

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 949
ANSWERED ON- 10/02/2025

Budget allocation to PM POSHAN Scheme

949. Shri S Jagathratchakan:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the budget allocated for the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme has been declined/stagnant during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details of the rationale behind maintaining this stagnant budget allocation despite high rates of child wasting, stunting, and undernourishment in the country;
- (c) whether any assessment has been conducted by the Government to evaluate the sufficiency of current funding levels in meeting the scheme's objectives;
- (d) if so, the details of additional measures, planned to strengthen the scheme in light of its critical role in addressing child malnutrition; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to increase budget allocation in future fiscal years to ensure alignment with inflation and rising demand, if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (e): There has been an increase in the budget of Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme. PM POSHAN 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 all children studying in Balvatika (just before class-I) and classes I to VIII of Government and Government-aided schools. The overall responsibility for providing meal to the eligible children lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in accordance with the Guidelines laid down by the Central Government. Central Government has approved implementation of PM POSHAN Scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with the financial outlay of Rs. 85794.9 crore comprising of Rs. 54061.73 crore from the Central Government and Rs. 31733.17 crore from State Govt. & UT Administrations. During last five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25, there is an increase of 13.34% in budget allocation under PM POSHAN Scheme. The year-wise BE during the last five years for the PM POSHAN Scheme is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Budget Estimates (PM POSHAN Scheme)
2020-21	11000.00
2021-22	11500.00
2022-23	10233.75
2023-24	11600.00
2024-25	12467.39

Though PM POSHAN is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the Central Government provides 100% assistance for cost of foodgrains including transportation cost. 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, utilisation of cooking 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. To address child malnutrition, the nutrition and food norms under the scheme are as under:

S. No.	Items	Primary & Balvatika	Upper Primary
A) Nutrition norm per child per day			
1.	Calorie	450	700
2.	Protein	12 gms	20 gms
B) Food norms per child per day			
1.	Food grains	100 gms	150 gms
2.	Pulses	20 gms	30 gms
3.	Vegetables	50 gms	75 gms
4.	Oil & fat	5 gms	7.5 gms
5.	Salt & condiments	As per need	As per need

The meal is prepared of fortified rice (Iron, folic acid and Vitamin), double fortified salt (Iron & Iodine) and fortified oil (Vitamin A & D) .

Many initiatives have been taken by this Ministry to strengthen the Scheme. Under flexibility component, some States and UTs are also providing additional food items viz., eggs, fruits, milk, ragi malt and chikki etc. The States and UTs fix their menu as per their local needs, in order to meet the prescribed nutritional content. Shree Anna (Millets) are super grains, a great source of several vitamins and minerals, including phosphorus, magnesium which enhances nutrient delivery. Advisories have been issued to States and UTs for inclusion of Shree Anna at least once a week in the menu. The material cost under PM POSHAN Scheme is increased periodically 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 based on Consumer Price Index-Rural Labourers (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 and also health of students.

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 compliance on the Social Audit findings rests with the State/UT Nodal Department implementing the PM POSHAN Scheme.

Tithi Bhojan is a community participation programme in which people provide special food to children on special occasions/festivals in addition to regular meal. During the FY 2024-25 (upto 31st January 2025) about 4.58 crore students in 4.85 lakhs Government and Government-aided Schools across the entire country benefitted with Tithi Bhojan.

Development of School Nutrition Gardens in schools is being promoted under the Scheme to give children first hand experience with nature and gardening. In 6.96 lakh schools, SNGs have been set up across the country. It is helping students to understand nutrition and health.

Health check-ups of the students is carried out by the States & UTs under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK). Iron & Folic Acid (IFA) tablets are given under Anaemia Mukta Bharat and deworming medicines are given under National Deworming Day (NDD) to students for better health and good learning outcomes.
