

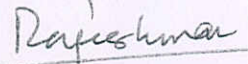
F.No. 12-2/2014 MDM 2-1
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of School Education and Literacy
Mid- Day Meal Division

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated the 8th November, 2016

Subject: Minutes of the 3rd meeting of Empowered Committee for Mid Day Meal Scheme held on 07.09.2016 at New Delhi.

The 3rd meeting of Empowered Committee was held on 07.09.2016 at Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Human Resource & Development to review the implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme and to suggest policy measures for improving its implementation.

2. A copy of the minutes of the above meeting is enclosed for information & further necessary action. This has the approval of the Minister of Human Resource Development.



(Rajeev Kumar)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

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Distribution:

- i) Shri Upendra Kushwaha, Minister of State, Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- ii) Thiru P. Benjamin, Minister for School Education, Government of Tamil Nadu.
- iii) Shri Tapan Chakraborty, Minister for Education, Government of Tripura.
- iv) Sri Ganta Srinivasa Rao, Minister for School Education, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
- v) Dr. Ashok Choudhary, Education Minister, Govt. of Bihar.
- vi) Prof. Vasudev Devnani, Minister for Education (Primary, Secondary and Higher Education), Government. of Rajasthan.
- vii) Dr. R. C. Laloo, Deputy Chief Minister & Education Minister, Govt. of Meghalaya.
- viii) Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, MHRD.
- ix) Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- x) Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- xi) Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
- xii) Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development.
- xiii) Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- xiv) Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- xv) Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- xvi) Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- xvii) Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- xviii) Chief Executive Director, Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

- xix) Director, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.
- xx) Representative of Azim Premji Foundation.
- xxi) Representative of Adanya Chetana.
- xxii) Representative of Ramakrishna Mission, Belur.
- xxiii) Shri Ashok Bhagat, Secretary of Vikas Bharti.
- xxiv) Dr. Vinod K. Paul, Professor of Neonatology, Department of Paediatrics, AIIMS.
- xxv) Shri H. Thegtse Rinpoche, Tawang Monastery, Arunachal Pradesh.
- xxvi) Dr. Randeep Guleria, Head of the Department of Pulmonology and Sleep Disorders, AIIMS.
- xxvii) Shri Simon Oraon, Tribal leader and Environmentalist, Jharkhand.
- xxviii) Shri P.P. Gopinathan Nair, Gandhian and social activist.
- xxix) Joint Secretary(EE.I), Department of School Education & Literacy - Member Secretary

Copy to:

- i) Private Secretary to hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development.
- ii) PPS to Secretary(SE&L).
- iii) PPS to JS(AE).

Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of School Education and Literacy
Mid- Day Meal Division

**Minutes of the meeting of Empowered Committee for Mid Day Meal Scheme held on
7th September, 2016 at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi**

The 3rd meeting of the Empowered Committee for Mid Day Meal Scheme was held on 7th September, 2016 under the Chairmanship of Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development. The list of participants is enclosed at Annexure-I.

2. Hon'ble HRM welcomed the Empowered Committee members and other participants and requested Dr. Subhas Chandra Khuntia, Secretary (SE&L) to take agenda items for Empowered Committee meeting for detailed deliberations.

3. Secretary (SE&L) informed that a presentation has been prepared on each agenda items and requested Shri Gaya Prasad, Director (MDM) to make the detail presentation. Director (MDM) made presentation and apprised that since no comments were received on the minutes of the last meeting of Empowered Committee held on 15th October, 2014, the minutes may be treated as confirmed. The Committee confirmed the minutes of the last meeting.

4. Action Taken Report (ATR) was presented on the decisions of the 2nd meeting of Empowered Committee held on 15.10.2014 as per details given below:-

4.1. To introduce the practice of 'Tithi Bhojan' across the country

The Committee members were apprised about the concept of 'Tithi Bhojan'. They were also informed that the then Hon'ble HRM wrote a letter to all States/ UTs dated 20th November, 2014 to replicate the practice of 'Tithi Bhojan'. Some States/ UTs viz. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand have adopted this practice with same or other nomenclatures. Hon'ble HRM praised this initiative adopted by different States/UTs and suggested to encourage other States/UTs to replicate similar initiative.

4.2 To introduce a protocol for standards in food safety and testing of the meals.

The Committee members were informed that a Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (EE1), Department of School Education & Literacy. The committee has prepared the draft testing protocol which has been circulated on 21st March, 2016 to the States/ UTs for their comments. The comments have been received from 9 States and MoHFW as well as Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). These comments have been shared with the Committee members for finalization of testing protocol. Hon'ble HRM desired to know about the main features of the report and intricacies of the testing protocol. He also enquired about the feasibility of testing of food samples in the remote areas. He further advised to strengthen community participation

for keep a check on quality of meals instead of focussing too much upon testing of meals. Secretary (SE&L) mentioned that instructions have already been issued for mandatory tasting by one teacher, at least one parent and preferably two who may or may not be SMC members should be present during serving of the meals to students so that they can taste the food as well as certify the number of children who partake of MDM. For this purpose, a roster of such parents be drawn up in advance on a monthly basis and a register to record their observations be also maintained at the school. The Committee members unanimously suggested that involvement of community especially the parents will definitely improve the quality of meals served to the children.

4.3. To strengthen the monitoring system for real time monitoring of the Scheme

The Committee members were informed that Mid Day Meal - Management Information System (MIS) is functional from June, 2012 and all the States / UTs are entering data on annual and monthly basis on key indicators of MDMS.

5. Notification of Mid Day Meal Rules 2015

The Committee members were informed that the Mid Day Meal Rules, 2015 have been notified under the National Food Security Act, 2013 and the same are effective from the date of its publication i.e. 30th September, 2015. All the States/UTs have been advised to disseminate and enforce the MDM Rules 2015 in all eligible schools. They were also advised to take necessary action to operationalize these rules and lay down a set of instructions for their effective implementation in all the schools so as to ensure adherence to the changed norms for serving quality meals to children covered under Mid Day Meal Scheme. The Committee members were also apprised about the salient features of MDM Rules such as food security allowance to be paid by the State Government, if MDM is not provided in school on any school day due to non-availability of food grains, cooking cost, fuel or absence of cook-cum-helper or any other reason. Hon'ble HRM desired to know whether any States/ UTs have paid food security allowance to children in case of non-supply of meals. Secretary (SE& L) informed that no such case has yet been reported by States/UTs.

6. Review of the performance of the Scheme during 2015-16

6.1 Social Security Scheme for cook-cum-helpers

The members were informed that the then Hon'ble HRM vide D.O. letter dated 3rd June, 2015 requested the States / UTs to help the cook-cum-helpers to avail of the benefits of three major social security schemes viz. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY). It was also informed that at present, 25.52 lakh cook-cum-helpers are engaged under MDMS. Out of these, 19.93 lakh cook-cum-helpers have their bank accounts. It was also informed that, State/ UT of Punjab and Chandigarh are extending the benefit of the social security scheme to the cook-cum-helpers as on date.

Smt. Deborah C. Marak, Education Minister of Meghalaya and representatives of others States requested that the honorarium to cook cum helpers may be enhanced. Hon'ble HRM desired to know about the norms and rate of honorarium for cook-cum-helpers. Director (MDM) informed that one cook-cum-helper may be engaged in the schools where the enrolment is 25 or less, the 2nd cook cum helpers for the enrolment of 26-100,

and 1 additional cook cum helper for every addition of up to 100 children. He further informed that Rs.1000 per month for 10 month in a year is the honorarium for cook-cum-helper. He added that currently 16 States/ UTs are paying more than the minimum mandatory state share towards payment of honorarium to cook-cum-helper. Hon'ble HRM appreciated the States/UTs for contributing more than their mandatory share for this component.

