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Government of India  
Ministry of Human Resource Development  
Department of School Education & Literacy  
MDM Division  
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Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2016.

**Subject: Minutes of the Regional Workshop held at Hyderabad on 22-23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2015 - reg.**

A Regional Workshop for South Zone was held at Hyderabad on 22-23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2015 for orienting the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana as well as Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Island and Puducherry on preparation of AWP&B 2016-17 to review the implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme upto September, 2015.

2. A copy of the minutes of the above workshop is enclosed for information & necessary action.

*Rajesh Kumar*  
(Rajeev Kumar)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India  
Tel. 011-23386169  
Fax: 011-23382394

1. Shri P. Yellaiah,  
Joint Secretary,  
Technical Education.
2. Shri G. Gopal Reddy,  
Additional Director,  
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
3. Shri Bellasetty,  
Joint Director,  
Govt. of Karnataka.
4. Dr. Y. Chandramohan,  
Deputy Director,  
Govt. of Telangana.
5. Shri Gouri Shankar,  
Assistant Director (MDM),  
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
6. Shri Tmt. C. Malarvizhi,  
Assistant Director (NMP),  
Govt. of Tamilnadu.
7. Shri Sudhir Kumar,  
Superintendent,  
Noon Meal Department,  
Govt. of Kerala.

8. Smt. Nagamani,  
Superintendent,  
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
9. Shri Sreenivas Singh,  
Superintendent,  
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
10. Shri Sri BV Laxmipathy Reddy,  
Superintendent,  
Govt. of Telangana.
11. Dr. Suman Devi,  
Deputy Director (MDM),  
UT of Andaman & Nicobar.
12. Shri R. Kalaiselvan,  
Deputy Director,  
UT of Puducherry.
13. Shri Gangadhara N,  
Senior Assistant Director,  
Govt. of Karnataka.
14. Shri R. Devender,  
Manager,  
FCI, New Delhi.

**Copy also to:**

1. Sr. PPS to Secretary(SE&L)
2. PPS to Joint Secretary(EE.I)
3. Dir (GP) / Dir(HK) / Dir(PV) / DS(BDS) .
4. US(SA) / US(AD) / SO(SS) / SO(NR) / SO(RKJ).



**Minutes of the Regional Workshop held at Hyderabad on 22-23<sup>rd</sup> December 2015 for Orienting the States/UTs on preparation of Annual Work Plan & Budget to 2016-17 and to review the implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme up to September 2015**

The Regional Workshop for South Zone was held at Hyderabad on 22-23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2015 for orienting the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana as well as Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Island and Puducherry. The UT of Lakshadweep could not attend the workshop. The list of participants is enclosed at Annexure-I.

2. Shri G.Krishna, Director. Elementary Education, Government of Telangana welcomed the participants in the meeting and requested Ms. Ranjeev R Acharya, Principal Secretary, School Education, Govt. of Telangana to deliver the inaugural address. Ms. Acharya mentioned that Mid Day Meal Scheme is very important scheme which addresses not only educational needs of the children studying in elementary class in Government and Government aided schools but their nutritional needs also.

3. She informed that the objective of the scheme is to improve enrolment, attendance and retention of the children in Govt. schools and simultaneously improve their nutrition. She mentioned that the enrolment of children in Telangana is declining due to mushrooming growth of English medium private schools. The parents are now more concerned about the quality education rather than mid day meal. Therefore, even the lower middle class families are sending their children to the English medium schools. Secondly, Government schools do not have L.K.G. and U. K. G. classes. The children studying in LKG and UKG classes of private schools continue to study in class I in the same school. She mentioned that a policy decision needs to be taken to have LKG and UKG classes in Government schools which should impart education in English medium. Otherwise, the enrolment in Government schools may continue to decline in future also.

4. Principal Secretary, Education, Government of Telangana highlighted various initiatives taken by the State Government to improve the quality of mid day meal. She informed that super fine rice instead FCI FAQ rice, is being supplied under Mid Day Meal Scheme. Egg is provided twice a week by the State Government from its own resources. The children who do not take eggs are provided seasonal fruits. She



suggested that Government of India should provide central assistance for serving egg/fruits under Mid Day Meal Scheme.

5. Principal Secretary, Department of Education, Government of Telangana further mentioned that the cooking cost under mid day meal scheme is not adequate to provide meals with prescribed nutrition to the children studying in elementary classes. The inflation in the food items in the MDM basket is more than the annual increase in the cooking cost. Therefore, cooking cost should be linked to the market price of various items in the MDM basket.

6. She mentioned that the technology plays an important role these days. She endorsed the use of ICT under mid day meals scheme and said that the Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) or Short Message Service (SMS) should be used for capturing near real time data under Mid Day Meal Scheme. She suggested that the SMC's and Mother Committees should be involved in the monitoring of the scheme.

7. She informed that the food grains are delivered up to school level except the schools located in the remote areas. The food grain is delivered up to Fair Price Shops (FPS) in these areas from where it is lifted by the teachers. These teachers are paid the cost of transportation of food grain from FPS to schools.

