

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2069
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2022

Guideline of Mid Day Meal Scheme, 2006

2069. Shri N.R. Elango:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance that a Mid-Day Meal in the country should provide 450 calorie of energy, a minimum of 12 grams of proteins, including adequate quantities of micronutrients like iron, folic acid, Vitamin-A, etc., according to the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) guidelines, 2006; and
- (b) if so, the initiatives taken/being taken by Government to implement the said guidelines?

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

(a) & (b): 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). The following nutritional content is prescribed in the Scheme:

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

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

S. No.	Items	Primary Stage	Upper Primary Stage
		Food norms (in gms)	Food norms (in gms)
1.	Foodgrains (Rice / Wheat/Coarse grains)	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

The Government of India has issued guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene in school level kitchens to all the States and UTs. These guidelines inter-alia provide for instructions to schools to procure Agmark quality and branded items for preparation of mid day meals, tasting of meals by 2-3 adult members of School Management Committee including at least one teacher before serving to children and to put in place a system of testing of food samples by accredited laboratories. The Scheme also provides for mandatory testing of food samples by Government recognized laboratories to ensure that the meals meet nutritional standards and quality. The Government has also adopted an elaborate monitoring mechanism at Central, State and District levels to ensure quality food is served to children under the Scheme.
