

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 39
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2025
Enhancement of Material Cost under PM POSHAN Scheme

† 39. Dr. Rajesh Mishra:
Shri Sunil Kumar:
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Shri Anurag Sharma:
Shri Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri:
Shri Dilip Saikia:
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Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh:
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Shri Anurag Singh Thakur:
Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap:
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Shri Naba Charan Majhi:
Shri Khagen Murmu:
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Smt. Kamlesh Jangde:
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Smt. Shobhanaben Mahendrasinh Baraiya:
Shri Arun Govil:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the objective behind increasing the material cost under the Prime Minister Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme;
- (b) whether the increased material cost improve the quality of meals served to students under the PM POSHAN Scheme;
- (c) whether the Government plans to monitor and ensure that increased material cost is effectively utilized in improving quality of meal;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the level of education across the country including Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Assam and North-Eastern States under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and the PM POSHAN (erstwhile Mid-Day Meal) Scheme; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to formulate any Committee for the proper implementation of these schemes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

- (a) to (c) : Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme is implemented in partnership with States/ UTs for providing one hot cooked and nutritious meal to children studying in Balvatika (just before class I) and the classes I to VIII of Government and Government-aided schools on all school working days. The objective behind increasing the material cost under PM POSHAN Scheme is to factor in inflation in the cost of ingredients e.g. pulses, vegetables, cooking oil, other condiments and fuel. The existing rates of material cost have been revised by based on Consumer Price Index- Rural Laborers (CPI-RL) index by 13.70% to Rs. 6.19 per child per day for Bal Vatika & Primary Classes and Rs. 9.29 per child per day for Upper Primary Classes w.e.f. 1st December, 2024. It will help the schools to provide all the nutrients as prescribed to students and improve quality of food. The Government of India has issued detailed guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene to ensure serving of good quality nutritious meal under the Scheme. All the States/ UTs were advised to adhere to these Guidelines. These guidelines are available on official website <https://pmposhan.education.gov.in>. The guidelines of the PM POSHAN Scheme, 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. In addition, the States and UTs are advised to do testing of meals through NABL accredited laboratories. Section 28 of National Food Security Act, 2013 inter-alia envisages that every local authority, or any other authority or body, as may be authorized by the State Government, shall conduct or cause to be conducted, periodic social audits on the functioning of the scheme and cause to publicize its findings and take necessary action, in such manner as may be prescribed by the State Government. 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. The responsibility for taking action and ensuring complaisance on the Social Audit findings rests with the State/UT Nodal Department implementing the PM POSHAN Scheme. 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 done on nutrition, cooking processes, health and hygiene, preparation of raw grains and vegetables, recipes, serving skills etc. in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism, Government of India through their Institutes of Hotel Management and Food Craft Institutes, FSSAI, State Agricultural Universities etc.

(d) : Education is a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution and the majority of schools are under administrative control of the respective State Government/UT administration. To improve quality of education, learning outcomes and better nutrition of students, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is implemented by Department of School Education & Literacy with States/UTs in a synchronized and systematic manner. The major initiatives and achievements of NEP 2020 includes:

- **Samagra Shiksha:** The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education is implementing Samagra Shiksha from 2018-19 across the entire country. The scheme has been aligned with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. It aims to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in a continuous learning process.
- **National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN BHARAT)** launched on 5th July 2021.
- **4-year integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP)** has been notified by NCTE vide gazette notification dated 22.10.2021. For academic session 2024-25, 23 institutions have been recognized by NCTE for Phase 2 Piloting of ITEP.
- **National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF FS)** launched on 20th October, 2022.
- Based on NCF, Learning Teaching Material (**Jadui Pitara**) and Textbooks for classes I and II launched on 20th February, 2023 and 5th July, 2023 respectively. **Digital version of the Jadui Pitara** also launched on 10th February, 2024.
- **National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE)** released on 23rd August 2023. Textbooks for classes 3 and 6 for the academic year 2024-25 as per NCF-SE (2023) have been released.
- **PARAKH:** In pursuance of the recommendation of the NEP 2020, the National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), was established on 8th February, 2023 by the Ministry of Education under the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to establish norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation across all recognized school boards in the country and to ensure equivalence of academic standards among learners across all school boards.
- For Competency Based Assessment for Holistic Development, the **Holistic Progress Card (HPC)** for the Preparatory, Foundational, Middle and Secondary stage have been prepared and shared with all states and UTs.
- **National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST)** document outlines the competencies that teachers should possess to effectively perform their roles released on 9th March 2024.
- **National Mission for Mentoring (NMM)- 'Bluebook on NMM'** released on 9th March 2024, talks about the creation of a large pool of outstanding professionals willing to provide mentoring to school teachers.
- Under **PM eVIDYA, DIKSHA is one nation, one digital education infrastructure.** All states/UTs have been onboarded in DIKSHA. DIKSHA provides quality e-content for school education in States/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (**one**

nation, one digital platform). DIKSHA currently hosts 7,080+ textbooks energized with QR codes, including 374 NCERT textbooks and ETBs. The e-Content is available in 108 Languages (101 Indian languages +7 Foreign Languages).

- **DIET- Centre of Excellence:** The NEP 2020 recognises reinvigoration of DIETs to change the capacity and work culture of these institutions and develop them into vibrant institutions of excellence. Financial assistance under Samagra Shiksha is provided to States/UTs for physical upgradation of all 613 functional DIETs in the country in a phased manner in the next five years. In the FY 2023-24, 125 DIETS across 33 States/UTs with an approximate budget of Rs. 92,320.18 Lakhs was approved.
- **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)** Scheme is revamped and extended to cover students of Balvatika in addition to students of Classes I-VIII in Government and Government-aided Schools. It encourages setting up of School Nutrition Gardens (SNG) and strengthening of community participation through ‘**Tithi Bhojan**’.
- **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. Shiksha Saptah was conducted in Government and Government aided Schools across the entire country in which Tithi Bhojan was provided in more than 2 lakh schools to more than 1.6 crore students.
- **School Nutrition Gardens (SNGs):** Under the Scheme, development of School Nutrition Gardens in schools is being promoted, to give children first hand experience with nature and gardening. In 5.16 lakh schools, SNGs have been set up across the country.
- **PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme** launched on 07th Sep 2022. PM SHRI Schools are set up by strengthening the existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central Government/State/UT/local bodies. These schools are to showcase all the initiatives of National Education Policy 2020 and emerge as exemplar schools over a period of time, and also offer leadership to other schools in the neighbourhood. Under the scheme, there is a provision of setting up of more than 14500 PM SHRI Schools by strengthening the existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central Government/State/UT Government/local bodies out of which 12,084 PM SHRI Schools have been selected so far.

(e): In order to improve performance and extent of implementation, the PM POSHAN Scheme inter-alia provides elaborate monitoring mechanism inter-alia State Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee under the Chairpersonship of Chief Secretary, 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, Block Steering cum Monitoring Committee under the chairpersonship of Sub Divisional Officer. For ascertaining and ensuring the judicious use of funds released under Samagra Shiksha there are inbuilt checks, counter-checks and internal control system as prescribed in the Manual on Financial Management and Procurement of Samagra Shiksha. Besides, there is an internal audit, statutory audit, concurrent audit and audit by State Accountant General. In the PRABANDH (Project Appraisal, Budgeting Achievements and Data Handling) System, the expenditure incurred under the difference interventions of the Samagra Shiksha is updated. A data visualization Dashboard has been created in the PRABANDH system for display of monthly status of physical and financial progress under the major interventions of Samagra Shiksha.
