

अनीता करवल, सा.प्र.से
सचिव

Anita Karwal, IAS
Secretary



स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग
शिक्षा मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार
Department of School Education & Literacy
Ministry of Education
Government of India

D.O. No.: 1-3/2021-Desk(MDM)

Dated the 23rd December, 2021

Dear Dr. Srivastava,

As you may be aware Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) earlier known as Mid Day Meal scheme is one of the flagship programmes of Government of India which covers about 11.80 crore children studying in 11.20 lakh schools. Financial outlay of ₹ 54061.73 crores from the Central Government and ₹ 31733.17 crore from State Govt. & UT Administrations has been approved for implementation of the scheme. Central Govt. will also bear additional cost of about ₹ 45000 crore on foodgrains. Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education has prescribed a comprehensive and elaborate mechanism for monitoring and supervision of the Scheme.

2. Hon'ble Shiksha Mantri ji has envisaged that for enhanced monitoring of implementation of PM POSHAN scheme at grass root level, students of eminent Universities / Institutions and also trainee teachers of District Institute of Education Training and Regional Institutes of Education may carry out field inspections. This initiative not only gives exposure to the students and trainee teachers about PM POSHAN Scheme, but also enriches their professional experience through real life situations, while enhancing the monitoring of the scheme. This would also contribute to mutual efficiency gains through synergy.

3. In this context you are requested to issue appropriate advisories to the concerned officers so that each trainee teacher of Regional Institutes of Education visits at least one school once in a year for inspection of implementation of PM POSHAN Scheme. A brief note on the Scheme (*Annexure-I*) alongwith detailed format (*Annexure - II*) to be used during the field visit is attached herewith.

4. In order to facilitate seamless coordination I have also written to Education Secretaries of all States / UTs to liaise with the respective Regional Institute of Education and facilitate these field visits by trainee teachers. At the Department of School Education, Shri R. C. Meena, Joint Secretary (EE.I) (e-mail: r.cmeena@gov.in, 011-23389247) will be the Nodal Officer for this.

Let us join hands so that the fruits of convergence bring in smiles and joy in to the life of millions of children covered under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman.

Best wishes

Yours Sincerely

Anita Karwal
(Anita Karwal)

Prof. Sridhar Srivastava

Director (I/C)
NCERT,
New Delhi

124 'सी' विंग, शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001
124 'C' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
Telephone: +91-11-23382587, +91-11-23381104 Fax : +91-11-23387589
E-mail: secy.sel@nic.in

Brief on Pradhan Mantri Poshan ShaktiNirman (PM POSHAN)

1. Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) earlier known as the National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools is one of the foremost rights based Centrally Sponsored Schemes under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA). The primary objective of the scheme is to improve the nutritional status of children studying in classes I-VIII in eligible schools. Nutrition and food norms under the scheme are as under:

| S. N. | Items | Primary | Upper Primary |
|--|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| A) Nutrition norm per child per day | | | |
| 1. | Calorie | 450 | 700 |
| 2. | Protein | 12 gms | 20 gms |
| B) Food norms per child per day | | | |
| 1. | Food grains | 100 gms | 150 gms |
| 2. | Pulses | 20 gms | 30 gms |
| 3. | Vegetables | 50 gms | 75 gms |
| 4. | Oil & fat | 5 gms | 7.5 gms |
| 5. | Salt & condiments | As per need | As per need |

2. The CCEA approved all the components under the existing scheme and the only addition is inclusion of Balvatika under the new Scheme as envisaged under National Education Policy, 2020. The CCEA approved continuation of the Scheme for the five year period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with the financial outlay of ₹ 54061.73 crores from the Central Government and ₹ 31733.17 crore from State Govt. & UT Administrations. Central Govt. will also bear additional cost of about ₹ 45000 crore on foodgrains through subsidy borne by Dept of Food and Public Distribution.

3. The CCEA approved the following aspects of the Scheme:

- i) **Food Grains:** Supply of food grains @ 100 grams per child per school day for primary and 150 grams for upper primary at NFSA rate i.e. ₹ 1 per kg for coarse grains, ₹ 2 per kg for wheat and ₹ 3 per kg for rice.
- ii) **Cooking Cost:** It includes cost of ingredients, e.g. pulses, vegetables, cooking oil, other condiments and fuel. The per child per day cooking cost is ₹ 4.97 for primary and ₹ 7.45 for upper primary w.e.f. 1st April, 2020.
- iii) **Honorarium to Cook-cum-Helpers:** @ ₹ 1000 per month for 10 months in a year.
- iv) **Transportation Assistance:** As per PDS rate for transportation of food grains from FCI godown to school door steps. Maximum ₹ 1500 per MT for

transportation of food grains from FCI godown to school door steps for States other than NER and 2 Himalayan States and 2 UTs.

- v) **Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME):** @ 3% of aggregate of cost of foodgrains, cooking cost, Honorarium to Cook-cum-Helpers and Transportation Assistance.
- vi) Provision of Meals during summer vacations in drought/ disaster affected areas.
- vii) **Kitchen-cum-store:** As per plinth area norm and State Schedule of Rates. 20 sq meter for schools having enrolment of 100 students. Additional 4 sq meter for every addition of up to 100 students.
- viii) **Kitchen devices:** Linked with enrolment.

| Enrolment (No. of Children) per school | Unit Cost (In ₹) |
|---|--------------------------|
| Up to 50 | 10,000 |
| 51-150 | 15,000 |
| 151-250 | 20,000 |
| 251 & above | 25,000 |

- ix) **Repair of kitchen-cum-stores:** ₹ 10,000/- per unit, for the kitchen-cum-stores, which were constructed 10 years ago.
- x) **Fortification of food items:** Fortification of food items in a systematic manner through Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- xi) **Innovation / Flexibility component with no separate budgetary support :** Five percent of the aggregate of the cost of foodgrains, cooking cost, transport assistance, honorarium to cook-cum-helpers, and MME with no separate additional budgetary support for this component. The requirement of funds under this component will be met from available funds and implemented as per Department of Expenditure's OM No. 55(5)/PF-II/2011 dated 06.09.2016.
- xii) Provision of meal to preparatory classes or Balvatika (that is before class I) in primary schools as covered in Samagra Shiksha as envisaged under National Education Policy.

4. