

F. No, 1-3/2021-Desk (MDM)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Education  
Department of School Education & Literacy  
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Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi  
Dated, the 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

To,

The Additional Chief Secretaries / Principal Secretaries / Secretaries of Education or the Nodal Department for implementation of "Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) " Scheme in all States and UTs.

**Subject:** Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme "**Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)**".

Madam / Sir,

I am directed to convey the approval of the Central Government for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme "**Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)**" for providing one hot cooked meal in Government and Government-aided schools from 2021-22 to 2025-26, earlier known as 'National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools'.

2. The Cabinet has approved the following:

- i. **Food Grains:** Supply of food grains @ 100 grams per child per school day for primary and 150 grams for upper primary at NFSA rate i.e. ₹ 1 per kg for coarse grains, ₹ 2 per kg for wheat and ₹ 3 per kg for rice.
- ii. **Cooking Cost:** It includes cost of ingredients, e.g. pulses, vegetables, cooking oil, other condiments and fuel. The per child per day cooking cost is ₹ 4.97 for primary and ₹ 7.45 for upper primary w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020. The per child details of items are as under:

S. N.	Items	Primary	Upper Primary
1.	Pulses	20 gms	30 gms
2.	Vegetables	50 gms	75 gms
3.	Oil & fat	5 gms	7.5 gms
4.	Salt & condiments	As per need	As per need
5.	Fuel	As per need	As per need

DoSEL will form a committee of experts to review the components of cooking cost, formula and methodology of its revision, actual consumption, coverage etc.

- iii. **Honorarium to Cook-cum-Helpers:** @ ₹ 1000 per month for 10 months in a year.
- iv. **Transportation Assistance:** As per PDS rate for transportation of food grains from FCI godown to school door steps. Maximum ₹ 1500

per MT for transportation of food grains from FCI godown to school door steps for States other than NER and 2 Himalayan States and 2 UTs.

- v. **Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME):** @ 3% of aggregate of cost of foodgrains, cooking cost, Honorarium to Cook-cum-Helpers and Transportation Assistance.
- vi. Provision of Meals during summer vacations in drought/ disaster affected areas.
- vii. **Kitchen-cum-store:** As per plinth area norm and State Schedule of Rates. 20 sq meter for schools having enrolment of 100 students. Additional 4 sq meter for every addition of up to 100 students.
- viii. **Kitchen devices:** Linked with enrolment.

<b>Enrolment (No. of Children) per school</b>	<b>Unit Cost (In ₹)</b>
Up to 50	10,000
51-150	15,000
151-250	20,000
251 & above	25,000

- ix. **Repair of kitchen-cum-stores:** ₹ 10,000/- per unit, for the kitchen-cum-stores, which were constructed 10 years ago.
- x. **Fortification of food items:** Fortification of food items in a systematic manner through Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- xi. **Innovation / Flexibility component with no separate budgetary support:** Five per cent of the aggregate of the cost of foodgrains, cooking cost, transport assistance, honorarium to cook-cum-helpers, and MME with no separate additional budgetary support for this component. The requirement of funds under this component will be met from available funds and implemented as per Department of Expenditure's OM No. 55(5)/PF-II/2011 dated 06.09.2016.
- xii. Provision of mid-day meal to preparatory classes or Balvatika (that is before class I) in primary schools as covered in Samagra Shiksha as envisaged under National Education Policy.

3. Further, Cabinet also approved several initiatives, without any additional financial implications, in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the scheme:

- i. Flexibility to create any new intervention and increase/decrease any norm in the scheme within the approved outlay and subject to the approval of Empowered Committee headed by Hon'ble Shiksha Mantri.
- ii. The flexibility of changing the component-wise allocation within the approved outlay is given to Programme Approval Board (PAB), which can decide the allocation on an annual basis.
- iii. Steps will be taken to ensure payment of honorarium to Cook-cum-Helpers in the lines of DBT directly into their bank accounts from State level.



