

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 5485.

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5485. Ms N K Sharif (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

- (1) What are reasons that the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) annual reports have not been submitted since the 2013-14 financial year;
- (2) whether she undertakes to ensure that the NSNP annual report will be (a) prepared and (b) submitted in the current financial year; if not, why not in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

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Response

(1) The publication of stand-alone National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) Annual Reports was discontinued after the 2013/14 financial year due to fiscal constraints. The preparation, printing and national distribution of these reports required significant expenditure, and the Department of Basic Education (DBE) was compelled to re-prioritise resources to protect core programme delivery – specifically, ensuring that meals continued to reach learners daily across all participating schools.

(2)(a)(b) While the stand-alone publication was discontinued, accountability and reporting for the NSNP continue to take place through statutory mechanisms as required by the Division of Revenue Act (DoRA), 2024.

In line with the DoRA and the NSNP Conditional Grant Framework, the DBE submits quarterly performance reports to the National Treasury, detailing financial and non-financial progress against targets. Furthermore, in accordance with the DoRA, each Provincial Education Department (PED) conducts an annual performance evaluation of the NSNP and submits its evaluation report to the DBE within two months after the end of the financial year.

These reports have been submitted and form part of the DBE's oversight, monitoring and performance review processes for the NSNP.

The DBE remains committed to ensuring full compliance with all statutory reporting requirements under the DoRA and to enhancing transparency through regular oversight briefings to Parliament and the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education on the performance and impact of the NSNP.