

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-361
ANSWERED ON-06.12.2023

Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Schools in Kerala

361 Dr. John Brittas:

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

- (a) whether any amount is outstanding from Union Government to Kerala under Mid-day meal scheme for 2023-24;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the guidelines of scheme prescribe for release of 60 per cent of the amount as first installment, and, that the Union Government arbitrarily fixed 25 per cent as the first installment for Kerala;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government of Kerala has sent letters to the Ministry seeking release of balance of first installment of recurring central assistance under PM POSHAN for 2023-24; and
- (f) if so, whether Government will expedite actions for release of funds?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (f): Under PM POSHAN Scheme, the State Government of Kerala has submitted the proposal for release of 1st instalment of recurring central assistance for the year 2023-24. After due consideration, the Central Government has released central assistance of Rs.5416.77 lakh on 22.09.2023 as Part of 1st instalment and Rs.5416.77 lakh on 17.11.2023 as balance of 1st instalment of recurring grant in aid for FY 2023-24 to the Government of Kerala. The proposal for release of 2nd instalment of recurring grant in aid for FY 2023-24 under the Scheme has so far not been received from the State.

Earlier, the central assistance was released in two instalments i.e., 60% and 40% under PM POSHAN Scheme. At present, the release of funds under the scheme is subject to the guidelines/instructions issued from time to time by Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. These instructions were issued for better monitoring of availability and utilization of funds released to the States and UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and with a view to have more effective cash management and bring more efficiency in the public expenditure management. As per the recent instructions issued by Department of Expenditure vide OM dated 09.06.2023, this Ministry is obtaining administrative approval of competent authority and financial concurrence of the Financial Adviser in one go for release of two instalments of not more than 25% each. The next installment will be released upon transfer of the stipulated State Share to the Single Nodal Account (SNA) under Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and utilization of at least 75% of the funds released earlier.