



Dr. Amarjit Singh  
Additional Secretary (EE.I)  
Tel No. 011-23381096  
Fax No. 011-23381302

भारत सरकार  
मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय  
स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग  
शास्त्री भवन  
नई दिल्ली - 110 115  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY  
SHASTRI BHAVAN  
NEW DELHI-110 115

D.O. No.13-1/2013-MDM-2-1

Dated 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2013

Dear *Sh. Nayak,*

I write this to apprise you of the findings of the Fourth Joint Review Mission on the Mid Day Meal Scheme that visited your State from 25<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2013. The Team covered 55 schools in two districts in Chitradurga and Bangaluru (Urban) during the visit and submitted its report to the State Government on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2013.

2. The Mission appreciated the steps taken by the State Government to ensure that the children get hot cooked meal without any interruption. They particularly appreciated the maintenance and proper storage of buffer stock of food grains in all the visited schools, availability of sufficient numbers of kitchen devices and eating plates in the schools and gas based kitchens in Chitradurga District. The Review Mission also noted the good performance of the State on Annual and Monthly data entry on the MDM MIS Web Portal. The Mission also observed some best practices viz. Kitchen Gardens and provisions of apron and cap to Cook cum Helpers in schools in Chitradurga Districts.

3. A strong community involvement through the School Development Management Committee (SDMC) was observed. Although the SDMC meetings take place regularly in each visited school, there were limited discussions on Mid Day Meal Scheme. In several schools members of the SDMC said that they are not aware about the norms, entitlement of the Children. Steps need to be taken to create greater awareness about MDMS in the SDMC members. The rights and entitlement of children and daily menu should be displayed prominently on the outside wall of the schools.

4. The Mission noted that in most of the schools in both districts the teachers/HMs and even children are not aware of MDM Logo. MDM logo should be exhibited prominently in the schools/stationery etc. and *Akshara Dasoha* (Meaning of MDM Scheme in Kannada) may be written below the MDM logo.

5. The major findings / recommendations of the Review Mission on the basis of field visits in the selected districts that need your personal attention are as under:

- i. Inspections by the officials are few and far between. Specific goals may be assigned to Chief Executive Officer, Dy. Dir (PI) at District level and Executive Officer of *Taluk Panchayat* and Block Educational Officer etc., for making surprise visits to the schools. At least 25% schools under their jurisdiction need to be inspected by these functionaries during each quarter. The copy of their report may be submitted to the head of the concerned Institution of Govt. of Karnataka. The Schools should maintain a separate MDM register with pre-designed inspection points to be filled by the officials on their visits to the



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना  
Mid Day Meal Scheme



- schools. The inspection reports should be reviewed at a senior level for corrective action where required. You may also consider setting up of State Review Missions on the pattern of Review Mission of Govt. of India to review the Scheme in the poorly performing districts on a quarterly basis.
- ii. Community Mobilization - Community mobilization efforts need to be intensified further to ensure that the communities are empowered to monitor the implementation of mid-day-meal scheme. In this context, the training modules of SDMC should reflect specific needs and concerns of mid-day-meal scheme. The Mission recommends that Department of Education and SPD, SSA may include Mid Day Meal scheme also in the training module of SDMC. The campaign for *Shiksha Ka Haq* launched that of by Ministry of HRD on 11th November, 2011 on Education Day, may be utilized as a platform for MDMS to generate awareness on entitlements of children and other rights under MDM Scheme. You may also consider introduction of social audit mechanisms under the scheme. The social audit mechanisms have been introduced on a pilot basis in two Districts of Andhra Pradesh - Khammam and Chittoor. The initial reports are very positive; you may like to study the same for replication in your state.
  - iii. In addition, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign may be launched in the State to highlight the scheme, its norms so as to bring in a component of community ownership of the scheme and its transparency. The audio and video of an ideal MDM session in a school should be developed by the State in collaboration with UNICEF. The state and the sub state functionaries may observe MDM Day and MDM Month on a designated day of the year.
  - iv. Training module and material for imparting training to functionaries at various levels and cook-cum-helpers may be organized in consultation with corporate bodies under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Corporate groups have participated in training programmes in Haryana, Tamilnadu. A similar effort can be made in your State. Exposure visit - Inter-State exposure visits for officials of State Governments should be mandated to enable them to learn best practices on MDM followed in other States. Periodic orientation of teachers, SDMC members, Cooks –cum- helpers for proper management and maintenance of accounts and other registers would also be very useful. The States may also ensure a chapter on mid-day meal scheme and nutrition to be included in the text books of all classes of elementary school.
  - v. There is a need for improved hygienic practices through education in terms of hand-washing, safe drinking water etc. This will enhance the health benefits of this scheme. Similarly, we need to ensure regular health check up in convergence under NRHM; supply of IFA tablets, Vitamin A, De-worming tablets and spectacles. An immediate exercise needs to be undertaken to identify anemic and underweight girl children in schools and provide necessary health and nutritional support to address the same. Those children who are chronically malnourished need to be encouraged to have extra food over what is required for their age. This should be particularly true of girls.
  - vi. Evaluation Study: A research study to understand the current practices in the area of quality and equity needs to be undertaken for developing State Plans which encompass significant milestones and indicators. A reputed institute may be engaged to evaluate the scheme and submit the report to Govt. of Karnataka.
  - vii. Distances covered by the Centralised Kitchens/ NGOs could be reduced from 60 kms to 20 kms radius in order to give fresh and hot food to the children. Supply food cans should be in sealed container to avoid misuses/irregularities/dilutions and so on. Even in the urban areas involvement of SDMCs or Parents could be improved in order to improve variety, and to make the food more nutritious by