8. Shri J Alam Joint Secretary (EE.1) MHRD mentioned that MDM Scheme is non academic intervention which supplements the efforts of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in universalizing elementary education in the Government, Govt. aided schools and Special Training Centers. He mentioned that though the objective of the scheme is to enhance the enrolment, attendance and retention of the children in schools yet the enrolment is declining consistently. But this decline cannot be attributed to Mid Day Meal Scheme because as per census report the birth rate is stagnant. The English medium starts from class V in Government schools whereas private schools start teaching English from LKG and UKG classes. Once the children are used to the English medium, they do not shift to Government schools when they become eligible to join class V.

9. Joint Secretary (EE-I),MHRD informed the participating States that the Government of India funding pattern of the scheme has been changed to 60:40 for Non NER States, 90:10 for NER & three Himalayan States (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) and 100% for UTs w.e.f. 01.04.2015.



10. Joint Secretary (EE-I) appreciated the suggestion of Principal Secretary, Education, Government of Telangana for use of ICT for near real time monitoring of the scheme. He informed that the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are successfully using the Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) for near real time monitoring of the scheme. Taking cue from these States, MHRD has also proposed to integrate IVRS with its MDM-MIS. The RFP for this purpose has already been prepared and the States/UTs have been requested to give their willingness to introduce IVRS in their States. For this purpose, the States are to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with MHRD. He further mentioned that comments of the State Governments and UTs have also been solicited on scope of work of the IVRS. He requested the States Government to submit their comments at the earliest.

11. Joint Secretary (EE.1) further mentioned that the fund flow from the States to the implementing agencies needs to be streamlined by reducing the intermediary levels, so that the funds reach the implementing agencies at the earliest. He further suggested that some States like Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh preposition the funds to the implementing agencies for the smooth implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme. Similar practices can be adopted by the other States for timely release of funds to the implementing agencies.

12. Joint Secretary also highlighted the lack of community participation in the scheme. He advised the States to encourage community participation under Mid Day Meal Scheme. For this purpose roster of parents, teachers, community etc. may be maintained for monitoring the scheme as well as tasting the Mid Day Meal before it is served to the children. The States may share their good practices with other States which may adopt them for replicating. He emphasized that honorarium to the cook-cum helpers should be paid in time by e-transfer in to their bank account.

13. Joint Secretary further mentioned that the MHRD has notified the Mid Day Meal rules 2015 under National Food Security Act 2013. These rules mandate tasting of Mid Day Meal by teachers before it is served to the children. Further, testing of the meal is mandating under the MDM rules 2015 from accredited laboratories on random basis. The rules have authorized the Headmasters etc. to utilize any kind of fund available in the schools for the implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme. In case a school fails to served Mid Day Meal to the eligible children on three consecutive days or five day in a



month, the children shall be paid Food Security Allowance. In case a child does not take Mid Day Meal on his own, he will not be entitle to Food Security Allowance.

14. After the inauguration session the presentation on the formats for the Annual Work Plan & Budget for 2016-17 was made from the MHRD side. The States were informed about the latest decisions and initiatives taken by the Ministry and were requested to prepare a comprehensive AWP&B in the light of these decisions and practices followed in the States. The States were especially requested to complete action on the all the pre-requisite steps, which are mandatory for submission of the plan. It was also reiterated that the Plan should be approved by the State Steering cum Monitoring Committee and to be submitted duly signed by the Pr. Secretary / Secretary of the State/UT within the scheduled date.

All the points of the write-up part as well as of the tables were discussed in detail. The major points discussed are as follows:

- It was explained to all that few new points i.e. details of meetings at district level, testing of mid-day meal through accredited labs and payment of food security allowances have been added in the plan formats.
- The States/UTs were informed about the slight modification in Table AT-14 with the suggestion that the States/UTs may indicate the proposed number of children to be covered instead of average number of children who availed MDM during the first three quarters of the financial year.
- A point on action plan for implementation of Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) was decided to be added in the Plan.

On the issue of rolling out IVRS base monitoring in the States, representatives from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu inquired about the provision of funds for rolling out the project. They were informed that funds available under MME may be utilised for the project. The States were also requested to provide detailed information about financial requirements for such a monitoring project.

15. The next presentation was on the review of performance on the overall implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme in the participating States during 2014-15 and in the first two quarters of 2015-16. The presentation covered topics viz. key challenges in implementation of MDMS, coverage of children, coverage of working days, utilization of food grains, utilization of cooking cost, payment of honorarium to coo-cum-helpers,



utilization of MME fund, utilization of Transport Assistance, progress of construction of kitchen cum stores, status of SSMC meeting held in States/ UT etc. the major issues discussed are as under:

- The States were requested to timely submit the Quarterly Progress Report, it was reminded that as per the MDM Guidelines the QPR should be submitted within one month of completion of the quarter. However, among the participating States/UTs only A&N Islands have submitted both QPRs in time.
- The status of non-completion of kitchen-cum-stores in the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh was also discussed in detail, representatives from both the States informed that necessary measures are being made for complete the construction of the kitchen-cum-stores.
- Low utilisation of funds under MME was also discussed in details and the States/UTs were requested to fully utilize the funds available under MME for the better monitoring of the scheme.
- As per MDM Guidelines the State Steering cum Monitoring Committee should meet atleast once in every quarter, however the frequency of the meetings of SSMC is very low and in the States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Telangana, A&N Islands and Puducherry no meeting of SSMC held during the first two quarters of the year.

