

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.935
ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025**

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS BENEFITTED UNDER SEVA BHOJ YOJANA

935. SHRI ARUN BHARTI:

Will the **MINISTER OF CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details along with number of charitable and religious institutions have been benefitted under the Seva Bhoj Yojana as of January 2025, State-wise;
- (b) the details along with number of individuals have been benefitted indirectly through the free meals provided under the Seva Bhoj Yojana-supported initiatives;
- (c) the steps taken or mechanism are in place to ensure transparency and accountability in the application and reimbursement process under the aforementioned scheme;
- (d) the details of the steps being taken to raise awareness about the Seva Bhoj Yojana among charitable and religious organizations across the country;
- (e) the details of the steps taken to ensure that all religions and communities are equitably represented among the beneficiary organizations under the aforementioned scheme; and
- (f) whether the Government has taken steps to simplify the application process and ensure faster reimbursements under the aforementioned scheme, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

- (a) Seva Bhoj Yojana was launched by the Ministry of Culture in August, 2018. Under the Seva Bhoj Yojana, Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Central Government's share of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) paid on purchase of specific raw food items by the eligible Charitable/Religious Institutions for distributing free food to atleast 5000 people in a calendar month are reimbursed to these organizations by the Government of India through the concerned GST Authority. The State-wise details of the charitable and religious institutions that have been benefitted under the Seva Bhoj Yojana as of January, 2025 are **Annexed**.
- (b) As per the guidelines of Seva Bhoj Yojana, a Certificate from District Magistrate indicating that the Charitable/Religious Institution is involved in Charitable/Religious activities and is distributing free food to public/devotees etc. since last three years at least on daily/monthly basis is mandatorily required, as one of the eligibility criteria, for these institutions in order to get enrolled on the CSMS Portal of the Ministry of Culture. However, the details of individuals benefitted indirectly through the free meals are not sought by the Ministry while providing the benefit of reimbursement, as mentioned at Sl. No. (a) above under the Seva Bhoj Yojana from Charitable /Religious Institutions.

- (c) Under the Seva Bhoj Yojana, Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Central Government's share of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) paid on purchase of specific raw food items by the eligible Charitable/Religious Institutions for distributing free food to public are reimbursed to these organizations by the Government of India through the concerned GST Authority. The following procedure is adopted to ensure transparency and accountability in the utilization of funds granted under the Seva Bhoj Scheme:-
- (i) Upon registration with NGO Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog, the Charitable/Religious Institutions enrol and submit their application in CSMS Portal of the Ministry of Culture.
 - (ii) After enrolment with the Ministry of Culture, the applicant submits its application along with a copy of the registration certificate issued by the Ministry of Culture to the Nodal Central Tax Officer in their concerned State/UT.
 - (iii) The Nodal Central Tax Officer on receipt of the application and registration certificate generates a Unique Identity Number (UIN).
 - (iv) Thereafter, the concerned GST Authority forward the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Central Government's share of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) claims verified and passed by them in respect of the eligible Charitable/Religious Institutions to the Ministry for releasing the same.
 - (v) The Ministry provides fund to the concerned GST Authority who further reimburses to these Charitable/Religious Institutions.
- (d)&(e) It has been the constant endeavour of the Ministry to promote all the schemes including Seva Bhoj Yojana and raise its awareness through various platforms viz. website of the Ministry, social media platforms etc. so that benefit of the scheme reaches to various types of eligible Charitable/Religious organizations situated across the country thereby leading to equitable representation of all religions and communities as the beneficiaries of the scheme.
- (f) The application and reimbursement process as mentioned at Sl. No. (c) above already ensures ease and faster reimbursement to the eligible Charitable/Religious Institutions.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in Reply to Part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 935 due for 10-02-2025

(Rs.in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Name of Organizations	State	Fund Released
1.	2019-2020	Shiromani Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), Amritsar	Punjab	171.00
		Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh	19.63
		Sri Venkateswara Annaprasadam Trust, Tirupati		5.27
2.	2020-2021	Shiromani Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC)	Punjab	159.39
		Dreams & Beauty Charitable Trust, Ludhiana		1.22
		Durgiana Temple, Amritsar		8.84
3.	2021-2022	Shiromani Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC)	Punjab	149.83
		Dreams & Beauty Charitable Trust, Ludhiana		0.28
		Durgiana Temple, Amritsar		4.81
4.	2022-2023	Shiromani Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC)	Punjab	140.44
		Dreams & Beauty Charitable Trust, Ludhiana		0.80
		Durgiana Temple, Amritsar		1.76
5.	2023-2024	Shiromani Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC)	Punjab	142.12
		Durgiana Temple, Amritsar		3.88
