

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1255
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2021**

Monitoring of Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS)

1255. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the recommendation made by the Standing Committee on Education, to include breakfast under the PM Poshan scheme and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that the budgetary allocation is insufficient for including breakfast as part of the PM POSHAN scheme and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has devised any mechanism for monitoring nutrition levels amongst children given that the erstwhile Mid-Day Meal scheme has been replaced with a direct cash transfer plan during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government has maintained a record of the number of Out of School Children and if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

- (a) & (b): As per the provisions 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 (earlier known as National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools). The following nutritional content is prescribed in the Scheme:

Components	Primary	Upper Primary
Calories	450 Cal	700 Cal
Protein	12 gms.	20 gms.

There is no provision of breakfast in the Scheme. However, some States and UTs provide additional items such as milk, egg, fruits etc. to students from their own resources.

(c) to (e): during the current pandemic, since schools were closed, all enrolled children are given Food Security Allowance comprising of food grains and cooking cost in the form of dry ration or cooking cost in cash as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under NFSA, 2013 by States and UTs during 2020-21 and 2021-22. Now, progressively States are reopening schools and provision of hot cooked meal is being resumed.

Government approved several initiatives in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the scheme. This also includes mechanism for monitoring nutrition levels amongst children like 3rd party independent monitoring by using Food & Nutrition Departments of Central Universities, Agriculture Universities and eminent institutes like National Institute of Nutrition etc.

(f): Government has developed an online module for compiling the data of Out of School Children (OoSC) identified by each State/UT and their mapping with Special Training Centres (STC). The concerned State/UT validates the child wise information of the identified OoSC and STC uploaded by the concerned Block Resource Centre of the State for monitoring the progress of mainstreaming of OoSC.

As per the 75th round household survey by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in 2017-18, the number of out of school children in the age group of 6 to 17 years is 3.22 crore.
