



Dr. Amarjit Singh  
Additional Secretary (EE.I)  
Tel.: 011-23381096  
Fax: 011-23381302

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. 7-2/2013 MDM 2-1

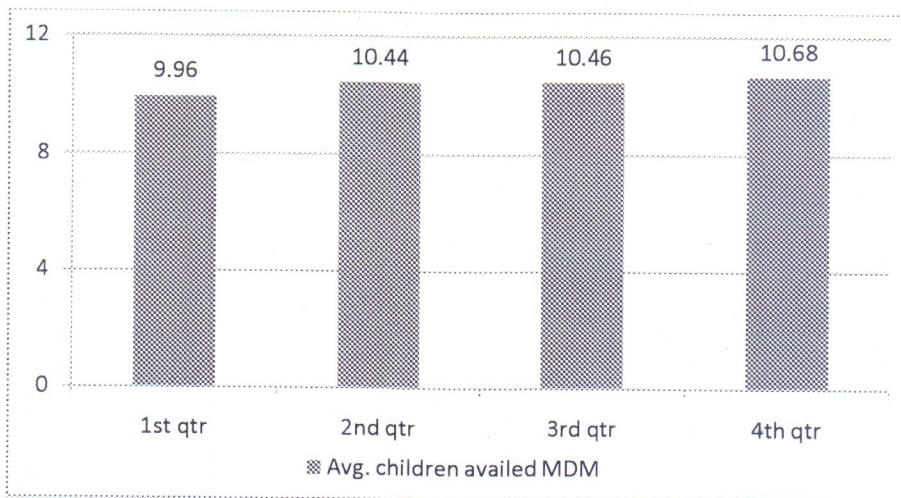
Dated the 08<sup>th</sup> July, 2013

Dear

*Colleagues,*

Thanks to the appreciable efforts made by MDMS team in all the States/UTs, the coverage under MDMS has gone up to 10.68 crore children during the fourth quarter from 10.46 crore during the third quarter. In the corresponding period of 2011-12, 10.54 crore children were covered under MDMS. The comparison of data on coverage of children during the fourth quarter of 2011-12 and 2012-13, reveals that coverage has gone up to 75% during 2012-13 from 72% in 2011-12.

2. The trend during different quarters indicates that coverage of children has increased from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> quarter; while 9.96 crore out of total enrolled 14.29 crore (70%) children were covered during first quarter, the number has increased to 10.68 crore (75%) in the fourth quarter.

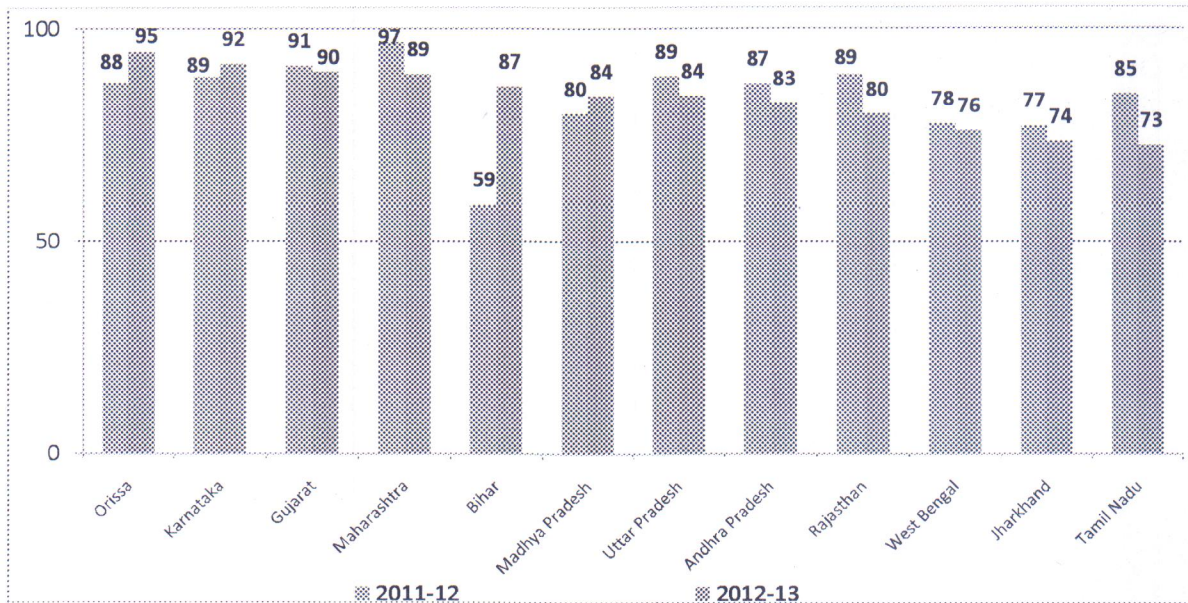


This calls for greater efforts to enhance coverage during the first three quarters. You may kindly carry out a similar exercise for identification of districts and blocks (where coverage is low) for special attention.



