

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3476
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2022**

PM Poshan Scheme

**†3476. DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI:
SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana and the objectives thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has been able to achieve its objectives through this scheme and if not, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard along with the challenges faced by the Government in the implementation of this scheme;
- (c) whether this scheme has not been extended to all primary classes or students studying in Bal Vatikas and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any corrective measures have been taken by the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the number of beneficiaries under this scheme in all the States including Jharkhand and Rajasthan since its launch especially including girl-students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and
- (f) the steps taken /being taken by the Government to improve nutritional level of school-going children?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d): The Government has approved the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)' for providing one hot cooked meal in Government and Government – aided Schools from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Scheme covers all school children studying in Balvatika (before class I) in primary schools, in addition to the 11.80 crore children of classes I to VIII studying in 11.20 lakh Government, Government-Aided schools.

The objectives of the Scheme are to address two of the pressing problems for majority of children in India, viz. hunger and education by improving the nutritional status of eligible children in Government and Government aided schools and encouraging poor children,

belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities as well as providing nutritional support to children of elementary stage in drought / disaster affected areas during summer vacation.

NITI AAYOG has conducted an evaluation of the Scheme through independent third-party agency in 2019-20. An evaluation under the leadership of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) was also conducted in 2017-18. The major findings of both the studies are as under:

- Nutritional level among students availing mid-day meal in schools is reported to have improved as attributed by Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (2016-2018)
- 92% of the students attending schools were availing mid-day meal
- More than 80% parents stated mid day meal increased the enrolment & attendance, improved nutritional and health status of their children
- 96% teachers mentioned that mid day meal improved the nutritional status of the school children
- 92% teachers stated that mid day meal increased enrolment & improved attendance

During Covid-19 pandemic when schools were closed, the main problem faced by the Government was to provide cooked meals to eligible children. Therefore, all enrolled children were given Food Security Allowance (FSA) comprising of food grains and cooking cost under National Food Security Act, 2013 by States and UTs under the Scheme.

(e): The Scheme is implemented across the country covering all the eligible children without any discrimination of gender and social class. 11.80 crore children (both boys and girls) are enrolled under the Scheme in all States including Jharkhand and Rajasthan during the year 2021-22.

(f): In addition to providing one hot cooked meal under the Scheme, the following interventions are also being made to improve the nutrition standards of eligible children:

- Tithi Bhojan: The concept of Tithi Bhojan is being encouraged extensively. Tithi Bhojan is a community participation programme in which people provide special food to children on special occasions/festivals in addition to regular meals.
- School Nutrition Gardens: Efforts are being made to promote development of School Nutrition Gardens in schools to give children first hand experience with nature and gardening.
- Supplementary Nutrition: Appropriate provision is being made under flexibility component for supplementary nutrition in districts with identified high cases of malnutrition etc.
- Some States and UTs provide additional items such as milk, egg, fruits etc. to students from their own resources.
