

WEST BENGAL

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

The Cabinet of the State Government has sanctioned creation of posts of Project Director, Administrative Officer, Accounts Officer, MIS Coordinator and Group-D Staff for the State Headquarter for monitoring and supervision of Mid-Day-Meal in Schools scheme. Cabinet has also sanctioned creation of post of one Deputy Magistrate, one Accounts Officer and one MIS Coordinator for each of the 18 districts. 441 posts of Assistant Inspectors of schools have also been sanctioned by the Cabinet for monitoring and supervision of Cooked Mid-Day-Meal scheme at the block level. Till the posts of Assistant Inspectors are filled up, one Block Level Supervisor has been engaged in each of the 341 blocks of the state. Arrangements for manning the posts sanctioned by the Cabinet are going on and the monitoring structure would be commissioned soon. Besides, at Districts and Block / Municipality level contractual posts of Accountant, Assistant Accountant, Data Entry Operators have been created. At State level posts of Deputy Director (Civil), Deputy Director (Food), Accountant, head Assistant and Data Entry Operators have been created and filled up. All these posts are contractual in nature.

- **Strategy for establishment of Monitoring cell at various levels namely, Block, District and State Level for effective monitoring of the Scheme.**

Monitoring of the Scheme:-

Any scheme to be successful needs a vibrant monitoring system. Hence, all the Nodal Officers right from PD, CMDMP to Block Development Officer stick to a active monitoring mechanism and ensure that the officers engaged in monitoring perform their responsibilities properly and submit monitoring report in prescribed format.

Monitoring needs to be done from two parameters.

a) Programme Parameter – in this parameter in needs to be ensure that all children get uninterrupted satisfactory quality of MDM.

b) Impact Parameter – In this parameter we should judge what effect the programme is having in terms of improving children.

i) Nutritional status

ii) Regularity of attendance

iii) Retention in an completion of elementary education.

As per Govt. order and the direction of the Hon'bel Supreme Court of India it is

compulsory for all Govt. and Govt. aided schools to run the MDM scheme without fail. Hence, barring the Nodal Agencies right from State Level to block level it is also the binding duty of all officials of School Education Department like DIs(PE/SE), AIs and SIs to supervise and monitor the MDM scheme in each and every school and to see that the programme is implemented as per Govt. norms and in case of repeated non compliance/violation of Govt. orders/circulars initiate action against any school failing to implement this programme. The DIs and AIs are required to submit a monthly monitoring report in a given format (format-A) every month. The AIs should also submit the same to the Block Development Officers in addition to the DIS of his district. The DIs are likewise required to submit a monthly monitoring report in the given format (format-A) to the Secretary, School Education Department by the 10th of every month. The Director, School Education Department would ensure that the mechanism works effectively.

Quality Monitoring:-

Effective empowerment of mothers to involve themselves in the MDM feeding process of their own children will surely go a long way in maintaining the quality of the MDM. The school authority may deploy the mothers on rotational basis daily in 3/4th numbers so that they can associate themselves in the MDM process right from pre-cooking process to serving of the MDM to their children. This would not only improve the satisfaction of the mothers about the feeding of their children but also help maintaining transparency and avoid gossips. On the other hand external evaluation will surely reveal the impact of the MDM service as well as the fact that the MDM is being implemented as per Govt. norms. If not where is lacuna and what to do for plugging the loopholes? Again before lifting of the food-grains it is the binding duty of the Food & Supplies departments as well as the representative of the Nodal Agency that the quality food-grains are being lifted for MDM. By way of sampling and sending of the said sample packets to concerned corners. Through all these above measures community involvement as well as quality monitoring of MDM can be ensured

Field Visit:-

For effective implementation of the MDM scheme physical monitoring through inspection is very important. Officers dealing with MDM programme will visit district regularly and ascertain through field visit that the programme is being implemented satisfactorily. Likewise officers at the district sub-division and block levels must closely monitor all aspects through field visits, following schedule of monthly inspection of schools by officers of various levels is suggested.

