

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 18
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4th DECEMBER, 2023

TRANSPARENCY IN UTILISATION OF FUNDS UNDER SEVA BHOJ YOJANA

18. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:

Will the **MINISTER OF CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure transparency and accountability in the utilization of funds granted under the Seva Bhoj Yojana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any mechanism to enforce penalties in instances of misuse of assistance/grant;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against entities found to violate the said scheme's guidelines; and
- (e) the details of the CGST and IGST reimbursed by the Government since the implementation of the scheme, State-wise and year-wise?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION**

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a)&(b) Under the Seva Bhoj Yojana, Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Central Government's share of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) paid on purchase of specific raw food items by the eligible Charitable/Religious Institutions for distributing free food to public are reimbursed to these organizations by the Government of India through the concerned GST Authority. The following procedure is adopted to ensure transparency and accountability in the utilization of funds granted under the Seva Bhoj Scheme:-
- (i) Upon registration with NGO Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog, the Charitable/Religious Institutions enrol and submit their application in CSMS Portal of the Ministry of Culture.
 - (ii) After enrolment with the Ministry of Culture, the applicant submits its application along with a copy of the registration certificate issued by the Ministry of Culture to the Nodal Central Tax Officer in their concerned State/UT.
 - (iii) The Nodal Central Tax Officer on receipt of the application and registration certificate generates a Unique Identity Number (UIN).

- (iv) Thereafter, the concerned GST Authority forward the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Central Government's share of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) claims verified and passed by them in respect of the eligible Charitable/Religious Institutions to the Ministry for releasing the same.
- (v) The Ministry provides fund to the concerned GST Authority who further reimburses to these Charitable/Religious Institutions.
- (c)&(d) Yes Sir. The extant Seva Bhoj Yojana guidelines provide that the members of the executive body of the entity /institution would be liable for recovery of misused grants. The organization /institution will also be blacklisted for misuse of funds, fake registration certificate, fake documents etc. All immovable and movable assets created from the Government grants would be taken over by local administration prescribed by the Ministry. The assistance provided by the Ministry of Culture shall be recovered with penal interest, apart from taking criminal action as per law. However, no such instance of misuse of assistance /grant by any entity has come to the notice of the Government so far.
- (e) The details of the CGST and IGST reimbursed by the Government since the implementation of the scheme, State-wise and year-wise is **Annexed**.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 18 due for answer on 04-12-2023

Details of fund reimbursed State-wise and year-wise under the Seva Bhoj Yojana:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24 (as on 29-11-2023)	
		Nos. of Orgs.	Amount	Nos. of Orgs.	Amount	Nos. of Orgs.	Amount	Nos. of Orgs.	Amount	Nos. of Orgs.	Amount
1.	Punjab	01	171.00	03	169.00	03	154.00	03	143.00	2	146.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	02	24.90	--	--	-	--	-	-	-	-
	Total	03	195.90	03	169.00	03	154.00	03	143.00	2	146.00