

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2912  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022**

**Funds for PM Poshan Scheme**

**2912. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the features of the PM Poshan Scheme;
- (b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under this scheme within the country during the last three years, years-wise;
- (c) the details of the target set and achievements made so far;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that after a grand announcement rechristening the school Mid Day Meal Scheme as Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman, called PM Poshan, the allocation for the scheme has been reduced from Rs. 11,500 crore last year to Rs. 10,233 crore this year; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

- (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 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.

The salient features of the scheme are as under:

- (i) **Inclusion of Balvatika:** 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) & (c): The target on achievement in terms of funds allocated and released under the Scheme during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
Allocation	Funds Released	Allocation	Funds Released	Allocation	Funds Released
9947.74	9518.08	9912.21	9705.94	12900.00	12882.11

(d) & (e): The Budget Estimate (BE) of the scheme for 2021-22 is Rs 11500 crore which has been revised to Rs. 10233.75 crore at RE stage as per the outlay appraised by Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) based on estimated requirements.

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