

## PUNJAB

- **Steps taken to strengthen the monitoring mechanism in the Block, District and State level and status of constitution of SMC's at these levels. Status of formation on standing committees at village/school/cooking agency level.**

Steering and Monitoring Committees, as appraised above, have already been constituted at State, District and Sub Divisional Level. These are headed by the Chief Secretary, Deputy Commissioner and the Sub Divisional Magistrate respectively. Director General School Education monitors the implementation of these schemes on daily basis at Head Office level. There is a State Level Mid Day Meal Cell headed by a General Manager Mid Day Meal Cell to assist the Director General School Education. One District Manager and accountant in Mid Day Meal is provided in each district to assist the District Education Officer / Deputy Commissioner and one B.R.P. assists the S.D.M. / Block Primary Education Officer at Block level to monitor the scheme. Regular monthly meetings are held on every 15<sup>th</sup> of month at the level of Director General School Education. The progress of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme is also reviewed at the level of Deputy Commissioners in all the districts on the monthly basis. A meeting of Core Group headed by Secretary School Education is held at State level and similarly, meeting at the level of Principal Secretary Health is held once in a quarter to address the issues relating to health and sanitation at the State level. The Chief Secretary also reviews the implementation of the scheme in the meeting of State Level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee. Meeting has already been held on 10, February,2011.

- **Strategy for establishment of monitoring cell at various levels viz. Block, District and State level for effective monitoring of the scheme.**

Mid-Day-Meal cell at the State level which is headed by a General Manager, 4 Managers, 1 Accountant & 4 Data Entry Operators has been created. In addition to the above State Govt. has also formed a mid-day-meal cell at the district level by appointing District Managers , Accountants & Data Entry Operators. The basic qualifications for the District Managers are that he should have an experience of working in the Department of Foodgrains or Finance. The qualifications for the Accountants are that he should be retired Section Officer/Assistant Controller Finance and Accounts or B.Com (2nd Division) and minimum 5 years accounts experience. 216 Posts of Assistant Block Managers one in each block of the state has been filled through

competitive exam. The basic qualifications for the Assistant Block Manager is that he should possess B.Com/BBA Degree with computer knowledge.

➤ **Arrangement for Official inspections to Mid-Day-Meal Centres and percentage of schools inspected and summary of findings and remedial measures.**

In addition to the monitoring system, as explained above, all the District Institutes of Education and Training have been entrusted the responsibility to ensure that all schools are covered by them with the objective to know the status of implementation of the Mid Day Meal scheme. These reports are compiled at the level of Director, State Council of Educational Research and Training and follow up action is thereafter initiated by Director General School Education.

➤ **Feedback/Comments in respect of report of Monitoring Institutions designated for Punjab State to monitor implementation of MDM and action taken thereon.**

Study conducted by the Punjab University Chandigarh in respect of implementation of the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme in the schools of Punjab reveal that there is an over all improvement in the implementation of the scheme. Food grain and funds are generally available with the schools in advance. Whenever there is a short fall, teachers manage it at their own level and recoup it later on. Invariably meals are provided daily in all the schools but whenever there is break that too is very short and varies from 1 to 3 days. Requirement of food grains and funds for each and every school in every district has been worked out and got printed in the form of a booklet which has been given to all concerned so that they have a ready recconer with them and may plan for the meals in advance. Prescribe menu is followed by the schools. However directions have to be issued to District Education Officers to get the weekly menu exhibited in all the schools so that children and their parents know about the same in advance.