

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1178
ANSWERED ON- 08/12/2025

Quality of Mid-Day Meal

1178. Dr. K Sudhakar:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to ensure periodic inspection to ensure the quality of the Mid-Day Meal programme in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of steps taken by the Government to ensure that funds granted for the Mid-Day Meal programme are properly utilised by schools; and
- (c) total number of reported cases of faults and food poisoning in the Mid-Day Meal programme in the State of Karnataka during the last two years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme is one of the foremost rights based Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented in partnership with the States and Union Territories (UTs) for providing one hot cooked and nutritious meal to all children studying in Bal Vatika (just before class-I) and classes I to VIII of Government and Government-aided schools. The Scheme covers about 11 crore children in more than 10.35 lakh schools in all the States/ UTs. The overall responsibility for providing hot cooked and nutritious meal to the eligible children lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. For FY 2025-26, budget allocation for the PM Poshan Scheme is Rs. 12,500 crore by Government of India and the State/ UT share as per the sharing pattern is around Rs. 8,500 crore including additional funds for Honorarium to Cook-cum-Helpers and Supplementary Nutrition items. The foodgrain allocation by Government of India is 24.15 lakh MTs which costs around Rs. 9000 crore. Thus overall allocation for the PM Poshan Scheme for FY 2025-26 is more than Rs. 30,000 crore including more than Rs. 21,500 crore made by Government of India.

The Government of India has issued detailed guidelines to improve the implementation of 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 (SMC) including at least one teacher before serving the hot meal to children. Further, it provides for 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 making available food grains of best available quality, meeting the parameters of Fair Average Quality (FAQ). Under the PM POSHAN Scheme, inspection by State officials is mandatory to ensure effective implementation, quality, and hygiene. States and UTs have established specific monitoring mechanisms.

Public Financial Management System (PFMS) system has been introduced by the Government under which State Government opened State Nodal Agency (SNA) accounts. The funds released by Central Government are transferred to SNA account which ensures comprehensive monitoring and efficient usage. In the beginning of the financial year the 1st instalment of the Central share is released not more than 25% of the amount earmarked for State for the financial year. Further 2nd, 3rd and 4th instalments of Central Share are released after expenditure of 75% of the total available funds in the SNA account and compliance of the conditions of previous sanction.

As per the extant guidelines of the PM Poshan Scheme 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/ UTs. States/ UTs have conducted social audits in 32,664 schools across the country. Further, the States/ UTs through their designated officials have conducted inspections in 9.78 lakh schools in the year 2024-25 and 8.21 lakh schools in the year 2025-26 (upto October). The State/ UTs have conducted 25,389 testing of meals in the year 2024-25 and 21,074 in the year 2025-26 (upto October) in accredited labs across the country.

The scheme also 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, District level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee under the Chairpersonship of District Collector. The PM Poshan Guidelines provides a District Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Senior Most Member of Parliament (MP) of the district to monitor the scheme on quarterly basis.

During the last 2 years no cases of faults and food poisoning have been reported under the PM POSHAN Scheme (previously known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme) in the State of Karnataka.
