

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2488
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2021**

PM Poshan Scheme

**+2488. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the name of Mid-Day Meal has been changed into Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Poshan Yojana;
- (b) whether this scheme has been expanded to all primary classes or the students studying in Bal Vatikas and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any step is being taken to make the country self-reliant through vocal for local under this scheme and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the difference and benefits likely to be seen from the change in the nomenclature of the scheme; and
- (e) whether there is any plan to include other children in addition to approximately 12 crore children of 11 lakh Government Schools so as to address the problem of malnutrition and if so, the details thereof?

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

- (a): to (e): Central Government has approved the Centrally Sponsored Scheme ‘**Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)**’ earlier known as ‘National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools’ for providing one hot cooked meal in Government and Government – aided Schools from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Government has approved 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 schools.

In order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the scheme, Government approved several initiatives including ‘Vocal for local’ under which States and UTs 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.