6.2 Coverage of children against enrolment

It was informed that out of the total enrolment of 13.16 crore children, 10.03 crore children availed mid-day meal on an average basis in 11.50 lakh schools under MDMS during 2015-16. In the States of Assam, West Bengal, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana and Karnataka more than 90% of the enrolled children have availed mid-day meal during 2015-16. On the other hand coverage of children is less than 65% in the States of Delhi, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. Hon'ble HRM advised that reasons for low coverage may be identified and States may be instructed to take necessary corrective measures for increasing the coverage.

6.3 Complaints received category-wise

The Committee was informed that a total of 306 complaints have been received on misappropriation, poor quality, irregularities and casteism under Mid-Day Meal Scheme from 2013 to August, 2016. Secretary (SE&L) advised to include the category on food poisoning also. Secretary (SE&L) informed that media reports are also considered and acted upon in case of any complaints regarding MDMS.

6.4 Food quality issues

The Committee members were informed that a detailed guideline has been issued on 13th February, 2015 on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens under Mid-Day Meal Scheme. These broad guidelines have been formulated with an aim to help the States and the UTs to focus more intensively on the safety aspects of procurement, storage, preparation, serving, waste disposal of food items as well as issues of personal hygiene of students and those involved in cooking and serving of food. Hon'ble HRM opined that the quality of food is highly correlated with quality of water available in the schools and stressed upon the need of safe drinking water for MDMS.

Principal Secretary, Department of School Education, Govt. of Tripura informed that the FCI is supplying polished rice, while parboiled rice is preferred and liked by the children in Tripura. He requested that parboiled rice may be supplied by the FCI. Joint Secretary, Food & Public Distribution informed that State/UTs are free to procure the type of food grain locally which they desire to consume. In case of Tripura if the parboiled is not available locally the same may be procured from other States.

Director, Ministry of Tribal Affairs informed that in the tribal areas coarse grain like ragi, mandua etc are the staple food, which have both nutritional and medicinal values. Joint Secretary, Food & Public Distribution informed that other coarse grain like ragi, mandua is also available with FCI. He further shared that it has been observed that even in the tribal areas people prefer to purchase rice than the coarse grain from PDS and shorter shelf life of coarse grain is also an issue.

6.5 Additional items provided by States/ UTs

Members were informed that 15 States/ UTs viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, A&N Islands, D&N Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep and Puducherry are providing additional food items such as banana, egg, seasonal food, milk etc. from their own resources. Honourable HRM appreciated the steps taken by the respective States/UTs. The Committee members opined that other States / UTs may also be encouraged to adopt similar initiative.

6.6 Use of LPG

Secretary (SE&L) informed the members that at present, 41% of schools in the country have LPG connections. All the States/UTs have been advised to use LPG fuel in all remaining schools, which is fuel efficient, environmental friendly, causes no health problems, helps in conserving the forests and does not blacken the utensils with carbon deposits. All the States / UTs have been requested to take this as a campaign and provide LPG connections in all remaining schools at the earliest so that all kitchens are environmentally clean. Honourable HRM desired that a DO letter may be sent to the State/UTs from his side where the usage of LPG is less. Secretary (SE&L) further informed that MHRD is continuously perusing with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for supplying subsidized LPG cylinders for MDMS in schools.

6.7 Construction of kitchen-cum-store

Members were informed that, Govt. of India has sanctioned 10.06 lakh kitchen-cum-stores till date to States/ UTs. So far a total number of 7.82 lakh kitchen-cum-stores have been constructed and another 1.08 lakh are in progress up to March, 2016. The construction work in 1.16 lakh kitchen-cum-stores is yet to start. The major defaulting States are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Haryana, A&N Islands, Jharkhand, J&K, Manipur etc. Secretary (SE& L) informed that, during meetings of Programme Approval Board of 2016-17 all the States/ UTs were requested to complete the pending construction work by December 2016. Additional Commissioner, MDM, Govt. of Rajasthan requested to provide additional funds to construct the previously sanctioned kitchen-cum-stores as the funds sanctioned that time are not adequate now. Secretary (SE&L) clarified that cost of construction has escalated as the State Govt. could not complete the construction work within stipulated time. He further added that the State Govt. has to complete the pending construction work by putting in additional funds from their own resources. Hon'ble HRM advised that a letter to be send to all the defaulting States / UTs to complete the construction of sanctioned kitchen-cum-stores immediately.