Director (MDM), MHRD requested all the States/UTs to pay more attention towards critical issues and also urged them to take stock of things regularly to take remedial actions accordingly.

16. The next presentation was on the MDM-MIS system. During the review of MIS status of the participating states it was noticed that the status of the monthly data entries upto November 2015 is very low in the States /UTs of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry Andhra Pradesh. Representatives from Tamil Nadu informed that the data entry has been on the lower side because of lack of manpower in the form of data entry operators. Director (MDM), MHRD reminded the States of the recent letter issued by the Ministry for utilizing the services of the data entry operators of SSA in case of shortage of Manpower and advised the States and UTs to complete all data entries in the web portal. The issue of mismatch in the data from MDM-MIS and data from QPRs was also discussed in detail and the States/UTs were requested to improve the data entry process and keep close check on the quality of data to eliminate these discrepancies.

17. Another presentation was made on the crucial element of payment of cost of foodgrains to FCI. The Regional Manager, FCI was also present in the meeting. It was informed that as per the Guidelines, FCI will raise bills by 10<sup>th</sup> day of the next month from the month of lifting of food grains and States/UTs would make payment within 20 days from the date of receipt of bill. It was also mentioned that the payment of cost of food grains has been decentralized at district level from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010.

It was shared that the district authorities in the States/UTs are not making payment towards the cost of food grains to FCI within the stipulated 20 days from the date of receipt of bill and as a result the States/UTs have cumulative outstanding month wise bills for more than 364 Cr. as on October, 2015. In the light of the statement of FCI up to the month of October, 2015, all the States/UTs were requested to expedite the process of payment of cost of foodgrains to FCI. Representatives from participating States/UTs assured to make timely payment to FCI.

Participating States/UTs also made their presentations for the AWP&B 2016-17.

The workshop concluded with the vote of thanks to the chair.

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List of Participants

1. Shri J. Alam, Joint Secretary (EE.I), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
2. Shri Gaya Prasad, Director (MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
3. Shri P. Vinayagam, Director (MDM-1), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
4. Shri G. Gopal Reddy, Additional Director, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
5. Shri Bellasetty, Joint Director, Govt. of Karnataka.
6. Dr. Y. Chandramohan, Deputy Director, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Govt. of Telangana.
7. Shri Gouri Shankar, Assistant Director (MDM), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
8. Shri Tmt. C. Malarvizhi, Assistant Director, (NMP), Govt. of Tamilnadu.
9. Shri Sudhir Kumar, Superintendent, Noon Meal Department, Govt. of Kerala.
10. Smt. Nagamani, Superintendent, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
11. Shri Sreenivas Singh, Superintendent, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
12. Shri Sri BV Laxmipathy Reddy, Superintendent, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Govt. of Telangana.
13. Dr. Suman Devi, Deputy Director (MDM), UT of Andaman & Nicobar.
14. Shri R. Kalaiselvan, Deputy Director, UT of Puducherry.
15. Shri Gangadhara N, Senior Assistant Director, Govt. of Karnataka.
16. Shri Sachin Arora, Under Secretary (MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
17. Shri P. Yellaiah, Joint Secretary, Technical Education.
18. Dr. R. Rambhupal Reddy, Deputy Secretary, Technical Education.
19. Shri T. Muthulingam, Financial Controller, Govt. of Tamilnadu.
20. Shri S.C. Rao, Section in-charge (MDM), UT of Andaman & Nicobar.
21. Shri Tmt.R. Malliga, Accounts Officer (NMP), Govt. of Tamilnadu.
22. Shri V. Palaniappan, TGT, State Coordinator, Govt. of Tamilnadu.
23. Shri Hagi Mohammad, State MIS, Coordinator, Govt. of Tamilnadu.
24. Shri D. Bharanidharan, Assistant, MIS Coordinator, Govt. of Tamilnadu.
25. Shri S.N. Kannaiah, Education Officer, Govt. of Karnataka.
26. Shri Sri Satyanarayana, DPO, MDM, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.



27. Shri Mustafa, Computer Programmer, Govt. of Kerala.
28. Shri K.M. Bharathi, General Manager (Accounts), FCI.
29. Shri R. Devender, Manager, FCI.
30. Shri D. Ramesh, AGM (Accounts), FCI.

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31. Shri K.K. Sharma, Consultant (Finance), NSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
32. Dr. Mridula Sircar, Consultant, (Plan Monitoring), TSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
33. Shri Bhupendra Kumar, Consultant, TSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
34. Shri Lokendra Mahavar, Consultant (Capacity Building), TSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.