

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-110
ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025

Utilisation of foodgrains under PM POSHAN

110 Shri S Niranjana Reddy:

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

- (a) whether any mechanism has been established for schools to report real-time utilisation of foodgrains supplied by the Food Corporation of India under PM POSHAN;
- (b) whether any provision exists to allow surplus foodgrains from one district to be reallocated to another under the scheme; and
- (c) whether the Ministry can provide the State-wise allocation of foodgrains for PM POSHAN during 2024–25, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 110 FOR 30.07.2025 RAISED BY SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY, HON'BLE MP REGARDING UTILISATION OF FOODGRAINS UNDER PM POSHAN.

(a) to (c): Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme is one of the foremost rights based Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented in partnership with the States and UTs for providing one hot cooked and nutritious meal to all children studying in Bal Vatika (just before class-I) and classes I to VIII of Government and Government-aided schools. The Scheme covers about 11 crore children in more than 10.35 lakh schools in all the States/UTs. The overall responsibility for providing hot cooked and nutritious meal to the eligible children lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

It may be noted that though PM POSHAN is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the Central Government provides 100% assistance for cost of foodgrains, transportation cost and cost of Management Monitoring & Evaluation (MME). For FY 2025-26, budget allocation for the PM Poshan Scheme is Rs. 12,500 crore by Government of India and the State/ UT share as per the sharing pattern is around Rs. 7,500 crore including additional funds for Honorarium to Cook-cum-Helpers and Supplementary Nutrition items. The foodgrain allocation by Government of India is 24.15 lakh MTs which costs around Rs. 9000 crore. Thus overall allocation for the PM Poshan Scheme for FY 2025-26 is more than Rs. 30,000 crore including more than Rs. 21,500 crore made by Government of India.

As mandated under the Scheme, foodgrains are provided by Food Corporation of India (FCI). The foodgrains/ fortified foodgrains are allocated bi-annually by the Department of School Education and Literacy with the concurrence of Department of Food and Public Distribution. The State-wise allocation of foodgrains under PM Poshan Scheme is given at **Annexure-1**.

The allocation of foodgrains, as approved by the Programme Approval Board (PAB) are made to the State Nodal Department and the FCI. The payment of the cost of foodgrains has been decentralized to ensure greater stake holding and role of the district authorities in ensuring prompt lifting of foodgrains and timely payment to FCI, which has resulted in reducing time lag in making payment to FCI. It is the responsibility of the FCI to ensure continuous availability of adequate foodgrains in its Depots (and in Principal Distribution Centres in the case of North East Region). It allows lifting of foodgrains for any month/quarter upto one month in advance so that supply chain of foodgrains remains uninterrupted. FCI issues foodgrains of best available quality, which in any case is at least of Fair Average Quality (FAQ). FCI has also appointed a Nodal Officer for each State to take care of various problems in supply of foodgrains under the Scheme. The District Collector/CEO of Zila Panchayat also ensures that foodgrains of at least FAQ are issued by FCI after joint inspection by a team consisting of FCI and the nominee of the Collector and/or Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat, and confirmation by them that the grain conforms to at least FAQ norms. FCI keeps samples of such foodgrains supplied by it for future verification and analysis which is available in case of any complaints regarding the quality of foodgrains supplied.

PM Poshan Guidelines provides that wherever appropriate, a single Government/ Semi-Government agency with State wide jurisdiction and network, e.g. State Civil Supplies Corporation, may be designated as the State Nodal Transport Agency. This Agency is responsible for lifting foodgrains from FCI godowns and delivering them to designated authority at the taluk/ block level. State Government also needs to make fool proof arrangements to ensure that the foodgrains are carried from the district/block level to each school, etc., in a timely manner. Alternatively, District/Block Panchayats may be assigned the responsibility for different districts/blocks or groups of districts/blocks in the State. Every State Government/ UT Administration designates one nodal officer or agency at the district and block level (e.g. the District Collector, District/Intermediate Panchayat, etc.) who is assigned overall responsibility of effective implementation of the programme at the district/block level. The District Nodal Agency ensures that each school is informed of its monthly allocation of foodgrains and financial sanctions. It also identifies the Transportation Agency to transport foodgrains from the nearest FCI godown to school. The transportations could be done once in a month.

Central Government has put in place an automated system of data collection for real time monitoring of PM POSHAN Scheme. Such data (on number of meals served on that particular day and reasons if meals not served) is being captured from schools with no cost to school Head Master/ Teacher. Under the automated monitoring system, States/ UTs have set up a suitable system of data collection (i.e. Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS)/SMS/Mobile Application/Web Application) from schools on a daily basis and using it for purpose of monitoring and timely follow up action. Based on the data collected, various drill down reports are made available for real time monitoring of the scheme at National/State/District/Block level. Data on important parameters available on dashboard is used for monitoring purposes.

