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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
Dated 31st July 2020

F. No. 1-2/2020 Desk (MDM)

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please refer to my D.O. letters of even no. dated 20th March, 2020 and 29th April, 2020 regarding provision of mid day meal or Food Security Allowance to the eligible children under Mid Day Meal Scheme during closure of schools on account of COVID-19 and summer vacations during 2020-21 respectively.

2. As you are aware Government of India in collaboration with all States and UTs has been taking various measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the country while taking care of the basic necessities and welfare of the citizens including children. In this context, it is pertinent to note that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Suo Motu Writ Petition (C) No(s).2/2020 has directed all the State Governments to ensure, that while preventing spread of COVID-19, the schemes for providing nutritional food to the children are not adversely affected.
3. Although scheduled summer vacations are over, schools are not reopened due to continued COVID-19 pandemic situation. Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs has issued Guidelines for Phased Re-opening (Unlock-3) vide order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 29th July, 2020. The said order states that schools will remain closed till 31st August, 2020. Such closure of schools may deprive the eligible children, their entitlement of hot cooked mid-day meal guaranteed under the National Food Security Act, 2013. This may adversely affect their nutritional status as most of these children are from poor background and belong to disadvantaged sections.
4. Considering the prevailing circumstances and also in the light of Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions, Hon'ble Education Minister, Govt. of India, approved provision of Food Security Allowance comprising of food grains and pulses, oil etc (equivalent to cooking cost) to all eligible children in lieu of hot cooked mid-day meal.
5. —It may be recalled that hot cooked mid-day meal is the entitlement of a child, guaranteed under the National Food Security Act, 2013. As you are aware the extant per child per day norms of hot cooked meal under Mid Day Meal Scheme are as under:



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Stage	Food grain	Cooking cost	
		Amount	Items
Primary	100 gram	Rs 4.97	20 gram pulse, 50 gram vegetables, 5 gram oil, other condiments and fuel
Upper Primary	150 gram	Rs 7.45	30 gram pulse, 75 gram vegetables, 7.5 gram oil, other condiments and fuel

Since it is not possible to provide hot cooked meal, State Governments and UT Administrations are advised to decide the items and their quantities to be provided to children as per their entitlements using the per meal cooking cost along with food grains. The States and UTs providing additional contribution towards cooking cost over and above minimum mandatory share are requested to continue to do so.

6. In view of above, State Governments and UT Administrations are advised to take necessary action to provide Food Security Allowance comprising of food grains and pulses, oil etc (equivalent to cooking cost) to all eligible children. It is also requested to ensure distribution of food grains and pulses, oil etc (items decided by State/UT as indicated in para 5 above) by 10th August, 2020 duly following the social distancing guidelines. The regular Mid Day Meal shall resume when the schools re-open.

7. I would appreciate if you could acknowledge receipt of this letter and confirm initiation of requisite action. Timely action at your end will go a long way in providing much needed nutrition to the children, which is also their right, and bring smiles to their faces in these difficult times.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(R.C. MEENA)

To

The Additional Chief Secretaries / Principal Secretaries / Secretaries Education or the Nodal Department for implementation of Mid Day Meal in all States and UTs.