

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 303
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2021**

Funds for Mid Day Meal Scheme

***303. SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the Mid Day Meal Scheme;
- (b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilised under this scheme in Assam during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the details of the targets set and achievements made so far;
- (d) whether the Government has planned to provide monetary assistance to the beneficiaries of Mid Day Meal Scheme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the target and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 303 for 20.12.2021 raised by Shri Kripanath Mallah, Hon'ble MP regarding Funds for Mid Day Meal Scheme.

(a): Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) earlier known as the National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools is one of the foremost rights based Centrally Sponsored Schemes under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA). The primary objective of the scheme is to provide one hot cooked meal in order to improve the nutritional status of eligible children studying in Government and Government-aided Schools. The Government approved continuation of the Scheme for the five year period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with the financial outlay of Rs. 54061.73 crores from the Central Government and Rs. 31733.17 crore from State Government & Union Territory Administrations. Further, Central Government will also bear additional cost of about Rs. 45000 crore on foodgrains through subsidy. Nutrition and food norms under the scheme are as below:

S. N.	Items	Primary	Upper Primary
A) Nutrition norm per child per day			
1.	Calorie	450	700
2.	Protein	12 gms	20 gms
B) Food norms per child per day			
1.	Food grains	100 gms	150 gms
2.	Pulses	20 gms	30 gms
3.	Vegetables	50 gms	75 gms
4.	Oil & fat	5 gms	7.5 gms
5.	Salt & condiments	As per need	As per need

The salient features of the scheme are as under:

- (i) **Inclusion of Balvatika:** The Government has approved the provision of hot cooked meal to children of pre-schools or Balvatika (before class I) in primary schools also, in addition to the 11.80 crore children of classes I to VIII studying in 11.20 lakh Government and Government-aided schools.
- (ii) **Tithi Bhojan:** Tithi Bhojan is a community participation programme in which people provide special food to children on special occasions/festivals in addition to regular meal.
- (iii) **School Nutrition Gardens:** Under the Scheme, development of School Nutrition Gardens in schools is being promoted, to give children first hand experience with nature and gardening.
- (iv) **Social Audit:** Social Audit in all districts is made mandatory under the Scheme. Social Audit is collective monitoring of a scheme by people's active involvement covering issues of equity, equality and expenditure management.

- (v) **Vocal for local:** Under ‘Vocal for local’ States and Union Territory Administrations are encouraged to decide menu suitable to the local conditions within the prescribed nutrition and food norms and to procure locally grown food items like millets, vegetables, condiments etc. from Farmers’ Producers Organizations, Federation of Women’s Self-Help Groups etc. so as to promote local employment generation and economic development while simultaneously improving the nutrition standards.
- (vi) **Special Focus:** Adequate provision for supplementary nutrition in aspirational districts / tribal districts / districts with identified high cases of malnutrition etc.
- (vii) **Disaster Management:** Provision of hot cooked meal or Food Security Allowance to children when schools are closed due to a disaster impacting the State/Union Territory, part of State/Union Territory, some States/Union Territory or whole country as maybe declared by the State/Central Government under its powers as Disaster Management Authority.

(b) : The funds allocated/released and utilized during the last three years and funds approved in current year for Assam are given as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22
Funds allocated/ released	Funds utilized	Funds allocated/ released	Funds utilized	Funds allocated/ released	Funds utilized	Funds approved
555.55	535.32	573.48	560.24	770.28	764.69	747.96

(c) : The details of the budget allocation and funds released under the Scheme during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
Allocation	Fund released	Allocation	Fund released	Allocation	Fund released
9947.74	9518.08	9912.21	9705.94	12900.00	12882.11

(d) & (e): As per the provisions of Section 5 of National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, children studying in classes I-VIII or within the age group of 6-14 years are entitled to one mid day meal free of charge, every day except on school holidays, in all schools run by local bodies, Government and Government aided schools so as to meet nutritional standards specified in the Act. Accordingly, one hot cooked meal is provided to eligible children on all working school days under PM POSHAN Scheme. However, during the current pandemic, since schools were closed, all enrolled children are given Food Security Allowance comprising of food grains and cooking cost as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) or in the form of dry ration by States and Union Territory during 2020-21 and 2021-22. Further, for summer vacation period as special welfare measure States and Union Territory were also advised to provide monetary assistance through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of cooking cost component of the Scheme to all eligible children. As States and Union Territory are progressively reopening schools, they are advised to resume provision of hot cooked meal to eligible children attending schools by strictly adhering to the prevalent COVID protocols and social distancing norms as prescribed by the Competent Authority.