- 1) District Magistrate – 5 schools (For) (Format-C)
- 2) ADM Development/In-charge of MDM -10 schools (Format-C)
- 3) Sub-divisional Officers -15 Schools (Format-C)
- 4) Block Development Officers – 20 Schools (Format-C)
- 5) DI-(Primary & Secondary)-20 Schools(Format-A)

6) Sub-inspectors/AIs of schools – 20 schools (Format-A)

As far as practicable the field visits should be unscheduled. Critical observation should be recorded in a questionnaire by interview of a broad range of individuals. The questionnaire should contain feedback from Head Master, Cooks, Organizers, childrens who take cooked MDM and their parents, the children of disadvantaged sections, community leaders PRIs etc. The report should be analyzed and findings should be documented and reported in SMCs meetings of all levels. The respective Nodal officers will take necessary remedial measures. State Level Monitoring System :- At the state level the state steering-cum-monitoring committee would review the MDM work at least six monthly interval and arrange taking necessary action so that MDM function is carried out smoothly and grievance redressal at all corners is done in time. They would also review the district steering-cummonitoring committees report regularly and arrange taking necessary remedial measures as early as possible. The state SMC would also ensure that SMC meetings at all levels are held regularly and necessary feedback is communicated to the State Authority promptly. The duties of all SMCs are to guide the implementing agencies and to monitor that the scheme is being implemented as per Govt. norms. They would also assess its impact and take corrective steps as it is necessary, discuss on the effect of coordination and ensure that coordination and convergence among concerned departments are take effect as it should have been for effective implementation of the scheme. It would also be their duty to mobilize community support and promote public-private partnership of the programme. All SMCs should ensure that meetings are held regularly at respective levels and feedbacks are sent to respective higher authorities. Presently all monthly, quarterly and annual reports and returns are being generated manually. To make the reports and returns more speedy and accurate we are trying to develop a systematic MIS System for MDM. We have already negotiated with the NIC & Weibel Authorities for developing such a MIS System. Hope one of the MIS Systems would be finalize shortly. On the other hand to get daily feedback from the schools directly, along with the district and block authorities, we are consulting several electronics service providers for development and introduction of a IVRS System. With the adoption of this IVRS System we would be in a position to get a feedback of the number of children taking MDM daily, quantity of rice consumed daily and the menu served on that day etc. daily direct from the schools.

➤ **Arrangement for official inspections to MDM centres and percentage of schools inspected and summary of findings and remedial measures.**

As already referred to in Para 2.19 arrangement for official inspection to MDM centers has been made a must for officers of every level. Besides District Magistrates, Additional District Magistrates , Officers In-charge of MDM Cells at District Level, SDOs, BDOs, DIs AIs, SIs have been deployed for physical inspection of the MDM centers. They discuss the feedback in the steering cum monitoring committees at respective levels so that prompt correctional

measures can be taken in case of any deviations found during official inspection.

Feedback/comments in respect of report of Monitoring Institutions designated for the State to monitor implementation of MDM and action taken thereon.

_ Visva Bharati University has externally evaluated the implementation of MDM in Uttar Dinajpur & Purba Medinipur district of W.B during the period from 1st August 2009 to 31st January 2010.

_ The District Magistrates have been apprised of their observation and requested to take necessary correctional measures.

Important observations of the institution and action taken instructions are as follows:-

Regularity in serving Mid-Day-Meal in upper primary schools in comparison to that of primary school is lagging behind.

Action Taken:-DMs have been requested to look into it seriously so that no interruption in the Mid-Day-Meal service is made during the school days.

Only 30% schools received cooking cost in advance. Hence the teachers have to run the Mid-Day-Meal on loan.

Action Taken:-Instructions has been issued to ensure that cooking costs are reached to schools in advance.

Beside rice, dal and seasonal vegetables, eggs are given 3 to 4 times in a month.

Action Taken:-Variety of menu is an attraction of Mid-Day-Meal. Hence besides rice, dal and seasonal vegetables it has been instructed to see how frequent we can serve egg / fish in a week.

Observation of PEO of the Planning Commission (May 2010)

They observed that 45.01% of children were spending 8.51 hours per week in washing utensils.

Action Taken:- Much stress has been taken to improve infrastructural facilities of the MDM Scheme specially the pucca kitchen sheds and increase of number of water connection in each school. It is also true that there is no provision for increase of water connection in MDM. Hence, we are trying to do this work with the help of the local body & Panchyat Authorities extending their Rural/Urban ongoing schemes in the Schools. We hope that with the increase of water connection and engagement of parents specially the mothers the washing time

in schools specially during lunch hour would be systematic and less time consuming.