

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1956
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2021**

Cooks under Mid-Day Meal Scheme

1956# Shri Kailash Soni:

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

- (a) the number of cooks engaged for the cooking work under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme;
- (b) the honorarium being paid to these cooks and since when; and
- (c) whether the honorarium for the cooks will be increased by Government, if so, by when it is likely to increase?

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

(a) to (c): Under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), one Cook-Cum-Helper (CCH) is engaged for schools up to 25 students, two CCHs for schools with 26 to 100 students and one additional CCH for every addition of up to 100 students. In recognition of their services, the CCHs are paid Rs.1000 per month for 10 months in a year, with effect from 01.12.2009 as honorarium and this is being continued. At present, 24.80 lakh cook-cum-helpers have been engaged under the Scheme.

CCHs engaged under the Scheme for preparing and serving mid-day meals at schools, are honorary workers who have come forward for rendering social services. The honorarium expenditure is shared between the Central Government and States and UTs as per the approved sharing pattern. The State Governments and UT Administrations also supplement the honorarium by providing additional funds from their own resources.
