

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1851
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2024

ALLOCATION FOR MDM UNDER POSHAN

1851. DR. GUMMA THANUJA RANI:
SHRI PV MIDHUN REDDY:
SHRI RAMASAHAYAM RAGHURAM REDDY:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the budget allocation for the Mid day Meal (MDM) scheme under PM POSHAN has been reduced from the revised allocation of Rs. 12,800 crores in 2022-23 to Rs. 11,600 crores in 2023-24, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) Whether there has been a delay in the disbursement of funds under the PM POSHAN scheme; and
- (c) If so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to ensure timely disbursement of funds?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Education. As per the input received from Ministry of Education, PM POSHAN is one of the foremost rights based Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented in partnership with States and UTs providing one hot cooked and nutritious meal to the eligible children.

(a) The budget allocated under the PM POSHAN Scheme for 2022-23 is Rs. 10,233.75 crore. During financial year 2021-22, 2nd Installment could not be released/partially released to several States and UTs resulting in committed liabilities in 2022-23. Further, material cost has been enhanced @9.6% over and above the existing material cost for the year 2022-23 w.e.f. 1st October, 2022. Hence, more funds were required for the year 2022-23. Therefore, Ministry of Finance has approved the Revised Estimate (RE) 2022-23 as Rs.12,800.00 crore against the Budget Estimate (BE) of Rs. 10,233.75 crore which is sufficient to implement the scheme with existing norms during 2022-23. The BE for the financial year 2023-24 is allocated as Rs. 11,600.00 crore which is likely to be sufficient for implementation of the scheme with existing norms during 2023-24.

(b) Under the Scheme, the Programme Approval Board (PAB) – PM POSHAN approves the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) submitted by States/UTs. The central assistance is released on the basis of approval of PAB-PM POSHAN subject to compliance of instructions issued from time to time by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. As per the extant instructions, the following conditions are required to be fulfilled by the States/UTs:

- i. Submission of Utilisation Certificate (UC) in the prescribed format of GFR-12C, duly signed by the Secretary of the Nodal Department for implementation of PM POSHAN Scheme in the State/UT.
- ii. Submission of information of allocation, lifting and utilisation of food grains in the prescribed format.
- iii. Transfer of entire amount of central share released to States/UTs and its corresponding state share in State Nodal Agency (SNA) account.
- iv. Deposit of interest accrued towards central share in the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI).
- v. Funds available in SNA account including state share at the time of release of funds should not be more than 50% of the instalment (central share + state share) likely to be released.
- vi. Separate budget line for central as well as state share under PM POSHAN Scheme should be opened in the State's Detailed Demand for Grants (DDG).
- vii. State should have utilised at least 75% of the funds released (both central share as well as corresponding state share).
- viii. Mapping of all Implementing Agencies (IA) with SNA.

(c) In some cases, release of funds takes time due to incomplete compliance of above said formalities required for release, late submission of proposals by the States/UTs, huge unspent balance available with them, delay in transfer of both central and state share by the state treasury to SNA, slow pace of expenditure by States/UTs. Sanction orders issued for release of funds are uploaded immediately on the official website. On the basis of sanction order, the Pay and Account Office releases funds to State Treasury.
