

# **NATIONAL PROGRAMME**

of

# **Mid Day Meal in Schools**

**[MDMS]**



*Annual Work Plan And Budget*  
**2019-20**

*Write-up*

# **STATE OF KERALA**

# MID DAY MEAL PROGRAMME

## *1. Introduction*

The National Programme of Mid Day Meal in schools, popularly called the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is one of the key flagship programmes designed to improve the nutritional status of children in the age group of 6 to 14 years and studying in primary and upper primary classes. The Programme encourages children to come to school and take part in the learning process without worrying for their meal. The Programme was conceived on the basis of the philosophy that “when children have to sit in class with empty stomachs, they cannot focus on learning”. The programme in its holistic manner helps to enhance enrolment, attendance and retention of school children while simultaneously contribute to their physical and mental development.

Mid Day Meal Scheme is a centrally sponsored programme. Central Government provides food grains for the scheme and financing for meeting the cost of food grains, transportation charges and expenses related to the management, monitoring and evaluation of the Scheme. Cooking cost, honorarium to cook cum helpers, cost of construction and repair of kitchen cum stores and procurement/replacement of kitchen utensils are shared between Central and State/UTs on a 60:40 or a 75:25 pattern.

### *Main objectives of the Scheme.*

- 1) To increase enrolment, retention and to strengthen the learning abilities of the beneficiaries, especially of children belonging to the weaker and disadvantaged sections of the society.
- 2) To provide nutritious meal to school children so as to achieve the goal of a healthy mind in a healthy body.
- 3) To promote and establish a cordial relationship, mutual understanding, healthy friendship and emotional unity among children irrespective of their caste, religion and colour by providing them a common dish and make them eat it at a common place in their respective school premises.

### *Origin of the Scheme*

Mid Day Meal scheme was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Programme on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1995 by Government of India.. The scheme originally covered the children of primary schools (studying in class I to V) in Government, Local Body controlled and Government Aided Schools. In October 2002, the scheme was further extended to the

children studying in Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative Innovative Education centers. Central Assistance under the scheme consisted of free supply of food grains @ 100 grams per child per school day and subsidy for transportation of food grains upto a maximum of Rs.50/- per quintal. The Scheme, since then had undergone several revisions such as the revisions in September 2004, July 2006, October 2007, July 2009 and February 2019. Food norms have undergone drastic revisions to ensure balanced and nutritious diet to children. With effect from 1.4.2018, upper primary children have been brought under the ambit of the Scheme, Today, the Scheme ensures a nutritional norm of 450 calories and 12 grams of protein per meal per day for primary children and 700 calories and 20 grams of protein for upper primary children. Food norms have been revised accordingly by fixing 100 grams of food grains and 20 grams of pulses to primary children and 150 grams of food grains and 30 grams of pulses to upper primary children.

### *Mid Day Meal Scheme in the State of Kerala*

The roots of the Programme in Kerala can be traced back to pre-independence era when a school lunch programme was introduced in the year 1941 in the erstwhile princely state of Travancore by the then Maharaja of Travancore. The Programme was called “Vanchi Poor Fund”. The objective behind this programme was to encourage children from the disadvantaged sections of the society to attend schools. During the period from 1960-1984, school lunch programme existed in almost all the districts of Kerala which was funded by the humanitarian agency, CARE (Corporate Assistance for Relief Everywhere).

Government of Kerala launched Mid Day Meal Scheme officially on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1984. The Scheme was introduced in LP Schools of 222 coastal villages having fishermen as majority. In the year 1985, the scheme was extended to cover all LP schools (Std. I to IV) across the State. During the year 1987-88, the Scheme was extended to Upper Primary Schools (Std. V to VII). The Scheme was revised in 2007-08 to bring the students of Class VIII under its ambit. Today, the mid day meal consists of hot cooked rice and three side dishes prepared from pulses, legumes, vegetables (especially leafy vegetables), coconut, etc. In addition to that all the children are given 150 ml boiled milk twice a week and one boiled egg once in a week. The scheme for the supply of egg was started in the year 2005 whereas supply of milk began in 2010-11.

Mid Day Meal Scheme in Kerala now caters to all the students from the Primary to Upper Primary Divisions in Government, Local Body controlled, Government Aided and Special Schools.

## *Number of Educational Institutions under MDMS*

12341 schools/institutions in the State are currently providing Mid Day Meal to their children. The details are given below:-

(i) Primary

Total Number of Schools: - **6804**

Number of Government & Local Body controlled Schools - **2603**

Number of Government Aided Schools -**3911**

Number of Special Schools - **290**

(ii) Upper Primary

Total Number of Schools: - **5537**

Number of Government & Local Body controlled Schools -**2054**

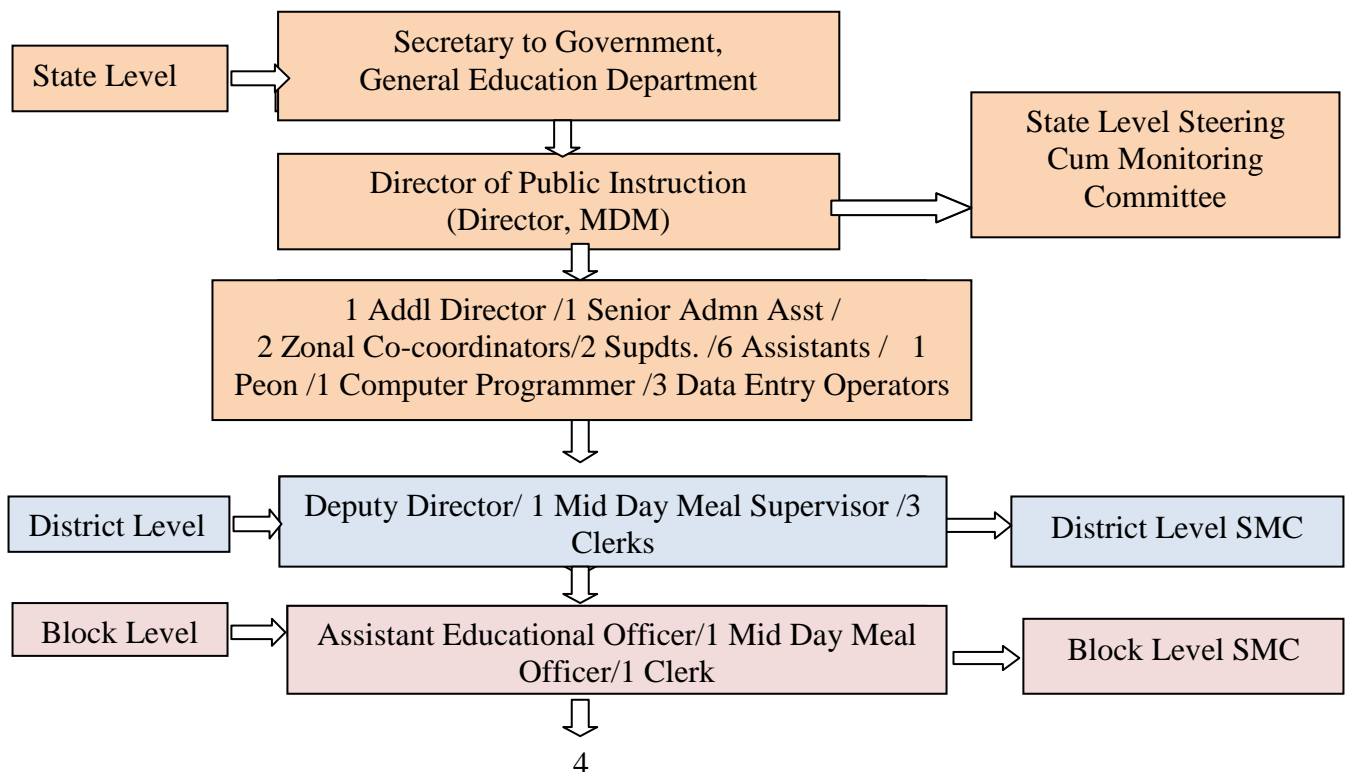
Number of Government Aided Schools-**3241**

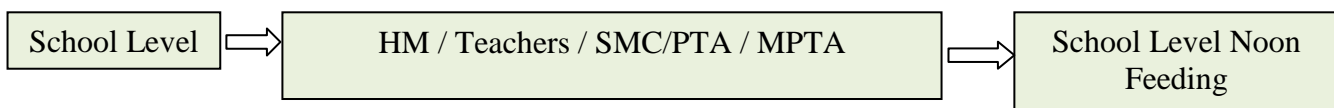
Number of Special Schools -**242**

### *Coverage under MDMS against Enrolment for the year 2018-19.*

Year	Enrolment		Coverage in the MDM Scheme		Percentage
	Primary	Upper Primary	Primary	Upper Primary	
<b>2018-19</b>	<b>1662998</b>	<b>1065753</b>	<b>1611174</b>	<b>988980</b>	<b>95.29</b>

### **1.1 Management Structure**





## 1.2 Process of Plan Formulation at State and District Level

AWP&B for the State is evolved after detailed discussions based on the data received from the District Levels and the resources that can be made available from the state for the implementation for the scheme. District level Plans are prepared by the Deputy Directors of the 14 districts on the basis of the data from block and school levels. Once the District Plans and write ups are prepared, they are sent to the Director of Public Instruction for preparing the State Level Plan and Budget. After examining and verifying the district plans, the MDM team at the State Level prepares State AWP&B. The Director of Public Instruction supervises and manages the entire process leading to the preparation of AWP&B. The other officials involved in the implementation of the MDM Scheme also participate in the process of the AWP&B preparation. Once the State Annual Work Plan and Budget is approved by the State Level Steering cum Monitoring Committee, it is submitted to MHRD.

## 2. Description and assessment of the programme implemented in the Current year (2018-19) and proposal for the next year (2019-20)

### **2.1 Regularity and wholesomeness of mid - day meals served to children; interruptions if any and the reasons therefore problem areas for regular serving of meals and action taken to avoid Interruptions in future:-**

Mid Day Meal is regularly served on all school working days to all the children in the primary and upper primary divisions. Interruptions in the supply of meal have not been reported from anywhere across the state during the current academic year. Cooking cost and honorarium to Headmasters and Cook cum Helpers respectively are disbursed in advance (for three months in advance) by e- transferring the amounts directly to their bank accounts. Irrespective of all these measures, if there occurs any contingency arising due to shortage of funds or shortage of food grains, the school PTAs will promptly intervene and take appropriate steps to ensure that mid day meal programme continues uninterrupted.

### **2.2. System for cooking, serving and supervising mid- day meals in the school**

Mid-Day Meal Scheme is managed, monitored and supervised at school level by the “School Mid day Meal Committee“ which consists of PTA President, members of

Mother PTA, representatives of Parents of children belonging to SC/ST category and minority communities, Ward Member, Head of the institution, Teachers' representatives, student representative and one cook cum helper.

The School Mid day Meal Committee appoints cook cum helpers. It also decides the menu. Meal is prepared in the school premises in separate kitchens. A sizable number of schools have separate dining halls for serving the meal. In schools that lack dining halls, the prepared meal is taken to the class rooms and served hot by the teachers. PTA and SMC members actively participate in the serving of the meal.

Members of Mother PTA, SMC and the Panchayat/Municipal Ward Member concerned ensure the quality of food served. Representatives of teachers, mother PTA and SMC taste the food and ensure its quality before being served to the children. A separate Register is maintained at schools to record the remarks/opinions of the members of SMC and parents who taste the quality of food. The Register is regularly inspected by the Mid Day Meal Officer at the block level.

The school Mid day Meal Committee verifies the claims and admits all the accounts related to Mid Day Meal in the school before submitting them to the Block Level Officer.

## **2.3 Details about Weekly Menu**

### **2.3.1. Weekly Menu-Day wise**

The menu is decided by the School Noon Feeding Committee. However, a general pattern shows the following menu across the state.

