

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-343
ANSWERED ON-06.12.2023

PM POSHAN Scheme

343 SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the bad quality of meals being provided to children under PM-POSHAN Scheme, and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of actions taken by Government to ensure good quality and quantity of meals being provided to children; and
- (c) whether Government is taking any cognizance of the quality of raw materials being supplied/used to prepare meals and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c): The overall responsibility for providing nutritious hot cooked meal to the eligible children lies with State Governments and UTs Administrations. Accordingly, the respective State Governments and UT Administrations have been requested to take necessary action in a timely manner and to furnish Action Taken Report regarding quality of food.

The Government of India issued guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene in school level kitchens to all the States and UTs to address the quality issue. These guidelines inter-alia provide for instructions to schools to procure Agmark quality and branded items for preparation of hot cooked meal, tasting of meals by 2-3 adult members of School Management Committee including at least one teacher before serving to children and to put in place a system of testing of food samples by accredited laboratories. The Government has also adopted an elaborate monitoring mechanism at Central, State and District levels to ensure quality food is served to children.

As per guidelines of the scheme, it is the responsibility of Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure continuous availability of adequate quantity of good quality of food grains. FCI also keeps samples of such food grains supplied by it for future verification and analysis in case of receiving any complaints regarding the quality of food grains. The District administration holds monthly meetings with FCI District Manager or his representative and all other concerned officials to resolve all the issues pertaining to lifting, quality of food grains and payment. States/UTs monitor the lifting, payment and quantity of food grains sent to School/Cooking Agency in a meeting with the State nodal officer of the FCI.
