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**शास्त्री भवन**

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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

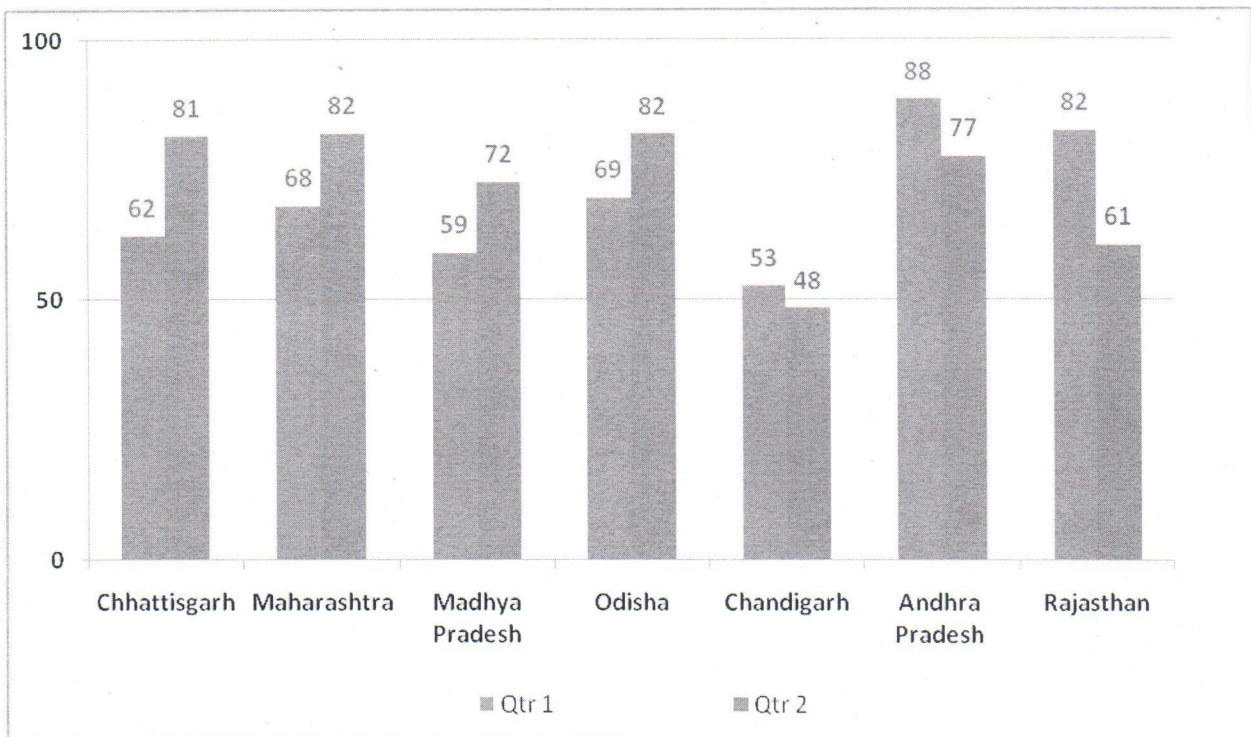
**MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**  
**SHASTRI BHAVAN**  
**NEW DELHI-110 115**

**D.O. No. 7-2/2013-MDM 2-1**

**Dated 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2014**

Dear Colleagues,

The coverage of children as per 2<sup>nd</sup> QPR report, has increased to 10.38 crore children from 9.90 crore during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. The increase of about 48 lakh children is a quantum jump in the coverage of children with reference to previous quarter. The analysis of data reveals that coverage has gone up in the States of Chhattisgarh (19%), Maharashtra (14%), Madhya Pradesh (14%), and Odisha (13%). On the other hand coverage has gone down in Rajasthan (21%), Andhra Pradesh (11%) and Chandigarh (5%). These States have to look in to the issues for significant decrease in coverage of children and take immediate remedial measures.



You may recall that during my previous letter the issue of low coverage during the first quarter was discussed. Quarter wise analysis of Data for the last few years reveals that coverage increases as the year progresses. I request you to identify the gaps and prepare suitable strategies so that the coverage during the initial periods of the year should not remain that low.