Monday	-rice + green gram/dal curry + Chatni (coconut dish) + 'thoran' (dry vegetable mix )
Tuesday	-Rice + curry made from curd+ 'thoran' (using green gram/bengal gram & coconut dry mix) + vegetable mix ('Avial')
Wednesday	-Rice + Sambar (prepared by using thur dal, vegetables, coconut, etc) + leafy vegetable dish+ Egg curry
Thursday	-Rice + green gram/ dal curry+ vegetable mix (Avial)+ 'thoran' (using Papaya/Beetroot/Cabbage dry mix )
Friday	- Rice + Sambar (prepared by using thur dal, vegetables, coconut, etc) + leafy vegetable dish+ thoran (using bengal gram or green )

**A vegetable chart is advised for good Nutrition as follows:**

<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tue.</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>
<b>Leafy veg.</b>	<b>Red, Yellow Orange Veg.</b>	<b>Pulses</b>	<b>White/Tan Veg.</b>	<b>Green Colour Veg.</b>
Amaranth	Beetroot	Green gram	Cauliflower	Ladies finger, papaya
Spinach	Onions	Red gram	Potato	Green peas
Drumstick leaves	Tomato	Bengal Gram	Radish	Beans
Other edible green leaves	Carrot Pumpkin	Tur dal	Ash gourd Cucumber	Bitter gourd Bottle gourd

**2.3.2. Additional Food items provided (fruits/milk/any other items), if any from State/UT resources. Frequency of their serving along with per unit cost per day**

Egg/Banana - Once a week; cost per unit per day is Rs.1/-

Milk - 150 ml twice a week; cost per unit per day is Rs.2.40/-

The cost for supplying egg/banana and milk for upper primary children is met from state exchequer

**2.3.3. Usage of Double Fortified Salt**

Since Double Fortified Salt is not available in the State, Iodised Salt is used.

However, Supply Co, the lifting agency has agreed to supply double fortified oil and salt through its retails outlets from 2019- 20 onwards

**2.3.4. At what level menu is being decided / fixed**

A committee known as ‘Mid day Meal Committee ‘is constituted at the school level with PTA President as Chairman and the Headmaster of the school as the Member Secretary. Members form MPTA, Parents of SC/ST children, representatives of parents of children belonging to SC/S and minority communities, Teachers’ representatives, Ward Member from the LSG, student representative, one cook cum helper are the other members. The committee has to be mandatorily convened once in every month. The Committee decides the menu for the Mid Day Meal.

**2.3.5. Provision of local variation in the menu, inclusion of locally available ingredients/items in the menu as per the liking/taste of the children.**

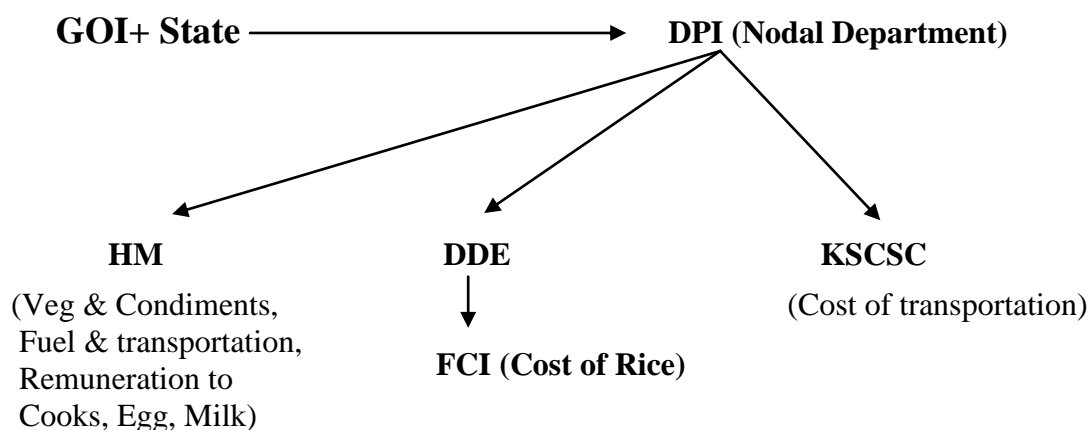
School level Mid day Meal Committee decides the menu after considering the local/seasonal availability of provision.

### 2.3.6. Time of serving the meal

12.30.p m to 1.30.pm

## 2.4 Fund Flow Mechanism

### 2.4.1. Existing mechanism for release of funds up to school/implementing agency levels



### 2.4.2 Mode of release of funds at different levels

Cooking cost & Honorarium to cook-cum-helpers are paid in advance. The amounts are e- transferred directly to the bank accounts of Headmasters and cook-cum-helpers.

### 2.4.3. Dates when the fund released to State Authority / Directorate / District / Block /Gram Panchayat and finally to the Cooking Agency / School

Details is given in Table AT-2A of the formats

### 2.4.4. Reasons for delay in release of funds at different levels

There occurs no delay in the release of funds

### 2.4.5 In case of delay in release of funds from State/ Districts, how the scheme has been implemented by schools/ implementing agencies

There occurs no delay in the release of funds

### 2.4.6 Initiatives taken by the state for pre-positioning of funds with the Implementing agencies in the beginning of the year for the smooth and uninterrupted implementation of the Scheme.

Funds for cooking cost and honorarium to cook cum helpers are released in advance. 50% of cooking cost & 30% of the Honorarium are sanctioned at the beginning of the academic year. The amounts are e- transferred directly to the bank accounts of



Headmasters and cook-cum-helpers respectively during the first week of June. Remaining 50% funds for cooking cost is released in the month of October or November whereas remaining 70% funds for disbursing honorarium to CCH is released in two stages, 40 % funds in September and the final 30 % in January next year. All payments are through e-transfer mode.

## **2.5. Food grain Management**

### **2.5.1. Time lines for lifting of food grains from FCI Depot- District wise lifting calendar of food grains**

District Administration accords sanction for lifting the allocated food grains on monthly basis starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month proceeding the allocation quarter.

### **2.5.2. System for ensuring lifting of FAQ food grains (Joint inspections at the time of lifting etc)**

The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation is the nodal agency for lifting the food grains from FCI. The Corporation has an inspection wing, which inspects and ensures the quality of the food grains at the time of lifting.

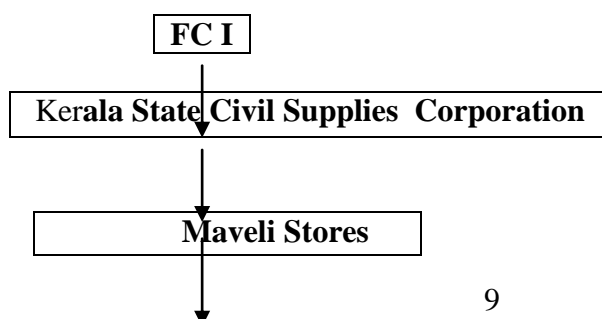
### **2.5.3. Is there any incident when FAQ food grain was not provided by FCI. If so, the action taken .by the State/District to get such food grain replaced with FAQ food grain. How the food grain of FAQ was provided to implementing agencies till replacement of inferior quality of food grain from FCI was arranged**

No.

### **2.5.4 System of transportation and distribution of food grains**

The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation is the nodal agency for lifting the food grains from FCI and supplying the rice to the implementing agencies through its commercial outlets called ‘Maveli Stores.’ School Mid Day Meal Committee supervises and manages the procurement of food materials (rice, pulses etc) from the outlets of Civil Supplies Corporation.

## **Food Grain Flow Chart**



Schools
---------

**2.5.5. Whether unspent balance of food grains with the schools is adjusted from the allocation of the respective implementing agencies (Schools/SHGs/ Centralised Kitchens) Number of implementing agencies receiving food grains at doorstep level**

Yes.

**2.5.6. Storage facility at different levels in the State/District/Blocks/Implementing agencies after lifting of food grains from FCI depot**

The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation lifts the food grains from FCI Depots, stores it in its own depots and then re-distributes to schools through its commercial and retail outlets known as “Maveli Stores”. Each outlet has adequate storage facility. School Mid day Meal Committee arranges for the procurement of food materials (rice, pulses etc) from the outlets of Civil Supplies Corporation and keep it in the store room of the school.

**2.5.7. Challenges faced and plan to overcome them**

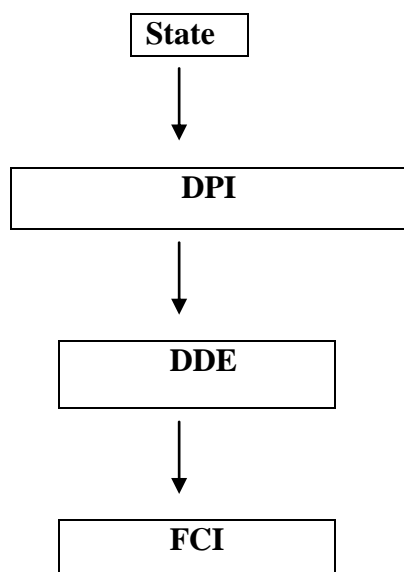
The food grain distribution is done in a very healthy and good manner. Shri. A.P. M .Mohammed Hanish IAS, the Chairman and Managing Director of Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation has been requested recently to issue directions to the concerned officials of the Corporation to ensure the door delivery of rice and other food materials to schools considering the fact that the Department is paying an additional amount of Rs.1400/- per metric ton in addition to the central assistance of Rs.750/- per MT towards transportation charges.

**2.6 Payment of cost of food grains to FCI**

**2.6.1. System for payment of cost of food grains to FCI; whether payments made at district level or State level**

In each district, Deputy Director of Education is designated as the Nodal Officer for making payment to FCI. Normally, the cost of food grains for the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter is e-transferred to the District authority in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April/June and the cost of 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarter transferred in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September/October. Directions were given to the District Authorities to make payment to FCI on the same day of the receipt of bill from FCI.

## Payment of Cost to FCI- Flow Chart



### 2.6.2. Status of pending bills of FCI of the previous year(s) and the reasons for pendency

There is no outstanding amount pending with the State for payment to FCI for the previous year.

### 2.6.3 Timelines for liquidating the pending bills of previous year(s)

There is no outstanding amount pending with the State for payment to FCI for the previous year.

### 2.6.4 Whether meetings are held regularly in the last week of the month by the District Nodal Officers with FCI as per guidelines dated 10.02.2010 to resolve the issues relating to lifting, quality of food grains and payment of bills.

Deputy Director, Education is designated as the Nodal Officer. Directions have been given to the District Authorities to conduct regular meetings with FCI.

### 2.6.5. Whether the District Nodal Officers are submitting the report of such meeting to State Head quarter by 7<sup>th</sup> of next month

Yes

### 2.6.6 Status of monthly meetings by the District Nodal Officer with the FCI

Directions have been given to the District Authorities to conduct regular meetings with FCI. Reports from District authorities show that a minimum of two meetings each in a district have taken place so far during the current year.

### 2.6.7 The process of reconciliation of payment with the concerned offices of FCI

Directions were given to the Deputy Directors of education to make payment on the same day of receipt of bill from the FCI .It has also been instructed to carry out regular reconciliation of the figures with the concerned offices of FCI and report the situation to the State Office.

#### **2.6.8 Relevant issues regarding payment to FCI**

No relevant issues prevail. Director of Public Instruction (Director, MDM, Kerala) holds regular meetings with all the Deputy Directors of Education. The Deputy Directors report that there occurs no delay on their part in disbursing the cost of rice to FCI.

#### **2.6.8 Whether there is any delay in payment of cost of food groups to FCI and steps taken to rectify the same**

Directions were given to the Deputy Directors of education to pay the same to the FCI on the same day of receipt of bill from the FCI. FCI has so far not complained about any delay in getting the funds from the Education Department.

### **2.7 Cook-cum-helpers**

#### **2.7.1 Whether the State follows the norms prescribed by MHRD for the engagement of cook-cum-helpers or it has its own norms**

State is following its own norms.

#### **2.7.2. In case, the State follows different norms, the details of norms followed may be indicated**

As per State Norms, one cook is engaged for every 500 students. Proposals are before the Government to revise the norms and to appoint one cook for every 250 students in a school.

#### **2.7.3 Is there any difference in the number of cook-cum-helpers eligible for engagement as per norms and the CCH actually engaged**

No. But considering the strength sanctioned by MHRD as per the request of State, there is difference. In place of the sanctioned number of 17673, only 14389 are engaged.

#### **2.7.4 System and mode of payment, of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers and Implementing agencies viz. NGOs / SHGs / Trust / Centralized kitchens etc**

Honorarium to cooks is e-transferred directly to their bank accounts concerned

#### **2.7.5 Whether the CCH were paid on monthly basis**

Yes, they are paid on monthly basis.

#### **2.7.6 Whether there was any instance regarding irregular payment of honorarium to Cook-cum-helpers and reason thereof. Measures taken to rectify the problem.**

No.

### **2.7.7 Rate of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers**

A minimum of Rs.400/- is paid as wages for each working day to the cook for a student strength up to 150. For strength exceeding 150, 25 paise per child is additionally paid subject to a maximum wage of Rs.475/-. On an average, a cook-cum-helper in Kerala gets a total amount of 8500 to 8600 rupees per month towards honorarium.

### **2.7.8 Number of cook-cum-helpers having bank accounts**

All the 14389 cooks currently working in the State have bank accounts and Aadhar.

