

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-44
ANSWERED ON 23.07.2025

Cook-cum-Helpers and kitchen facilities under PM POSHAN

44 Dr. Bhagwat Karad:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

a) the number of children currently benefiting from the PM POSHAN scheme across various schools in the country and whether the Ministry has evaluated its reach and effectiveness;

(b) the details of cook-cum-helpers engaged under the scheme, State-wise/UT-wise, and whether steps are being taken to improve their training, working conditions, and honorarium; and

(c) the number of kitchen-cum-stores constructed State-wise/UT-wise to ensure safe storage of foodgrains and hygienic meal preparation, and whether the Ministry has any plans to expand or upgrade such infrastructure for better service delivery

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. 44 FOR 23.07.2025 RAISED BY DR. BHAGWAT KARAD,
HON'BLE MP REGARDING COOK-CUM-HELPERS AND KITCHEN FACILITIES
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 State/UT-wise details of children benefitting under PM POSHAN Scheme is at **Annexure-I**.

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. These CCHs are honorary workers who have come forward for rendering social services and preparing and serving hot cooked meal at schools. More than 24 lakh CCHs are engaged under the Scheme of whom over 90% are women. The State/UT-wise number of Cook-cum-Helpers (CCHs) engaged under PM POSHAN Scheme is given at **Annexure-II**. As per guidelines of the Scheme, uniform 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 also supplement the honorarium by providing additional funds from their own resources.

The Government of India has issued detailed guidelines on improve the implementation of the scheme to all the States/UTs. These guidelines are available on official website <https://pmposhan.education.gov.in> . These guidelines, inter-alia, provides for instructions to schools to procure Agmark quality and branded items for preparation of meals, training to Cook-cum-Helpers, tasting of meals by members of School Management Committee including at least one teacher before serving the hot meal to children. The Guidelines inter-alia provides for training of Cook-cum-Helpers on nutrition, cooking processes, health and hygiene, preparation of raw grains and vegetables, recipes, serving skills etc. States/UTs are providing training to CCHs in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism, Government of India through their Institutes of Hotel Management and Food Craft Institutes, FSSAI, State Agricultural Universities etc. States/ UTs are directed to conduct Cooking Competitions among Cook cum Helpers to encourage them to cook varied and nutritious meals. Many States/ UTs are conducting the Competitions and also giving cash prizes to the winners.

The State/UT-wise details of Kitchen-cum-Stores constructed to store and protect foodgrains in order to provide safe and hygienic food to children in the country is given at **Annexure-III**. Under the Scheme 9.11 lakh (97%) Kitchen-cum-Stores (KCS) have been constructed all over

India. Few of the States/ UTs are utilizing Centralized Kitchen facilities to provide hot cooked meals to students. State-wise number of children covered under Centralised Kitchens run by NGOs is at **Annexure-IV**. States/UTs have to ensure that all logistic and administrative arrangement are made to ensure regular serving of wholesome, nutritious and cooked meal in every eligible school. This includes development of adequate infrastructure viz. construction of kitchen-cum-store, and kitchen devices, through funding made under the Scheme and mobilization of additional resources through convergence with other developmental programmes of other departments or State / UT budgetary support.

The cost of construction and repairing of Kitchen-cum-Stores (KCS) is shared between Centre and States/ UTs as per the approved sharing pattern. The norms for construction of KCS are as per plinth area norm and State Schedule of Rates. A 20 sq meter KCS may be constructed for school having enrolment of 100 students. Additional 4 sq metre may be added for every addition of up to 100 students. The slab of 100 students may be modified by the States / UTs depending upon local conditions. In one State / UT, there can be more than one slab, however, the modified prescription of plinth area has to confirm to the above ceiling.