2. The fifth Joint Review Mission under Mid -Day Meal Scheme, has visited 18 States/UTs. These JRMs have assessed the level of Malnutrition in the schools through anthropometric surveys and have drawn attention to *a huge burden of hunger, malnutrition and stunting amongst our school children*. They have also highlighted the bottlenecks faced by the implementers at State/district/block level. The reports have also brought to light the urgent need for attention to incomplete infrastructure, proper maintenance of kitchen sheds, and sensitisation of officials at District and Block level. They have also underlined the need for timely *release of funds to the Districts, schools*; for timely payment to cook-cum-helpers and Food Corporation of India for the uninterrupted and smooth implementation of scheme. The poor quality of the Mid-day Meal reported from different parts of the country also needs serious introspection.

3. The high prevalence of anaemia has serious consequences for the growth of children during childhood and adolescence, where several physical changes requiring extra nutritional inputs are occurring. Growth is dependent on adequate nutrition, determined by the availability of sufficient quantity of quality food, and the ability to digest, absorb and utilise food. The regular administration of de-worming tablets becomes very critical in this context. JRMs have suggested that children should be identified by periodical health check-ups. The identified children should be given special care during serving of MDM. As the Mid-Day Meal Program is implemented through schools, it is imperative to ensure that correct nutrition messages, good eating habits, hygiene and sanitary practices are imparted and inculcated in children in the school.

4. Capacity building of cook-cum-helpers is another crucial area; approximately 2500 Cook cum helpers have been trained as master trainers with the help of State Institutes of Hotel Management and Food Crafts Institutes under the Ministry of Tourism in the States/UTs of Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Odisha, Assam & Chandigarh. Apart from the training from IHMs, Training for Cook cum helpers has also been undertaken by the NGO Akshaypatra in five States: Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya. The NGO proposes to train more CCHs in Sikkim, Tripura and Manipur in the near future.

5. As you will be initiating the process for preparation of the Annual Work Plan & Budget 2014-15 for MDMS, I shall appreciate if you pay special attention and come up with the strategies to address all these issues. The pre-requisite steps for submission of Annual Work Plan & Budget for the year 2014-15, are as follows:

- i) Plan should also be submitted through MDM-MIS; the monthly data entry work for MDM-MIS portal should be completed at least for the period till November, 2013
- ii) Plan should be approved by SSMC Meeting
- iii) 100% payment of honorarium shall be made to cook cum helpers up to December 2013
- iv) 100% payment of cost of foodgrains shall be made to FCI upto 31st December 2013
- v) Bank account should be opened for cook cum helpers
- vi) Annual and Monthly data entry for the FY 2013-14 should be completed up to December 2013.

- vii) Action taken note on commitments given by the State Govt. during PAB Meeting of 2013-14.
- viii) Action taken note on findings of reports of Monitoring Institute and recommendations of JRM reports
- ix) Separate and detailed MME plan e.g. setting up of management structure, engagement of manpower, capacity building programme etc.
- x) Plan should be submitted within the scheduled date in both hard and soft copies.

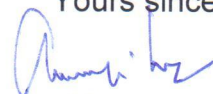
From this year the submission of District plan has been made mandatory. This should provide you with an opportunity to make more focused approach towards the poorly performing districts and prepare regional plans to address the critical issues in these districts.

6. The State-wise position on the key components of the MDMS can be seen in the Annexures. This data has been analyzed in the **Analysis Report\_MDMS\_QPR 2**, attached herewith. I shall appreciate if you kindly attend to these issues personally and ensure full coverage of eligible school going children under MDMS. I also request you to evolve mechanisms for greater community participation. The findings of the Monitoring Institutions should also be carefully addressed. In the wake of the aftermath of unfortunate incident in Bihar, this Ministry issued detailed guidelines on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2013 on Quality, Safety and Hygiene under MDMS. The States/UTs were expected to follow these guidelines to avoid the recurrence of such unfortunate incidents in future by inculcating a sense of ownership of the scheme amongst the stakeholders. However, the tragic death of two children, one each in Odisha and Karnataka shows some complacency in following these guidelines in letter and spirit. I would like to urge upon all States/UTs for putting in an extra effort in fulfilling their obligations of safety and security of the school children under MDMS. A little effort on your part will go a long way to ensure not only, that no child remains hungry in the school but also, that the basic health and hygiene needs of the children are met in a safe and serene atmosphere without hampering the duties of the teachers.

7. I shall appreciate if action is taken on the issues raised above under intimation to this office. We shall also appreciate if the data for the QPRs is sent in a time bound manner and duly validated before it is sent to us. Even today we have not received the Second QPR from Nagaland. At the same time please do not hesitate to write if we can facilitate your work in any manner.

With warm personal regards and best wishes for a very Happy 2014!

Yours sincerely,



(Amarjit Singh)

To

Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of all the States/UTs implementing Mid Day Meal Scheme