

F.No.16-5/2024-PMP-1
Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of School Education & Literacy
PM POSHAN Division

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi


Dated the 22nd April, 2024

Subject: Minutes of the Meeting of Programme Approval Board (PAB) held on 27.03.2024 to consider the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) of State Government of West Bengal under PM POSHAN for 2024-25.

The meeting of Programme Approval Board-Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PAB-PM POSHAN) was held at **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi on 27.03.2024** under the Chairmanship of Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSE&L), Government of India, to consider the Annual Work Plan & Budget 2024-25 in respect of **State Government of West Bengal**.

2. The minutes of the above PAB meeting have been approved by the Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy and the same are enclosed for information and necessary action.

Encl. As above.


(Shah Faiz Ahmed) 22/4/2024
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel. 011-2338 4582

To,

1. Shri Manish Jain, Principal Secretary (Education), State Government of West Bengal.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Secretary, D/o Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Pandit Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.
5. Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Pandit Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.
6. Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.
7. Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.

Contd...2/-

8. Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
10. Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
11. Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, New Delhi.
12. Shri Harshit Mishra, Deputy Advisor (Education), NITI Aayog.
13. Shri Vipin Kumar, Additional Secretary (SS-II), MoE.
14. Shri Anandrao Vishnu Patil, Additional Secretary (PMPY & Digital), MoE.
15. Shri Sanjog Kapoor, JS & FA, MoE.
16. Ms. Archana Sharma Awasthi, Joint Secretary (AE & SS-I), MoE.
17. Dr. (Ms.) Amarpreet Duggal, Joint Secretary (Coord. & Media), MoE.
18. Ms. Prachi Pandey, Joint Secretary (Instt. & Training), MoE.
19. Ms. A. Srija, Economic Adviser (SE&L), MoE.
20. Shri Venkatraman Hegde, DDG(Statistics), MoE.
21. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi
22. Joint Secretary, ICDS, Ministry of Women and Child Development, A-Wing, 6th Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
23. Joint Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
24. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
25. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
26. Director, NCERT.
27. Vice Chancellor, NIEPA.
28. Ms. Priyanka Charan, Deputy Controller of Accounts, Govt. of India.

Copy also to:

1. PPS to Secretary (SE&L), Ministry of Education.
2. Shri Shobhit Gupta, Director (Finance), DoSEL, MoE.
3. Director (AB) / Director (DA) / Director (SS) in PM POSHAN Bureau.
4. US(JBN)/US(KCM), Dept. of SE&L, MoE.
5. Shri Dinesh Pradhan, Senior Consultant, MoE for uploading the minutes on PM POSHAN website.
6. Guard File.

**Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of School Education & Literacy**

Minutes of the meeting of Programme Approval Board to consider the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) 2024-25 of PM POSHAN Scheme for the State of West Bengal.

The meeting of the Programme Approval Board-PM POSHAN (PAB-PM POSHAN) was held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, on 27.03.2024 under the Chairmanship of Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSE&L), Government of India. The list of participants in the meeting is enclosed at *Annexure-I*.

The agenda before the PAB-PM POSHAN was:

- i. To review the status and progress of the implementation of PM POSHAN Scheme in the State of West Bengal.
- ii. To consider the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) 2024-25 proposal of the State of West Bengal for PM POSHAN Scheme.

2. Shri Anandrao V. Patil, Additional Secretary (PMPY & Digital Education), DoSE&L, Government of India, welcomed the Secretary, DoSE&L-cum-Chairman of PAB and other members of PAB-PM POSHAN. Secretary, DoSE&L-cum-Chairman of PAB, in his opening remarks stated that PM POSHAN Scheme is a Rights based Centrally Sponsored Scheme. He emphasized that the Scheme provides nutritional support through hot cooked meals to eligible students, under the National Food Security Act, 2013. The Scheme plays pivotal role in enhancing enrollment and increasing students' attendance in schools. Additional Secretary DoSE&L, highlighted the focus areas for FY 2024-25 viz. timely submission of proposals for release of funds, Health check-ups 100% students, maintenance of health cards and provision of Micronutrients and De-worming medicine, Social Audit of the Scheme as per Scheme Guidelines, daily data entry of 100% schools on Automated Monitoring System (AMS) setting up of School Nutrition Gardens (SNGs) for ensuring Micronutrients in the meal and experiential learning for students to grow their own vegetables, testing of meals through NABL accredited laboratories, encouraging Community Participation through "Tithi Bhojan", training of all engaged Cook-cum-Helpers and ensuring LPG for preparation of meals etc.

3. Further, he invited Shri Manish Jain, Principal Secretary, Education Department, Government of West Bengal to make a brief on the implementation of PM POSHAN Scheme during FY 2023-24 and proposals for FY 2024-25.

Subsequently, on the behalf of Government of India, Additional Secretary DoSE&L made a presentation, on the analysis of implementation of the Scheme during FY 2023-24 and the recommendations for FY 2024-25 based on the appraisal of State's AWP&B-2024-25, for consideration and approval of PAB.