6.8 Monitoring of the scheme

The members were informed about different mechanism adopted by this department for monitoring of the scheme. The monitoring mechanism includes both the desk and field review of the scheme at different levels along with social audit and Automated Monitoring System of the scheme. Director, Ministry of Panchayati Raj mentioned that about SHGs can be engaged for better monitoring of the scheme. Hon'ble HRM stressed upon the involvement of community for day to day monitoring of the scheme at the grass root level.

7. Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

7.1 Extension of MDMS to class 9th and 10th

The representative from Azim Premji Foundation raised the issue of coverage of MDM to students of class 9th and 10th. Director (MHRD) informed that few State/UTs are providing MDM to students of class 9th and 10th from their own resources. Hon'ble HRM appreciated the efforts of these States/UTs.

7.2 Research and Evaluation

Hon'ble HRM stressed upon the importance of research, evaluation, assessment and inspection for better implementation of MDMS. Director (MHRD) informed that a research proposal has been submitted by NUEPA for an impact study of MDMS and the same is under consideration of this Ministry. The representative from Azim Premji Foundation informed that they can help with regard to research study on MDMS. Hon'ble HRM requested her to submit a proposal at the earliest.

7.3 Publicity Campaign

Hon'ble HRM emphasized upon the importance of awareness generation regarding the implementation and best practices under MDMS. He further added that Film and songs are a good source of awareness generation among all the stakeholders. He also opined that a film and song may be prepared on the MDMS which can portray its effectiveness in international forums also.

7.4 Menu under MDMS

Dr. Tejaswini Ananth Kumar, Chairperson, Adanya Chetana raised the issue of diversity of the menu under MDMS. She stated that the food habits varies a great deal even within States and in most cases one universal menu is being followed across the State. Secretary (SE&L) informed that as per MDM Guidelines even the district/ taluk nodal agency are free to develop menus using locally available and culturally acceptable food items within the purview of MDM food norms.

7.5 Fortification of Food grains

Joint Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, mentioned that three ministries viz. Ministry of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Food and Public Distribution are jointly preparing the Guidelines of Food Fortification and FSSAI is in a process of finalization of the same. He opined that fortified food-grains may be used under MDMS. Secretary (SE&L) stated that it is not possible for this ministry to initiate it due to cost and technical constraints, however if the FCI provide fortified foodgrains, the same may be used under MDMS.

7.6 Community Participation

The Committee members emphasised upon the role of community in the implementation of MDMS. They were of the view that on the one hand community is the only source to keep a close and continuous vigil on day to day activities of MDMS at the grass root level and at the same time the community can pitch in with necessary support to the school in the form of additional items and other support. Hon'ble HRM endorsed the

same and advised to take necessary steps for further strengthening and meaningful role of community in the implementation of the MDMS.

7.7 Report of the Nutrition Committee

Director (MHRD) informed that this Department had constituted an Expert Committee on Mid-Day Meal (MDM) in July 2015 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Vinod K. Paul, Head, Department of Paediatrics, AIIMS, New Delhi. The Committee has submitted the report to MHRD during March 2016 and the same is under consideration. Hon'ble HRM enquired about the main findings of the report. Dr. Paul informed that the committee has recommended reducing the carbohydrate and enhancing the protein and fat content under MDMS.