### **2.7.9. Number of cook-cum-helpers receiving honorarium through their bank accounts**

All the 14389 cooks currently working in the State are receiving honorarium through their bank accounts

### **2.7.10. Provisions for health check-ups of Cook-cum-Helpers**

Directions were given to the school Headmaster/Headmistress to take steps to make health check-ups of cook-cum-helpers every six month.

### **2.7.11. Whether cook-cum-helpers are wearing head gears and gloves at the time of cooking of meals**

Directions were given to the school Headmaster/Headmistress to make the cook cum helpers wear head gears and gloves at the time of cooking of meals. During surprise inspections conducted by department officials, it has been found that in most schools cook-cum-helpers wear head gears and gloves at the time of cooking the meal.

### **2.7.12. Modalities for apportionment of cook-cum-helpers engaged at school level and working at centralized kitchens, in case of schools being served through centralized kitchens**

MDM Scheme is implemented at the school level by the school Mid day Meal Committee. This committee is vested with power to appoint cook cum helpers. Preference is given to those from the socially and economically weaker sections and disadvantaged segments of the society. Meals are prepared in the school premises only.

### **2.7.13. Mechanisms adopted for the training of cook cum helpers. Total number of trained cook cum helpers engaged in the cooking of MDMs. Details of the training modules; Number of Master Trainers available in the State; Number of trainings organized by the Master Trainers for training cook-cum-helpers**

State Government has evolved a systematic mechanism for the regular training of cook cum helpers employed under Mid day Meal Scheme. Under the mechanism, certain number of cook cum helpers are selected from every district and trained at State Food Craft Institutes. A hand on training on scientific cooking methods and skills are imparted to them. The Course module covers aspects such as planning and preparation of several local and palatable dishes/cuisines with special emphasis on hygiene and nutrition. Awareness on the operational guidelines of mid day meal scheme is also a part of the training.

During the year 2018-19, 30 cook cum helpers each from all the 14 districts were selected and trained at the 12 food craft institutes functioning in the State. The one day training involved hands-on practical training on cooking and aspects of nutrition and hygiene. The training was scheduled on holidays. These trained cook cum helpers were then designated as master trainers. The service of these master trainers was then utilized to train cook cum helpers at the sub district level. In this way, all the cooks were trained during the year 2017-18.

A total of 163 trainings were organized by the master trainers under the auspices of sub district level educational officers.

**2.7.14 Whether any steps have been taken to enroll cook-cum-helpers under any social security schemes i.e Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana etc. and number of cooks benefitted through the same**

All the mid day meal cook cum helpers are brought under the Minimum Wages Act as per a Notification issued by State Labour Department. In continuation with this, Government is now actively considering a comprehensive plan submitted by Director of Public Instruction to extend benefits such as PF and ESI to all the 14389 cook cum helpers in the State. A decision in this regard will be taken immediately.

**2.8. Procurement and storage of cooking ingredients and condiments**

**2.8.1. System for procuring good quality (pulses, vegetables including leafy ones, salt, condiments, oil etc. and other commodities**

School Mid day Meal Committees are vested with the responsibility to procure food materials (rice, pulses etc) from the outlets of Civil Supplies Corporation and also other articles such as vegetables, condiments, oil, fuel etc from either the outlets of Civil Supplies Corporation or from open market. Earlier Headmasters used to go to the outlets of Civil Supplies Corporation for procuring food grains. The practice has been completely done away with.

### **2.8.2. Whether pulses are being procured from NAFED or otherwise**

Supply Co, the State Lifting Agency has been entrusted with the responsibility of procuring pulses from NAFED. Supply Co has started procuring pulses from NAFED. One third of the total number of schools in Kerala is purchasing pulses from Supply Co retail outlets. These schools utilize the pulses procured through NAFED.

### **2.8.4. Whether First In and First Out (FIFO) method has been adopted for using MDM ingredients such as pulses, oil/fats. condiments salt etc. or not.**

Yes.

### **2.8.5. Arrangements for safe storage of ingredients and condiments in kitchens**

Permanent or semi permanent kitchen sheds are put up in each and every school. Every school has a permanent or semi permanent room for the safe storage of ingredients and condiments.

### **2.8.6 Steps taken to ensure implementation of guidelines dated 13.02.2015 on food safety and hygiene in school level kitchens under Mid Day Meal Scheme**

The meal is prepared in the school premises (in separate Kitchen sheds). Members of mother PTA are actively participating in cooking and serving of food. The presence of mother PTA ensures the quality of food. Teachers and members of SMC supervise the serving of meal and taste the meal before it is served to children. A separate Register is maintained at all schools to record the remarks/opinions of SMC members who taste the meal.

## **2.9 Fuel used for cooking Mid Day Meal**

Fuel used for cooking the mid-day meal is Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG).

### **2.9.1 Number of schools using LPG for cooking MDM**

Coverage is 100%. All the 12341 schools in the state which come under Mid day Meal Scheme use LPG for cooking mid day meal.

### **2.9.2 Steps taken by State to increase the use of LPG as mode of Fuel in MDM**

All the 12341schools in the state which come under Mid day Meal Scheme use LPG for cooking mid day meal. The coverage is 100%. The achievement was made possible by the concerted efforts of Education Department, LSG Institutions and SSA. The State Government had given specific directions to all concerned to completely switch over to LPG based cooking system instead of using firewood as fuel. The cooking cost was revised by the State wef 05.09.2016 keeping this in view. State

Government disbursed an amount of **Rs. 5000/- each to all schools in the State as a financial assistance to procure LPG Stoves and LPG connection.**

### **2.9.3 Expected date by which LPG would be provided in all schools**

Coverage is now 100%. All the 12341 schools in the state which come under Mid day Meal Scheme use LPG for cooking mid day meal

## **2.10. Kitchen-cum-stores**

### **2.10.1. Procedure for construction of kitchen-cum-store**

In Kerala, the mid day meal scheme was started during 1984. Permanent or semi permanent kitchen sheds were put up in each and every school since 1985. In Govt. aided schools, kitchen sheds were constructed by the school managers. In Govt. schools, kitchen sheds were constructed by Govt or by the PTA. As the scheme is extended to UP section also, in most of the schools, the storage facility and kitchen sheds are found to be inadequate for the present need. Kitchen-cum stores are now being constructed with the joint financial assistance of Central and State Governments in the ratio 60:40. The fund sanctioned by GOI through State Finance Department is released to District Authorities (Deputy Directors of Education). All the kitchen-cum-store units that were sanctioned upto 2009-10 (2450 units) by the Central Government have been completely constructed.

Construction of the 3031 kitchen units for which central assistance has been received will be taken up this year and construction will be completed before 30.09.2019.

### **2.10.2. Whether any standardized model of kitchen cum stores is used for construction**

Yes. The model available in MHRD website, [mdm.nic.in](http://mdm.nic.in) is accepted as a standardized model.

### **2.10.3 Details of the construction agency and role of community in this work**

In Govt. aided schools, kitchen sheds were constructed by the School Managers. In Govt. schools, kitchen sheds were constructed by LSG institutions or by the PTA.

### **2.10.4 Kitchen cum stores constructed through convergence, if any**

A total of 6328 kitchen-cum-store units were constructed through convergence, the details of which are given in **Table AT-11A**.

### **2.10.5 Progress of construction of kitchen-cum-stores and target for the next year**



Central assistance for the construction of 3031 kitchen cum store units was received in December 2017. However due to financial constraints, State could not release its mandatory share before the close of the year 2017-18. An amount of 21097.09 lakh rupees was allocated in the State Budget 2018-19. However due to technical reasons, the funds could not be released and utilized before 31.03.2019. The Funds will be released immediately. Construction of 3031 kitchen-cum-stores will be taken up immediately and completed on war footing basis. Construction of the entire 3031 kitchen cum store units will be completely before 30.09.2019.

**2.10.6 The reasons for slow pace of construction of kitchen cum stores, if applicable**

Central assistance for the construction of 3031 kitchen cum store units was received in December 2017. However due to financial constraints, State could not release its mandatory share before the close of the year 2017-18. An amount of 21097.09 lakh rupees was allocated in the State Budget 2018-19. However due to technical reasons, the funds could not be released and utilized before 31.03.2019. The Funds will be released immediately. Construction of 3031 kitchen-cum-stores will be taken up immediately and completed on war footing basis. Construction of the entire 3031 kitchen cum store units will be completely before 30.09.2019.

**2.10.7. How much interest has been earned on the unutilized central assistance lying in the bank account of the State/implementing agencies**

No interest has been earned as there exists no unutilized amount of central assistance parked in bank accounts.

**2.10.8. Details of the kitchen cum stores constructed in convergence. Details of the agency engaged for the construction of these kitchen cum stores.**

A total of 6328 kitchen cum store units were constructed so far in convergence with LSG department. In Government aided schools kitchen sheds were constructed by the School Managers. The construction was taken up at the school level after obtaining requisite permissions from LSG institutions concerned. The PWD wing of LSG institutions oversees the work. Local contractors engaged by school PTAs/Managers did the construction work of such kitchen cum store units in schools.

**2.11. Kitchen Devices**

**2.11.1 Procedure of procurement of kitchen devices from funds released under the Mid Day Meal Programme**

The funds released by GOI are allotted to school authorities for procuring Kitchen devices so as to select the item of their need.

### **2.11.2. Status of procurement of kitchen devices**

All the Funds for the procurement of Kitchen devices sanctioned upto 2016-17 were utilized completely. The fund sanctioned by MHRD during 2006-07 has been released to schools in April 2016 as per the assurance given in the PAB-MDM held on 19-02-2016. Funds received in 2016-17 for the procurement of kitchen devices in 8279 schools and replacement of kitchen devices in 1473 schools were also utilized completely.

### **2.11.3. Procurement of kitchen devices through convergence or community/CSR**

In many schools local community or nearby commercial establishments/banks occasionally contribute kitchen utensils, the exact details of which are not available.

### **2.11.4 Availability of eating plates in the schools. Source of procurement of eating plates**

Eating plates are available in all schools. In some schools eating plates and glasses for drinking water are provided by the PTAs/NGOs/ Alumni Associations. Adequate funds from MME are also provided for procuring plates and glasses.

## **2.12. Measures taken to rectify**

### **2.12.1. Inter-district low and uneven utilization of food grains and cooking cost**

Cases of low and uneven utilization of food grains and cooking cost did not exist.

### **2.12.2. Intra-district mismatch in utilization of food grains and cooking cost**

No mismatch in utilization of food grains and cooking cost found during 2017-18.

### **2.12.3 Mismatch of data reported through various sources (QPR, AWP&B, MIS etc)**

Slight variation is seen. It will be rectified. State has developed a comprehensive website cum software to collect accurate data from school, sub-district and district levels. The new software will be operational with effect from 01.06.2019.

## **2.13. Quality of food**

### **2.13.1. System of Tasting of food by teachers/community. Maintenance of tasting register at school level**

Members of Mother PTA, SMC and the Panchayat/Municipal Ward Member concerned ensure the quality of food served. Representatives of teachers, mother PTA and SMC taste the food and ensure its quality before being served to the children. A separate Register is maintained at schools to record the remarks/opinions of the

members of SMC and parents who taste the quality of food. The Register is regularly inspected by the Mid Day Meal Officer at the block level.

**2.13.2 Maintenance of roster of parents, community for the presence of at least two parents in the school on each day at the time of serving and tasting of mid day meal**

Representatives of teachers, mother PTA and SMC voluntarily come forward to taste and examine the quality of meal served. Though an official roster is not maintained, there of course will be a list of such people being kept in the school and with the School Mid day Meal Committee.

**2.13.3. Testing of food sample by any recognized labs for prescribed nutrition and presence of contaminants such as microbes, e-coli**

State Government in February 2018 (on 20.2.2018) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a Central Government Laboratory named CEPCI (Cashew Export Council of India) Laboratory and Technical Division for the testing of food and water samples. Food samples are subjected to microbiological and chemical testing. The laboratory chosen is NABL and FSSAI accredited one. The laboratory has a capacity to test 10000 samples per month. Testing of food and water samples were started with effect from 21.02.2018.

**2.13.4. Engagement of / recognized labs for the testing of Meals**

State Government in February 2018 (on 20.2.2018) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a Central Government Laboratory named CEPCI (Cashew Export Council of India) Laboratory and Technical Division for the testing of food and water samples. Food samples are subjected to microbiological and chemical testing. The laboratory chosen is NABL and FSSAI accredited one. The laboratory has a capacity to test 10000 samples per month. Testing of food and water samples were started with effect from 21.02.2018.