4. Review of Performance during 01.04.2023 to 30.11.2023

4.1 Coverage of students:

Average number of students covered under the Scheme with reference to enrolment and PAB approval are as under:

Stage	Enrolment	PAB approval for 2023-24	Average number of students availed meals	% Avg. students availed meals vis-a-vis enrolment	% Avg students availed meals vis-a-vis PAB approval
Primary	64,01,319	55,59,459	48,89,698	76%	88%
U. Primary	42,84,744	35,76,075	29,04,728	68%	81%
Bal Vatika	10,58,921	9,85,503	7,99,357	75%	81%
NCLP	3,238	14,116	3,039	94%	22%
Total	1,17,48,222	1,01,35,153	85,96,822	73%	85%

PAB observed that there is a reduction of 3,70,719 in enrolment from 2022-23 to 2023-24. The coverage has also gone down and there is a reduction of 15,38,341 students from 2022-23 to 2023-24. Secretary, DoSE&L-cum-Chairman of PAB advised the State to review the above reduction and submit a report by 30th April 2024. He also expressed that efforts may be made to cover all the eligible students under the Scheme.

District wise higher coverage of students at primary level against enrolment (01.04.2023 to 30.11.2023)				
Sl.No.	District	Enrolled children	Covered under PM POSHAN	% coverage
1	W/Dinajpur	124267	118054	95%
2	Kolkata	95854	92112	96%

3	Birbhum	285711	277139	97%
4	Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA)	10455	10321	99%

District wise higher coverage of students at Upper Primary level against enrolment (01.04.2023 to 30.11.2023)				
1	Kolkata	116664	110455	95%
2	W/Dinajpur	79904	77137	97%
3	Birbhum	198231	192284	97%
4	GTA	11381	11270	99%

Secretary, DoSE&L-cum-Chairman of PAB observed that the coverage of students was more than the State average in the districts viz. West Dinajpur, Kolkata, Birbhum and Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) Primary and Upper Primary Level. He suggested that State Government may verify the high coverage in these districts and an Action Taken Report may be submitted by 30th April 2024.

4.2 School Working Days:

PAB has approved 152 days to be covered during first three quarters of 2023-24, State reported coverage of 133 (88%) working days.

Comments of PAB: PAB advised State Government to served hot cooked meals on all school working days to all eligible students under PM POSHAN Scheme.

4.3 Financial Performance:

PAB had approved Financial outlay of Rs. 200410.20 lakh comprising of Rs. 126707.81 Lakh as Centre Share and Rs. 73702.39 lakh as State Share for FY 2023-24. The PAB also approved allocation of 292433.20 MTs food-grains. **State Government of West Bengal has neither submitted the Utilization Certificate of 2022-23 nor sent any proposal for any Instalment during FY 2023-24.**

Comments of PAB : PAB noted the information.

4.4 PFMS - Fund Flow Mechanism

State informed that they have completed all procedures for implementation of new system of release of funds in line with the revised procedure prescribed by Department

of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and now PFMS is used for all releases and expenditure purposes under the Scheme.

Comments of PAB: PAB advised the State to ensure transfer of both Central and State funds to SNA within the stipulated timelines of 30 days. Further, PAB advised the State Government to ensure the following:

- i) State Linked Scheme (SLS) created for shareable and non-shareable components.
- ii) Transfer of funds (Central and State) to SNA within 30 days upon receiving by State Treasury from Govt of India. In case of delay in transfer of funds, interest shall be charged as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Finance.
- iii) Mapping of all identified IAs.
- iv) Expenditure is done exclusively through PFMS only.
- v) Deposit of interest earned in SNA to CFI within prescribed time lines.
- vi) Submission of Legacy Data Entry after approval of State Finance department, if any.
- vii) Provision of adequate budgetary provisions in State budget both for Central and State share.
- viii) All information is reflected properly in corresponding tables / Reports in PFMS

4.5 Management Monitoring and Evaluation (MME):

State Government has reported utilization of 87% of the allocated funds under MME component during 1st April to 30th November, 2023.

Comments of PAB: PAB expressed concern over low utilization of MME funds and emphasized on the importance of monitoring and awareness generation for better implementation of the Scheme and advised the State to ensure full and optimal utilization of the funds under MME. State Government was also advised to ensure display of entitlements of students in all schools and carry out appropriate IEC activities for awareness generation and testing of meals through NABL accredited laboratories.

4.6 Engagement of Cook-cum-Helpers (CCH) and payment of honorarium

PAB-PM POSHAN has approved 2,48,799 Cook-cum-Helpers to be engaged during 2023-24 in the State, the State has engaged all 2,30,233 cook-cum-helpers. The State has proposed to engage 2,30,233 Cook-Cum-Helpers for 2024-25. State is providing

an additional contribution of Rs.500/- to honorarium of CCH special time scales for CCH per month from its own resources.

Comments of PAB: PAB advised the State Government to engage CCH as per need and norms for successful implementation of the Scheme. PAB appreciated the additional contribution made by the State towards honorarium to CCH. PAB appreciated the additional contribution made by the State towards honorarium to CCH.

4.7 Kitchen-cum-Stores (Construction as well as repair):

Central assistance of Rs. 87660.99 Lakh has been released for construction of 81,956 Kitchen-cum-Stores over several years. As on 31.11.2023, construction has been completed for 81,864 Kitchen-cum-stores. Construction work for 92 Kitchen-cum-Stores is in progress.

Central Assistance of Rs. 4091.10 lakh was released for repair of 68,185 Kitchen-cum-Stores over the several years. As on 30-11-2023, repair has been completed for all 68,185 Kitchen-cum-Stores.

