

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2454
ANSWERED ON- 03.08.2026

Nutrition Equivalence in PM POSHAN Substitutions

2454. Shri Azad Kirti Jha:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has prescribed a nutrition-equivalence protocol before eggs or other protein-rich food items are replaced under PM POSHAN, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether such protocol considers protein quality, bio-availability, micronutrient density, cost per child, local acceptability and supply reliability, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of States and districts where such substitution was permitted during the last five years and the current year;
- (d) whether substitution was permitted in any case without a recorded nutrition assessment; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective steps taken thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (e): Education is part of the Concurrent List of the Constitution and most of the Government Schools and School Boards are under the administration of the State Government and Union Territory (UT) Administrations. PM POSHAN Scheme is implemented in partnership with the State Governments and UT Administrations. The overall responsibility for providing hot and nutritious meal to all children studying in Bal Vatika (just before class 1) and classes I to VIII of Government and Government aided schools lies with the State Governments and UT Administrations. The States and UTs are encouraged to decide menu suitable to the local conditions within the prescribed nutrition and food norms and to procure locally grown food items like millets, vegetables, condiments etc.

Under the PM Poshan Scheme, one hot cooked meal is provided to all eligible children on all school working days. As per the provisions of National Food Security Act, 2013 and the Guidelines of the Scheme, the nutritional and food norms prescribed under the Scheme are as follows:

Items	For children of Primary classes	For children of Upper Primary classes
A) Nutritional Norms (Per child per day)		
Calorie	450	700
Protein	12 gms	20 gms
B) Quantum of Food Norms (Per child per day)		
Food-grains	100 gms	150 gms
Pulses	20 gms	30 gms
Vegetables	50 gms	75 gms
Oil & fat	5 gms	7.5 gms
Salt & condiments	As per need	As per need

Further, there is a provision of 5% of total recurring budget as the flexi component to be used by the States/UTs for setting up of School Nutrition Gardens (SNGs) and provision of supplementary nutrition interventions in identified districts. Many States/ UTs also provide additional supplementary nutrition keeping in view local food habits, cultural preferences, availability and dietary practices.