**2.13.5. Details of protocol for testing of Meals, frequency of lifting and testing of samples**

Food samples are subjected to microbiological and chemical testing as per the guidelines prescribed by FSSAI. As per the MOU signed between State Government and the CEPCI Laboratory, the Laboratory shall lift one sample each of water and cooked food from all the 12341 schools for testing. The laboratory has to mandatorily cover all schools listed under MDMS in a year.

### **2.13.6. Details of samples taken for testing and the results thereof**

During the year 2018-19, the Laboratory lifted a total of 7977 samples from as such number of schools spread across all the 14 districts in the State. These samples were tested for chemical and microbiological parameters. Out of the 7977 food samples tested, 5 samples did not meet the norms. Presence of E-coli and , Coliform bacteria were detected in these 5 samples. District level Educational Officers and Senior Scientists from CEPCI Laboratory conducted joint inspections in the schools and reported that contamination had occurred in the post cooking period (before serving the meal) and through the water used for cooking the meal. Corrective measures were initiated by the State Government soon after getting the lab reports. The water sources/tanks/wells were thoroughly cleaned and adequate measures were put in place to ensure that cooked meal is kept in clean utensils before it is served to children. PTA, MPTA and School Mid day Meal Committee were directed to exercise utmost vigil in the preparation and serving of the meal. CEPCI Laboratory will lift food samples from all these 5 schools when schools reopen in June 2019 and conduct further tests to examine whether the samples are fine and meet the required nutritional requirements.

### **2.13.7 Steps taken to ensure implementation of guidelines issued with regard to quality of food**

Detailed guidelines were issued to all schools in the form of Circulars. A hands- on training on food safety standards with special emphasis on hygiene and nutrition is regularly given to all Headmasters, teachers in charge of MDMS in schools, cook-cum-helpers and sub-district/district level officers during the months of August and September

### **2.14. Involvement of NGOs/Trusts.**

#### **2.14.1. Modalities for engagement of NGOs/ Trusts for serving of MDM through centralized kitchen**

No NGOs/Trusts are involved/engaged in the implementation of the Scheme.

#### **2.14.2. Whether NGOs/ Trusts are serving meal in rural areas**

No

#### **2.14.3. Maximum distance and time taken for delivery of food from centralized kitchen to schools**

The State does not have centralized kitchens.

#### **2.14.4. Measures taken to ensure delivery of hot cooked meals to schools**

The meal is prepared in the school premises (in separate kitchen sheds) and served hot.

**2.14.5. Responsibility of receiving cooked meals at the schools from the centralized kitchen**

The State does not have centralized kitchens

**2.14.6. Whether sealed containers are used for supply of meals to schools**

The State does not have centralized kitchens

**2.14.7. Tentative time of delivery of meals at schools from centralized kitchen**

The State does not have centralized kitchens

**2.14.8. Availability of weighing machines for weighing the cooked MDM at school level prepared at centralized kitchen**

The State does not have centralized kitchens

**2.14.9 Testing of food samples at centralized kitchens**

The State does not have centralized kitchens

**2.14.10 Whether NGO is receiving grant from other organizations for the mid day meal. If so, the details thereof**

No NGOs/Trusts are involved/engaged in the implementation of the Scheme

**2.15 System to ensure transparency, accountability and openness in all aspects of programme implementation**

**2.15.1. Display of logo, entitlement of children and other information at a prominent visible place in school**

Directions were given to Headmasters/Headmistress to display logo, entitlement of children and other information of MDM at a prominent visible place in school.

**2.15.2. Dissemination of information through MDM website**

A comprehensive website has been developed which is on trial now. All the requisite information will be posted on the website. Meanwhile, information has been posted on the web portal of general education department as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

**2.15.3. Provisions for community monitoring at school level i.e. Mother Roaster, Inspection register**

For the effective implementation and management of the scheme at school level, a School Mid day Meal Committee, consisting of PTA President, members of Mother PTA, representatives of parents of children belonging to SC/ST category and minority communities, cook, Ward Member, Head of the institution, teachers' representatives, student representative, is constituted at each school. The school Mid Day Meal Committee verifies the claims and admits all the accounts of Mid Day Meal every month. A separate Register is maintained for recording the minutes of the monthly meeting of the School Mid day Meal Committee which is periodically inspected by the Noon Meal Officer at the block level. Another register is maintained for the

members of SMC and PTA/mother PTA/teachers to record their remarks/opinions regarding the quality of meal served to children. At the State level, the Directorate of Public Instruction issues detailed guidelines in May every year through a circular elucidating the duties and responsibilities of the School Noon Feeding

Committees, School Headmasters, Block level Noon Meal officers and District level Noon Feeding Supervisors and general instructions regarding the supply of nutrient rich meal to children, maintaining hygiene etc. Noon Meal Officers regularly visit a minimum number of 15 schools in every month and ensure that the Mid-day Meal Scheme is being conducted and implemented as per the guidelines issued by MHRD and the State Education Department. Noon meal Officers and Noon Feeding Supervisors periodically conduct audit of accounts at schools and report to the State Authority with their remarks and recommendations. To deal with the matters related to these audited accounts and to receive complaints/grievances, a separate section in the State MDM wing has been constituted. Based on the findings and recommendations in the audited account statements submitted by Noon Meal Officers and Noon Feeding Supervisors, the State level authority (Director, MDM) takes appropriate decisions and corrective measures for the effective conduct of the MDM scheme.

#### **2.15.4. Tasting of meals by community members**

Mother PTAs actively participate in the preparation and serving of meals. They along with members of SMC and the ward members concerned ensure the quality of meal served to children. Members of SMC and teachers voluntarily come forward to taste the food and ensure that quality food is given to the children. A separate register is maintained at every school for the members of SMC and PTA/mother PTA/teachers to record their remarks/opinions regarding the quality of meal served to children. This register is inspected regularly by the officers at the block and district levels.

#### **2.15.5 Conducting Social Audit**

##### **2.15.5.1 Whether Social Audit has been carried out or not**

Not yet

##### **2.15.5.2 If no, reasons thereof**

The power to implement and manage the mid-day meal scheme at school level with regard to the guidelines of MHRD and norms issued by the State Government is delegated to School Mid day Meal Committees. The Committee comprises of PTA President, School Headmaster, members of Mother PTA, representatives of parents of

children belonging to SC/ST and minority communities, Ward Member and teachers' representatives. The committee has to be convened at least once in a month .It reviews the progress of the implementation of the scheme and take all important decisions for the smooth and effective conduct of the scheme. The Committee also verifies and approves the bills and vouchers related to the expenditure incurred towards cooking cost, honorarium to cooks, etc for the previous month. The Block level officers will verify and admit only those claims which are examined and approved by the school level mid day meal committees. Thus accountability and transparency is strictly maintained in each and every aspect in the implementation of the Scheme with the active involvement and participation of society.

Since the MDM guidelines issued by MHRD have included “social audit” as an integral part of the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, efforts are on to carry out a social audit of the mid-day meal scheme in two districts during the year 2019-20. Discussions were held with SIRD (State Institute of Rural Development) in March 2017. SIRD had expressed its willingness to undertake social audit of MDMS in two districts as a pilot initiative but demanded an amount of 29 lakh rupees for conducting the audit. As the quoted amount was too high, SIRD was requested to reduce the amount. Meanwhile SIRD was merged with KILA (Kerala Institute of Local Administration), a State agency constituted for providing training & capacity building for LSG institutions. Kerala Shastra Sahithya Parishad, another premier non-governmental agency working to promote scientific consciousness among the public has come forward to take up social audit of MDMS. KILA is now willing to take up audit for 19 lakh rupees instead of the initial demand for 29 lakh rupees. Discussions and negotiations are on and a decision will be taken before 31.05.2019. Social Audit of MDMS in two districts will be conducted during the year 2019-20

#### **2.15.5.3 Details of action taken by the State on the findings of Social Audit**

Not Applicable

#### **2.15.5.4 Impact of social audit in schools**

Not Applicable

#### **2.15.5.5 Action Plan for Social Audit 2019-20**

A suitable agency will be entrusted to carry out social audit of MDMS in two districts (as a pilot project) during the year 2019-20. The audit will be completed before 30.11.2019. A timeline has been chalked out for this.

### **2.16 Capacity building and training for different stakeholders**

#### **2.16.1. Details of the training programme conducted for cook-cum-helpers, State**

### **Level officials, SMC members, school teachers and others stakeholders**

A hands- on training on food safety standards with special emphasis on hygiene and nutrition was given to all Headmasters, teachers in charge of MDMS in schools and sub-district/district level officers during the months of August and September 2018.

State Government has evolved a systematic mechanism for the regular training of cook cum helpers employed under Mid day Meal Scheme. Under the mechanism, certain number of cook cum helpers are selected from every district and trained at

State Food Craft Institutes. A hand on training on scientific cooking methods and skills are imparted to them. The Course module covers aspects such as planning and preparation of several local and palatable dishes/cuisines with special emphasis on hygiene and nutrition. Awareness on the operational guidelines of mid day meal scheme is also a part of the training.

During the year 2018-19, 30 cook cum helpers each from all the 14 districts were selected and trained at the 12 food craft institutes functioning in the State. The one day training involved hands-on practical training on cooking and aspects of nutrition and hygiene. The training was scheduled on holidays. These trained cook cum helpers were then designated as master trainers. The service of these master trainers was then utilized to train cook cum helpers at the sub district level. In this way, all the cooks were trained during the year 2018-19.

A total of 163 trainings were organized by the master trainers under the auspices of sub district level educational officers.

#### **2.16.2. Details about Modules used for training, Master Trainers, Venues etc**

Officials from the State MDM Cell were deputed to take classes for District/sub-district officers and headmasters during the months of August and September 2017. The training covered all the aspects of MDMS with special emphasis on hygiene and nutrition.

State Government has evolved a systematic mechanism for the regular training of cook cum helpers employed under Mid day Meal Scheme. Under the mechanism, certain number of cook cum helpers are selected from every district and trained at State Food Craft Institutes. A hand on training on scientific cooking methods and skills are imparted to them. The Course module covers aspects such as planning and preparation of several local and palatable dishes/cuisines with special emphasis on hygiene and nutrition. Awareness on the operational guidelines of mid day meal scheme is also a part of the training.



During the year 2018-19, 30 cook cum helpers each from all the 14 districts were selected and trained at the 12 food craft institutes functioning in the State. The one day training involved hands-on practical training on cooking and aspects of nutrition and hygiene. The training was scheduled on holidays. These trained cook cum helpers were then designated as master trainers. The service of these master trainers was then utilized to train cook cum helpers at the sub district level. In this way, all the cooks were trained during the year 2018-19. A total of 163 trainings were organized by the master trainers under the auspices of sub district level educational officers.

### **2.16.3. Targets for the next year**

It has been decided to give training to cook cum helpers, HMs and teachers in charge during the months of August-September 2019. Orientation will also be given to the staff involved in the implementation and monitoring of the Mid Day Meal Scheme at the State/District/Block levels.

## **2.17 Management Information System**

### **2.17.1. Procedure followed for data entry into MDM-MIS Web portal**

The details of utilization of food grains, cooking cost, honorarium to cooks and stock position are submitted to the Block Level Office concerned every month by the school Headmasters. The Mid Day Meal Officers at the block level offices verify these details and then enter it into the MDM-MIS Web portal.

### **2.17.2. Level (State/ District/ Block/ School) at which data entry is made**

**State-** MDM norms, MDM menu, Annual Data replication, Inspection entry, Unfreezing monthly data, entering school opening balance, preparation of calendar for AWPB, AWPB proposal submission, proposal for Kitchen cum store and Kitchen devices, fund management, Indent generation

**District-**School master, upload monthly data, school requirement for AWPB, details of Kitchen cum store, Kitchen devices, food grain management

**Block:-**Opening balance entry, Annual data, Monthly data, School Health data, fund management, Food grain release.

**School:-** maintaining all the mandatory Registers of the MDM Scheme.

### **2.17.3. Availability of manpower for web based MIS**

Data entry operators are engaged at the block and district level offices for the web based MIS.

### **2.17.4. Mechanism for ensuring timely data entry and quality of data**

All AEOs (Block level) and District level offices in the state are connected via online and data from the Sub levels can be accessed by the Directorate at any time.

**2.17.5. Whether MIS data is being used for monitoring purpose and details thereof.**

Yes.

**2.18 Automated Monitoring System**

**2.18.1. Status of implementation of AMS**

With the technical support of State IT School Project, a web based Monitoring System (MDM MS) has been rolled out in the State for daily data collection and for monitoring the Scheme. The System is purely web based. All the schools in the State do have internet connectivity. Out of the total 12341 schools covered under MDMS, 11964 schools, on an average basis, are uploading data onto central server daily. Efforts are on to achieve a 100% coverage under AMS.

