

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.-868
ANSWERED ON- 12.12.2022

DIET IN MID DAY MEAL SCHEME

868. SHRI VELUSAMY P.:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government for monitoring and successful implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 by providing minimum content of 300 calories and 8-12 grams of protein per school day for each child and at least for 200 days in Government aided primary schools;
- (b) the number of schools and children benefited in Tamil Nadu along with the amount sanctioned for the current year;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the cost per day per child due to prevailing inflation and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to take punitive action against any complaint received from the students for not providing stipulated calories under the scheme and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

- (a): As per the provisions of National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, children studying in classes I-VIII or within the age group of 6-14 years are entitled to one mid day meal free of charge, every day except on school holidays, in all Government and Government aided schools so as to meet nutritional standards specified in the Act. Accordingly, one hot cooked meal is provided to eligible children on all working school days under PM POSHAN Scheme. The following nutritional content is prescribed in the Scheme:

Components	Primary	Upper Primary
Calories	450 Cal	700 Cal
Protein	12 gms.	20 gms.

In order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the scheme the Government has adopted an elaborate monitoring mechanism at Central, State and District levels to ensure nutritious food is served to children under the Scheme. A robust IT enabled MIS system using latest digital technologies has been developed to closely monitor the programme. States/UTs are also advised to conduct social audits every year in all the districts. In addition, Joint Review Missions (JRM)s consisting of educational and nutritional experts review the scheme through field visits and assess the actual implementation of the Scheme at the ground level from time to time.

- (b): 45,64,151 number of children are enrolled in 43,190 schools in Tamil Nadu under the Scheme. Project Approval Board (PAB) - PM POSHAN has approved an amount of Rs. 44017.43 lakh as central assistance to State Government of Tamil Nadu during 2022-23 and so far Rs. 25026.75 lakh has been released to State under the Scheme.
- (c): The Central Government revised the material cost (earlier known as cooking cost) on the basis of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) by increasing 9.6% over and above the existing material cost in 2022. The revised material cost per day per child for Bal Vatika and Primary classes as well as Upper Primary classes are Rs. 5.45 and Rs. 8.17 as against the existing cost of Rs. 4.97 and Rs. 7.45 respectively w.e.f. 01.10.2022.
- (d): There are no specific complaints regarding not providing stipulated calories to students under PM POSHAN Scheme. It is stated that the overall responsibility for providing cooked and nutritious Mid Day Meal to the eligible children lies with State Governments and UTs Administrations. Accordingly, complaints of different categories, whenever received are referred to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for taking necessary action. As per Action Taken Reports (ATRs) received from States and UTs, action such as issuing warning against the official responsible, terminating the contract of concerned NGOs / Organisations, initiating criminal proceedings and imposing penalties against the defaulting persons/officials/organisations have been taken by the concerned State Governments and UT Administrations.