Comments of PAB: PAB advised to complete 92 pending Kitchen-cum-Stores and submit the utilization certificate on or before 30th June, 2024.

4.8 Kitchen Devices (new as well as replacement):

Central Assistance of Rs. 4542.75 lakh has been released towards procurement of 90,855 units of Kitchen Devices over several years. The State Government has reported that all 90,855 units (100%) has been procured.

Central Assistance of Rs. 9187.85 lakh was released for the replacement of 1,31,678 Kitchen Devices to State Govement over several years. State informed that 1,26,025 unit of Kitchen Devices have been replaced. Remaining 5,653 units of Kitchen Devices yet to be procured for replacement.

Comments of PAB: PAB expressed the concern and advised the State to complete the procurement of 5,653 units of Kitchen Devices by April 2024 and submit the utilization certificate to Government of India. Secretary, DoSE&L-cum-Chairman of PAB cautioned the State over use of aluminum vessels in cooking of meals as leaching of aluminum in to the food can be harmful in the longer run.

4.9 School Nutrition (Kitchen) Gardens:

State Government has developed School Nutrition Gardens in 30,875 schools (37%) out of 82,549 schools.

Comments of PAB: PAB shown dissatisfaction over poor SNGs progress. PAB also advised the State Government to make concerted efforts for development of School Nutrition Gardens in all schools. As per norms Rs. 5000/- per school may be used for development and maintenance of School Nutrition Gardens under Flexi Funds component. School Nutrition Gardens may also be developed in convergence with local Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Agriculture Department and Horticulture Department etc. The funds available under MNREGA of Department of Rural Development for certain eligible components may also be utilized in convergence with them.

4.10 Community Participation – Tithi Bhojan or similar practices:

The concept of Tithi Bhojan has been adopted by the State Government under which, members from general public provide nutritious meals or fruits to students on special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries or festivals etc.

Comments of PAB: PAB advised to create awareness of Tithi Bhojans and enhance community involvement for Tithi Bhojan.

4.11 Supplementary nutrition items:

State Government provided eggs/bananas, in addition to the regular hot cooked meals.

Comments of PAB: PAB appreciated the efforts of State Government.

4.12 Testing of meals:

State Government reported that 5 samples were collected by Qualissure Laboratory Services and tested during 1st April to 30th November, 2024. The reports were awaited for the samples.

Comments of PAB: PAB advised the State Government to carry out the testing of the samples of meals to check quality and nutritional contents etc. through NABL / FSSAI accredited laboratories across the State as envisaged in the Scheme Guidelines and asked the State to share the reports with the PM POSHAN Bureau of the DoSE&L, Government of India.

4.13 Training of Cook-cum-Helpers and other capacity building activities:

State Government reported that training of Cook-cum-Helpers were carried during the year and 33,544 Cook-cum-Helpers were trained during FY 2023-24. State has also reported that CCHs (from all districts) participated in cooking competitions.

Comments of PAB: PAB advised State Government to organize training programmes and cooking competition for Cook-cum-Helpers during FY 2024-25.

4.14 Data Entry on PM POSHAN-MIS Web Portal:

PM POSHAN-MIS portal captures information on critical indicators of Scheme. The annual data entry module captures master data on availability of Kitchen-cum-Stores, Kitchen Devices, number of Cook-cum-Helpers engaged, mode of cooking etc. The monthly data entry module captures data on number of days meals served; number of meals served, honorarium paid to Cook-cum-Helpers, number of students received IFA tablets, number of students screened under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) etc. The State Government has completed 100% school's annual and 97% school's monthly data entry in the MIS portal.

Comments of PAB: PAB advised State to maintain 100% up to date data entry every month. However, PAB advised the State Government to ensure that officials at various levels are sensitized about significance of correct data entry and quality check of the data entered in MIS, through reviews on monthly basis.

4.15 Status of implementation of Automated Monitoring System (AMS):

AMS has been put in place for real time monitoring of PM POSHAN. Data on number of meals served on a particular day and reasons if meals not served are being captured from schools with no cost to school headmasters/teachers. Out of 82,549 schools, on an average basis daily data has been reported by 69,288 schools (84%) on Automated Monitoring System.

Comments of PAB: PAB noted the information and advised the State to ensure data submission by 100% schools on all school working days on AMS by 30th June 2024.

4.16 Centralized Kitchens:

There is no centralized kitchen in the State under PM POSHAN Scheme.

4.17 Social Audit:

Social Audit has been conducted during 01.04.2023 to 30.11.2023. State informed that Social Audit shall be conducted in 5,412 schools of 24 districts by the Director, Social Audit Unit, West Bengal, State Rural Development Agency (WBSRDA), Panchayat & Rural Development Department, Government of West Bengal.

Comments of PAB: PAB noted the information. State Government was advised to conduct **Social Audit as per the Scheme guidelines in at least 20 schools or 2% of the schools, whichever is higher in each district** through independent agencies having experience in conduct of such audits. State Government was also advised to draw annual calendar of activities to conduct Social Audit in a manner so that it is completed by September 2024. State was also advised to share the Social Audit Report and action taken thereon after completion of Social Audit. Expenditures on Social Audit may be met from MME component.

