

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3867  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2022**

**Mid-Day Meal during lockdown**

**3867 # Ms. Indu Bala Goswami:**

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

- (a) whether the Mid-Day Meal facility was continued for school children even during the lockdown;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether raw food grains were made available to the children during lockdown and whether the cooking cost had been transferred to the bank accounts; and
- (d) whether the physical and mental development and health of children has improved with the distribution of Mid-Day Meal by Government?

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

(a) to (c): During the COVID-19 pandemic, since schools were closed, all enrolled children were given Food Security Allowance comprising of food grains and cooking cost in the form of dry ration or cooking cost in cash as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) by States and UTs during 2020-21 and 2021-22. About 11.80 crore children are benefited under the scheme studying in 11.20 lakh schools during this period. Now, progressively States are reopening schools and provision of hot cooked meal is being resumed.

(d): One of the objectives of the Scheme is to improve the nutritional status of eligible children in Government and Government aided schools. NITI Aayog has conducted an evaluation of the Scheme through independent third-party agency in 2019-20 and one of its findings is that nutritional level among students availing mid-day meal in schools is reported to have improved as attributed by Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (2016-2018). An evaluation under the leadership of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) was also conducted in 2017-18 and according to their report, 96% teachers mentioned that mid day meal improved the nutritional status of the school children.

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