



Dr. Amarjit Singh
Additional Secretary (EE.I)
Tel: 011-23381096

भारत सरकार
मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय
स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग
शास्त्री भवन
नई दिल्ली - 110 115
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
SHASTRI BHAVAN
NEW DELHI-110 115

D.O. No. 10-19/2013-EE-6(MDM-3-1)

January 10, 2014

Dear *Dr. Sinister*,

The 5th Joint Review Mission visited Meghalaya from 22nd to 30th November, 2013 to review the implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) and assess the nutritional status of the beneficiary children, in two districts – Ri-Bhoi and East Khashi Hill as per the prescribed Terms of Reference (ToRs). The JRM team was headed by Dr. N. Ariappa, Assistant Director (Scientist-D), National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad. Other members of the team were – representatives from MHRD and Government of Meghalaya; Office of the Supreme Court Commissioner for MDMS and the Monitoring Institute for the scheme in Meghalaya, Technical Officer and National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad. Technicians and Consultants from Ed.CIL's Technical Support Group for Mid-Day Meal Scheme assisted the JRM.

The JRM team was appreciative of the good practices like community participation in management of MDM, effective management of MDM through Bal Sansad, popular film on Mid Day Meal for effective advocacy, initiative of Co-operative Department to get regular supply of fresh vegetables through vegetable growers' cooperative societies for schools, etc.

The anthropometric survey (using Body Mass Index – Z Scores) on a sample of 739 school children (376 boys and 363 girls) availing of Mid Day Meal, showed that, the prevalence of stunting among the school children was 59%. The proportion was higher in the district of East Kashi Hills (65.3%) when compared to East Ri-Bhoi (49.1%). The prevalence of stunting was also higher among the girls as compared to boys in both the districts of Meghalaya. The prevalence of severe stunting (<-3SD, height for age) was 26.5%.



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना
Mid Day Meal Scheme

The Joint Review Mission expressed its concern over issues likely:

- i) No foodgrains and cooking cost provided in Kynjat Shai LP School, Jongskai, Kharang since middle of 2011.
- ii) Absence of dedicated administrative structure for Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
- iii) More than 6 months delay in the release of cooking cost and honorarium to cook cum helpers. 11 schools had negative unspent balance of cooking cost during 2013-14.
- iv) More than 3 months delay in the payment of FCI bills.
- v) Mid-Day Meal served for 2-3 days in a week in the visited schools. No mid-day meal served during half yearly and annual examinations for a period of 15 days each.
- vi) Very few meetings of the SL-SMC, District level vigilance and Monitoring committee, school management committees were held.
- vii) Poor inspections of the schools, poor coverage under School Health Programme and Poor Community Participation.
- viii) Foodgrains not delivered upto schools and the transportation charges of foodgrains from FPS to schools were not paid to schools.
- ix) School making false entries for Mid-Day Meal. Rev. Meshak Kharkongor Memorial School made advance entry on 27th November, 2013 for utilizing 8 Kg rice on 28th November, 2013 under Mid-Day Meal to 51 LP students. Similarly, Pentecostal Academy Upper Primary School Rangshkken made entry for utilizing 10 Kg rice on 25th November, 2013 but no MDM was prepared on that date. This needs to be looked into and immediate action taken.
- x) Separate Kitchen-cum-stores have been constructed for lower primary and upper primary schools located in the same premises.
- xi) Cash book and foodgrains stock register in 27 visited schools not maintained upto date. Two schools do not have record since 2011.
- xii) Eight schools reported that their record is with President/Secretary, SMC who were stated to be out of station.
- xiii) Teachers were found serving the MDM in schools.
- xiv) Inadequate toilets and drinking water facilities in most of the schools, some schools are purchasing water for MDM. Toilets are without water facility.
- xv) Fire Extinguisher not available in all except one visited schools in spite of directions from the Supreme Court.

