



DBT for Mid Day Meal Scheme

Why in News

The **Ministry of Education** has approved the proposal **to provide monetary assistance to students through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of the cooking cost component of the Mid-Day-Meal (MDM) Scheme**, to all eligible children.

Key Points

▪ Implications of DBT for MDM Scheme:

- With schools closed for months due to Covid-19, this move will **give a fillip to the Midday Meal programme.**
- This is **in addition** to the Government of India's announcement of distribution of free-of-cost food grains at Rs. 5/kg per person per month to nearly 80 crore beneficiaries under the [Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana \(PM-GKAY\)](#).
- It will **help safeguard the nutritional levels of children** and **aid in protecting their immunity** during the challenging pandemic times.
- This **one time special welfare measure** will **benefit about 11.8 crore children studying in class I to VIII in the 11.20 lakh Government and Government aided schools** across the country.
- The **central government will provide additional funds of about Rs. 1200 crore** to state governments and UT administrations for this purpose.

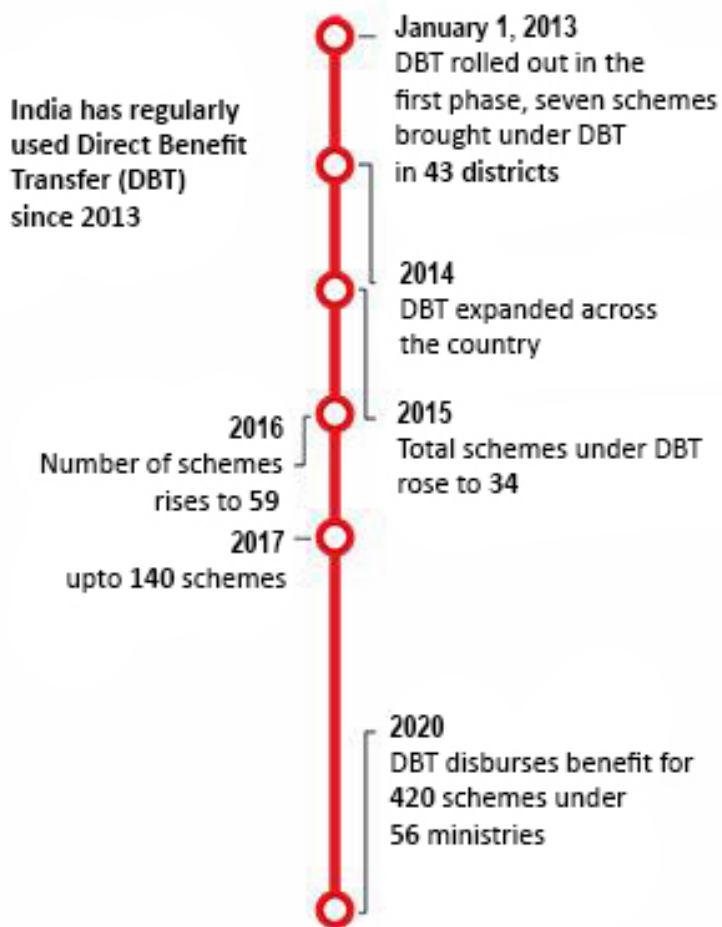
▪ About Mid-Day-Meal Scheme:

- **Launch:** It is a [centrally sponsored scheme](#) which was **launched in 1995.**
 - It is considered as the **world's largest school feeding programme** aimed to **attain the goal of universalization of primary education.**
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of **Education.**
- **Aim:** To address hunger and malnutrition, increase enrolment and attendance in school, improve socialisation among castes, provide employment at grassroot level especially to women.
- **Provisions:**
 - Provides **cooked meals to every child within the age group of six to fourteen years studying in classes I to VIII** who enrolls and attends the school.
 - Cooked meal having **nutritional standards** of 450 calories and 12 gm of protein for primary (I-V class) and 700 calories and 20 gm protein for upper primary (VI-VIII class).
 - If the **Mid-Day Meal is not provided in school on any school day** due to non-availability of food grains or any other reason, **the State Government shall pay food security allowance** by 15th of the succeeding month.
- **Beneficiaries:** All children in government and aided schools and madrasas supported under [Samagra Shiksha](#).

Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme

- **Aim:** It has been visioned as an aid for simpler/faster flow of information and funds to the beneficiaries and to reduce the fraud in the delivery system.
- **Implementation:** It is a mission or an initiative by the government of India started on 1st January 2013 as a way to reform the government delivery system.
 - Central Plan Scheme Monitoring System (CPSMS), the earlier version of the [Public Financial Management System \(PFMS\)](#), of the Office of Controller General of Accounts, was chosen to act as the common platform for routing of the Direct Benefit Transfer.
- **Components of DBT:** Primary components in the implementation of DBT schemes include Beneficiary Account Validation System, a robust payment and reconciliation platform integrated with RBI, NPCI, Public & Private Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks (core banking solutions of banks, settlement systems of RBI, Aadhaar Payment Bridge of NPCI) etc.
- **Other Schemes involving DBT:**
 - [Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana](#), [National Food Security Mission](#), [Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana](#), [PM KISAN](#), [Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin](#), [Atal Pension Yojana](#), [National AYUSH Mission](#).

//



Source: PIB

