

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2145
ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024

Quality of Food in Mid-Day Meal Scheme

†2145 **Shri Rajeev Rai:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Poshan Scheme are one and the same scheme, if so, the basic difference between both these schemes;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and utilized under Mid-Day Meal Scheme during the last five years, State and year-wise;
- (c) the details of quality norms of Mid-Day Meal and the process followed by the Government to assess and ensure its quality;
- (d) the number of children fell ill and died due to supply of contaminated food under Mid-Day Meal Scheme during the last five years; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a): 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 hot cooked meal to eligible children in Government and Government – aided Schools from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Government has also approved following additional features under PM POSHAN Scheme:

- (i) **Inclusion of Balvatika:** The provision of hot cooked meal to children of pre-schools or Balvatika (before class I) and children studying in classes I to VIII in 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', the States and Union Territories 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 and economic development and 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 disaster impacting the State/Union Territory, part of State/Union Territory, in a State/Union Territory or whole country as may be declared by the State/Central Government under its powers as Disaster Management Authority.

(b): The State-wise detail of funds released and utilized under PM POSHAN Scheme during the last five years is given at **Annexure-I**.

(c) to (e): The overall responsibility for smooth functioning of the scheme including providing hot cooked and nutritious meal to the eligible children lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Government of India has issued detailed guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene to ensure serving of good quality meal under the Scheme to all the States/UTs. These guidelines are available on official website <https://pmposhan.education.gov.in>. These guidelines, inter-alia, provides for instructions to schools to procure Agmark quality and branded items for preparation of meals, training to Cook-cum-Helpers, tasting of meals by 2-3 members of School Management Committee including at least one teacher before serving to children. The States/UTs are required to conduct Social Audit in all districts in at least 20 schools or 2% of the schools, whichever is higher for each district. Further, the Mid-Day Meal Rules, 2015 provide for mandatory testing of food samples by Government recognized laboratories to ensure that the meals meet nutritional standards and quality. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is given responsibility for issue of food grains of best available quality, which will in any case be at least of Fair Average Quality (FAQ). The FCI appoints a Nodal Officer for each State to take care of various problems in supply of food grains under the PM POSHAN Scheme. The District Collector / CEO of Zila Panchayat ensures that food grains of at least FAQ are lifted after joint inspection by a team consisting of FCI and the nominee of the Collector and/or Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat, and confirmation by them that the grain conforms to at least FAQ norms. The number of children who fell ill due to supply of contaminated food under PM POSHAN Scheme during the last five years is given at **Annexure-II**.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2145 for 05.08.2024 asked by Shri Rajeev Rai, Hon'ble MP regarding Quality of Food in Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

Central Assistance Released and Utilized under PM POSHAN Scheme

(Rs. in Lakh)