4.18 Menu:

The PM POSHAN Guidelines envisage that 100 gram foodgrains, 20 gram pulses, 50 gram vegetables and 5 gram oil to be used per meal per child in Primary and 150 gram foodgrains, 30 gram pulses, 75 gram vegetables and 7.5 gram oils to be used per child per meal in Upper Primary. Secretary, DoSE&L-cum-Chairman of PAB appreciated the wide range of items provided by State in the menu. He further opined that the food norms of the Scheme are to be followed in true spirit so that students receive prescribed calories, proteins, fats etc. in prescribed amounts as mentioned in the below table.

S.No.	Items	Primary	Upper Primary
A. Nutrition norms per child per day			
1.	Calorie	450	700
2.	Protein	12 gms	20 gms
B. Food norms per child per day			
1.	Food-grains	100 gms	150 gms
2.	Pulses	20 gms	30 gms
3.	Vegetables (leafy also)	50 gms	75 gms
4.	Oil & fat	5 gms	7.5 gms
5.	Salt & condiments	As per need	As per need

4.19 Use of fortified items under PM POSHAN Scheme: Better nutrition through Efficiency gains by Centralized procurement of Pulses, Double Fortified Salt and Fortified Oil at State / district level:

Double Fortified Salt (fortified with Iron and Iodine) is very crucial in addressing Anaemia and Goitre. Oils fortified with Vitamin A and D are beneficial for eyes and general health. Provision of pulses is also very crucial in providing good quality protein which is essential for healthy growth of students. Accordingly, the Scheme guidelines envisage usage of double fortified salt and fortified oils and also specify the quantity of pulses i.e. 20 gram per student per day in Primary and 30 gram per student per day in Upper Primary on all school days under the PM POSHAN Scheme.

However, these fortified items are not easily available in the local markets at school level in many States and therefore, generally not used in preparation of hot cooked meals. Similarly, less use of pulses than the prescribed quantities has been observed in many instances across the States. In this regard it was informed that Union Cabinet has approved that the schemes having nutrition component would utilize pulses from the central buffer. This has already been communicated to States that the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution maintains buffer stock of pulses and has offered to provide Chana Dal at subsidized rates under the PM POSHAN Scheme.

PAB advised the State Government to send proposal to procure pulses from buffer stock being maintained by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India, to benefit from economies of scale and assured subsidized rate in the interest of students. This will also ensure availability and use of pulses at school level ensuring provision of protein as per norms like in the case of food grains. It was also advised that State may procure Double Fortified salt and fortified oil in centralized manner from PSUs of Government of India / State Government.

4.20 Use of Shree Anna (Millets): State Government did not submit any proposal for inclusion of millets under PM POSHAN Scheme in the AWP&B for the FY 2024-25.

Comments of PAB: PAB observed that Sree Anna or Millets are group of small grains - abode of vitamins, minerals, essential fatty acids, and antioxidants that can help to reduce several nutritional deficiency diseases. State Government was advised to explore the possibilities of use Shree Anna (millets) in meals once a week under PM POSHAN Scheme.

4.21 Status of Health Check-ups, provision of IFA and De-worming Medicine:

State Government informed that health check-ups has been carried out for 69% of the enrolled students. Only 22% enrolled students were administered IFA tablets and 20% students were provided De-worming medicines from 1st April to 30th November, 2023.

Comments of PAB: PAB expressed anguish over less coverage of health check-ups, not provide IFA & De-worming tablets to 100% students. Further, PAB suggested that focused group data of adolescent girls, students of aspirational districts, etc may be captured and used for necessary corrective action if required. Capacity Building of teachers may be done to enable them to capture Height and Weight of Students at least annually. Teachers may also be trained to visually observe the signs of Anaemia and Dental problems. The health cards filled by doctors are to be maintained. Parents of the students may be informed accordingly for referrals, if required.

4.22 Direct Benefit Transfer – Aadhaar enrolment: State Government has informed that all the enrolled 100.71 lakh (86%) students have Aadhaar.

Comments of PAB: Secretary, DoSE&L-cum-Chairman of PAB appreciated the efforts made by State. State was advised to carry out Aadhaar authentication process with the help of NIC & UIDAI. Aadhaar based de-duplication may also be carried out annually. MME funds may be utilised for this purpose.

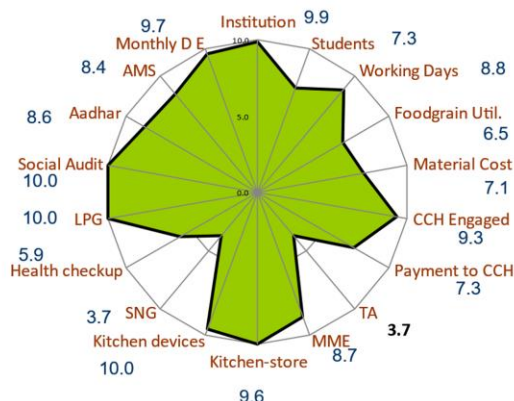
It was further informed that PM POSHAN Scheme is identified as DBT 'In Kind' Scheme under Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act. For availing benefits under PM POSHAN Scheme, Aadhar enrolment number can be insisted, subject to consent of parents/guardian for enrolment. **However, no child shall be denied benefits if, for some reasons, he/she is not having Aadhaar, the benefit shall be given by verifying the identity on the basis of any other documents.**

4.23 Overall analysis of the performance

The overall analysis of the performance of Scheme during 1st April to 30th November, 2023 has been done. The score card based on performance of the indicators of the Scheme is as under:

West Bengal : Performance Score Card

Components	PAB Approval	Achievement	%
Institution	83504	82549	99%
Students	11748222	8596822	73%
Working Days	152	133	88%
Foodgrain Util.	180602.38	116809.56	65%
Material Cost	98401.34	70201.89	71%
CCH Engaged	248799	230233	93%
Payment to CCH	29855.88	21873.78	73%
TA	2528.43	941.68	37%
MME	2217.84	1939.89	87%
Kitchen-store	81956	81864	100%
Kitchen devices	222533	214723	96%
SNG	82549	30875	37%
Health checkup	11748222	6924518	59%
LPG	82549	82549	100%
Social Audit	1666	5412	100%
Aadhar	11748222	10071434	86%
AMS	82549	69288	84%
Monthly D E	82549	79961	97%

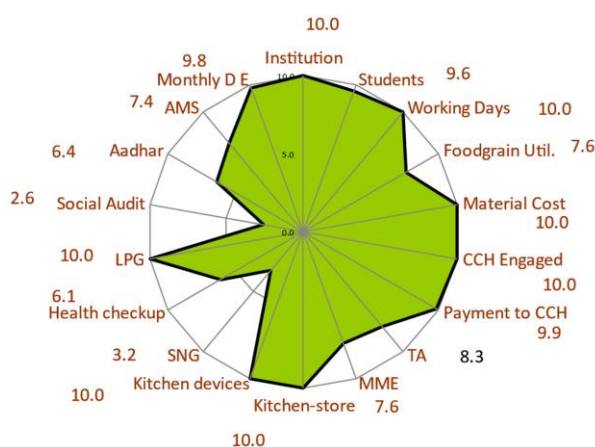


*Allocation for 01.04.2023 to 30.11.2023

9

West Bengal : Year wise Performance Score Card

2022-23



2023-24



Secretary, DoSE&L-cum-Chairman of PAB observed that State has made good progress on aspect like Social Audit. However, he advised the State Government to take corrective measures in areas of performance viz. payment of cook-cum-helpers, use of MME funds and Transportation Assistance, development of SNGs, Students's

health check-ups etc. for improving the performance of the State under the Scheme. He further advised that this radar chart is an effective tool for district wise periodic monitoring of key performance indicators under the Scheme and may be used for reviewing the performance of the key indicators. Further, he emphasized that the time series data on key indicators may be prepared in order to identify deviations, analyze reasons and accordingly initiate timely remedial measures.

5. Component wise Proposals and PAB-PM POSHAN Approvals

5.1 Coverage of Students

State Government has proposed to cover 48,89,698 students in Primary Classes, 29,04,728 students in Upper Primary Classes, 7,99,357 students in Bal Vatikas and 3039 NCLP students during FY 2024-25. Total proposal for coverage of 85,96,822 students under the Scheme during FY 2024-25 is submitted by the State of West Bengal.

Approval of PAB: After detailed discussions, PAB approved coverage of 48,89,698 students in Primary Classes, 29,04,728 students in Upper Primary Classes and 7,99,357 students in Bal Vatikas during FY 2024-25. PAB did not approved 3,039 NCLP students. Therefore, PAB approval was given for 85,93,783 total students to be covered during FY 2024-25. However, PAB advised West Bengal to send proposal if there is any increase in the number of eligible students more than the approval under the Scheme.

5.2 Coverage of Working Days .

State Government has proposed to serve meals on 245 days in Primary Classes, Upper Primary Classes, Bal Vatikas and 312 days for NCLP during FY 2024-25.

Approval of PAB: After discussions, the PAB approved the proposal of State to serve meals on 245 days in Primary Classes, Upper Primary Classes and Bal Vatika during FY 2024-25. PAB did not approved 312 days for NCLP.

5.3 Cook-cum-Helpers (CCH)

State Government has proposed to engage 2,30,233 Cook-cum-Helpers at Primary and Upper Primary levels under PM POSHAN Scheme during FY 2024-25.

Approval of PAB: After the discussions, PAB approved the proposal of the State to engage 2,30,233 Cook-cum-Helpers at Primary and Upper Primary levels under PM POSHAN Scheme during FY 2024-25.

5.4 Drought

Drought has not been notified in the State.

5.5 Construction and repair of Kitchen-cum-Stores

State Government has proposed repair of 13,129 units of Kitchen-cum-Stores during FY 2024-25 with the Financial Assistance of Rs 1312.90 lakh comprising of Rs 787.74 lakh as Central Share and Rs 525.16 lakh as Corresponding State Share.

Approval of PAB: After the discussions, PAB approved the proposal of the State for the repair of 13,129 units of Kitchen-cum-Stores during FY 2024-25 with the Financial Assistance of Rs. 1312.90 lakh comprising of Rs 787.74 lakh as Central Share and Rs. 525.16 lakh as Corresponding State Share.

5.6 Kitchen Devices

State Government has proposed replacement of 42,171 units of Kitchen Devices during FY 2024-25 with the Financial Assistance of Rs. 6662.55 lakh comprising of Rs 3997.53 lakh as Central Share and Rs. 2665.02 lakh as Corresponding State Share.

