

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 5767**  
ANSWERED ON- 30.03.2026

**Assessment of Implementation of PM-POSHAN Scheme**

5767. Shri Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare:  
Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe:  
Shri Sanjay Dina Patil:  
Smt. Supriya Sule:  
Shri Mohite Patil Dhairyasheel Rajsinh:  
Prof. Varsha Eknath Gaikwad:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any State or district-wise assessment of the implementation of the PM-POSHAN scheme in Maharashtra during the last three years and if so, the details of schools covered, number of beneficiaries along with the funds released and utilised, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government has examined the gap between enrolment and actual meal uptake in Government schools under the said scheme in Maharashtra and the reasons for absenteeism or irregular meal consumption among children;

(c) whether shortages of cooks, helpers and delayed honorarium payments to kitchen staff have been reported in the said State and the steps taken by the Government to address these issues;

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce locally sourced millets, eggs or region-specific nutritious food items in school meals in Maharashtra to improve nutritional outcomes and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the measures taken by the Government to strengthen social audits, food safety inspections and grievance redressal mechanisms under the said scheme in the State?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)**

(a) to (e): Education is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India and the majority of schools are under the administrative control of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) administration. The 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 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.

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 States/ UTs. State Government of Maharashtra has reported that it had conducted social audits in 2% of total schools in the year 2021-22, 2022-23 and 5% of total schools in 2024-25. State has not conducted social audit in the year 2023-24 due to technical and administrative reasons. The number of schools covered under social audit is as follows:

Number of schools covered under Social Audit			
2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
2523	1802	0	4278

The district-wise number of children enrolled, fund released and utilized under the Scheme as reported by the State Government of Maharashtra is at **Annexure**.

The overall responsibility for smooth functioning of the Scheme including providing hot cooked and nutritious meal to the eligible children as well as engagement of Cook-cum-Helpers (CCHs) lies with the States/UTs. State Government of Maharashtra has reported that due to seasonal migration and domestic responsibilities, there is a gap between the total number of children enrolled and children taking mid-day meal. Further, the State has also reported that there is no shortage of CCHs nor any delay in payment of honorarium.

There is a provision of 5% of total recurring budget as the flexi component to be used by the States/UTs for setting up of School Nutrition Gardens (SNGs) and provision of supplementary nutrition interventions in identified districts. Many States/UTs provide additional supplementary nutrition interventions like egg, milk, chikki, fresh fruits, chicken, ragi malt etc. Further, it has been reported that millet nutritive bars are provided in 15 tribal districts (Aspirational) and eggs & banana in all the districts of Maharashtra.

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 CCHs, 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 the 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 CCHs 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 the Institutes of Hotel Management, Food Craft Institutes, FSSAI, State Universities etc.

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## ANNEXURE

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5767 FOR 30.03.2026 RAISED BY SHRI BHASKAR MURLIDHAR BHAGARE, DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE, SHRI SANJAY DINA PATIL, SMT. SUPRIYA SULE, SHRI MOHITE PATIL DHAIRYASHEEL RAJSINH AND PROF. VARSHA EKNATH GAIKWAD, HON'BLE MPs REGARDING ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PM-POSHAN SCHEME.**

**Children enrolled and Fund Utilised under the PM POSHAN Scheme in Maharashtra**

Sr. No	District Name	2023-24		2024-25		2025-26 (upto feb 2026)	
		Children enrolled	Fund Utilised (Rs in lakh)	Children enrolled	Fund Utilised (Rs in lakh)	Children enrolled	Fund Utilised (Rs in lakh)
1	Ahmadnagar	479301	7557.42	470731	7829.02	446650	7246.09
2	Akola	154919	2557.28	146349	2824.16	161595	1994.14
3	Amravati	244859	3819.97	236289	3932.11	278975	2967.48
4	Aurangabad	467505	7011.40	458935	7262.70	465892	4641.69
5	Bhandara	349156	5666.93	340586	5634.80	323716	5610.98
6	Bid	107236	1894.14	98666	1761.00	103615	1757.04
7	Buldana	272583	4565.99	264013	4348.61	250787	3555.44
8	Chandrapur	172831	2752.38	164261	2990.94	158342	2119.66
9	Dhule	257337	3454.42	248767	4007.46	234397	3540.58
10	Gadchiroli	94688	1831.52	86118	1901.52	90475	1314.00
11	Gondiya	111469	1930.62	102899	2128.38	108043	2161.75
12	Hingoli	144998	2046.74	136428	1266.43	126253	2499.69
13	Jalgaon	466361	6382.92	457791	7039.94	454078	6966.42
14	Jalna	239918	3728.68	231348	4288.52	209950	2799.12
15	Kolhapur	373295	6213.22	364725	5413.67	355263	5508.58
16	Latur	290496	4086.51	281926	4637.44	280579	3306.60
17	Mumbai	571020	9975.20	562450	5946.50	533267	7244.75
18	Nagpur	308279	5170.56	299709	4638.20	286574	3413.64
19	Nanded	406038	5352.50	397468	5530.70	384461	4675.55
20	Nandurbar	183832	2888.41	175262	3059.49	178190	4240.43
21	Nashik	667565	9226.79	658995	11329.00	647759	9528.88
22	Osmanabad	178274	2956.48	169704	3008.60	177847	2702.75
23	Palghar	239500	3801.23	230930	3810.25	240574	3790.93
24	Parbhani	239709	3127.94	231139	4072.63	223488	3525.83
25	Pune	740808	11822.47	732238	10649.11	738154	7425.08
26	Raigarh	184094	3404.10	175524	3161.00	177034	2770.43
27	Ratnagiri	119750	2700.78	111180	1908.05	106500	2277.79
28	Sangli	267965	4943.24	259395	4836.35	267269	4168.86
29	Satara	255509	4396.68	246939	4780.26	242140	2652.55
30	Sindhudurg	55726	984.94	47156	1338.67	53687	1111.84
31	Solapur	494962	8008.73	486392	7491.49	468757	4163.95
32	Thane	462261	6485.87	453691	5497.01	433619	5759.50
33	Wardha	91626	1252.98	83056	1792.14	81395	1352.11
34	Washim	136961	2371.96	128391	1933.73	112205	1131.67
35	Yavatmal	269347	4536.53	260777	4636.19	250070	3586.28
<b>Total</b>		<b>10100178</b>	<b>158907.52</b>	<b>9800228</b>	<b>156686.08</b>	<b>9651600</b>	<b>133512.08</b>