S. no.	States/UTs	Released	Utilization	Released	Utilization	Released	Utilization	Released	Utilization	Released
		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24
1	Andhra Pradesh	28563.77	26861.33	37510.17	37320.99	35731.48	35460.14	36531.92	33872.58	25342.88
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2367.9	2367.9	2917.87	2917.87	2968.58	647.16	1707.01	3106	2573.12
3	Assam	55325.82	56024	75703.77	76469.2	61570.1	67949.19	88721.4	71906.34	59594.79
4	Bihar	109313.34	113259.9	139248.01	138557.69	103016.32	142606.72	76399.12	168288.4	92323.54
5	Chhattisgarh	25489.23	26886.06	38080.87	42439.58	21315.32	34067.95	51008.15	41419.62	24313.65
6	Goa	1276.05	1161.03	1709.34	981.35	668.18	1416.47	1531.12	2248.9	1832.31
7	Gujarat	39287.11	37962.06	52871.83	59593	50706.46	49297.72	52293.03	74368.81	37785.29
8	Haryana	10889.91	13315.45	15572.73	15764.16	10163.12	8456.23	15290.09	34580.7	16089.74
9	Himachal Pradesh	7557.54	7789.72	10500.11	9477.67	6290.49	9731.03	13801.77	14118.06	9435.53
10	Jammu & Kashmir	2666.45	7949.01	15960.26	14306.84	12221.88	14788.59	8684.9	17334.88	13680.88
11	Jharkhand	32310.9	30621.39	35203.74	33824.83	25189.45	56534.44	38424.29	64142.71	34202.20
12	Karnataka	52056.79	49733.8	51553.53	56520.02	48834.32	60863.39	69076.57	59162.25	55973.07
13	Kerala	19962.41	20305.5	27688.82	28776.38	18482.19	32123.1	42543.83	39309.54	24901.32
14	Madhya Pradesh	50407.62	51791.74	82754.74	87607.86	47220.22	47793.37	36285	59340.01	63404.21
15	Maharashtra	99468.82	84615.36	100250.03	86677.29	49075.07	121547.2	159240.67	142401.71	79372.10
16	Manipur	2192.3	2262.23	3900.45	4099.46	1678.74	2862.5	2763.32	3058.55	2459.64
17	Meghalaya	7835.83	7466.38	8733.94	8777.11	8564.77	8624.13	10124.13	11164.12	10186.01
18	Mizoram	2047.93	1858.51	2313.45	1340.07	892.98	558.94	2974.36	4898.66	2407.96
19	Nagaland	2279.38	2557.08	2744.38	2675.07	1472.51	2411.82	3196.49	2458.51	2250.44
20	Odisha	40358.68	39699.88	58301.22	64346.08	48208.87	50065.72	56373.86	54801.79	51937.63
21	Punjab	13855.77	14797.65	21769.15	20113.24	19146.03	19277.64	18712.92	17926.66	19988.62
22	Rajasthan	47252.76	44287.52	71100.05	71641.38	53106.11	78354.32	89960.12	68337.96	31727.94
23	Sikkim	817.45	762.31	840.58	856.96	500.65	848.59	1145.02	835.15	801.45
24	Tamil Nadu	43121.49	41150.06	49221.67	34969.3	23264.94	42238.65	47700.1	40284.4	39852.49
25	Telangana	18821.14	16223.73	4524.22	0	4334.63	9641.08	16682.36	14517.48	14550.92
26	Tripura	5598.51	6976.09	6220.56	8385.98	7718.82	7240.19	6857.03	8110.85	4434.26
27	Uttarakhand	10273.31	9604.07	13024.3	12473.54	12477.64	12380.16	11575.54	18425.51	11482.42
28	Uttar Pradesh	118201.96	111492.96	207166.14	210748.19	199805.66	193883.87	133407.6	116422.04	100659.56
29	West Bengal	107102.66	107482.58	134330.72	131530.83	139412.35	138035.74	148947.05	Awaited	00.00
30	A&N Islands	754.85	354	648.71	456.33	540.19	416.03	365.23	291.82	505.97
31	Chandigarh	884.26	722.45	1338.56	908.99	1721.62	1616.13	1773.77	1004.42	639.40
32	D&N Haveli	572.89	775.96	1307.94	1200.32	1221.23	1274.38	1227.1	1899.62	807.92
	Daman & Diu	258.31								
33	Delhi	10319.99	7022.89	11297.29	9955.46	4403.79	6972.51	21527.1	1015.91	8370.83
34	Lakshadweep	122.35	10.01	32.62	144.74	0	0	83.74	25815.88	95.39
35	Ladakh	98.93	93.17	555.79	320.36	376.96	380.82	200.61	118.04	504.21
36	Puducherry	290.01	397.36	503.45	532.06	373.33	577.47	363.04	317.19	634.04
TOTAL (In Lakh)		970004.42	946641.10	1287401.01	1276710.00	1022675.0	1260943.00	1267501.91	1216289.16	845121.73
TOTAL (In Crore)		9700.04	9466.41	12874.01	12767.10	10226.75	12609.43	12675.02	12162.89	8451.22

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (c) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2145 for 05.08.2024 asked by Shri Rajeev Rai, Hon'ble MP regarding Quality of Food in Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

Number of Children reported ill after consuming meals under PM POSHAN Scheme during 2019 to 2024 (till 30.07.2024)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Year-wise Number of Incidents							Number of Children Reported ill
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total	
1	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	198
2	Delhi	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	170
3	Odisha	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	42
4	Tamil Nadu	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	43
5	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	47
6	West Bengal	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	25
	Total	1	-	1	1	3	2	8	525

