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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY  
SHASTRI BHAVAN  
NEW DELHI-110 115

D.O.No.13-11/2013-MDM(2-1)

Dated 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Dear *Sh. Sinha,*

The 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Review Mission visited Tripura from June 18-26, 2013 under the leadership of Dr. Rita Singh Raghuvanshi, Dean, College of Home Science, Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar. The JRM consisted of the representatives from Government of India, State Government of Tripura, representative of Supreme Court Commissioner Office, and the Monitoring Institute. The JRM was also assisted by Research Fellows from Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar and Consultants from Ed CIL's Technical Support Group for Mid-Day Meal Scheme. The JRM covered 48 schools in the districts Gomati and West Tripura; and presented its report to the State Government on June 26, 2013.

The mission appreciated that hot cooked mid-day meal was served to all children, on the day of visit by the JRM, even in the tribal areas. The Mission was pleased to see good dining halls with suitable furniture in most of the schools. The State is also trying to construct dining halls in the other schools through financial assistance from MP/MLA Local Area Development (MPLAD) funds. The children take meals in an orderly manner in a group which fosters social harmony and gender equity. The review Mission however suggests that water filters may also be provided in the dining halls of the schools especially in rural areas.

There are however, certain areas of concern as indicated in the attachment, which need your personal attention such as high level of malnutrition. Using Body Mass Index Z score (WHO 2007) as recommended by WHO, on a sample of 679 school children availing mid-day meal, approximately 68.92% primary school children (296) and 66.84% upper primary school children (383) were observed to be normal. The remaining children need nutritional support.

In addition your attention is drawn to the following issues:

- i) Setting up of an effective Management Structure for MDMS, at various levels.
- ii) Tasting of the meal by at least one teacher before it is served to the children



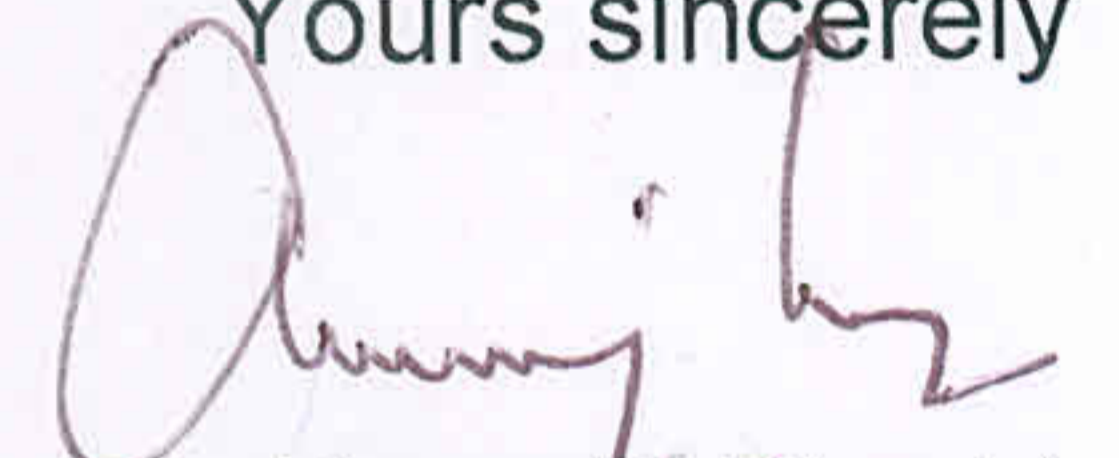
मध्याह्न भोजन योजना  
Mid Day Meal Scheme

- iii) Safe storage and supply of ingredients to schools. Procurement of pulses and ingredients of branded and Agmark quality and supply to schools on the lines of Maharashtra by the State Civil Supplies Corpn.
- iv) Capacity building of cook-cum-helpers as well as inspection staff
- v) Creating greater awareness about the Mid Day Meal Scheme
- vi) Convening of District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting under the Chairmanship of Member of Parliament from the district.
- vii) Convening of regular review meeting at District level
- viii) Social Audit of the Scheme on the pattern of Andhra Pradesh
- ix) Testing of food samples by reputed NABL approved Food Laboratories
- x) Submission of Action Taken Notes on reports of the Monitoring Institutes, Joint Review Mission etc.
- xi) Need for an Emergency Medical Plan

The detailed report of the JRM is enclosed at **Annexure A**. I shall appreciate if the Action Taken on the above as well as attached recommendations of JRM as well as MI's observations are submitted to the MHRD within a period of 3 months from the date of submission of JRM report. A little effort on your part will ensure that no child goes hungry in schools in your State

With regards

Yours sincerely



(Amarjit Singh)

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