Approval of PAB: After the discussions, PAB approved proposed replacement of 42,171 units of Kitchen Devices during FY 2024-25 with the Financial Assistance of Rs 6662.55 lakh comprising of Rs 3997.53 lakh as Central Share and Rs. 2665.02 lakh as Corresponding State Share.

5.7 Flexibility for Innovative interventions

For School Nutrition Gardens and supplementary nutrition interventions, State may use a maximum of 5% of total recurring Central Assistance and minimum mandatory State Share. This expenditure will be met from the funds available with the State (recurring Central Assistance + State Share).

5.7.1 School Nutrition (Kitchen) Gardens

State Government informed that 16,226 School Nutrition (Kitchen) Gardens to be developed during FY 2024-25 by using Rs. 811.30 lakh (Rs. 486.78 lakh as Central Share and Rs. 324.52 lakh as State Share) available under Flexi component.

Approval of PAB: PAB approved the proposal of the State.

5.7.2 Supplementary Nutrition

State Government has proposed to provide supplementary nutrition items viz. one egg/seasonal fruits to 86.20 lakh students once in a week (total 11 days) in 24 districts by using estimated expenditure of Rs. 7585.79 lakh (Rs. 4551.47 lakh as Central Share and Rs. 3034.32 lakh as State Share) to school students under PM POSHAN Scheme.

Approval of PAB: After detailed discussions, PAB approved the proposal of State Government to provide supplementary nutrition items that is supplementary nutrition items viz. one egg/seasonal fruits to 85.94 lakh students once in a week (11 days) in 24 districts by using estimated expenditure of Rs. 7562.53 lakh (Rs. 4537.52 lakh as Central Share and Rs. 3025.01 lakh as State Share) to school students under PM POSHAN Scheme. PAB informed that funds under Flexi component may be utilized for providing supplementary nutrition to students in identified districts by the 3rd quarter of FY 2024-25. This expenditure may be met from the funds available with the State (recurring Central Assistance + State Share).

5.8 Social Audit

State has proposed to carry out Social audit in as per the Scheme guidelines in all the districts in at least 20 schools or 2% of the schools, whichever is higher.

Approval of PAB: Following the discussions, PAB-PM POSHAN approved the proposal of State Government to carry out Social Audit in at least 20 schools or 2% of the schools whichever is higher. State was advised to draw annual calendar of activities to conduct Social Audit and share Action Taken Report after conducting Social Audit. Social Audit may be completed for the period of FY 2024-25 may be completed by September, 2024.

5.9 Training of Cook-cum-Helpers

State Government has proposed to train all the engaged Cook-cum-Helpers during FY 2024-25.

Approval of PAB: After the discussions, PAB approved the proposal of State Government for training of all the engaged Cook-cum-Helpers by utilizing MME funds.

5.10 Cooking Competitions

State Government has proposed to organize cooking competitions by utilizing MME funds at various levels i.e. Block level, District level and State level for promoting variety of nutritious menu.

Approval of PAB: After the discussions, PAB approved the proposal of State Government for organizing cooking competitions at various levels by utilizing MME funds.

6. Summary of PAB-PM POSHAN approvals(Physical) for the FY 2024-25

6.1. Recurring and Non-Recurring (Physical)

S. N.	Component	PAB Approvals (Physical) for FY 2024-25
1	Schools	
1.1	Primary	66425
1.2	Upper Primary	16124
	Sub Total	82549
2	Students	
2.1	Primary	48,89,698
2.2	Upper Primary	29,04,728
2.3	Bal Vatikas	7,99,357
2.4	Special Training Centers (NCLP)	0
	Sub-total	85,93,783
3	Working Days	
3.1	Primary	245
3.2	Upper Primary	245
3.3	Bal Vatikas	245
4	Cook-cum-Helpers	
4.1	Primary	1,58,138
4.2	Upper Primary	72,095
	Sub-Total	2,30,233
5	Non Recurring	
5.1	Kitchen-cum-Stores	0
5.2	Repair of Kitchen-cum-Stores	13,129
5.3	Kitchen Devices	0
5.4	Kitchen Devices (Replacement)	42,171

6.2 Flexibility for Innovative Interventions(Physical)

S. No.	Component	PAB Approvals (Physical) for FY 2024-25
1	Flexibility for Innovative Interventions	

1.1	School Nutrition (Kitchen) Gardens (Setting up in schools)	16,226
1.2	Supplementary Nutrition one egg/seasonal fruits for 11 days @Rs.8 per students	85,93,783

