

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Schools	793	1376	1104	890	363+841***

***Additional stream in Higher Secondary Schools.

Draft National Education Policy

705. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether imposition of the three language formula from primary level of school education as proposed in the Draft National Education Policy is under consideration; and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) The Draft National Education Policy, 2019 submitted by the Committee for the Draft National Education Policy under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan to the Ministry has been uploaded on MHRD's website and also at *innovate.mygov.in* platform to elicit suggestions and comments from various stakeholders including the public. The Government is committed towards the equal development and promotion of all Indian languages and is categorical that there will be no imposition of any language in educational institutions, nor discrimination against any language. The Three Language Formula was adopted in the National Policy on Education, 1968 and reiterated in National Policy on Education 1986/1992 and Draft NEP 2019 proposes its continuation with flexibility in the choice of languages. Also, suggestions/comments have been invited from the Government of India Ministries and State Governments. The Government will finalize the National Education Policy only after examining the inputs/suggestions and comments of all stakeholders.

Food quality under Mid-Day-Meal Scheme

706. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has a mechanism to ensure quality of mid-day meals and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of mechanism for ensuring safe and standard meal prepared, like qualified examiner, air-tight packaging, etc.;
- (c) whether budget was allocated for ensuring quality of food;

(d) whether the Ministry has a record of unutilised funds for the same at school level and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and year-wise since 2016; and

(e) if not, the measures taken for ensuring it, State-wise and year-wise since 2016?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) The Government has adopted an elaborate monitoring mechanism at Central, State and District levels to ensure quality food is served to children under the Scheme. At national level, an Empowered Committee, headed by Minister of Human Resource Development and also a National level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) as well as Programme Approval Board (PAB) monitor the scheme and suggest measures for its smooth and effective implementation. At the State level, a State level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee headed by the State Chief Secretary and, at the District Level, a District Level Committee under the Chairpersonship of the senior-most Member of Parliament of Lok Sabha of the district monitors the implementation of the scheme in the concerned District.

At local level Gram Panchayats/Gram Sabhas, members of Village Education Committees (VECs), Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) and the School Management Committees (SMCs) monitor the regularity and wholesomeness of the mid-day meal served to children, cleanliness in cooking and serving of the meal, timeliness in procurement of good quality ingredients, fuel, etc., implementation of variety in menu so as to make it attractive to children and ensuring social and gender equity on daily basis. In addition to directing States and UTs to carry out Social Audit, the Centre constitutes Joint Review Missions (JRM)s consisting of educational and nutritional experts, which review the scheme through field visits from time to time. The reports of JRM)s are shared with concerned States and UTs for taking suitable action on the findings.

The Government of India has issued guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene in school level kitchens to all the States and UTs in order to meet the nutritional standard of 450 calories and 12 gms of protein to children in primary classes and 700 calories and 20 gms of protein to children in upper primary classes. These guidelines *inter alia* provide for instructions to schools to procure Agmark quality and branded items for preparation of mid day meals, tasting of meals by 2-3 adult members of School Management Committee including at least one teacher before serving to children and to put in place a system of testing of food samples by accredited laboratories. Further, the MDM Rules, 2015 provide for mandatory testing of food samples by Government recognized laboratories to ensure that the meals meet nutritional standards and quality.

(c) to (e) Under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Central assistance is released for cost of food grains, transportation cost, cooking cost and honorarium to cook-cum-helpers and Management, Monitoring & Evaluation (MME) as recurring grant as well as construction of kitchen-cum-store and procurement and replacement of kitchen devices as non-recurring grant to ensure that quality hot cook mid-day meal is provided to children as per the laid down norms.

Ministry does not maintain the record of unspent balance at school level. However, the State and UT-wise detail of unspent balance since 2016 under the scheme are given in Statement.

Statement

Unspent Balance available with the States/UTs since 2016 under Mid-Day Meal Scheme

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Unspent Balance as on 01.04.2016	Unspent Balance as on 01.04.2017	Unspent Balance as on 01.04.2018
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2899.69	533.59	1208.44
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	37.82	154.78	122.15
3.	Assam	1086.66	2979.81	3572.28
4.	Bihar	10437.03	21697.01	2818.93
5.	Chhattisgarh	2222.16	2181.09	3453.74
6.	Goa	26.28	37.07	26.05
7.	Gujarat	449.43	563.20	2362.38
8.	Haryana	4531.38	3915.13	1691.11
9.	Himachal Pradesh	604.54	112.68	830.95
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	558.17	3323.71	1872.20
11.	Jharkhand	246.38	246.44	143.61
12.	Karnataka	3628.71	2413.78	3792.67
13.	Kerala	1475.61	21.66	1367.96

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8828.93	4633.90	6464.32
15.	Maharashtra	12876.85	2792.22	960.85
16.	Manipur	51.37	117.14	327.16
17.	Meghalaya	230.83	163.29	111.09
18.	Mizoram	69.90	26.10	142.20
19.	Nagaland	0.00	407.40	2.04
20.	Odisha	2851.54	4424.99	6654.84
21.	Punjab	2495.39	1464.08	1705.54
22.	Rajasthan	188.53	1578.01	2923.34
23.	Sikkim	91.94	44.24	44.24
24.	Tamil Nadu	2535.05	1910.72	2178.64
25.	Telangana	1010.46	2104.75	1699.91
26.	Tripura	45.91	178.27	133.14
27.	Uttarakhand	2172.66	1131.06	1481.15
28.	Uttar Pradesh	6904.63	10297.49	4162.84
29.	West Bengal	3259.34	13197.73	15080.54
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Delhi	236.52	131.97	148.52
35.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
36.	Puducherry	74.04	92.35	113.08
TOTAL (In lakhs)		72128	82876	67596
TOTAL (In crore)		721.28	828.76	675.96

Expenditure on primary education

707. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether spending only 1.82 per cent of GDP on primary education helps in increasing quality and standard in primary education;