Under the Scheme, Cook-Cum-Helpers (CCHs) are engaged for preparing and serving hot cooked meals at schools. They are honorary workers who have come forward for rendering social services. In recognition of their services, the CCHs are paid Rs.1000 per month as honorarium for 10 months in a year. Honorarium is also provided to CCHs for preparing and serving hot cooked meals in elementary schools during summer vacation in drought affected areas notified by the concerned State Governments. The honorarium expenditure is shared between the Central Government and States/UTs as per the approved sharing pattern. Some State Governments and UT Administrations also supplement the honorarium by providing additional funds from their own resources.
