

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2725**  
ANSWERED ON- 09.03.2026

**Poor Quality of Mid-Day Meals in Bihar**

†2725. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar:  
Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of fund released to Bihar for Mid-Day Meal during the last ten years, year-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to take any steps to maintain the quality of mid-day meals as there are complaints of poor quality of mid-day meals being provided in the said State; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)**

(a) to (c): The central assistance released to Bihar during last ten years under PM Poshan is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Central Assistance Released (Rs in lakh)</b>
2014-15	136532.10
2015-16	120013.29
2016-17	114257.02
2017-18	97871.58
2018-19	112448.94
2019-20	109313.34
2020-21	139248.01
2021-22	103016.32
2022-23	76399.12
2023-24	92323.54
2024-25	142911.47

Education is part of the Concurrent list of the Constitution and most of the Government Schools and School Boards are under the administration of the State/ UT Government. 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 overall

responsibility for providing hot cooked and nutritious meal to the eligible children lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

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 are advised to adhere to these Guidelines. 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. 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). The Guidelines, inter-alia, provides for training of Cook-cum-Helpers on nutrition, cooking processes, health and hygiene, preparation of raw grains and vegetables, recipes, serving skills etc. States/ UTs provide training to CCHs in collaboration with Institutes of Hotel Management, Food Craft Institutes, FSSAI, State Universities etc. Many States/ UTs conduct Cooking Competitions and also give cash prizes to the winners to encourage them to cook varied and nutritious meals. The States and UTs are encouraged to decide menu suitable to the local conditions within the prescribed nutrition and food norms and to procure locally grown food items like millets, vegetables, condiments etc. The guidelines also envisage for all children in the school to wash their hands with soap.

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.

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