Based on their observations, the JRM team has made the following recommendations:

- i) Mid day meal is irregular in all schools, so, steps may be initiated to ensure regularity to meet the MDM objectives; Mid Day Meal may be provided to Kynjat Shai LPS School Longskai, Kharanng.
- ii) Administrative structure exclusively for Mid Day Meal Scheme should be set up.
- iii) Steps to be initiated to make regular monitoring of MDM for proper implementation of the programme.
- iv) Meetings of SL-SMC, District Vigilance and Monitoring committee, District/Block level Steering cum Monitoring Committee, School Management committees should be held as mandated.
- v) Fund Flow be streamlined for timely release of funds to the schools. The Andhra Pradesh's 'Green Channel Scheme' may be considered for adoption.
- vi) Outstanding payments of cook cum helpers and FCI be made immediately.
- vii) Foodgrains be delivered upto school level. The transportation charges for carrying foodgrains from FPS to schools be reimbursed.
- viii) Convergence with Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation be strengthened. Community participation be encouraged to ensure regular supply of water to the schools.
- ix) Ag-mark or BSI marked ingredients be used in Mid-Day Meal.
- x) Wide publicity of food norms, entitlements of students under Mid-Day Meal. Daily menu be decided locally.
- xi) Food samples should be kept in schools for testing through National Accreditation Board approved Labs in case of any untoward incident.
- xii) Emergency health plan may be finalized and telephone nos. of Primary Health Center, District Hospitals, Ambulance, Police, Fire Brigade should be painted in all schools for use during emergency.
- xiii) Capacity building through regular trainings of the stake holders may be encouraged.
- xiv) Annual and monthly data entries into MIS portal may be completed immediately. The annual data entry for 2012-13 is only 35%; and the monthly data entry for the period ending September, 2013 is only 3%. It is amongst the lowest in the country!
- xv) The intake of micro-nutrients were largely deficit in the menu, therefore, micronutrient dense foods such as green leafy vegetables and fruits should be included in the menu. This may be facilitated by promotion of kitchen gardens in school premises.
- xvi) It is also recommended that weekly supplementation of iron and folic acid (IFA) tablets and periodic deworming should be given in convergence with state

health authorities. The School Health Programme needs to be strengthened in coordination with the State health authorities.

The detailed Report of the JRM has already been made available to the State Government on 29th November, 2013. The State may also kindly act on the detailed guidelines issued on 22nd July, 2013 for effective implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme. **We need to ensure that there is an emergency health plan for taking care of any untoward incident. Please also ensure that the cooking area is fully segregated and care is taken that no child goes near the cooking vessels while cooking is taken place.**

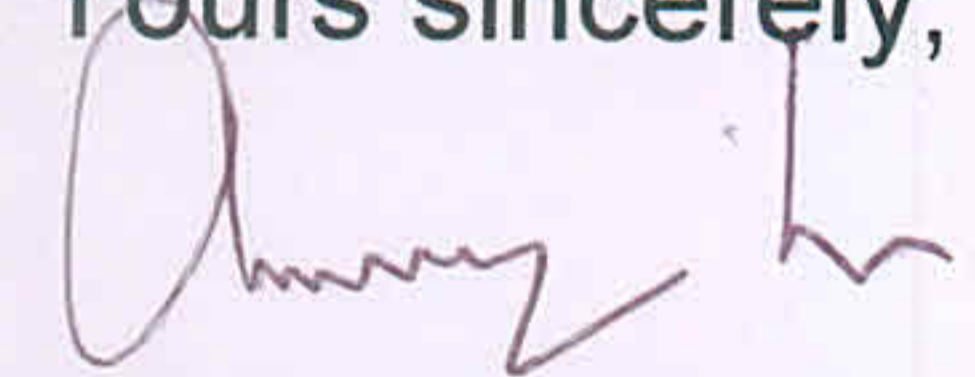
I shall appreciate, if you could submit an action taken note on the recommendations made in the detailed JRM Report within 30 days, which has already been presented to the State Government.

A little effort on your part will ensure that no child goes hungry in schools in your State.

With regards, *and best wishes for a happy, healthy & prosperous*

2014 /

Yours sincerely,


(Amarjit Singh)

Shri P.K. Srivastava,
Principal Secretary (Education),
Government of Meghalaya,
Department of School Education,
Shillong - 796001