The State Governments and UT Administrations prepare comprehensive Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B), inter-alia, with detailed district-wise vital information on coverage of children, working days and schools; enrolment in schools; utilisation of foodgrains, utilisation of cooking cost, transportation assistance, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME), payment of honorarium to Cook-cum-Helper, construction of kitchen-cum-stores, procurement of kitchen devices etc. The Programme Approval Board (PAB) meets at the beginning of each financial year in order to consider and sanction the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) submitted by the State Governments and UT Administrations.

The Scheme inter-alia provides additional allocation of funds and foodgrains if student enrolment surpasses the Programme Approval Board (PAB) approval. The quantification of resources on the basis of approvals made by the Programme Approval Board (PAB) – PM POSHAN Scheme for a particular financial year are only an estimate for release of Central Assistance and allocation of foodgrains during that particular financial year under the Scheme. The National Food Security Act, 2013, Rules, Guidelines and Instructions issued under the PM POSHAN Scheme from time to time, provide that every child attending an eligible institution is to be covered under the Scheme and shall be served hot cooked meals or provided with Food Security Allowance, as applicable, on all school days. If it is noticed by the State / UT that more funds are needed to implement the Scheme, due to increase in the

attendance of children, increase in school working days or for any other reason, they may approach Government of India during the year with justification seeking additional Central Assistance and foodgrains.

It is the responsibility of the FCI to ensure continuous availability of adequate quantity of good quality of foodgrains. FCI is to ensure continuous availability of adequate quantity of foodgrains, which in any case is not less than of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) in its Depots. The matters of transfer of foodgrains from one district to another have not been reported. FCI has been asked to make arrangements of foodgrains of prescribed quantity and quality. During the year 2024-25, foodgrains to the tune of 25.31 lakh MTs at an approximate cost of Rs. 9,000 crore have been supplied by the Government of India through Food Corporation of India (FCI).

As per the extant guidelines of the PM Poshan Scheme States/ UTs have conducted social audits in 32,664 schools across the country. Further, the States/ UTs through their designated officials have conducted inspections in 9.78 lakh schools. The State/ UTs have conducted 25,389 testing of meals across the country. To encourage community participation in the scheme, Tithi Bhojan is extensively promoted, wherein, community members are encouraged to provide full meal/ additional food items to school children on special occasions such as festivals, anniversaries, birthdays, marriages, and days of National importance etc. Overall, 6.43 crore students studying in 5.77 lakh schools were benefitted under Tithi Bhojan across the country. To give first hand experience with nature, gardening and to inculcate the habit of eat right among the students School Nutrition Gardens (SNGs) have been set up and are funded under the Scheme. As on 31st March, 2025 more than 6.28 lakh schools have set up SNGs under the Scheme.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 110 FOR 30.07.2025 RAISED BY SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY, HON'BLE MP REGARDING UTILISATION OF FOODGRAINS UNDER PM POSHAN.

Foodgrains allocated during 2024-25

(in MTs)

S. No.	State/UT	Foodgrains allocated during 2024-25		
		Wheat	Rice	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	66450.35	66450.35
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	3948.95	3948.95
3	Assam	0.00	103343.73	103343.73
4	Bihar	0.00	324227.06	324227.06
5	Chhattisgarh	0.00	73138.41	73138.41
6	Goa	2261.42	2261.42	4522.84
7	Gujarat	60740.22	60740.23	121480.45
8	Haryana	18633.99	22774.87	41408.86
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	14059.43	14059.43
10	J & Kashmir	0.00	22476.70	22476.70
11	Jharkhand	0.00	84970.08	84970.08
12	Karnataka	21841.73	110874.47	132716.20
13	Kerala	0.00	67147.28	67147.28
14	Madhya Pradesh	82209.04	43762.53	125971.57
15	Maharashtra	0.00	260330.25	260330.25
16	Manipur	0.00	4809.25	4809.25
17	Meghalaya	0.00	14661.30	14661.30
18	Mizoram	0.00	3310.63	3310.63
19	Nagaland	0.00	3119.31	3119.31
20	Odisha	0.00	120222.88	120222.88
21	Punjab	23022.89	23022.89	46045.78
22	Rajasthan	92798.23	46392.16	139190.39
23	Sikkim	0.00	1120.69	1120.69
24	Tamil Nadu	0.00	95341.63	95341.63
25	Telangana	0.00	35476.39	35476.39
26	Tripura	0.00	8198.79	8198.79
27	Uttarakhand	353.56	16162.17	16515.73
28	Uttar Pradesh	102000.98	207092.90	309093.88
29	West Bengal	0.00	246130.60	246130.60
30	A&N islands	0.00	658.79	658.79
31	Chandigarh	206.63	1659.72	1866.35
32	D&NH & D&Diu	0.00	1697.18	1697.18
33	Delhi	17838.60	17838.60	35677.20
34	Ladakh	0.00	422.54	422.54
35	Lakshadweep	0.00	227.84	227.84
36	Puducherry	0.00	1287.10	1287.10
	TOTAL	421907.29	2109359.11	2531266.40