

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1969
ANSWERED ON- 05.08.2026

Nutritional standards under PM POSHAN scheme

1969 Smt. Renuka Chowdhury:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any assessment to determine whether meals served under the PM POSHAN scheme meet the prescribed nutritional standards, in view of National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 findings showing 29.3 percent stunting and 31.8 percent underweight prevalence among children;
- (b) whether Government has taken note of the omission of anaemia data in NFHS-6 and its implications for PM POSHAN; and
- (c) whether Government has taken note of the removal or non-inclusion of eggs by certain States and whether such decisions are based on any scientific, nutritional or public health assessment?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): Education is part of the Concurrent List of the Constitution and most of the Government Schools and School Boards are under the administration of the State Government and Union Territory (UT) Administrations. PM POSHAN Scheme is implemented in partnership with the State Governments and UT Administrations. The overall responsibility for providing hot and nutritious meal to all children studying in Bal Vatika (just before class 1) and classes I to VIII of Government and Government aided schools lies with the State Governments and UT Administrations. The States and UTs are encouraged to decide menu suitable to the local conditions within the prescribed nutrition and food norms and to procure locally grown food items like millets, vegetables, condiments etc.

Under the PM Poshan Scheme, one hot cooked meal is provided to all eligible children on all school working days. 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 as follows:

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

Further, there is a provision of 5% of total recurring budget as the flexi component to be used by the States/UTs for setting up of School Nutrition Gardens (SNGs) and provision of supplementary nutrition interventions in identified districts. Many States/ UTs also provide additional supplementary nutrition keeping in view local food habits, cultural preferences, availability and dietary practices.

Regarding the impact assessment of PM Poshan Scheme, NITI AAYOG has conducted the evaluation of the Scheme through independent third-party agency in 2025-26. The study concluded that the PM POSHAN scheme has a positive impact on improving child nutrition and boosting learning outcomes.
