

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2951**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2023

**OBJECTIVES OF PM POSHAN SCHEME**

2951. SHRI ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- a. whether the Government has been able to achieve the objectives of PM POSHAN in Odisha, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- b. the number of Anganwadi Centres in Odisha wherein PM POSHAN scheme is being implemented; and
- c. whether the Ministry has conducted any study on the results of this scheme in Odisha, if so, the details and outcome thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a to c) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)' for providing one hot cooked meal in Government and Government – aided Schools is being implemented by the Ministry of Education across the country from 2021-22 to 2025-26. Under the Scheme, there is provision of hot cooked meal to children of pre-schools or Bal Vatika (before class I) in Government and Government-aided primary schools in addition to the children of classes I to VIII studying in schools.

The children enrolled at the Anganwadi centers are covered under the supplementary nutrition program under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. As on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2023, a total of 74,153 Anganwadi Centers have been registered on Poshan Tracker in the State of Odisha.

As per information provided by Ministry of Education, the main objectives of the PM POSHAN Scheme are to address two of the pressing problems for majority of children in India, viz. hunger and education by improving the nutritional status of eligible children in Government and Government-aided schools as well as encouraging poor children belonging to disadvantaged sections to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities.

Ministry of Education has informed that NITI AAYOG has conducted an evaluation of the Scheme through independent third-party agency in 2019-20. An evaluation under the leadership of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) was also conducted in 2017-18. Both the studies have been done across the country. The major findings of both the studies are as under:

- Nutritional level among students availing meals in schools is reported to have improved as attributed by Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (2016-2018).
- 92% of the students attending schools were availing school meals.
- More than 80% parents stated school meal increased the enrollment & attendance, improved nutritional and health status of their children.
- 96% teachers mentioned that school meals improved the nutritional status of the school children.
- 92% teachers stated that school meals increased enrollment & improved attendance.

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