

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3078
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.03.2022**

Zero tolerance to lapses in PM POSHAN scheme

3078. Shri B. LingaiahYadav:

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

- (a) whether Government agrees with the view that the PM POSHAN scheme can be a game-changer only if there is zero tolerance to various lapses which have a bearing on the health of kids, and also that strict monitoring and fixing of accountability can go a long way in making the scheme realise its immense potential;
- (b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government keeping in mind that PM POSHAN has a key role to play in addressing the nutritional needs of crores of children, particularly those from poor and underprivileged families; and
- (c) if not, reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) to (c): Government has approved the Centrally Sponsored Scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)’ earlier known as ‘National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools’ for providing hot cooked meal to eligible children in Government and Government – aided Schools from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The main objectives of the PM POSHAN Scheme (earlier known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme) are to address two of the pressing problems for majority of children in India, viz. hunger and education by improving the nutritional status of eligible children in Government and Government aided schools as well as encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities.

In order to achieve the objectives of the Scheme and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the scheme 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 Hon’ble Education Minister 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 from the district monitors the implementation of the scheme.

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 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.
