

NAGALAND

- **Steps taken to strengthen the monitoring mechanism in the Village Block District and State level and status of constitution of SMCs at these levels. Details of such meetings. Steering-cum-Monitoring Committees (SMCs) have been constituted at all levels**

vide Govt. Notification No.EDS/MDM-1/2005 dated 3rd Feb'2005.

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

At the field levels, in addition to the Steering-cum-Monitoring Committees at different levels, field functionaries like the Deputy Inspector of Schools (DIS) and the Sub-Inspector of Schools (SIS) are inspecting and monitoring the programme. Regular inspections are to be done in at-least @ 25% of schools in a quarter. A special directive has been issued by the Chief Secretary for all the Administrative Officers in the district to visit 2 villages every month and to inspect implementation of Govt. Schemes particularly flagship programme like Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

Findings:-

(i) Most of the villages are on the hill tops and it is physically and financially taxing the VECs to collect the foodgrains from the HQ of the respective DIS at their own expenses.

(ii) The Department is working on this to find out ways to mitigate this taxing problem. The DIS were directed to coordinate with the respective Deputy Commissioners for fixing the transportation cost from the Distribution point / DIS office to the villages and schools. One reasonable way may be to deduct some percent from the transportation cost and give to the VEC/schools since the authorised agency is unable to reach each and every school.

- **Feedback/comments in respect of report of Monitoring Institutions designated for your State/UT to monitor implementation of MDM and action taken thereon**

Evaluation was conducted by the SCERT Department in 2006-07

Major Findings:-

(a) The programme has a very positive impact on the children as 100% of the children expressed their happiness with the Mid-Day Meal Programme.

(b) 95% of the teachers agreed that the Mid-Day Meal increases the enrolment of the students.

(c) 90% of the teachers agreed that it has positive impact on attendance and retention in the class.

(d) Parents, teachers and community members agreed that the programme has immense positive impact on enrolment, attendance and retention.

(e) Children are found to be learning healthy habits such as washing of hands before and after having food, sitting together and sharing their food.

(f) Community members are of the opinion that Mid-Day Meal Programme brings about a cordial relationship between the school and the community.

(g) Mid-Day Meal is not served to the children every day and also it differs from school to school. Some schools served once a week, some schools twice and some schools thrice a week.

(h) Transportation problems are found in collecting foodgrains and food items from the DIS go-down as no transportation costs are paid to the schools.

(i) Teachers are often engaged in preparing meals.

Suggestion:-

(a) Mid-Day Meal should be served as per the guidelines.

(b) Teachers should not be engaged in cooking but cooks should be provided so that the scheme does not disrupt the normal classes.

(c) All schools should be provided with safe drinking water facilities and kitchen-cum-store.

(d) Health check-up of children needs to be done once in six months.

(e) Transportation cost from DIS go-down / distribution point to schools should be paid to the schools.