**2.18.2. Mode of collection of data under AMS (SMS/IVRS/Mobile App/Web enabled)**

In the current web based Monitoring System, Headmasters have been provided with a user id and password for logging onto the State Portal daily at specified timings where they have to enter the number of students who avail mid-day meal on the day. The data thus entered by the headmasters will be consolidated at the State level in xml format and uploaded to the portal of MHRD.

**2.18.3. Tentative unit cost for collection of data**

Nil

**2.18.4. Mechanism for ensuring timely submission of information by schools**

Though a provision for an SMS alert mechanism is incorporated in the existing web based monitoring system, purchase of SMS at bulk amounts for sending SMS alerts to Headmasters has not been done so far. Now, it has been decided to adopt the SMS based automated monitoring system (AMS) designed and developed by the Himachal Pradesh NIC Team.

**2.18.5. Whether the information under AMS is got validated**

Yes.

### **2.18.6 Whether AMS data is being used for monitoring purpose and details thereof**

The available data is being used for monitoring the scheme. Based on the data, instructions are given to block level officers immediately to visit the school and address the issues in the scheme, if any.

### **2.18.7 In case, AMS has not been rolled out, the reasons therefore may be indicated along with the time lines by which it would be rolled out**

With the technical support of State IT School Project, a web based Monitoring System (MDM MS) has been rolled out in the State for daily data collection and for monitoring the Scheme. The System is purely web based. All the schools in the State do have internet connectivity. Out of the total 12341 schools covered under MDMS, 11964 schools, on an average basis, are uploading data onto central server daily. Efforts are on to achieve a 100% coverage under AMS.

### **2.19 Details of Evaluation studies conducted by State**

It has been decided to entrust a prominent institution/University to conduct evaluation on the progress of the implementation of MDMS in the State. Centre of Development Studies (CDS) will also be requested to carry out evaluation studies on MDMS.

### **2.20 Write up on best/innovative practices**

The State can boast of several innovative practices in the implementation and successful conduct of the Mid Day Meal Scheme. Some of these are given below:-

- 1) **Pre-positioning of Funds:**--State Government provides the entire funds required for the conduct of the Scheme (State share and expected central share) for a year in its Annual Budget. Administrative sanction to utilize the entire budgetary provision is issued in June or before June every year. Hence, the State Government is able to release funds in advance to schools for meeting the cooking cost and to cook cum helpers./ Normally 50% of cooking cost & 30 % CCH Honorarium are released in advance in the beginning of school academic year.
- 2) **DBT Scheme in Fund Transfer:** - All fund transfers are effected through DBT mode. Funds related to cooking cost are e-transferred directly to HM's account. Honorarium to cook-cum-helpers is also e-transferred to their bank accounts. The cost of food grains is e-transferred to FCI timely.
- 3) **Additional Food Items:**- Milk and Egg/Banana are supplied to children as additional food items. Every child is fed with 150 ml of milk twice a week and one egg in a week. The expenditure in this regard for upper primary is exclusively borne by the State.

- 4) **Multi-tap water facilities in schools:**--All the 12341 schools in the State that are covered under MDMS are equipped with multi-tap water facilities for hand washing.
- 5) **Breakfast Scheme:** - Breakfast scheme is implemented in about 3000 schools in the state. Local self Government Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations, Charitable Trusts and in some cases school PTAs successfully run a scheme for providing breakfast to children in many schools. Several Local Self Government Institutions in the State have separate plan schemes for providing breakfast to children in schools under their jurisdiction. In the State Capital alone, the scheme of providing breakfast to children is going on in 200 schools with the financial assistance of the City Corporation.
- 6) **Kitchen Gardens:** - Around 7200 (58%) schools have set up kitchen gardens wherein different types of vegetables are cultivated using organic farming methods. Kitchen gardens are set up under a programme called “Comprehensive Vegetable Development Programme” conceived and implemented by Department of Agriculture and its agencies. Department of Agriculture provides a financial assistance of Rs.5000/- to each school for setting up kitchen gardens. The project is implemented in schools with the help of school nature/eco clubs. Local Krishi Bhavan is the implementing agency.
- 7) **Tasting the cooked food by teachers and members of SMC & Mother PTA:-** Teachers in charge of MDMS, members of SMC& Mother PTA taste the cooked food and ensure its quality and palatability before it is served to children. A separate register is maintained at all schools for recording the remarks of SMC/Mother PTA members.
- 8) **Special Rice distributed during Festive Occasions:**-- all children upto class VII who are covered under MDMS are provided with 5 kg rice each ( one time in a year) during the ten day long Onam Festival during August/September every year. The expenditure in this regard is met by the State from its own resources.
- 9) **Use of LPG-100% Coverage:**- All the 12341 schools covered under MDMS in the State have availed LPG connection and are using LPG as fuel for cooking the meal.
- 10) **Higher rate of Honorarium to Cook cum Helpers:** - Honorarium is disbursed at a higher rate than that is prescribed by MHRD. A minimum daily honorarium of Rs.400/- to a maximum of Rs.475/- is paid to a cook-cum-helper. Thus for an average of 20 working days in a month, a cook-cum-helper will get a maximum amount of Rs.9500/- per month.
- 11) **Additional Assistance towards transportation assistance:-** State provides an additional financial assistance of Rs.1400 per metric ton of rice towards transportation charges. Thus, together with the central assistance of Rs.750/- per MT transportation

charges at the rate of Rs.2150/-per MT is being paid to Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation for lifting rice from the depots of FCI.

- 12) **Enhanced State Share towards cooking cost:-** Cooking cost @ Rs.8/- is provided per child per day ( Primary as well as Upper Primary). This is exclusive of the additional Funds provided for the supply of milk and egg/banana.
- 13) **Permanent Kitchen cum store Units:-** With the construction of 3031 kitchen-cum-stores (yet to be started), 90% of the schools will have permanent buildings for kitchen –cum-stores.
- 14) **Community Participation:** - Community participation is ensured at all levels of the implementation of the scheme. Parents of Children and LSG institutions have a larger say in the conduct and implementation of MDMS. Kerala has the lowest percentage of school dropout among the States in India. One of the main factors behind this stupendous achievement is Mid day Meal Scheme by which quality meal is provided to children under better hygienic conditions.
- 15) **Food & Water Sample Testing:-** food and water samples are collected on a regular basis from all the schools and tested for microbiological and chemical parameters.

## **2.21 Untoward incidents**

### **2.21.1 Instances of unhygienic food served, children falling ill**

Involvement of mother PTA, members of SMC, ward members and teachers collectively ensure the quality of food served to children. Teachers and SMC members taste the food before being served. There have been no instances of unhygienic food served or students fallen ill after having taken food reported so far.

### **2.21.2 Sub-standard supplies**

Headmaster is in charge of procuring food materials (rice, pulses etc) from the outlets of Civil Supplies Corporation. Condiments, oil, fuel etc are procured locally by the school noon feeding committee. Involvement of mother PTA, members of SMC, ward members and teachers collectively ensure the quality of food served to children

### **2.21.3. Diversion/ misuse of resources**

Involvement of School Noon Feeding Committee, mother PTA, members of SMC, ward members and teachers collectively ensure the non diversion/misuse of resource.

### **2.21.4. Social discrimination**

Involvement of mother PTA, members of SMC and ward members collectively ensure social discrimination of any sort does not take place.

#### **2.21.5. Action taken and safety measures adopted to avoid recurrence of such incidents. Whether Emergency Plan exists to tackle any untoward incident**

Mid-Day Meal Scheme is managed, monitored and supervised at school level by the “School Mid day Meal Committee“ which consists of PTA President, members of Mother PTA, representatives of Parents of children belonging to SC/ST category and minority communities, Ward Member, Head of the institution and Teachers’ representatives, student representative and one cook. The committee is convened every month and discusses the progress of the conduct of MDM scheme and also the shortcomings if any. The committee verifies the bills and vouchers regarding the expenses incurred in the conduct of MDM scheme. With the approval of the Committee, the detailed account statements for a month along with the bills and vouchers concerned are submitted to the Mid Day Meal Officer at the block level before the 10<sup>th</sup> of the succeeding month. The Mid Day Meal Officers periodically visit schools coming under their jurisdiction and verify the stock of food articles, their quality, hygiene and safety standards maintained in the preparation and serving of food and submit his findings to the Mid Day Meal Supervisor of the District. Grave issues that require the intervention at the State level is reported to the Director, MDM.

#### **2.22. Status of Rastriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (School Health Programme)**

##### **2.22.1. Provision of micro- nutrients, de-worming medicine, Iron and Folic acid (WIFS).**

The School Health Programme is being implemented in the state as a joint venture of Department of Health Services and Department of Education, aided by the National Rural Health Mission. The programme is now in all schools in the State. Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation has been started in the state with effect from 3/2013.

##### **2.22.2. Distribution of spectacles to children with refractive error**

20248 children have received spectacles up to 31.03.2019.

##### **2.22.3. Recording of height, weight etc**

Health check ups were carried out in all the 12341 schools. Height and weight of all the children enrolled and availed MDM were measured during the year 2018-19.

##### **2.22.4. Number of visits made by the RBSK team for the health check- up of the children**

12341 numbers of visits were made by the RBSK team for the health check-up till 31.03.2019.

#### **2.23 Present Monitoring Structure at various levels.**

At the district level there is a Mid Day Meal Supervisor in the cadre of Senior Superintendent attached to the Office of the Deputy Director of Education. The supervisor periodically visits the schools under his/her jurisdiction and examines the food served, verifies the stock and other records and conducts audit of accounts. A copy of the audited accounts statement is submitted to the State level authority for taking further action.

At the block level, there is a Mid Day Meal Officer in the cadre of Junior Superintendent attached to each of the 163 block level offices (offices of the Assistant Educational Officer) in the state. It is mandatory for a Mid Day Meal officer to visit a minimum 15 schools per month. As per rules, the bills and vouchers related to the expenditure incurred by schools for a month have to be submitted to the Noon Meal Officer before the 10<sup>th</sup> of the succeeding month. The Mid Day Meal Officer verifies the claims and approves it if they are in order.

Apart from the Mid Day Meal Supervisors and Mid Day Meal Officers, the Assistant Educational Officers (Block Level Officers) , District Educational Officers and Deputy Directors of Education visit the schools and monitor the mid day meal scheme. Vehicle is provided to all Deputy Directors (Education) for their school visit.

At the State Level a MDM wing known as Mid Day Meal Section is functioning in the Office of the Director of Public Instruction (Office of the Director. MDM). The section is headed by a Senior Administrative Assistant. The section comprises of two superintendents, six clerks, one peon, one computer programmer and a data entry operator. Director of Public Instruction/Director, MDM is the State Nodal Officer of MDM and is the implementing agency of the Scheme at the State level. Two Zonal Co-ordinators (for North and South Zones) are posted to co-ordinate the activities of Mid Day Meal Supervisors and to ensure better community participation in MDMS

### **Monitoring Committees**

For the effective management and monitoring of the Mid-day Meal Scheme, monitoring committees are constituted at the State, District and Block levels.

State Government has adopted detailed norms for the implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the State. As per Clause IV of the norms, a State Level Steering-cum-monitoring committee has been constituted to oversee the management and monitoring of the Scheme. The members of the Committee are as follows:-

01. Secretary to Government, General Education - Chairman
02. Director of Public Instruction (Director,MDM) - Member Secretary & Convener
03. District Panchayath President, Thiruvananthapuram - Member

04. District Panchayath President, Ernakulam	-	-do-
05. District Panchayath President, Kozhikode	-	-do-
06. State Project Director, SSA	-	-do-
07. Director, Social Justice Department	-	-do-
08. Director, Food & Civil Supplies Department	-	-do-
09. Additional Director of Public Instruction	-	-do-
10. Director of Medical Education	-	-do-
11. Head of Dept, Pediatrics, SAT Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram	-	-do-
12. Head of Dept, Nutrition, SAT Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram	-	Member
13. Asst. Technical Advisor, Dept. of Women & Child Development Community of Food & Nutrition, Extension Unit, GOI, MHRD, Thiruvananthapuram	-	-do-
14. Senior Administrative Assistant, Noon Meal Section, Directorate of Public Instruction	-	-do-
15. General Secretary, Kerala State Teachers' Association	-	-do-
16. President, Govt. School Teachers' Union	-	-do-
17. Headmaster, Govt High School, Vithura, Thiruvananthapuram.	-	-do-

The Committee has to be convened once in a quarter. During the year the committee was convened during all the quarters.