8. Recommendations

After detailed discussions the committee identified the following issues to be stressed upon:

- 1) Adequacy of cooking cost
- 2) Extension of MDMS to class 9th & 10th
- 3) Nutritional issues of adolescent girls
- 4) Research, Evaluation, Assessment, and Inspection
- 5) Community Participation
- 6) Availability of safe drinking water
- 7) Use of LPG
- 8) Provision of more foodgrains for children in tribal areas
- 9) Publicity campaign on MDMS
- 10) Safety, quality and hygiene
- 11) Problems related to implementation of MDMS in schools having very low enrolment.

It was decided to constitute an expert committee to review above aspects of the scheme.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants

1. Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
2. Smt. Deborah C. Marak, Education Minister, Govt. of Meghalaya.
3. Dr. Subhash Chandra Khuntia, Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
4. Shri Mohammed Hanish, IAS, Secretary, Department of General Education, Govt. of Kerala.
5. Shri Aditya Nath Das, Principal Secretary, Department of School Education, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
6. Dr. Rakesh Sarwal, Principal Secretary, Department of School Education, Govt. of Tripura.
7. Shri Arvind Kumar Mishra, Additional Commissioner, MDM, Govt. of Rajasthan.
8. Ms. Rakhee Gupta, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs.
9. Shri Y. Seshu Kumar, Joint Secretary (MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
10. Shri Deepak Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Krishi Bhavan.
11. Shri Gaya Prasad, Director (MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
12. Shri Krishna Bahadur Singh, Director, Ministry of Women & Child Development.
13. Shri Biswaranjan Sasmal, Director, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhavan.
14. Shri S. S. Prasad, Director, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, JP Building.
15. Shri Samir Kumar, Economic Adviser, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation.
16. Dr. Tejaswini Ananth Kumar, Chairperson, Adama Chetana, Bengaluru.
17. Shri Ashok Bhagat, Secretary of Vikas Bharti, Bishanpur.
18. Shri Bimal Dubey, Director (Compliance), FSSAI.
19. Dr. Randeep Guleria, Head of the Department of Pulmonology and Sleep Disorders, AIIMS.
20. Ms. Indu Prasad, Head, Azim Premji Foundation, Bengaluru.
21. Dr. V.K. Paul, Professor of Neonatology, Department of Paediatrics, AIIMS.
22. Shri Manoranjan Kumar, Adviser, Ministry of Rural Development, Krishi Bhavan.
23. Shri Swami Tattwananananda, Representative of Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math.
24. Shri Pradeep Oak, Trustee, Adama Chetana, Bengaluru.
25. Shri S. Satyanarayanan, Media Consultant to HRM.
26. Shri Ovidio L. Kurbah, MIS Coordinator MDM, Government of Meghalaya.
27. Shri Rajeev Kumar, Under Secretary (MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
28. Shri Sachin Arora, Under Secretary, (MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

29. Shri Sanjay Arora, Under Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs.
30. Smt. Sushila Tiwari, Section Officer (MDM 2-1), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
31. Mr. Deepak Shaw, Assistant Section Officer (MDM 1-2), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
32. Mr. Randhir Singh Yadav, Assistant Section Officer (Desk-MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
33. Shri Sandeep Kumar P, Vikas Bharti.
34. Shri Om Prakash, Programmer, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
35. Shri K.P.S. Shishodia, DGM/PM (TSG-MDM), Ed.CIL.
36. Shri Rajat Gupta, Senior Consultant (MIS), TSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
37. Shri Tanmoy Ghatak, Senior Consultant (Plan Monitoring), TSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
38. Shri Sunil Kumar Sinha, Senior Consultant, TSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
39. Shri K.K. Sharma, Consultant (Finance), TSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
40. Shri Bhupendra Kumar, Consultant, TSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
41. Dr. Anindita Shukla, Consultant (Food & Nutrition), TSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
42. Dr. Mridula Sircar, Consultant, (Plan Monitoring), TSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
43. Shri Dinesh Pradhan, Consultant, TSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
44. Shri Lokendra Mahavar, Consultant (Capacity Building), TSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.