

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-42
ANSWERED ON - 06/12/2023

Utilisation of locally produced rice for the school mid-day meal program

42. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) whether Government of Kerala has sought special permission from the Centre to utilize locally produced rice for the school mid-day meal program;
- (b) if so, whether Government is prepared to grant the necessary sanction;
- (c) whether allowing the use of locally produced rice for the mid-day meal program will enable State Government to utilize the rice surplus and provide support to local farmers; and
- (d) the details of current amount of funds due from the Centre for the mid-day meal scheme in Kerala?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 42 for 06.12.2023 raised by Shri K.C. Venugopal, Hon'ble MP regarding Utilisation of locally produced rice for the school mid-day meal program

(a) to (c): No such proposal has been received by Ministry of Education, Government of India. PM POSHAN Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which Central Government provides 100 per cent food grains along with transportation assistance. Under the Scheme, the food grains are allocated biannually by the Department of School Education and Literacy with the concurrence of Department of Food and Public Distribution through FCI. It is the responsibility of Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure continuous availability of adequate quantity of good quality of food grains (Wheat, Rice, Coarse Grains). Kerala is a Decentralized Procurement (DCP) state wherein procurement operations are carried out by the State Government and its agencies for FCI. The food grains stock procured by the State Government and its agencies are consumed within the same itself. Additional requirement, if any, is met by movement of stock from surplus states through FCI. For the year 2023-24, under PM POSHAN Scheme 71598.86 MT fortified rice has been allocated to State Government of Kerala.

(d): Programme Approval Board- PM POSHAN has approved the State's Annual Work Plan & Budget 2023-24 with an outlay of Rs. 478.96 crore in which Central Share is Rs. 303.21 crore and State Share is Rs. 175.75 crore. As on date Rs. 108.34 crore has been released to State Government of Kerala as Central Assistance in addition to Rs. 32.34 crore already available as unspent balance with the State. Further funds will be released as per the extant guidelines.