- iv. Emphasis will be laid on transfer of cooking cost directly to the school's bank account in the lines of DBT through State Government directly from State level.
- v. Field inspections by students of eminent Universities / Institutions and also trainee teachers of District Institute of Education Training and Regional Institutes of Education, for enhanced monitoring of implementation of scheme at field level.
- vi. 3<sup>rd</sup> party independent monitoring by using Food & Nutrition Departments of Central Universities, Agriculture Universities and eminent institutes like National Institute of Nutrition etc.
- vii. The following interventions will be packaged and positioned as special nutritional interventions:
  - a. **Tithi Bhojan:** The concept of Tithi Bhojan will be encouraged extensively. Tithi Bhojan is a community participation programme in which people provide special food to children on special occasions/festivals.
  - b. **School Nutrition Gardens:** Efforts will be made to promote development of School Nutrition Gardens in schools to give children first hand experience with nature and gardening.
  - c. **Social Audit:** Social Audit in all districts is made mandatory. Social Audit is collective monitoring of a scheme by people's active involvement covering issues of equity, equality and expenditure management.
- viii. Nutrition and Health parameters of children will be mapped at District and Block levels in convergence with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare alongwith extensive monitoring through IT intervention and other methods.
- ix. **Vocal for local :**
  - a. Usage of locally grown food items like millets, vegetables, condiments etc. will be systematically undertaken by states/UTs under the Scheme. This not only promotes nutrition through local traditional food items, but it also contributes to local economic growth.
  - b. Farmers' Producers Organizations, Federation of Women's Self-Help Groups etc. in implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
  - c. States/UTs to be encouraged to empower District Collector / District Magistrate to decide menu suitable to the local conditions within the prescribed nutrition and food norms and to procure locally grown food items from Farmers Producers Organizations, Federation of Women's Self-Help Groups etc. so as to promote local employment generation and economic development while simultaneously improving the nutrition standards.
- x. **Convergence :**
  - a. The existing system of health check-ups, immunization and health cards for 100% school going children will be strengthened in convergence with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- b. Convergence with Ministry of WCD will be undertaken with reference to BalVatika and co-located schools.
  - c. The States and UTs may procure pulses as per their local taste for the Scheme from the Central buffer stock created by the Government of India.
- xi. **Community mobilization:**
- a. To encourage States and UTs to promote community participation in the lines of Tithi Bhojan of Gujarat.
  - b. Strengthening of the existing system of tasting of meals by parents / teachers / community members before serving to children.
- xii. **Monitoring :**
- a. Continuation of existing fund release mechanism of the Scheme in which funds are released in two instalments (effectively 3 instalments i.e. ad-hoc grants, balance of first instalment and second instalment).
  - b. To ensure proper management structures at different levels i.e. States, districts and blocks within the existing available funds.
  - c. An institutionalized mechanism for systematic monitoring and implementation of Scheme will be developed including dietary intake, nutrition status, health parameters and Body Mass Index of children. Institutions with domain expertise in nutrition like Food & Nutrition Departments of Central / State Universities, National Institute of Nutrition etc. will be engaged.
  - d. A robust IT enabled MIS system using latest digital technologies will be developed to closely monitor the programme. The system may also include seamless tracking of health and nutritional status of children from pre-school to primary school.
  - e. All States and UTs will be encouraged to strengthen IT based grievance redressal system / suggestion system, which empowers parents / students to upload evidences of their experiences with the scheme.
  - f. Independent third-party evaluation along with regular social audit will also be carried out by states/UTs every year and reports will be sent to the centre before allocation of resources for the next year.
  - g. Strengthening of the existing monitoring system to be done to ensure daily information is received from all schools.
- xiii. **Capacity Building:**
- a. To ensure training of all cook-cum-helpers states/UTs to involve Institutes of Hotel Management & Food Craft Institutes of Ministry of Tourism, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, local mother's groups, etc.
- xiv. **Motivating Cooks:**
- a. Wherever feasible, cook-cum-Helpers may be named as 'Bhojan Mata'.
  - b. To encourage States to organize cooking competitions in order to motivate cook-cum-helpers towards use of locally available food material and to promote variety menu.



- xv. **Special Focus:**
- a. To make adequate provision for supplementary nutrition in aspirational districts / tribal districts / districts with identified high cases of malnutrition etc.
  - b. In such districts, monitoring of attendance and quality of MDM to be undertaken directly under the supervision of District Collector.
- xvi. **Awareness Generation:**
- a. To prepare annual calendar of activities for Mid-Day Meal Scheme for dissemination of information to popularize the benefits of the Scheme and to make people aware of their rights under the Scheme.
- xvii. **Disaster Management:**
- a. To ensure every school has a disaster management plan.
  - b. Provision of hot cooked meal or Food Security Allowance to children when schools are closed due to a disaster impacting the state/UT, part of state/UT, some states/UTs or whole country as maybe declared by the state/central government under its powers as Disaster Management Authority.

4. The assistance for components of cooking cost, honorarium to Cook-cum-Helpers, Construction of Kitchen-cum-stores, repair of 10 year old kitchen-cum-stores, procurement / replacement of kitchen devices and Innovation / Flexibility will be shared between the Centre and States/UTs as per the approved funding pattern of 90:10 for North Eastern Region (NER) States, 2 Himalayan States and UT of Jammu & Kashmir, 100% for Union Territories without Legislature and 60:40 for other States as well as Union Territories with Legislature (Delhi and Puducherry).

5. Necessary detailed guidelines in respect of the above decisions are under preparation and shall be shared shortly.

6. You are requested to disseminate the above decisions to all concerned.

Yours faithfully,



**(R.C. MEENA)**

**Joint Secretary to the Government of India**

**Copy to:**

Commissioners / Directors, Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme of all States/UTs.