

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.-2916
ANSWERED ON-26.03.2025

Honorarium to Mid-day Meal cook-cum-helper

2916 **Shri Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy:**

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

- (a) whether honorarium paid to Mid-day Meal (MDM) cook-cum-helper is only ₹ 1,000 pm in 10 States/UTs;
- (b) whether Government is paying just ₹ 600 out of above ₹ 1000 and the honorarium has not been revised in recent past;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the National Minimum Wage comes to ₹ 178 per day, but MDM cook-cum-helpers are being paid just ₹ 33 per day;
- (d) the reasons for not enhancing the wages for MDM cooks-cum-helpers in the recent past and whether there are any plan to increase the same by Government; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

- (a)to (e): Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme, earlier known as 'National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools', is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented in partnership with the States and UTs. The overall responsibility for smooth functioning of the scheme including providing hot cooked and nutritious meal to the eligible children as well as engagement of cook-cum-helpers (CCHs) lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. However, these CCHs are honorary workers who have come forward for rendering social services. As per guidelines of the Scheme, honorarium of Rs. 1000/- per month for 10 months in a year is prescribed for these CCHs in recognition of their services and the same is being continued. The honorarium expenditure is shared between the Central Government and States and UTs as per the approved sharing pattern. The State Governments and UT Administrations have the authority to enhance the honorarium by providing additional funds from their own resources and many State Governments and UT Administrations have supplemented the honorarium by providing additional funds. The details of honorarium provided to CCHs under the PM POSHAN Scheme by the States and UTs are given at Annexure.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2916 for 26.03.2025 asked by Hon'ble MP Shri Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy regarding Honorarium to Mid-day Meal cook-cum-helper.

Honorarium of Cook cum Helper per month

S.No.	States/UTs	Cooks-cum-Helpers - Honorarium Per Month (in Rs)	Additional Honorarium per month to cook-cum-helpers provided by States/ UTs (in Rs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	3000	2000
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2000	1000
3	Assam	1500	500
4	Bihar	1650	650
5	Chhattisgarh	2000	1000
6	Goa	1000	0
7	Gujarat	3250	2250
8	Haryana	7000	6000
9	Himachal Pradesh	4500	3500
10	Jharkhand	3000	2000
11	Karnataka	3700	2700
12	Kerala	12000	11000
13	Madhya Pradesh	4000	3000
14	Maharashtra	2500	1500
15	Manipur	1000	0
16	Meghalaya	2000	1000
17	Mizoram	3000	2000
18	Nagaland	1000	0
19	Odisha	2000	1000
20	Punjab	3000	2000
21	Rajasthan	2143	1143
22	Sikkim	1000	0
23	Tamil Nadu	4100-12500	3100-11500
24	Telangana	3000	2000
25	Tripura	2500	1500
26	Uttar Pradesh	2000	1000
27	Uttarakhand	3000	2000
28	West Bengal	2000	1000
29	A&N Islands	1000	0
30	Chandigarh	4500	3500
31	D&N and D & Diu	6461	5461
32	Delhi	1000	0
33	Jammu & Kashmir	1000	0
34	Ladakh	1000	0
35	Lakshadweep	18000-20200	18000-20200
36	Puducherry	10000	9000