

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1433
ANSWERED ON- 09.02.2026

Funds for Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Dungarpur and Banswara Districts

† 1433. Shri Rajkumar Roat:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of money allocated under the Mid-Day Meal (PM Poshan) Scheme in the Dungarpur and Banswara districts under the Banswara Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency during the last ten years, school-wise;
- (b) whether due to delays of budget allocations for the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Dungarpur and Banswara district, the respective Government schools provide meals to children on credit and whether cook-cum-helpers working in these schools have not been paid for several months, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government intend to allocate mid-day meal funds to the said schools and pay the cook-cum-helper on time, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): 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 Government. PM POSHAN Scheme is implemented in partnership with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The overall responsibility for providing hot and nutritious meal to all children studying in Bal Vatika (just before class 1) and classes I to VIII of Government and Government aided schools lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Central Government provides 100% assistance for cost of food grains, transportation cost and cost of Management Monitoring & Evaluation (MME). The State Governments and UT Administrations prepare comprehensive Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B), inter-alia, with detailed district-wise vital information on coverage of children, working days and schools; enrolment in schools; utilisation of food grains, utilisation of cooking cost, transportation cost, MME, payment of honorarium to Cook-cum-Helper, construction of kitchen-cum-stores, procurement of kitchen devices etc.

The Programme Approval Board (PAB) constituted under the PM POSHAN Scheme meets at the beginning of each financial year in order to consider and sanction the AWP&B submitted by the State Governments and UT Administrations. Financial Assistance under PM POSHAN is provided to all States and UTs by the Central Government in accordance with the norms of the Scheme and Guideline issued by Ministry of Finance from time to time. The distribution of resources and fund allocation further downwards up to the school level (including schools in the districts of Dungarpur and Banswara) lies with the

States/UTs. Further, food-grains are allocated on the basis of number of children and number of school working days to all States/UTs.

Under the PM POSHAN Scheme, honorary Cook-Cum-Helpers (CCHs) are engaged for preparing and serving hot cooked meals at schools and are paid Rs.1,000/- per month as honorarium for 10 months in a year. Honorarium is also provided to CCHs for preparing and serving hot cooked meals in elementary schools during summer vacation in drought affected areas notified by the concerned State Governments. The honorarium expenditure is shared between the Central Government and States and Union Territories as per the approved sharing pattern. The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations also supplement the honorarium by providing additional funds from their own resources.

The National Food Security Act, 2013 and the Rules, guidelines and instructions issued under the PM POSHAN Scheme from time to time, provide that every child attending an eligible institution is to be covered under the Scheme and shall be served hot cooked meals or provided with Food Security Allowance, as applicable, on all school days. However, during the year, if it is noticed by the State / UT that more funds are needed to implement the Scheme, due to increase in the attendance of children, increase in school working days or for any other reason, they may approach Government of India during the year with justification seeking additional Central Assistance and food grains.