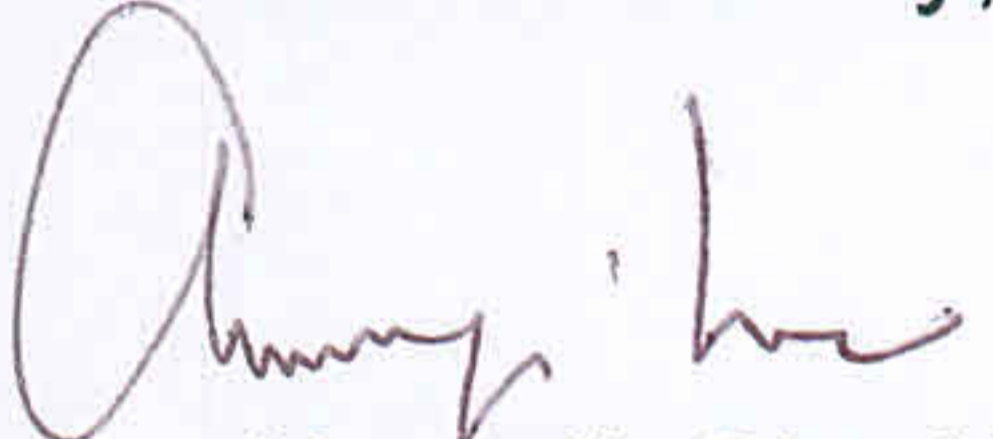
contributions in kind. Central kitchens need to use double fortified salt, and ensure hygienic practices in cooking and serving of food. The NGOs/Centralised kitchens would be well advised to take on additional staff to serve the food to the children at school. A thorough review of the roles, responsibilities, performance and accountability of the NGOs engaged in MDMS must be carried out, to ensure accountability. Central/State Government has prepared detailed Guidelines on the management, monitoring, implementation, use of logo, administration, quality check, nutrient value, etc. for NGOs engaged in MDM. They need to be followed scrupulously.

- viii. Nutrition: Greater variety of nutrition should be supplied under MDMS. Locally available food grains including ragi, jowar, etc. should be provided as per local tastes and availability. It is necessary that the Horticulture department be involved and a definite and time-bound programme be implemented to ensure that 'kitchen gardens' are established in all schools.
- ix. Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM): Suggestion box / complaint register should be kept at a convenient place in the school to enable the visitors to give their suggestions and views for improving the scheme. The toll free no. needs to be widely publicized and displayed on the wall of every schools and functionaries need to be oriented to use it when needed. It should work on all days and 24 hours instead of during working hours and days only.
- x. The mission was happy to note that the dining hall with needed facilities existed in one of the schools. This needs to be emulated by other schools. Wherever it is not possible to provide dining halls, at least it needs to be ensured that all schools must have mats. This may be purchased out of MME funds. Sufficient plates are provided to all schools from MME funds. Teachers must ensure that all children sit together and eat. Construction of dining halls could be undertaken in convergence with MP Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme. The maintenance of kitchen-cum-store from maintenance grant under SSA.

I shall appreciate if you kindly look into the above recommendations of the Review Mission and take appropriate action in a time bound manner. A little effort on your part will go a long way to ensure that no child remains hungry in the schools; *this is truly God's own work which we all are privileged to carry out.*

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(Amarjit Singh)

Shri G. Kumara Nayak,  
Principal Secretary,  
Primary and Secondary Education,  
Government of Karnataka,  
MS Building, Bengaluru -560001,  
Karnataka