

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2290
ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

Honorarium of Assistant Cooks of PM-POSHAN Scheme

2290. Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the PM-POSHAN aims to enhance children's enrolment and nutrition but faces challenges due to stagnant Government funding;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that the State of Karnataka has increased contributions for assistant cooks from Rs. 400 to Rs.3,600 while the contribution of Government remains Rs. 600;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to enhance its contribution to States;
- (d) the reason for not enhancing the central share of honorarium for MDM workers;
- (e) whether there are any plans of the Government to revise the central share for preparation of good food and fair wages for workers under PM-POSHAN; and
- (f) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure timely financial support for implementation of PM-POSHAN?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a): PM POSHAN Scheme is one of the foremost rights based Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented in partnership with the States and UTs for providing one hot cooked and nutritious meal to children studying in Balvatika (pre-primary class) and classes I to VIII of Government and Government-aided schools on all school working days. The National Food Security Act, 2013, Rules, Guidelines and Instructions issued under the PM POSHAN Scheme from time to time, provides that every child attending an eligible institution is to be covered under the Scheme and shall be served hot cooked nutritious meal or provided with Food Security Allowance, as applicable, on all school days. The funds are released as Central Assistance to cover children attending the school on all working days. Every year the

Government of India has enhanced the Budget Estimate (BE) to this Scheme. The BE for FY 2024-25 is Rs. 12467.39 crore. Though, PM POSHAN is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the Central Government provides 100% cost of Foodgrains including subsidy of approx. Rs. 9000 crore per annum through Department of Food & Public Distribution, 100% transportation cost of foodgrains from FCI depot to schools and 100% funds for Management Monitoring and Evaluation (MME). Overall, Govt. of India provides more than Rs 21000 crore under PM POSHAN Scheme.

(b) to (f): The overall responsibility for smooth functioning of the scheme including engagement of Cook-cum-Helpers (CCHs) lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. These CCHs are honorary workers who have come forward for rendering social services. As per guidelines of the Scheme, honorarium of Rs. 1000/- per month for 10 months in a year is prescribed for these CCHs in recognition of their services and the same is continued. The honorarium expenditure is shared between the Central Government and States and UTs as per the approved sharing pattern. However, States / UTs are free to provide additional funds. Many State Governments and UT Administrations including State Government of Karnataka are providing additional funds to Cook-cum-Helpers from their own resources. The details of monthly honorarium of CCHs under the PM POSHAN Scheme are given at **Annexure**.

The State Governments and UT Administrations prepare comprehensive Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B), inter-alia, with detailed district-wise vital information on coverage of children, working days and schools; enrolment in schools; utilisation of foodgrains, material cost, transportation cost, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME), payment of honorarium to Cook-cum-Helper, construction of kitchen-cum-stores, procurement of kitchen devices etc. 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 members of School Management Committee including at least one teacher before serving the hot meal to children.

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 and subject to compliance of instructions issued from time to time by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. There is no delay in release of funds (Central share) to States / UTs. As and when States / UTs submits proposals as per guidelines for installments the central funds are released. However, in some cases, release of funds takes time due to late submission of proposals by the States/UTs and incomplete compliance of formalities required for release such as 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.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2290 for 09.12.2024 asked by Hon'ble MP Shri Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun, regarding "Honorarium of Assistant Cooks of PM-POSHAN Scheme".

Honorarium to Cook-cum-Helpers by States and UTs

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Cooks-cum-Helpers Honorarium Per Month (in Rs)	Additional Honorarium per month to Cook-cum-Helpers (in Rs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	3000	2000
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2000	1000
3	Assam	1500	500
4	Bihar	1650	650
5	Chhattisgarh	2000	1000
6	Goa	1000	0
7	Gujarat	3000	2000
8	Haryana	7000	6000
9	Himachal Pradesh	3500	2500
10	Jharkhand	2000	1000
11	Karnataka	3700	2700
12	Kerala	12000	11000
13	Madhya Pradesh	4000	3000
14	Maharashtra	2500	1500
15	Manipur	1000	0
16	Meghalaya	2000	1000
17	Mizoram	1500	500
18	Nagaland	1000	0
19	Odisha	2000	1000
20	Punjab	3000	2000
21	Rajasthan	2003	1003
22	Sikkim	1000	0
23	Tamil Nadu	4100-12500	3100-11500
24	Telangana	3000	2000
25	Tripura	2500	1500
26	Uttar Pradesh	2000	1000
27	Uttarakhand	3000	2000
28	West Bengal	1500	500
29	A&N Islands	1000	0
30	Chandigarh	4500	3500
31	D&N and D & Diu	5544	4544
32	Delhi	1000	0
33	Jammu & Kashmir	1000	0
34	Ladakh	1000	0
35	Lakshadweep	18000-20200	18000-20200
36	Puducherry	10000	9000