As per the directions of MHRD, a Joint Review Mission is formed at the State Level to visit the schools in various districts and give suggestions for better implementation of the Scheme in the State. Additional Director of Public Instruction is the Team Leader and Additional Secretary to Government, General Education is the Reviewing Officer. The Committee has 18 other members that include representatives of teachers' organizations, school PTA, District/Block Panchayath Presidents, Heads of Dept. of Pediatrics, Nutrition, Director of Social Justice, Director of Food & Civil Supplies, etc. The Joint Review Mission held its sitting on 09.01.2017.

The District Level Monitoring Committee is chaired by the District Collector. Deputy Director of Education is the Member Secretary/Convener of the Committee. In case if the senior most Member of Parliament of the District attends the meeting, the Honorable Member will chair the meeting.

The Block Level Monitoring Committee is chaired by Block Panchayath President. Assistant Educational Officer (Block Level Officer) is the Member Secretary/Convener of the Committee.



At school level a Committee known as 'Mid day Meal Committee' is constituted with PTA President as Chairman and the Headmaster of the school as the Member Secretary. Members form MPTA, Parents of SC/ST children, representatives of parents of children belonging to SC/S and minority communities, Teachers' representatives, Ward Member from the LSG are the other members. The committee is convened once in every month. The Committee appoints cook-cum-helpers and decides the menu for the Mid Day Meal. The Committee is vested with powers to monitor, manage and conduct the Mid-Day Meal Scheme at the School Level.

## **2.24. Meetings of Steering cum Monitoring Committees at the Block, District and State level**

### **2.24.1. Number of meetings held at various level and gist of the issues discussed in the meeting**

Directions have been given to all concerned to conduct the steering-cum-monitoring committees on a quarterly basis. The Committees at various levels are functioning properly. Two meetings were held at the state level, 46 at the District levels and 476 at Block levels.

### **2.24.2. Action taken on the decisions taken during these meetings**

The nodal officers of MDM at the State, District and block levels implement the decisions taken during these meetings. An action taken report on the decisions of the previous meeting is being presented/ reported in the next meeting where it is examined and reviewed.

## **2.25 Frequency of meetings of District Level Monitoring Committee under the chairmanship of senior most MP of the District**

Secretary to General Education Department of the State has given direction to all District Collectors to convene the meeting of the District Level Monitoring Committee on a quarterly basis under the Chairmanship of the senior most Member of Parliament of the District for review of the Mid Day Meal Scheme. The Director of Public Instruction (Director, MDM) has also requested the District Collectors concerned to take necessary steps for convening DLMCs. Deputy Directors of Education who are the conveners of DLMCs were also directed to take immediate steps in this regard in consultation with District Collectors. During this year altogether 15 DLMC meetings have been held.

The DLMC meetings discuss all the issues at the District, Block and Levels in the implementation of the Scheme. Some of the items that came up for discussion in the various such meetings are given below:-

01. Improving the basic infrastructural facilities ( kitchen cum stores, procuring kitchen devices/equipments, dining halls,etc) at schools
02. Providing good quality food (rich in nutrients) to students
03. Ensuring hygiene in the preparation and serving of food.
04. Setting up vegetable gardens in schools.
05. Cook-cum-helpers and their problems, if any.

**2.26.** There is a Mid Day Meal Supervisor in each district and a Mid Day Meal Officer for each block. These officers periodically visit the schools and examine the quality of food served to children and verify the stock and other records. Mid Day Meal Officers are instructed to visit a minimum of 15 schools in a month. The Assistant Educational Officers, District Educational Officers and Deputy Directors Education also visit the schools and monitor the mid day meal scheme. Vehicle is provided to all Deputy Directors (Education) for their school visit. Officers at the State Level also conduct surprise inspections at Schools and at the District/Block level offices to see how the programme is conducted and monitored. 100 % of schools have been inspected so far by the officials during this year (up to 31.03.2018).

The officials have found certain irregularities in the utilization of funds at school level. Corrective measures have already been taken. In some cases of misappropriation of funds, measures were immediately taken to get the money refunded. In some other cases liability has been fixed on the Headmasters/teachers concerned. Appropriate departmental disciplinary actions were also taken.

**2.27** Directions have been given to the School authorities to print important phone numbers of Primary health centre, Hospital, Fire brigade etc on the walls of the school building. Instructions were also given to all district authorities for establishing suitable links with Primary Health Centres / Community Health Centres / District Hospitals to ensure early treatment of the children if any untoward incident occurs.

## **2.28. Grievance Redressal Mechanism**

### **2.28.1. Details regarding Grievance Redressal at all levels**

A grievance redressal has been constituted at the State Level under the chairmanship of the Secretary to Government, General Education Department. The proposed committee consists of the following members:-

01. Secretary to Government, General Education - Chairman

- |  |   |                             |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| 02. Director of Public Instruction (Director,MDM)                | - | Member Secretary & Convener |
| 03. Senior Administrative Assistant (Noon Meal Section, O/o DPI) | - | Member                      |
| 04. Headmaster, Govt TTI, Manacaud, Thiruvananthapuram           | - | -do-                        |
| 05. PTA President, Cotton Hill Girls HS, Thiruvananthapuram      | - | -do-                        |
| 06. Councillor, Thycaud Ward, Thiruvananthapuram                 | - | -do-                        |
| 07. Councillor, Anamugham Ward, Thiruvananthapuram               | - | -do-                        |
| 08. President, Kerala School Teachers' Association               | - | -do-                        |
| 09. Secretary, Kerala Pradesh School Teachers' Association       | - | -do-                        |

The Telephone land line number and the e-mail Id of the Mid day Meal section in the State Nodal Department have also been published to register the grievance. Though the Deputy Directors of Education and the Noon Meal Supervisors at the District level and the Assistant Educational Officers and Noon Meal Supervisors at the Block Level are constantly attending to the complaints at the respective levels, directions will be issued to constitute a permanent grievance redressal forum at block/district levels during the year 2018-19.

#### **2.28.2 Details of complaints received i.e. Nature of complaints etc**

1471 Complaints regarding the quality of food served, lack of hygiene, misappropriation of funds, etc are received in the State Office via mails, in writing and phone calls. The complaints are immediately attended. On some complaints, the district/block authorities are given instructions right away to inspect the schools and submit reports within 2 to 3 days. Once the report is obtained, suitable actions/measures are taken without delay. A separate section is functioning in the Mid day Meal Section at the Directorate of Public Instruction to register and process the complaints. If the nature of the complaints is grave, State Level Officers will directly visit and inspect the schools and report to the Director of Public Instruction/Secretary to Government.

#### **2.28.3. Time schedule for disposal of complaints**

Though a fixed time schedule has not been drawn up, appropriate actions/measures are taken immediately.

#### **2.28.4. Details of action taken on the complaints**

In cases of misappropriation of funds, measures were taken to get the money refunded or liability fixed on the responsible officers/teachers. Departmental disciplinary actions have also been initiated against the culprits. On complaints regarding non-maintenance of hygiene, district or block level officers had been asked to file reports after visiting the schools concerned. Appropriate actions have been initiated on the basis of the reports received from district/block level officers.

**2.29 Details regarding Awareness Generation & Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities and Media Campaign carried out at State/District/Block/School Levels**

Hand books, flip books, brochures were printed and circulated to schools. A short promotional video of one minute duration is being prepared which will be soon be shown in Cinema Halls and TV Channels.

**2.30. Overall Assessment of the manner in which implementation of the programme is contributing to the programme objectives and an analysis of strengths and weakness of the programme implementation.**

The Mid Day Meal Programme is being implemented in the state in a very efficient and satisfactory manner with the active participation and intervention of School PTAs, SMCs, teachers and elected members of LSG institutions. Wider Community participation has contributed to the success of the Scheme. Considering the fact that the coverage of primary and upper primary school children under the MDM Scheme has been found to be lower compared with enrolment, a slew of measures have been taken at the school level with the active intervention of school PTAs and teachers to narrow the gap and thus enhance the coverage. Further, efforts are on to improve the quality and nutritive aspects of the meal served to children. Infrastructural facilities will be improved utilizing funds from the public, through CSR of companies and with the financial assistance of LSG institutions.

Ensuring accountability and transparency in the conduct of the Scheme is a challenging issue before the Government. Lack of adequate manpower at the state/district/sub-district levels for the effective monitoring is a major issue. Lack of comprehensive software has impeded the process of collecting accurate data from down under. However, State Government has now developed a website cum software for MDMS which is currently on trial run and will be officially launched before 01.06.2019. The software will effectively bridge the gap between the data fed onto MIS and that submitted through QPRs.

**2.31. Action Plan for ensuring enrolment of all school children under Adhaar before the stipulated date**

A small percentage of students (1.8%) is yet to enroll under Aadhar, as per the reports received from block level offices. Intensive efforts are on to filter these students and to get them enrolled under aadhar before 30.06.2019. Majority of these students hail from backward/tribal community and residing in hilly and tribal areas.

**2.32. Contribution by community in the form of Tithi Bhojan or any other Similar practices in the State/UT etc.**

Breakfast is provided to children in many schools in the urban and rural areas by the Local Self Government Institutions concerned, Charitable trusts, NGOs and by Parents Teachers' Associations. About 3000 schools in the State have ongoing breakfast scheme.

In the State Capital alone, the scheme of providing breakfast to children is going on in 200 schools with the financial assistance of the City Corporation.

### **2.33. Kitchen Gardens**

#### **2.33.1 Status of availability of kitchen gardens in the schools.**

Details furnished in Annexure W.1

#### **2.33.2 Mapping of schools with the corresponding Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK)**

Mapping has been done

#### **2.33.3 Details of mechanisms adopted for the setting up and maintenance of kitchen gardens**

Under the aegis of Department of Agriculture and Local Self Government Institutions, schools both in the rural areas and in cities in the State of Kerala have taken up vegetable cultivation in a big way and are setting up their own vegetable gardens at school premises and encourage students to set up gardens at their homes also. Of the total 12341 schools in the State where Mid day Meal Scheme is going on, 7325 schools have kitchen gardens.

Vegetables such as brinjal, okra, tomato, cucumber, pumpkin, carrot, radish, snake gourd, bitter melon, peas, cauliflower, cabbage, amaranthus, spinach, etc are grown in kitchen gardens.

Apart from vegetables, fruits such as banana, guava, papaya, etc are also grown in school premises. Some schools have even taken up paddy cultivation with the help of local farmers. Adjacent paddy fields are taken on lease and paddy is cultivated with the help of local farmers and Agriculture Department.

#### ***How kitchen gardens are set up in schools***

Kitchen gardens are set up in schools primarily under a project named “Vegetable Development Programme” conceived by the Department of Agriculture and implemented through Vegetable & Fruit Promotion Council Kerala (VFPCCK). Department of Agriculture & Local Self Government Institutions provide funds to schools for setting up infrastructural facilities to implement this.

The Programme came into existence during the year 2012-13. Under this programme, seed kits containing high quality vegetable seeds (packet costing Rs.25/-) developed in Government Farms or procured from National Seeds Corporation are distributed to school children free of cost. Leaflets and brochures containing instructions on how to cultivate the

vegetables and on organic farming are also given. Instructive DVDs are supplied to schools. Massive training programme was launched in each district for students, teachers, etc. The seed packets are distributed by Vegetable & Fruit Promotion Council Kerala (VFPCCK) and Kerala State Seed Development Authority. 10 % of the seed kits are distributed to SC/ST students. The quality of seeds/seedlings will be certified by the District level 'Vegetable Development Programme' Implementing Committee

The Programme is implemented in schools by student agricultural/nature/eco/Mathrubhumi SEED clubs. Local agriculture Officer is the implementing authority of the Programme at the panchayath level. He visits schools and explains the Programme to children.

In schools, the distribution of seed kits is entrusted to a nodal teacher. LSG Institutions conduct periodical review of the Programme and take necessary follow up actions.

Mathrubhumi, a leading daily in Kerala launched a novel initiative in 2009 named "SEED" (Student Empowerment for Environmental Development) that aims to strengthen the students to ensure environment-friendly growth and development. Mathrubhumi SEED Clubs are formed in several schools that actively involve in vegetable cultivation.

Vegetable Development Programme is implemented in schools under the following guidelines:-

- Principal Agricultural Officers will instruct the Agricultural Officers to finalize the schools for the distribution of seed kits. Krishi Bhavan wise No. of kits to be distributed will be intimated to the agencies concerned.
- Once the schools are selected, preliminary meetings are conducted to create awareness about the programme.
- District wise and Krishi Bhavan wise list of schools along with the name of teacher in charge are submitted to Director of Agriculture.
- Principal Agricultural Officers make arrangement for raising the crop at the appropriate season and ensure supply of all required inputs at the critical stages of the crop. The germination of the seeds supplied is ensured and at least 80% germination will be assured.
- Once the seeds are received, Agricultural Officers ensure the germination of the seeds before distribution. If the germination is less than 80%, the details can be reported to the agencies concerned and to the Director of Agriculture for replacement/proportionate price reduction/imposture of penalty to the supplying agencies.
- At schools, distribution of seeds is entrusted to a teacher. The details of distribution of seeds to children is registered by the teacher-in-charge of the programme and kept in the school for future verification by the Agricultural

Officer. Seed distribution details through Krishi Bhavans will also be registered.

