

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1759
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2023

“REDUCTION OF FUND UNDER PM-POSHAN”

1759 MS. DOLA SEN

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- a. the reason for the continued and consistent reduction of government funding to the PM-POSHAN scheme since 2017 and yet again in financial year 2023-24;
- b. whether Government takes cognizance of the impact of the budgetary reduction on outcomes of parallel schemes such as Samagra Siksha Abhiyaan;
- c. the action plan of Government to combat loss of learning and nutrition outcomes due to the above mentioned reduction;
- d. if so, the details of implementation and timelines for the same; and
- e. if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e) The PM POSHAN (erstwhile Mid-day Meal) Scheme is under the Ministry of Education. As per information given by Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, the Budget allocated under the PM Poshan Scheme for the year 2017-18 was 10000.00 crore which increased in 2018-19 to Rs. 10500.00 crore and further increased to Rs. 11000.00 crore in the year 2019-20.

The Budget was again increased to Rs. 12900.00 crore for the year 2020-21 as all the enrolled children were provided Food Security Allowance (FSA) due to COVID-19 pandemic during the year. The BE in 2021-22 was lower due to the unforeseen outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, forcing all schools to close resulting in activities coming to a standstill. Thus, the process of release of funds was curtailed and anticipated expenditure could not be incurred under the respective heads.

The BE for 2022-23 was Rs. 10,233.75 crore. However there is an increase in the enrolled number of children in Government and Government-Aided Schools. Besides, the material cost has also been enhanced. In view of the above, the RE 2022-23 has been increased to Rs.12,800.00 crore against the BE of Rs. 10233.75 crore.

DoSEL has informed that the RE of Rs.12800.00 crore is sufficient to implement the scheme with existing norms during 2022-23. The BE for the financial year 2023-24 is Rs. 11600.00 crore which is likely to be sufficient for implementation of the scheme with existing norms during 2023-24.
