

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3062
ANSWERED ON-20.08.2025

Impact of Mid-Day Meal scheme

3062 # **Dr. Radha Mohan Das Agrawal:**

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

- (a) whether despite the Mid-Day Meal scheme being a highly ambitious and nationwide program, it has not had a significant impact on the health of children; and
(b) whether Government will contemplate over the quantity of food grains, the proportions of different components and the methods of implementation in this scheme?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): 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 Union Territories (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. 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. 8,500 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.

Ministry of Education in convergence with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) carries out regular health check-ups of students under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram. During 2024-25, 9.12 crore students were screened. There is also provision of medicines to school students. To combat parasitic worm infections, deworming medicine is provided bi-annually on “National Deworming Day” (February & August). During 2024-25, 8.08 crore students received deworming medicines. Weekly Iron & Folic Acid (IFA) Supplementation is provided to school children under the programme “Anaemia Mukh Bharat” to prevent anaemia. During 2024-25 8.28 crore students received IFA.

Government of India periodically reviews the PM Poshan Scheme. The Programme Approval Board (PAB) approves the number of students and the number of working days each financial year, based on which food grains, cooking costs, cost of food grains, Transportation assistance etc. are allocated to the States/ UTs. The Scheme, inter-alia, also provides for additional allocation of funds and foodgrains. If it is noticed by the States/ UTs 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. As per the provisions of National Food Security Act, 2013 and the Guidelines of the Scheme, the nutritional and food norms prescribed under the Scheme are at **Annexure**. There is a provision of 5% of total recurring budget as the flexi component to be used by the States/ UTs as per their requirement. It may be used for setting up of School Nutrition Gardens and provision of Supplementary Nutrition interventions in identified districts. In addition to the Government of India funds, many States/UTs provide additional supplementary nutrition interventions like egg, milk, chikki, fresh fruits, chicken, ragi malt etc. School Nutrition Gardens (SNGs) have been set up in more than 6.28 lakh schools. The States and Union Territory Administrations are encouraged to decide menu suitable to the local conditions within the prescribed nutrition and food norms and to procure locally grown food items. States and UTs are also encouraged to use Shree Anaa at least once a week. Tithi Bhojan is a very important aspect of PM POSHAN. Through Tithi Bhojan community provides additional supplementary nutrition to students like chicken, fish and other food items as per their capacity. Through Tithi Bhojan 6.43 crore students in 5.77 lakh schools were benefitted during 2024-25. To monitor the implementation of the scheme, States/ UTs have conducted social audits in 32,664 schools across the country. About 9.78 lakh schools have been inspected by designated officials. About 25,389 meals have been tested across the country. 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. Community involvement is promoted through Tithi Bhojan, where community contribute meals on special occasions.

The PM POSHAN Scheme has been successful in achieving its key objectives of reducing classroom hunger and school dropouts. By providing nutritious meals to over 11 crore students annually across 10.35 lakh schools, the scheme has improved student attendance and participation. Community initiatives like Tithi Bhojan and the use of locally grown vegetables and use of fortified food items have further strengthened its impact, ensuring better nutrition and greater community involvement.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3062 FOR 20.08.2025 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP DR. RADHA MOHAN DAS AGRAWAL REGARDING IMPACT OF MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME

Nutritional and Food Norms under PM Poshan Scheme

Items	For children of Primary classes	For children of Upper Primary classes
A) Nutritional Norms (Per child per day)		
Calorie	450	700
Protein	12 gms	20 gms
B) Quantum of Food Norms (Per child per day)		
Food-grains	100 gms	150 gms
Pulses	20 gms	30 gms
Vegetables	50 gms	75 gms
Oil & fat	5 gms	7.5 gms
Salt & condiments	As per need	As per need