

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1142  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2021**

**Cash transfers in lieu of Mid-Day Meals**

**1142. Shri Derek O' Brien:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is providing cash transfers in place of Mid-Day Meals and if so, details of the same including amount per child;
- (b) details of the number of children who have received the cash transfer and the number of children who have not; and
- (c) the manner in which Government is transferring the money to the children?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

- (a) to (c): Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme which covers all school children studying in Classes I-VIII of Government, Government-Aided Schools, Special Training Centres including Madarsas and Maqtabas supported under Samagra Shiksha. During 2020-21, about 11.80 crore children studying in 11.20 lakh school were enrolled under the scheme. At present cooking cost at primary and upper primary level is Rs. 4.97 and Rs. 7.45 per child per day respectively.

Due to the COVID pandemic, since schools were closed, all enrolled children are eligible for Food Security Allowance comprising of food grains and cooking cost. Some States/UTs have provided food grains alongwith payment of cooking cost into the beneficiary's bank accounts/through cash while other States/UTs provided food grains and dry ration like pulses etc equivalent to cooking cost.

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