

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2220
ANSWERED ON - 09/12/2024

Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Jharkhand

2220. Dr. Nishikant Dubey:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds utilized by the State of Jharkhand allocated by the Central Government for Mid-day Meal Scheme (MDMS) during the last three years and also the current year, yearwise;
- (b) whether quality food has been/is being served under MDMS;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve and maintain the quality of food served under MDMS in the State?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a): PM POSHAN is one of the foremost rights based Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented in partnership with the States and UTs providing one hot cooked and nutritious meal to 11.70 crore children studying in Balvatika (pre-primary classes) and classes I to VIII of 10.24 lakh Government and Government-aided schools on all school working days. The funds utilized by the State of Jharkhand is as under:-

(Rs in lakh)

State of Jharkhand	Utilization		
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	56534.44	38118.49	36184.61

(b) to (d): 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>. The scheme provides elaborate monitoring mechanism i.e. Empowered Committee under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Union Education Minister, Programme Approval Board (PAB) under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (DoSE&L), State Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee under the Chairpersonship of Chief Secretary, a District level Committee under the Chairpersonship of senior-most MP of Lok Sabha, District level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee under the Chairpersonship of District Collector.

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 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 Food Research Laboratory or any laboratory accredited or recognized by law 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. Training of cook-cum-helpers are being done on nutrition, cooking processes, health and hygiene, preparation of raw grains and vegetables, recipes, serving skills etc. in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India through their Institutes of Hotel Management and Food Craft Institutes, FSSAI, State Agricultural Universities etc.