- The programme is given wide publicity and inaugural function is arranged by involving VIPs like Ministers, MPs, MLAs and representatives of LSGs.
- Students in each selected school will be briefed on the cultivation aspects by the Agricultural Officer/Agricultural Assistant concerned. Interactive DVDs are supplied to schools. Massive training programme is launched in each district for students and teachers. The program is discussed in the school assembly. Periodical field verification is done by Agricultural Assistant concerned with follow up action as and when needed as per the directions given by the Agricultural Officer.
- The review of field level follow up is conducted at Panchayath, Block and District level by the Officers of Education and Agriculture Departments concerned.
- Yield details are collected and recorded at Krishi Bhavan level.
- 10 % of the seed kits and seedlings are distributed to SC/ST students.
- The Programme aims to mobilize the student community into the field of agriculture, make them aware of safe to eat food production and to bring uncultivable lands in the government and private institutions under vegetable cultivation
- Financial assistance of ₹ 4000/- is given to each educational institution including the cost of seeds and towards the expense for taking up cultivation. Schools which are willing to participate in this programme, but do not have 10 cents of cultivable land, may be allowed to take up vegetable cultivation in the available land or in grow bags, and assistance provided as per norms. Institutions will be selected by the Agricultural Officer/Assistant Director of Agriculture taking into account the availability of space and the willingness to take up cultivation.
- Soil testing of educational institutions selected should be done prior to vegetable cultivation and necessary corrective methods should be followed if required.
- Krishi Bhavans may also prepare a calendar of activities for vegetable cultivation in institutions. Each institution should have a layout plan for the vegetable garden prepared well in advance. Record of cultural operations, plant protection measures and yield data should be maintained along with the Inspection Report/Field Visits. Integration of organic pest and disease control measures should be ensured in the plots.

- The Agricultural Assistant will conduct frequent field visits and record the observations in the Field Book maintained in the school. It will be his responsibility to report the pest/disease/nutrient deficiency to the Agricultural Officer for giving necessary guidance.
- Principal Agricultural Officers of concerned districts will make arrangements for the supply of seeds from Department Farms, KSSDA, VFPCCK, KAU or farmer's seed.

Financial assistance is provided for setting up of irrigation units in institutions (well/pump set or both) limited to a maximum amount of ₹ 10,000 per unit. The irrigation units are provided in a need based manner where water scarcity is severely felt. The head of the institution has to submit an undertaking to the effect that the irrigation unit would be exclusively utilized for the cultivation of vegetables and that the expenditure for the annual maintenance of the unit would be met by the institution.

### **Financial Assistance to Schools**

*Department of Agriculture provides an amount of Rs.3500/- to schools for setting up agricultural clubs. Department of Agriculture provides financial assistance at the rate of Rs.4000/- to those schools having 10 cents of land available for cultivation of vegetables. Functional assistance @ Rs. 1000/- is also provided for setting up irrigation units in schools. Seed kits/Seedlings, potted seedlings etc, are distributed to schools free of cost.*

### **Physical Achievement**

- *Seed kits /Seedlings have been distributed to over 20 lakh children so far.*
- *The percentage of schools having kitchen gardens has risen tremendously over the years.*
- *Over 30,000 hectares of land (in schools and houses of children) could be used for vegetable cultivation.*
- *During the year 2018-19, around 150 metric ton vegetables were produced in schools under the programme*
- *During the year 2018-19, 1, 29,956 kilograms of vegetables, 25,983 kilograms of rice and 82,934 kilograms of fruits were cultivated under Mathrubhumi SEED Programme.*

### **Cash Awards for Best School Kitchen Garden**



Department of Agriculture presents annual cash awards to the best performing schools, head of institutions, nodal teachers and students at the district and state levels.

First Prize for the Best student, best teacher, best head of institution and best educational institution at the district level will carry a cash prize of Rs.15,000 whereas second and third prize winners will be given Rs.7,500/- and 5,000/- each.

**2.33.4 Whether the produce of these kitchen gardens are used in MDM**

Yes

**2.33.5 Action Plan for setting up of kitchen gardens in all schools**

A detailed action plan has been worked out to achieve a 100 percentage target during 2019-20. By the end of 2019-20 academic year, all schools will have a kitchen garden, whether small or big, in their premises , the produce of which can be fully utilized in MDM. The action plan proposes to ensure wider participation of the local community in setting up school kitchen gardens. Flexi funds will be tapped for meeting the financial expenses.

**2.34 Details of action taken to operationalize the MDM Rules, 2015**

Copies of MDM Rules 2015 issued by MHRD vide notification No.G.S.R 743(E) dated 30.09.2015 have been circulated to all schools for information and compliance. Further, the Rules and MHRD guidelines are explained to the participants during the training classes organized by the Directorate of Public Instruction.

**2.35. Details of payment of Food Security Allowances and its mechanism**

No Food security allowance was paid during the year 2018-19

**2.36. Cooking Competition**

**2.36.1 Whether cooking competitions have been organized at different levels in 2018-19**

No

**2.36.2 NA**

**2.36.3 Details of action plan for year 2019-20**

District authorities will be instructed to conduct cooking competitions during the month of November 2019. An action Plan/road map with anticipated financial commitment has been worked which is presented herewith

A total of 14389 CCH are engaged in 12341 schools functioning under 163 blocks and 14 districts in the State of Kerala. Number of CCH engaged in Primary and Upper Primary schools are given in the table below

School Category	CCH engaged
Primary	7318

Upper Primary	7071
<b>Total</b>	<b>14389</b>

On an average there are 88 CCH working under a block.

Cooking contests can be organized at the block/district/state levels. Respective block/district/state monitoring committees can be entrusted to conduct the competitions. State Food Craft institutes will be roped in as the technical partner for conducting the competitions. The criteria for judging the recipes prepared by CCHs will be finalized in consultation with State Food Craft Institutes. Various aspects such as MDM nutrition guideline requirements, cost of preparing the recipe, appearance, taste, hygiene and food safety standards observed while preparing and cooking the recipe will be taken into account while formulating the norms for judging the recipes.

The cooking competition to be organized at block/district /state levels will have two stages, viz a preliminary round and a final round. At the block level, all the CCHs are allowed to participate in the preliminary round.

- (a) Preliminary Round:- In the preliminary round, CCHs will be asked to prepare a nutritive dish of their own choice within a time limit of 30 minutes. For this, they must bring the raw food materials required for preparing the dish (the school to which the CCH belongs must arrange for this). A jury may evaluate the prepared dish and announce those selected for the final round. A maximum of one fifth number of the total participants will be selected to appear in the final round.
- (b) Final Round:- In the second and final round CCHs will be asked to prepare a dish which is decided by the jury. The dish may be an item in the MDM menu for that particular block/district. 30 to 40 minute time limit will be given to prepare the dish. The ingredients for preparing the dish will be supplied by the organizers. Best five CCHs will be selected from each block who can participate in the district level competition.

The five CCHs selected from each block who are eligible to take part in the district competition will be given cash prizes and certificates. At the district level, there will be cash prizes for the CCHs coming in the first three places. However, only the winner of the district level competition is eligible to participate at the State level.

### **Cash awards and expected Financial Commitment**

#### **01. Block Level**

The five best CCHs selected from each block will be given cash awards as detailed below:-

First Place	- Rs. 1500/-
Second Place	- Rs. 1000/-
Third Place	- Rs. 750/-
Fourth and Fifth Places	- Rs. 500/- each

An amount of Rs.10000/- will be sanctioned to each block for meeting the expenses regarding the conduct of the competition. A school under the block may be selected as the venue to hold the block level competition

#### **Financial Commitment per block**

(a) Giving cash awards	- Rs. 4250/-
(b) Expenses for organizing the e	- Rs. 10,000/-
Total for one block	- <b>Rs. 14250/-</b>

#### **Financial Commitment – for all 163 blocks**

(c) Giving cash awards	- 6.93 lakhs (Rs.4250*163)
(d) Expenses for organizing the event	- 16.30 lakhs (Rs. 10000*163)
Total for all blocks	- <b>23.23 lakhs</b>

### **02. District Level**

On an average there will be 12 blocks in a district. So, a maximum of 60 CCHs will be participating in each district level competition. The district level winners will be given cash awards as detailed below:-

First Place	- Rs. 5000/-
Second Place	- Rs. 3500/-
Third Place	- Rs. 2500/-

An amount of Rs.15000/- will be sanctioned to each block for meeting the expenses regarding the conduct of the competition. All the 60 CCHs will be given Rs.250/- each for meeting travelling expenses.

#### **Financial Commitment per district**

(e) Giving cash awards	- Rs. 11,500/-
(f) Expenses for organizing the even	- Rs. 15,000/-
(g) TA/DA for CCHs	- Rs. 15,000/- (Rs.250*60)
Total for one district	- <b>Rs. 41,500/-</b>

#### **Financial Commitment – for all 14 districts**

(h) Giving cash awards	- 1.61 lakhs (Rs.11500*14)
(i) Expenses for organizing the event	- 2.10 lakhs (Rs. 15000*14)

(j) TA/DA of CCHs	- 2.10 lakhs (Rs. 15000*14)
<b>Total for all districts</b>	<b>- 5.81 lakhs</b>

### **03. State Level**

14 numbers of CCH will participate in the State Level Competition. Cash awards will be given as detailed below:-

First Place	- Rs. 10,000/-
Second Place	- Rs. 7,500/-
Third Place	- Rs. 5,000/-

All the 14 CCHs will be given Rs.1000/- each for meeting boarding/lodging expenses.

#### **Financial Commitment –at the State Level**

(k) Giving cash awards	- Rs. 22,500/-
(l) Expenses for organizing the even	- Rs. 25,000/-
(m)TA/DA for CCHs	- Rs. 14,000/- (Rs.1000*14)
<b>Total</b>	<b>- Rs. 61,500/-</b>

#### **Financial Commitment- Grand Total**

(i) Block Level	- 23.23 lakhs
(ii) District Level	- 5.11 lakhs
(iii) State Level	- 0.62 lakhs

**GRAND TOTAL: - 29.66 lakh rupees**

Item wise financial commitment is given below

(i) Cash Awards	:- 8.77 lakhs
(ii) Organizing the events:	-- 18.65 lakhs
(iii) TA/DA to CCHs	:- 2.24 lakhs

The entire expenses for conducting cooking competition may be met from the MME or Flexi funds.

#### **2.37 Details of minor modifications from the existing guidelines carried out by**

##### **District Level Committee chaired by the District Magistrate.**

The letter F,No,1-4/2018-Desk (MDM) dated 14.3.2019 received from Department of SE&L, MHRD has been circulated among district authorities with instructions to convene district level monitoring committees and implement the new guidelines. The districts committees will be convened in the first or second week of May 2019 and will formulate modifications, if any, in the existing guidelines related to menu finalization, health checkups for all cook cum helpers, etc.

It will be ensured that the modifications, if any, effected by district level committee will not violate the prescribed norms laid down by central and state governments.

### **2.38 Details of new interventions envisaged under 5% flexi funds**

State of Kerala desires to present two interventions envisaged under 5% Flexi Funds for the year 2019-20, the details are submitted herewith:-

#### **Intervention 1- Setting up kitchen gardens in the remaining 5016 schools and developing the existing ones in 7325 schools**

##### **2.38.1 Background Note**

Under the aegis of Department of Agriculture and Local Self Government Institutions, schools both in the rural areas and in cities in the State of Kerala have taken up vegetable cultivation in a big way and are setting up their own vegetable gardens at school premises and encourage students to set up gardens at their homes also. Of the total 12341 schools in the State where Mid day Meal Scheme is going on, 7325 schools have kitchen gardens.

Vegetables such as brinjal, okra, tomato, cucumber, pumpkin, carrot, radish, snake gourd, bitter gourd, peas, cauli flower, cabbage, amaranthus, spinach, etc are grown in kitchen gardens.

Apart from vegetables, fruits such as banana, guava, papaya, etc are also grown in school premises. Some schools have even taken up paddy cultivation with the help of local farmers. Adjacent paddy fields are taken on lease and paddy is cultivated with the help of local farmers and Agriculture Department.