NITI Aayog has conducted the evaluation of PM Poshan Scheme through an independent third-party agency in 2019-20. Joint Review Missions (JRM)s are conducted to review the scheme through field visits. The States/ UTs through their designated officials have conducted inspections in 9.78 lakh schools. Further, the State/ UTs have conducted 25,389 testing of meals across the country. States/ UTs have conducted social audits in 32,664 schools 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. The School Nutrition Gardens (SNGs) have been set up in more than 6.28 lakh schools under the Scheme. The scheme provides elaborate monitoring mechanism i.e. Empowered Committee under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Union Education Minister, Programme Approval Board (PAB) under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (DoSE&L), State Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee under the Chairpersonship of Chief Secretary, District level Steering-cum- Monitoring Committee under the Chairpersonship of District Collector. The PM Poshan Guidelines provides a District Level Committee under the Chairmanship of senior most Member of Parliament (MP) of the district to monitor the scheme on quarterly basis.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 44 FOR 23.07.2025 RAISED BY DR. BHAGWAT KARAD, HON'BLE MP REGARDING COOK-CUM-HELPERS AND KITCHEN FACILITIES UNDER PM POSHAN.

Number of children enrolled under PM POSHAN Scheme

SN	State/UT	Number of Students enrolled			
		Bal Vatika	Primary	Up. Primary	Total
1	A & N Islands	5136	13279	10811	29226
2	Andhra Pradesh	0	1520162	1072578	2592740
3	Arunachal Pradesh	12817	76866	52116	141799
4	Assam	225180	2424677	1269192	3919049
5	Bihar	0	11403140	5905157	17308297
6	Chandigarh	14918	44270	40684	99872
7	Chhattisgarh	54376	1698427	1101784	2854587
8	Delhi	110242	795229	750600	1656071
9	DNH & DD	7678	40647	27143	75468
10	Goa	2571	92501	66571	161643
11	Gujarat	529306	2746239	1880218	5155763
12	Haryana	80862	828533	638714	1548109
13	Himachal Pradesh	71713	247577	194194	513484
14	Jammu & Kashmir	182596	490147	279365	952108
15	Jharkhand	42515	2643989	1417241	4103745
16	Karnataka	0	2538958	1594454	4133412
17	Kerala	144048	1535147	1106725	2785920
18	Ladakh	4404	8836	4324	17564
19	Lakshadweep	1284	5089	2588	8961
20	Madhya Pradesh	13563	3632241	2378417	6024221
21	Maharashtra	0	5844748	3806852	9651600
22	Manipur	25828	125456	37762	189046
23	Meghalaya	138157	388309	183203	709669
24	Mizoram	24965	75162	38860	138987
25	Nagaland	41394	56964	30613	128971
26	Odisha	0	2508205	1744933	4253138
27	Puducherry	7235	24908	19163	51306
28	Punjab	161969	1065257	682832	1910058
29	Rajasthan	46009	3361174	2294665	5701848
30	Sikkim	6164	21002	17440	44606
31	Tamil Nadu	0	2088361	1859468	3947829
32	Telangana	0	977864	597345	1575209
33	Tripura	11649	216231	141940	369820
34	Uttar Pradesh	0	9607384	5621120	15228504
35	Uttarakhand	0	362732	257034	619766
36	West Bengal	955581	6306899	4081666	11344146
	Total	2922160	65816610	41207772	109946542

ANNEXURE-II

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 44 FOR 23.07.2025 RAISED BY DR. BHAGWAT KARAD,
HON'BLE MP REGARDING COOK-CUM-HELPERS AND KITCHEN FACILITIES
UNDER PM POSHAN.**

Number of Cook-cum-Helpers engaged under PM POSHAN

S. No.	State/UT	Number of Cook-cum-Helpers
1	A & N Islands	721
2	Andhra Pradesh	80890
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5753
4	Assam	108280
5	Bihar	232458
6	Chandigarh	900
7	Chhattisgarh	87646
8	Delhi	20890
9	DNH & DD	1157
10	Goa	2633
11	Gujarat	96103
12	Haryana	29809
13	Himachal Pradesh	21054
14	Jammu & Kashmir	30101
15	Jharkhand	75421
16	Karnataka	118950
17	Kerala	13453
18	Ladakh	924
19	Lakshadweep	20
20	Madhya Pradesh	201404
21	Maharashtra	164558
22	Manipur	6452
23	Meghalaya	19549
24	Mizoram	4963
25	Nagaland	4623
26	Odisha	108806
27	Puducherry	1031
28	Punjab	44407
29	Rajasthan	115726
30	Sikkim	1891
31	Tamil Nadu	128130
32	Telangana	54201
33	Tripura	11184
34	Uttar Pradesh	363202
35	Uttarakhand	23883
36	West Bengal	226676
	Total	2407849

