

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.817
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27thJULY, 2023

IMPLEMENTATION OF SEVA BHOJ YOJANA

817. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

Will the **MINISTER OF CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- whether Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme by the name of “SEVA BHOJ YOJANA” throughout the country;
- if so, the details thereof, including objective, scope, criteria for financial assistance and procedure for enrollment;
- the type of activities supported under the Scheme;
- the details of funds allocated and disbursed under the Scheme so far; and
- the number of charitable/religious institutions applied and selected/rejected under the Scheme as on 30th June, 2023?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

- Yes Sir. The Ministry of Culture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme by the name of “SEVA BHOJ YOJANA” throughout the country.
- &(c) The details of objective, scope, criteria for financial assistance, procedure for enrollment and type of activities supported under the SevaBhoj Scheme are Annexed.
- The details of funds allocated and disbursed under the scheme since its inception is given as under:-

Amount (Rs. in crore)			
Sl. No.	Financial Year	Funds Allocated	Funds Disbursed
1.	2019-20	4.00	1.95
2.	2020-21	2.03	1.69
3.	2021-22	2.05	1.54
4.	2022-23	1.49	1.43
5.	2023-24 (as on 24 th July, 2023)	1.50	1.46

- The number of charitable/religious institutions applied and selected/rejected under the Scheme as on 30th June, 2023 is given as under:-

Number of Applications received	Number of Applications selected	Number of Applications rejected
2541	13	2528

Annexure referred to in Reply to Part (b)&(c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 817 for 27-07-2023

Objective of SevaBhoj Scheme: Under the Scheme of 'SevaBhojYojna' Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Central Government's share of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) paid on purchase of specific raw food items by Charitable/Religious Institutions for distributing free food to public shall be reimbursed as Financial Assistance by the Government of India.

Scope of SevaBhoj Scheme: This is a Central Sector Scheme for providing reimbursement of CGST and Central Government's share of IGST paid by charitable/religious institutions on purchase of specific raw food items for serving free food to public / devotees. The scheme shall be applicable only to such institutions which are eligible under the Scheme

Criteria for Financial Assistance under SevaBhojYojana:

- (i) A Public Trust or society or body corporate, or organisation or institution covered under the provisions of section 10 (23BBA) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (as amended from time to time) or registered under the provisions of section 12AA of the Income Tax Act, 1961, for charitable/religious purposes, or a company formed and registered under the provisions of section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 or section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956, as the case may be, for charitable/ religious purposes, or a Public Trust registered as such for charitable/religious purposes under any Law for the time being in force, or a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, for charitable/religious purposes.
- (ii) The applicant Public Trust or society or body corporate, or organisation or institution, as the case may be, must be involved in charitable/religious activities by way of free and philanthropic distribution of food/prasad/langar(Community Kitchen)/ bhandara free of cost and without discrimination through the modus of public, charitable/religious trusts or endowments including maths, temples, gurdwaras, wakfs, churches, synagogues, agiaries or other places of public religious worship.
- (iii) The institutions/organizations should have been in existence for preceding three years before applying for assistance.
- (iv) Only those institutions would be eligible for financial assistance which have been distributing free food, langar and prasad to public for at-least past three years on the day of application. For this purpose, entities shall furnish a self- certificate.
- (v) Financial Assistance under the scheme shall be given only to those institutions which are not in receipt any Financial Assistance from the Central/State Government for the purpose of distributing free food: self- certificate.
- (vi) The institutions shall serve free food to at least 5000 people in a calendar month.
- (vii) The Institution/Organization blacklisted under the provisions of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) or under the provisions of any Act/Rules of the Central/State Government shall not be eligible for Financial Assistance under the Scheme.

Procedure for Enrolment under SevaBhojYojana: There shall be one time enrolment for eligible Charitable/Religious Institutions who apply under ‘SevaBhojYojna Scheme’. The Ministry of Culture will enrol eligible Charitable/Religious Institutions which may be reviewed / renewed by the Ministry, subject to the performance evaluation of the institutions. Charitable/Religious Institution shall first register with Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog and get Unique ID generated by Darpan Portal (if not already obtained). Thereafter, the Charitable/Religious Institution shall apply “online” in the prescribed application form and upload required documents as listed below:-

- (i) Copy of the valid Registration Certificate.
- (ii) Copy of Memorandum of Association/Article of Association/Charter of Activities of the organisation.
- (iii) Copies of Audited Accounts for the last three years.
- (iv) Copies of Annual Report, if any, for last three years.
- (v) List of Office bearers/Governing Body of the institution.
- (vi) Name of the authorized signatory who will sign all documents with contact details and E-mail ID.
- (vii) Self-certificate indicating that the institution is distributing free food for at-least past three years on the day of application and providing free food to at least 5000 people in a month.
- (viii) Certificate from District Magistrate indicating that the institution is involved in charitable/religious activities and is distributing free food to public/devotees etc. since last three years at least on daily/monthly basis.
- (ix) PAN/ TAN Number of the institution/ organization.
- (x) List of locations where free food is being distributed by the institution.
- (xi) Number of persons being served free food by the Institution in previous year - self declaration.
- (xii) Bank Authorization Letter as per prescribed format.

All applications along with supporting documents received online from the institutions in the Ministry shall be examined by a Committee constituted for the purpose. Incomplete applications not supported by required documents will be summarily rejected and only eligible charitable/religious institutions will be permitted to claim Financial Assistance as reimbursement of CGST and Central Government’s share of IGST paid on raw food items.

Type of Activities Supported under SevaBhojYojana:

Free ‘prasad’ or free food or free ‘langar’ / ‘bhandara’ (community kitchen) offered by charitable/religious institutions like Gurudwara, Temples, Dharmik Ashram, Mosques, Dargah, Church, Math, Monasteries etc. Financial Assistance will be provided on First-cum-First Serve basis of registration linked to fund available for the purpose in a Financial Year
