

## **Regarding PM Poshan Scheme**

**DR. PRABHA MALLIKARJUN (DAVANAGERE):** Thank you, hon. Chairperson. The Government of India is implementing the Centrally-sponsored Pradhan Mantri Poshan Scheme in coordination with the States and Union Territories. The scheme serves around 120 million children in over 1.27 million schools across the country. The share of the Government of India in this scheme is 60 per cent whereas the share of the State Governments is 40 per cent. But the Central Government has not increased their share since 2019 and the payment is very meagre.

Madam, most of these workers belong to below poverty line families. They cannot manage their life with an honorarium of Rs.3,700. These Mid-Day Meal workers and helpers are considered volunteers and not employees, which in turn keeps them out of pension and provident fund facilities. Though their salaries are referred to as honorarium, I would like the Government to increase its Central share. Thank you.