

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2315**  
ANSWERED ON- 18.12.2023

**Improvement in Nutrition Status in Children**

2315. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has implemented any policy/scheme towards the improvement of the nutrition status among the children of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans to do any research to develop a diet chart to be included in Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN) which constitutes different kinds of Shree Anna as Ragi, Bajra, Jowar, Ramdana, etc.; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (d): Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme is one of the foremost rights based Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented in partnership with the States and Union Territories (UTs) with main objective to improve the nutritional status of children studying in Bal Vatika (just before class I) and classes I–VIII in Government and Government-Aided Schools.

The overall responsibilities for providing cooked and nutritious meal to the eligible children lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The States and UTs fix their menu as per their local needs, in order to meet the prescribed nutritional content. State and UTs are also advised to procure locally grown food items from Farmers Producers Organizations, Federation of Women's Self-Hep Groups etc. so as to promote local employment generation and economic development while simultaneously improving the nutrition standards. All State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been advised to explore the possibility of introducing millets (Shree Anna) based recipe at least once in a week under PM POSHAN Scheme. It is suggested to conduct cooking competitions among cook-cum-helpers to popularize millet based recipes. School Nutrition Gardens(SNGs) are also developed under PM POSHAN Scheme to provide freshly grown vegetables in school meals which are helpful in providing additional micronutrients.

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