ANNEXURE-III

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 44 FOR 23.07.2025 RAISED BY DR. BHAGWAT KARAD, HON'BLE MP REGARDING COOK-CUM-HELPERS AND KITCHEN FACILITIES UNDER PM POSHAN.

Number of Kitchen-cum-Stores constructed under PM POSHAN Scheme

Sl. No.	State/UT	Sanctioned	Constructed	% Constructed
1	A & N Islands	169	169	100%
2	Andhra Pradesh	32347	31525	97%
3	Arunachal Pradesh	4085	4085	100%
4	Assam	56795	51271	90%
5	Bihar	58847	58847	100%
6	Chandigarh	15	15	100%
7	Chhattisgarh	47266	47266	100%
8	Delhi	All are Centralised kitchens		
9	DNH DD	82	82	100%
10	Goa	All are Centralised kitchens		
11	Gujarat	25077	25077	100%
12	Himachal Pradesh	14959	14959	100%
13	Haryana	11483	11040	96%
14	J & K	6791	6791	100%
15	Jharkhand	32070	33776	105%
16	Karnataka	40477	40473	100%
17	Kerala	5481	5481	100%
18	Ladakh	327	327	100%
19	Lakshadweep	Constructed through own resources		
20	Madhya Pradesh	103401	98742	95%
21	Maharashtra	69803	62276	89%
22	Manipur	2966	2739	92%
23	Meghalaya	9758	9758	100%
24	Mizoram	2541	2541	100%
25	Nagaland	2223	2223	100%
26	Odisha	69152	69152	100%
27	Puducherry	105	105	100%
28	Punjab	19052	18969	100%
29	Rajasthan	50312	50312	100%
30	Sikkim	948	948	100%
31	Tamil Nadu	28470	28470	100%
32	Telangana	30408	17761	58%
33	Tripura	5304	5304	100%
34	Uttar Pradesh	113091	113091	100%
35	Uttarakhand	15778	15778	100%
36	West Bengal	81956	81948	100%
Total		941539	911301	97%

ANNEXURE-IV

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 44 FOR 23.07.2025 RAISED BY DR. BHAGWAT KARAD, HON'BLE MP REGARDING COOK-CUM-HELPERS AND KITCHEN FACILITIES UNDER PM POSHAN.

State wise no. of children covered under Centralised Kitchens run by NGOs

S. No.	State/UT	Number of District	Number of School	Number of Students
1	Maharashtra	21	7,482	20,08,064
2	Delhi	11	2,794	16,56,071
3	Bihar	29	11,434	16,38,782
4	Uttar Pradesh	26	7,676	10,07,256
5	Karnataka	16	5,565	8,21,562
6	Gujarat	9	3,014	6,88,835
7	Rajasthan	10	4,282	4,20,552
8	Telangana	7	2,791	3,14,201
9	Odisha	9	3,087	3,08,896
10	Andhra Pradesh	13	3,249	2,84,188
11	Haryana	4	1,912	2,69,454
12	Madhya Pradesh	21	2,795	2,53,857
13	West Bengal	4	1,464	1,61,018
14	Chhattisgarh	5	757	1,16,755
15	Jharkhand	5	915	1,11,961
16	Assam	3	724	58,386
17	DNH & DD	2	300	55,057
18	Uttarakhand	2	528	49,517
19	Puducherry	1	282	31,405
20	Nagaland	1	11	2,469
Total		199	61,062	1,02,58,286