7. Summary of PAB-PM POSHAN approvals (Financial) for FY 2024-25

7.1 Recurring and Non-Recurring (Financial)

(Rs in Lakh)				
S. No.	Particulars	Central Assistance	Minimum Mandatory State Share	Total (Central + State)
1	Recurring -Serving of meals during regular school working days			
1.1	Material cost	80449.13	53656.48	134105.61
1.2	Honorarium to cook-cum-helpers	13813.98	9209.32	23023.30
1.3	Cost of food grains –246130.60 MT rice)	7383.92	0.00	7383.92
01.4	Transportation assistance	3445.83	0.00	3445.83
1.5	MME	2837.52	0.00	2837.52
	Total	107930.38	62865.80	170796.18
2.	Serving of meals in Drought affected areas during summer vacations	0	0	0
	Total Recurring	107930.38	62865.80	170796.18
3	Non-Recurring			
3.1	Construction of Kitchen-cum-Stores	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.2	Repair of Kitchen-cum-Stores (13129)	787.74	525.16	1312.90
3.3	Procurement of Kitchen Devices	00	00	00
3.4	Procurement of Kitchen Devices (42171 units KD Replacement)	3997.53	2665.02	6662.55
	Total Non-Recurring	4785.27	3190.18	7975.45
	Grand Total (Recurring + Non Recurring)	112715.65	66055.98	178771.63

Flexibility for new interventions

S. No.	Particulars	Central Assistance	Minimum Mandatory State Share	Total (Central + State)
1	Flexibility for new interventions			

1.1	School Nutrition (Kitchen) Gardens (16,226 units)	486.78	324.52	811.30
1.2	Provision of Supplementary nutrition. (one egg/seasonal fruits @Rs.8/- per student, to 85.94 lakh student for 11 days (frequency once in a week)	4537.52	3025.01	7562.53

Note: This expenditure will be met from the funds available with the State (recurring Central Assistance + State Share).

8. The computation of Central Assistance of Rs. **112715.65** Lakh & **246130.60** MTs food-grains and minimum mandatory State Share of Rs. **66055.98** lakh has been done as per existing norms on the basis of PAB-PM POSHAN approvals for the FY 2024-25. The detailed component-wise quantification for FY 2024-25 is at **Appendix**. The minimum mandatory state share has been calculated based on the existing norms and sharing pattern. However, State may add additional funds from their own resources.
9. It is pertinent to note that the Government of India bears entire cost of food-grains i.e. Rs. 96433.97 lakh for the State of West Bengal @ Rs 39.18 per kg for rice for 2024-25, of which Rs. 89050.05 lakh is in the form of subsidy borne through Department of Food & Public Distribution under the National Food Security Act, 2013.
10. It is clarified that the quantification of resources is only an estimate for release of Central Assistance and allocation of food-grains during FY 2024-25 under the PM POSHAN Scheme. The National Food Security Act, 2013, Rules, Guidelines and Instructions issued under the PM POSHAN Scheme from time to time, provide that every child attending an eligible institution is to be covered under the Scheme and shall be served hot cooked meals or provided with Food Security Allowance, as applicable, on all school days. During the year, if it is noticed by the State Government that more funds are needed to implement the Scheme, due to various reasons like increase in the attendance of students, increase in school working days or for any other reason, they may approach the PM POSHAN Bureau, DoSE&L, Government of India, with justification, seeking additional Central Assistance and food-grains. Similarly, if the Central Government observes less coverage than the approvals, the actual releases may be restricted to actual coverage.

State shall ensure uninterrupted supply of hot cooked meals to all eligible students on all school days as per the provisions in para 2.2 (v) of PM POSHAN Guidelines even in case of delay in release of funds, food-grains supply constraints or for any other reasons.

11. The State Government is advised to disseminate the approvals of the resources to all the field functionaries in the State and districts to enable all the eligible institutions to ensure that every eligible student is served hot cooked meals or provided with Food Security Allowance on all school days irrespective of the approvals of PAB-PM POSHAN.

12. It was also informed that, PAB has decided to conduct a State/UT wise, mid-term appraisal of PM POSHAN Scheme to review the Scheme during FY 2024-25 and action Taken by State/UT on the issues discussed in the PAB meeting and commitments made by the State/UT.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



State: West Bengal : QUANTIFICATION OF CENTRAL ASSISTANCE FOR FY 2024-25**A. Food grains**

Sl.	Stage	No of Children	Working days	Quantity (in MTs)		
				Rice	Wheat	Total
1	Primary (@ 100 gms per child per school day)	48,89,698	245	119797.60	0	119797.60
2	U. Primary (@150 gms per child per school day)	29,04,728	245	106748.75	0	106748.75
3.	Bal Vatika (@ 100 gms per child per school day)	7,99,357	245	19584.25	0	19584.25
Grand Total		85,93,783		246130.60		246130.60

B. Cost of Food-grains, Material Cost, Transport Assistance, Honorarium to Cook-Cum-Helpers and Management Monitoring and Evaluation (MME)

Sl. No.	Component/norm	Amount admissible (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3
Primary		
1	Cost of Food grains @ Rs. 3000 per MT for rice	3593.93
2	Unit Material Cost- Rs. 5.45 per child per day	
2.1	Central Share @ Rs. 3.27 per child per day	39173.82
2.2	Minimum Mandatory State Share @ Rs 2.18 per child per day	26115.88
3	Transportation Cost @ Rs. 1400 Per MT food grains	1677.17
4	Honorarium for 1,58,138 Cook-Cum-Helper	
4.1	Central Share – @ Rs 600 for 10 months)	9488.28
4.2	Minimum Mandatory State Share - @ Rs 400 for 10 months)	6325.52
5	Management Monitoring and Evaluation (MME) @ 2.7% of the i) Cost of food grains ii) Material Cost iii) Cost of transportation and iv) Honorarium to cook – cum-helpers	1456.20
Total Central Share for Primary		55389.40
Upper Primary		
6	Cost of Food grains @ Rs. 3000 per MT for rice	3202.46
7	Unit Material Cost- Rs. 8.17 per child per day	
7.1	Central Share @ Rs. 4.90 per child per day	34871.26
7.2	Minimum Mandatory State Share @ Rs. 3.27per child per day	23271.23

