

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-68
ANSWERED ON- 01/12/2025
PM POSHAN Scheme in Darjeeling and Kalimpong

68. Shri Raju Bista:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of schools and students currently covered under the PM POSHAN (Mid-Day Meal) scheme in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal;
- (b) the total funds allocated, released and utilized under the scheme in these districts since 2019, year-wise;
- (c) whether the Ministry has received any reports regarding irregularities, quality issues, or interruptions in meal delivery in these districts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to address such issues; and
- (e) whether the Government has any plans to expand the nutritional components or infrastructure support (such as kitchens and storage facilities) under PM POSHAN in remote and hilly regions like Darjeeling and Kalimpong and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): 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 number of schools and students covered under PM POSHAN Scheme in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal is at **Annexure-I**. The year-wise details of total funds to Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts is at **Annexure-II**.

(c) & (d): Government of West Bengal informed that one complaint in Panchabati Higher Secondary School, Darjeeling received from Sh. Raju Bista, Hon'ble MP regarding supply of less food grains than the allotted amount. Enquiry was made by Executive Director, Gorkhaland Territorial Administration. The transport agency for carrying of foodgrains was show-caused and upon receipt of their reply the agreement of the transport agency was terminated by district authority.

(e): The Scheme guidelines provides for construction and repair of Kitchen-cum-Stores (KCS). Funds for construction and repair of KCS are provided to States/ UTs based on the proposal received from them. In Darjeeling district 1072 KCS and in Kalimpong district 358 KCS were constructed. Repair of 13,129 Kitchen-cum-Stores (KCS) and procurement of 42171 units of Kitchen Devices was approved for FY 2024-25 to the Government of West Bengal.

There is a provision of 5% of total recurring budget as the flexi component to be used by the States/UTs as per their requirement. It may be used for setting up of School Nutrition Gardens and provision of Supplementary Nutrition interventions in identified districts. Many States/UTs also provide additional supplementary nutrition interventions such as egg, milk, chikki, fresh fruits, chicken, ragi malt etc. Government of West Bengal informed that it provides flexi-funds for supplementary nutrition like eggs and fruits to all students including in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) AND (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 68 FOR 01.12.2025 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI RAJU BISTA REGARDING PM POSHAN SCHEME IN DARJEELING AND KALIMPONG.

SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS COVERED UNDER PM POSHAN SCHEME

District	Total Schools	Total Students
Darjeeling	1017	20382
Kalimpong	463	15056

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) AND (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 68 FOR 01.12.2025 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI RAJU BISTA REGARDING PM POSHAN SCHEME IN DARJEELING AND KALIMPONG.

YEAR-WISE DETAILS OF TOTAL FUNDS

Year	Darjeeling (Rs. In lakh)			Kalimpong (Rs. In lakh)		
	Approved	Released	Utilization	Approved	Released	Utilization
2019-20	782.54	882.33	755.42	453.99	453.07	409.07
2020-21	797.84	782.48	755.36	482.48	389.38	466.08
2021-22	819.08	726.57	793.49	471.25	417.47	464.37
2022-23	755.84	907.42	852.84	494.10	536.30	512.95
2023-24	807.11	840.36	615.95	521.77	547.20	380.97
2024-25	706.40	790.40	682.94	452.41	497.76	417.95