

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3717
ANSWERED ON- 25.03.2026

Honorarium for Mid-Day Meal workers in schools

3717 Dr. John Brittas:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) current share of the Central Government in the monthly honorarium of mid-day meal workers and helpers in schools under PM POSHAN;
- (b) current actual contribution of State Governments in the monthly honorarium being paid to mid-day meal workers and helpers in schools under PM POSHAN;
- (c) State-wise and category-wise details thereof;
- (d) whether Union Government will take steps to increase its contribution in the honorarium of mid-day meal workers and helpers in schools, considering that several States, including Kerala, have already enhanced their share of the contribution on multiple occasions; and
- (e) if not, reasons therefor and details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (e): Education is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India and the majority of schools are under the administrative control of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) administration. 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 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 States/UTs. 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. 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 including the State of Kerala. The honorarium to CCHs is shared between the Centre and States/UTs as per the approved funding pattern of 90:10 for North Eastern Region (NER) States and 2 Himalayan States and UT of J&K, 100% for UTs without Legislature and 60:40 for other States as well as 2 UTs with Legislature (Delhi and Puducherry).

The details of honorarium provided to CCHs under the PM POSHAN Scheme by the States and UTs are given at **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3717 FOR 25.03.2026 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP DR. JOHN BRITTAS REGARDING HONORARIUM FOR MID-DAY MEAL WORKERS IN SCHOOL.

State/ UT-wise Honorarium of Cook cum Helper per month

S.No.	States/UTs	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	17000-19200
36	Puducherry	10000	9000

*Source-Information received in Annual Work Plan & Budget submitted by States/ UTs