##### **2.38.2. Objectives**

The objective of the intervention proposed is to set up kitchen gardens in the remaining 5016 schools and to develop the existing ones in 7325 schools.

##### **2.38.3 Rationale for the Intervention**

School kitchen gardens have many advantages, some of which are

- (i) It helps to attain self sufficiency in vegetable production and persuade children to consume fresh vegetables free from poisonous pesticides.
- (ii) It helps to create awareness among children about agriculture and train them in various agricultural practices
- (iii) It helps to develop skills in farming, crop-pest management, soil management techniques and bio-waste management
- (iv) It helps to create a platform for children to work together as a team which can boost their self confidence and develop a sense team spirit among them.
- (v) The produce from vegetable gardens can be utilized in MDM

##### **2.38.4 Time Lines**

A six month time line starting from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019 (when schools reopen after summer vacations) is set for materializing the proposed intervention. It is proposed to set up kitchen gardens in 5016 schools and develop the existing ones in 7325 schools before 30.11.2019.

### **2.38.5 Coverage**

The intervention will cover all 14 districts of the State and 12341 schools. It is proposed to set up kitchen gardens in 5016 schools and develop the existing ones in 7325 schools. A total of 2600154 (both in Primary & Upper Primary) children will be covered by the intervention. Though the school working days are 200 and 220 in primary and upper primary respectively, kitchen gardens will be maintained throughout the year, ie, 366 days. Necessary arrangements in collaboration with Local Self Government Institutions will be made to ensure the continuity of the programme throughout the year.

### **2.38.6 Requirement of Funds**

The intervention will require financial support from the Centre and State Governments. Expenses will have to be met for the procurement of good quality seeds/seedlings, purchase of requisite devices/instruments, procurement of organic/bio fertilizers, manures and pesticides, setting up irrigation units, managing & monitoring the programme, documentation, publicity element, development of instructional materials such as CDs, booklets, brochures, handbooks, etc and for the grant of cash awards for the best performing institutions.

**State of Kerala proposes for a total amount of 617.05 lakh rupees @ Rs.5000/- per school for developing kitchen gardens and maintaining the existing ones. The funds may be shared on 60:40 cost sharing basis between the centre and State Governments.**

**Total Funds required (for 12341 schools):- 617.05 lakh rupees**

**Centre share:- 370.23 lakh rupees**

**State Share:- 246.82 lakh rupees**

### **2.38.7 Monitoring**

Agricultural/Eco/Nature clubs comprising selected children from all classes will be constituted in every school. The club will be under the guidance and supervision of one teacher who will be designated as the Nodal teacher for the programme. The responsibility to set up a kitchen is vested with the clubs so formed. SMC/School PTA/Mother PTA and Mid day Meal Committee will monitor the progress of the programme regularly. The nodal teacher of this programme will be an ex-officio member in SMC/PTA/School Mid Day Meal Committee.

The programme will be implemented in schools with the technical support of State Agriculture Department, Local Self Government Institutions and other government agencies concerned. Additional funds will be channelized through Local Self Government Institutions.

A team comprising local agricultural officer, officials from the department of General Education (at the block level) and officers from the Local Self Government Institutions will be jointly inspecting the kitchen gardens every month and inspection reports will be submitted to Deputy Director of Education at the district level before the 10<sup>th</sup> of succeeding month. Deputy Director of Education will in turn forward it with his remarks/opinion to the Director of Public Instruction. Separate Forms will be developed to capture data from schools, block level offices and from the district level offices.

Block level and district level monitoring committees will also monitor the progress of implementation of the programme on a regular basis.

#### **2.38.8 Outcome measurement**

Schools will have to submit details of the produce from kitchen gardens to block level offices on or before the 5<sup>th</sup> working day of succeeding month in a prescribed format. Provisions will be in the format for entering details such as the type of vegetables cultivated, area of the garden, details of irrigation units, availability of water, manure, fertilizers & pesticides, availability of garden ploughing and watering equipments, number of visits made by local agricultural officer and department officials, number of children taking part in setting up/maintenance of the garden, photographs of the gardens, etc. The data obtained at the block level will be consolidated and submitted to district level authorities who in turn consolidate the details at the district level and submit it to the State level office. The data submitted by district authorities will be analyzed and shortcomings, if any, found in the implementation of the programme will be addressed immediately.

#### **2.38.9 Impact Assessment**

Evaluation and impact assessment studies will be conducted with the help of State Agricultural University and the study report will be submitted to MDM Bureau, Department of School Education & Literacy, MHRD, GOI.

### **Intervention 2- providing an additional food item in the form of locally available seasonal fruits to primary & upper primary children**

#### **2.38.1 Background Note**

One of the primary objectives of Mid Day Meal Scheme is to improve the nutritional status of children through supplementary nutrition. However various studies have shown that malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are rampant among school going

children which are affecting their psycho-social well being and also their physical and mental development. There is a widening gap between the recommended micronutrient intake through diet and the actual daily dietary intake of children in the age group of 6 to 14 years. Micronutrient deficiency (such as that due to deficiency of Vitamin A, Iron, etc) is emerging as a major public health problem in Kerala which needs to be addressed through various interventions such as dietary diversification.

It is an incontrovertible fact that inclusion of vegetables, especially leafy vegetables and fruits in Mid Day Meal menu will help to address malnutrition and to meet micronutrient deficiencies in school going children. Thanks to the initiative of State Government, from 2016-17 academic year onwards, leafy vegetables have become an integral and regular part of school Mid Day Meal menu. To further meet the nutritional requirements of children and thus to reduce the rate of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies among them, State of Kerala has decided to introduce seasonal fruits as an additional food item in MDM menu as a new intervention operative from 2019-20 academic year onwards. This intervention is proposed as a centrally sponsored scheme under the 5% Flexi Funds wherein Centre and State Governments will be sharing the expenses on a 60:40 cost sharing basis.

### **2.38.2. Objectives**

The objective of the intervention is to provide one seasonal fruit (available locally) to each and every child in the primary and upper primary category once in every month. Seasonal fruits such as banana, guava, mango, papaya, custard apple, orange, jackfruit, citrus fruits, gooseberries, etc. will be provided to children under this new intervention

### **2.38.3 Rationale for the Intervention**

As per NFHS-4, 35.6 percentage of children below the age group of five are anaemic in Kerala. Though the indicators of stunting, wasting and underweight (stands respectively at 19.7, 15.7 & 16.1) are much lower compared to other States, the figures need to be further reduced to a level beyond 10. Children in the age group of 6 to 14 years consume less than 50% of the recommended dietary allowances of micronutrients. Anaemia and malnutrition continue to be a stumbling block in the proper physical and mental development of a school going child. Besides causing serious health issues, learning and cognitive abilities of children are severely impacted by the absence of essential micronutrients in the food they consume daily.

Micronutrient malnutrition continues to remain a serious health problem in Kerala that demands coordinated and massive efforts to address it. Mid Day Meal Scheme being one of the biggest safety net programmes, dietary diversification in the form of inclusion of vegetables especially leafy vegetables and seasonal fruits in MDM menu can be used to enhance micronutrient status of children and thereby improve their



academic performance. Seasonal fruits available in Kerala such as jackfruit, mango, citrus fruits, papaya, guava, black plums, banana, custard apple, gooseberries, etc are rich in proteins, fibre content and vitamins and minerals such as Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B4, calcium, phosphorous, potassium, iron, etc. Fruits are high in vitamins, minerals and fibre. Fruits provide a rich source of antioxidants, instead of sugary snacks and junk food which are high in fat and sugar. Consuming fruits provide the following benefits:

- (i) Promote good health and protect against diseases
- (ii) Ensure the child's healthy growth and development which in turn enhances his or her cognitive and learning abilities
- (iii) Strengthen the child's immune system and help fight illness. Nutrients found in fruits can prevent various micronutrient deficiency diseases and other chronic diseases such as cardiovascular diseases.
- (iv) The high fibre content can aid in the proper function of the digestive system and prevent constipation.

#### **2.38.4 Time Lines**

The new intervention is proposed to be introduced from June 2019 onwards when schools reopen after mid summer vacations.

#### **2.38.5 Coverage**

The intervention will cover a total of 2600154 students in Primary and Upper Primary classes in all the 12341 schools of the State.

#### **2.38.6 Requirement of Funds**

The intervention will require financial support from the Centre and State

Governments under the Flexi Funds envisaged for new interventions. One seasonal fruit costing a maximum amount of four rupees and fifty paise (Rs.4.5/- only) will be provided to each child once in every month. The total requirement of funds for the new intervention with the split up details of centre and state shares are detailed below:-

Total Number of Children to be covered: - 2600154 (1611174 in Primary & 988980 in Upper Primary)

Unit Cost (cost per fruit per child)	: - Rs. 4.5/-
Centre share per unit cost	: - Rs. 2.7/-
State share per unit cost	: - Rs. 1.8/-
Frequency of provision	: - once in every month
Total Fund required	:- <b>1170.07 lakh rupees</b>
Funds solicited under Flexi	: - 1170.07 <b>lakh rupees</b>
Centre share	: - 702.04 lakh rupees (2600154*Rs.2.7*10)

State share : - 468.03 lakh rupees (2600154\*Rs.1.8\*10)

Total State mandatory share as per AWP&B for 2019-20 is 12022.18 lakh rupees (excluding Flexi). This means 601.11 lakh rupees can be set apart by the State as its mandatory share under Flexi Funds for new interventions. Out of this, 246.8 lakh rupees have already been set apart for nutrition gardens. Hence, 354.29 lakh rupees is available with the State under Flexi for the second intervention against the required amount of 468.03 lakhs. The shortage is 113.74 lakh rupees which will be additionally borne by State for the second intervention.

### **Monitoring**

School Mid Day Meal Committees and SMCs will be entrusted with the responsibility of procuring good quality and fresh seasonal fruits available locally and supervising the distribution of the fruits to children. .

Block level and district level monitoring committees will also monitor the progress of implementation of the programme on a regular basis. Schools have to enter the details of the fruit procured and the number of children who consumed it in a prescribed proforma/format and submit it to the Assistant Educational Officer (Block level educational officer) on or before the 3<sup>rd</sup> working day of the succeeding month. The Assistant Educational Officer will consolidate the details and submit to District Educational Office on or before the 5<sup>th</sup> working day. District wise consolidated will be made available to the State level before the 10<sup>th</sup> working day of every month which will be used to monitor the progress of the implementation of the intervention.

### **Outcome measurement**

Block level and district level monitoring committees will also monitor the progress of implementation of the programme on a regular basis. Schools have to enter the details of the fruit procured and the number of children who consumed it in a prescribed proforma/format and submit it to the Assistant Educational Officer (Block level educational officer) on or before the 3<sup>rd</sup> working day of the succeeding month. The Assistant Educational Officer will consolidate the details and submit to District Educational Office on or before the 5<sup>th</sup> working day. District wise consolidated will be made available to the State level before the 10<sup>th</sup> working day of every month which will be used to monitor the progress of the implementation of the intervention. The data submitted by district authorities will be analyzed and shortcomings, if any, found in the implementation of the programme will be addressed immediately.

## Impact Assessment

Evaluation and impact assessment studies will be conducted with the help of State Nutrition Mission, Department of Women & Child, Department of Health & Family Affairs and Kerala University of Health Sciences. Evaluation study reports will be submitted to MDM Bureau, Department of School Education & Literacy, MHRI, GOI.

### 2.39. Any other issues and suggestions

No major issues to present, but some humble requests are hereby submitted

- (i) Mid Day Meal Cook-cum-helpers are a neglected lot. While we keep saying that the work they have undertaken to feed the nation's future generation with a quality and nutritive meal is a noble act, we forget to think and talk about their poor living standards and the continuous struggle they are waging day in day out to meet both ends meet with a paltry honorarium they get from Governments. CCH Honorarium has not been revised for years. Majority of the cooks engaged for cooking the mid day meal are women who belong to the socially and economically backward sections of the society. The nation owes to these men and women and has a responsibility to ensure better living standards for these people. State of Kerala humbly prays that the rate of honorarium given to MDM CCH may be revised at the earliest.
- (ii) At least one national level workshop may be organized at each zonal level for MDMS so that States/UTs may get to know each other well and can share their best/innovative practices in MDM. The workshop will provide a platform for each and every State to learn new things and introduce them in their respective States that will ultimately benefit the children.

14.05.2019

  
**A Shajahan I.A.S**  
**Secretary to Government**  
**General Education Department**  
**Government of Kerala**

A. SHAJAHAN IAS  
Secretary to Government  
General Education, Minority Welfare &  
Rev. (Wakf) Department  
Govt. Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram-1,  
Tel: 0471-2518851



