

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-274
ANSWERED ON- 05.02.2024

Overview of the Implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme

274. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:
SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has carried out any audit to check the proper implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme in all States and Union Territories of the country recently;
- (b) if so, whether any irregularities were found after such audits carried out over the last three years in all the States of the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh and if so, the details of such irregularities;
- (c) whether the Government has considered to create a comprehensive committee to overview the performance, extent of implementation and audits of Mid-Day Meal Schemes of all States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has forwarded any submissions/explanations regarding the irregularities in its Mid-Day Meal scheme;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether the Union Government has asked for the same from the State Government; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

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 States and UTs. To check the proper implementation of the PM POSHAN Scheme, the Social Audit is mandatory in all Districts in at least 20 schools or 2% schools, whichever is higher. The states have been asked to conduct Social Audit as per approved norms of

the scheme. Social Audit is collective monitoring of the Scheme by people's active involvement covering issues of equity, equality, and expenditure management. Comprehensive and detailed Guidelines to conduct Social Audit under the scheme were issued in 2022-23 to all the States/UTs. The findings of the social audit are shared with the States functionaries in a public hearing in presence of all the stakeholders and community members and corrective measures are taken. The Centre also constitutes Joint Review Missions (JRM) to review the scheme through field visits from time to time.

The Government has adopted an elaborate monitoring mechanism at Central, State and District levels to ensure that quality food is served to children under the Scheme. At National level, an Empowered Committee, headed by Hon'ble Education Minister and also a National level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) as well as Programme Approval Board (PAB) monitors the scheme and suggests measures for its smooth and effective implementation. At the State level, a State level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee headed by the State Chief Secretary and, at the District Level, a District Level Committee under the Chairpersonship of the senior-most Member of Parliament of Lok Sabha from the district monitors the implementation of the scheme.

At local level Gram Panchayats/Gram Sabhas, members of Village Education Committees (VECs), Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) and the School Management Committees (SMCs) monitor the regularity and wholesomeness of the meal served to children, cleanliness in cooking and serving of the meal, timeliness in procurement of good quality ingredients, fuel, etc., implementation of variety in menu so as to make it attractive to children and ensuring social and gender equity on daily basis. SMC member tastes the food on a rotation basis along with the teacher before it is distributed to the children.

(e) to (g): No irregularities are reported by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh under PM POSHAN Scheme.
