

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3717
ANSWERED ON-05.04.2023

Mid-day meals for children under the Poshan Abhiyan

3717 # DR. RADHA MOHAN DAS AGRAWAL:

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

- (a) whether the protein, calories and cooking cost of mid-day meals for children have been increased under the Poshan Abhiyan and if so, since when and the extent to which this increase has been made;
- (b) States which have started giving more food to students and increased cooking cost to schools and the States which have not yet implemented it on the ground; and
- (c) the States which are providing more cooking cost from their own resources?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (c): As per the provisions of National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, children studying in classes I-VIII or within the age group of 6-14 years are entitled to one mid day meal free of charge, every day except on school holidays, in all Government and Government aided schools so as to meet nutritional standards specified in the Act. Accordingly, one hot cooked meal is provided to eligible children on all working school days under PM POSHAN Scheme. The following nutritional content is prescribed in the Scheme:

Components	Primary	Upper Primary
Calories	450 Cal	700 Cal
Protein	12 gms.	20 gms.

Under the PM POSHAN Scheme, the Central Government revised the material cost (earlier known as cooking cost) on the basis of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) by increasing 9.6% over and above the existing material cost in 2022. The revised material cost per day per child for Bal Vatika and Primary classes as well as Upper Primary classes are Rs. 5.45 and Rs. 8.17 as against the prior cost of Rs. 4.97 and Rs. 7.45 respectively w.e.f 01.10.2022. The above material cost is to be shared between Centre and States/UTs and all the States/UTs are advised to implement the Scheme with minimum matching state share. However, States/UTs are free to contribute more than their prescribed share.
