Breakfast in Government Schools

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SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:
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Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to offer breakfast in Government schools along with the mid-day meal and if so, the details thereof and the aims and objectives behind the move;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide breakfast which has nutritional contents and as per recommendations of National Institute of Nutrition and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the budgetary allocation required for providing breakfast in schools along with the time by which it is likely to be started; and

(d) whether the Government has been successful in implementing the Mid Day Meal Scheme and if not, the corrective measures taken/to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL ‘NISHANK’)

(a) to (c): The National Education Policy (NEP) envisages that the nutrition and health (including mental health) of children will be addressed, through healthy meals and the introduction of well-trained social workers, counsellors, and community involvement into the schooling system.
Furthermore, research shows that the morning hours after a nutritious breakfast can be particularly productive for the study of cognitively more demanding subjects and hence these hours may be leveraged by providing a simple but energizing breakfast in addition to midday meals. In locations where hot meals are not possible, a simple but nutritious meal, e.g., groundnuts/chana mixed with jaggery and/or local fruits may be provided.

(d): Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is implemented all over the country successfully. During 2019-20, 11.80 crore children are enrolled in 11.20 lakh schools under the scheme.

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