

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1627
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2022**

Free meal schemes under CSR

1627. SHRI N.R. ELANGO:

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

- (a) whether Government agrees with the view that the free meal schemes should be modified to include milk and fruits and the cost can be covered under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of corporates;
- (b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government in this connection; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

- (a) to (c): As per the provisions of National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, children studying in classes I-VIII or within the age group of 6-14 years are entitled to one mid day meal free of charge, every day except on school holidays, in all schools run by local bodies, Government and Government aided schools so as to meet nutritional standards specified in the Act. Accordingly, one hot cooked meal is provided to eligible children on all working school days under PM POSHAN Scheme (earlier known as National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools). PM POSHAN Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented in partnership with the States and UTs. The overall responsibilities for providing cooked and nutritious mid-day meal to the eligible children lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in accordance with the Guidelines laid down by the Central Government. The States and UTs fix their menu according to their local needs, in order to meet the following nutritional content as prescribed in the Schedule II of National Food Security Act, 2013:

Components	Primary	Upper Primary
Calories	450 Cal	700 Cal
Protein	12 gms.	20 gms.

The above nutritional norms are met by providing the following food items to the children of primary and upper primary classes under the scheme all over the country:

S. No.	Items	Primary Stage	Upper Primary Stage
		Food norms (in gms)	Food norms (in gms)
1.	Foodgrains (Rice / Wheat)	100	150
2.	Pulses	20	30
3.	Vegetables (Leafy & Others)	50	75
4.	Oil & Fat	5	7.5
5.	Salt & Condiments	As per need	As per need

However, some States and UTs also provide additional items such as milk, egg, fruits etc. to students from their own initiatives.