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना  
Mid Day Meal Scheme

3. 12 States are having enrolment of more than 50 lakh children in elementary schools covered under MDMS. The performance in these States is analyzed on coverage of children vis-à-vis enrolment, coverage of working days, Utilisation of foodgrains, Cooking cost, Transportation Assistance, MME and payment of honorarium to Cook-cum-Helpers.



The data indicates that Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka have improved significantly since last year. Bihar has improved tremendously on this front; although the coverage of children in the state, is still below the national average, it has gone up to 67% from 43% last year. You will appreciate that MDM is not merely a feeding programme, apart from reducing class room hunger, it has also helped immensely in promoting school participation, retention and fostering social equality and gender equity.

4. The recent visits of Joint Review Missions for MDMS in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Gujarat have brought out a few critical issues. While the coverage of children under MDMS is less than the national average in Delhi and Gujarat, 30%-40% of the sampled children were found with low BMI. The information submitted by the States/UTs reveals that about 16% of the allocated food grains (about 4.6 lakh MT) and 14% of the allocated cooking cost (about Rs. 1284 crore) remained unutilized. This is ironic; on the one hand a large number of our children are anemic and facing serious nutritional deficiencies, yet the available resources, meant to tackle this issue remain unutilized. This clearly reflects the urgent need for a suitable strategy for addressing the issue of low coverage of children. The other observations of the JRM are as under:



- a) 2-3 months delay in the release of funds in Delhi and Himachal Pradesh.
- b) Inadequate dedicated human resource for MDMS.
- c) The children are not getting prescribed quantity of pulses and vegetables in the weekly menu.
- d) The need to use standard measures for cooking and serving of MDM.
- e) Capacity building of stakeholders under MDMS.

5. The data entry position in the online portal of MDMS also requires attention; the monthly data entry has been completed for only 80% schools for the month of March, 2013. In addition, the monthly data entry for the year 2012-13, States/UTs must update the annual data for 2013-14. You would appreciate the benefits of a functional MIS system, which will give you online information for better planning and effective implementation of the scheme.

6. The following critical issues need your immediate personal attention:

- Timely release of funds from the State level,
- Preparation of action plan for poor performing districts,
- Delay in payment to cook-cum-helpers,
- Delays in payment to FCI,
- Data entry in MDM-MIS portal in time bound manner,
- Convergence with NRHM for coverage of all the children under the School Health Programme,
- Introduction of social audit,
- Conducting evaluation/ action research studies,
- Timely submission of QPRs and MPRs.

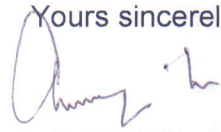
These issues could have been addressed in the quarterly SSMC meetings under the chairmanship of the state Chief Secretary. However, data indicates that only 55 meeting of SSMC have been held during 2012-13. The above issues require proper monitoring for effective implementation of the scheme. The MME funds are available for evaluation and monitoring of the scheme, however, low utilization of MME funds in many States/UTs indicates lack of monitoring mechanism.

7. I shall appreciate if you kindly attend to these issues personally and ensure full coverage of eligible school going children under MDMS. These issues cover many of the commitments given by the States during the PAB meetings. The findings of the Monitoring Institutions should also be carefully addressed. A little effort on your part will go a long way to ensure not only, that no child remains hungry in the school but also, that the basic health and hygiene needs of the children are met in a safe and serene atmosphere without hampering the duties of the teachers. These points were also shared with you during the Education Secretaries Conference on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The detailed analysis of the QPRs for the quarter ending March, 2013 in respect of all the States/UTs is enclosed for your perusal.

It is really God's own work that we all are privileged to carry out. A little additional effort on your part will ensure no child goes hungry in your state. Please do let us know if we can facilitate this noble mission in any manner.

With regards

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amarjit Singh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Amarjit Singh)

To

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