8	Transportation cost @ Rs. 1400 Per MT food grains	1494.48
9	Honorarium for 72095 Cook-Cum-Helpers	
9.1	Central Share - @ Rs 600 for 10 months)	4325.70
9.2	Minimum Mandatory State Share-@ Rs 400 for 10 months)	2883.8
10	Management Monitoring and Evaluation (MME) @ 2.7% of the i) Cost of food grains ii) Material cost iii) Cost of transportation and iv) Honorarium to cook – cum-helpers	1185.14
Total Central Share for Upper Primary		45079.04
Balvatika		
11.	Cost of Food grains @ Rs. 3000 per MT for rice	587.53
11.1	Unit Material Cost- Rs. 5.45 per child per day	
11.2	Central Share @ Rs. 3.27 per child per day	6404.05
11.3	Minimum Mandatory State Share @ Rs 2.18 per child per day	4269.37
11.4	Transportation Cost @ Rs. 1400 Per MT food grains	274.18
11.5	Management Monitoring and Evaluation (MME) @ 2.7% of the i) Cost of food grains ii) Material cost iii) Cost of transportation and iv) Honorarium to Cook – cum-Helpers	196.18
Total Balvatika		7461.94

C. Drought : Nil

D. Non-Recurring:

Sl. No.	Component	Amount admissible (Rs in Lakh)
1	Kitchen-cum-Stores	0
2	Repair of Kitchen-cum-Stores (13,129)	787.74
3	Kitchen Devices (New) (0)	0.00
4	Kitchen Devices (Replacement) (42,171)	3997.53
Total Central Share (Non-recurring)		4785.27

E. Flexible funds for new interventions

(Rs in Lakh)

S. No.	Component	Centre Share	Minimum Mandatory State Share	Total
1	Serving of PM POSHAN during regular school working days – from Table B	107930.38	62865.8	170796.18
2	Serving of PM POSHAN in Drought affected areas during summer vacations– from Table C	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Total (1+2)	107930.38	62865.8	170796.18

4	Admissible Flexibility interventions Funds for new	5123.886	3415.924	8539.81
4.1	State will develop SNGs (16,226 units)	486.78	324.52	811.30
4.2	Provision of Supplementary nutrition. (one egg/seasonal fruits @Rs.8/- per student, to 85.94 lakh student for 11 days (frequency once in a week)	4537.52	3025.01	7562.53
	Total (4.1+4.2)	5024.30	3349.53	8373.83

G. Total Allotment of Funds for 2024-25 :

(Rs. in lakh)

Component		Centre Share	Minimum Mandatory State Share	Total
Recurring	Normal	107930.38	62865.8	170796.18
	Drought	0	0	0
Non- recurring		4785.27	3190.18	7975.45
Grand Total		112715.65	66055.98	178771.63

List of Participants

1. Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, D/o SE&L and Chairman of PAB, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India.
2. Shri Manish Jain, Principal Secretary, Education Department, Govt of West Bengal.
3. Shri. Anandrao V. Patil, Additional Secretary (PMPY& Digital), D/o SE&L, MoE, Govt. of India.
4. Mr. Surojit Roy, Project Director, Govt of West Bengal.
5. Shri Shobhit Gupta, Director Finance, D/o SE&L, MoE, Govt. of India.
6. Shri Anil Bhandula, Director, PM POSHAN, D/o SE&L, MoE, Govt. of India.
7. Ms. Deepa Anand, Director, PM POSHAN, D/o SE&L, MoE, GoI.
8. Shri Sunil Sharma, Director, PM POSHAN, D/o SE&L, MoE, GoI.
9. Ms. Priyanka Charan, Deputy Controller of Accounts, GoI.
10. Dr. A.P. Behera, Joint Director, CIET-NCERT.
11. Shri L.P. Sharma, Deputy Secretary, D/o Food & Public Distribution.
12. Shri Shah Faiz Ahmed, Under Secretary, PM POSHAN, D/o SE&L.
13. Shri K. C Meena, Under Secretary, PM POSHAN, D/o SE&L.
14. Shri J. B Nath, Under Secretary, PM POSHAN, D/o SE&L.
15. Prof. B.P. Bhardwaj, NCERT, New Delhi.
16. Dr. Santwana G. Mishra, NIEPA.
17. Dr. P D Subhash, NCERT.
18. Shri Nitish Kumar, Section Officer, M/o Education.
19. Shri Sumit Kumar Batra, Section Officer, M/o Education.
20. Ms. Shubhani Upadhyay, ASO, PM POSHAN, MoE.
21. Shri Bhupendra Kumar, Principal Chief Consultant, TSG-PM POSHAN.
22. Dr. Anindita Shukla, Principal Chief Consultant, TSG-PM POSHAN.
23. Shri Dinesh Pradhan, Senior Consultant, TSG-PM POSHAN.
24. Shri Davander Kumar, Senior Consultant, TSG-PM POSHAN.

