



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

**R.C. MEENA**  
**Joint Secretary (EE.I)**  
**Ministry of Education**  
**Tel: 011-23389247**

D.O. No. 4-2/2020-MDM- 1-1(EE.5)

Dated the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

*Dear sir / madam,*

Please find enclosed a D.O. letter from Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, for exploring the feasibility of inclusion of Honey and Mushroom under Mid Day Meal Scheme.

2. Honey is a complete meal containing major components of meal and micro-nutrients that enhance digestion and absorption of major dietary components. There have been extensive steps taken by M/o Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for overall development of Beekeeping and developed awareness in farmers and other stakeholders leading to substantial increase in honey production in India.

3. Mushroom is proven super-food. Supplementation of mushroom base recipe in mid-day meal will bridge the protein deficiency gap. Mushroom is also rich in folic acid which is beneficial for brain health. It also contains Vitamin B2, Potassium, Copper, Zinc as well as Vitamin D which rarely found in vegetable food. M/o Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under National Horticulture Board has taken various steps to promote mushroom cultivation in India.

4. Considering the nutritional value and other positive benefits of honey and mushroom, you are advised to take suitable steps to include these food items under Mid Day Meal Programme. I shall appreciate if an action taken note is provided to us in this regard.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(R.C. MEENA)

All the Secretaries/Chief Secretaries of States/UTs



कैलाश चौधरी  
KAILASH CHOUDHARY

Bt MOS  
19/9/20



कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण  
राज्य मंत्री  
भारत सरकार  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE  
& FARMERS WELFARE  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

D.O. No. 1428.....MOS(Agri.&FW)/VIP/2020

01 SEP 2020

Dear Shri Sanjay Dhotre ji,

I am writing this letter to congratulate you for the appreciable work being done in Ministry of Education. The New Education Policy (NEP), 2020 focusing on vocational training and internship will bring a paradigm shift in the present education system and it will certainly overhaul country's Secondary and Higher education system and will make India a global knowledge power.

I wish to put forward proposal of inclusion of Honey and Mushroom in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

As you are aware that Honey is a complete meal, it contains major components of a meal, and micronutrients that enhance the digestion and absorption of major dietary components. The micronutrients found in honey are required for metabolism and body functions. It is a rich source of energy having numerous proven health properties. Being a rich source of energy and vitamin and minerals Honey is particularly beneficial for growing Children.

There have been extensive steps taken by Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare for overall development of Beekeeping for increasing the Honey production thereby enhancing the income of the Beekeepers/ Farmers. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare through the Centre Sector Scheme "National Beekeeping and Honey Mission" operated by National Bee Board (NBB), Integrated Bee Development Centres (IBDCs) and All India Coordinated Research Project on Honey Bees and Pollinators have developed awareness in farmers and other stakeholders leading to substantial increase in honey production in India. On account of these sustained efforts and dedicated programmes like "National Beekeeping and Honey Mission", honey production in India has seen a 200 percent increase in the last 12 years. India's total honey production reported in 2017 – 2018 was 1.05 lakh metric tonnes (MTs), compared to the 35,000 metric tonnes in 2005-2006.

The other food item cited above Mushroom is also a proven super-food. Indian diet, which is chiefly based on cereals wheat, rice is deficient in protein. Supplementation of mushroom base recipe in this diet will bridge this protein deficiency gap and thereby improve general health of children who belongs to socio-economically backward classes. In earlier times mushrooms were considered as an expensive vegetable and were preferred only by affluent peoples for culinary purposes. However, on account of consistent steps taken by Govt. of India for publicizing mushroom consumption as a basic food item, now in India mushroom is considered as a quality food with numerous health benefits.

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Mushroom is rich in folic acid which is known to be beneficial for brain health as it contains protein and vitamin B2 and other essential vitamins and minerals such as potassium, copper, zinc and manganese needed for a healthy body. Mushroom is an excellent source of Vitamin-D rarely found in Vegetarian food which is beneficial in development of bone and muscle health of Children. Therefore, incorporating mushrooms in daily meals for Children will have innumerable benefits.

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare under National Horticulture Board and has taken a no. of steps for promoting and extension activities for Mushroom cultivation in India. Directorate of Mushroom, Solan under aegis of ICAR, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has undertaken numerous R&D activities in various mushrooms varieties and due to these intensive works, commercial production of edible mushrooms has substantially increased.

As due to Covid-19 pandemic, the Country is passing through the difficult times, in order to provide relief Govt. of India already has introduced a number of new programmes and schemes. It is also recommended that the above food items Honey and Mushroom may be included in the National Programme of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Schools so that the school going children shall get enriched nutrition for the proper mental and physical growth.

**With regards,**

Yours sincerely,



**(Kailash Choudhary)**

**Shri Sanjay Dhotre**  
Hon'ble Minister of State for Education,  
Govt. of India  
Shastri Bhawan,  
New Delhi-110001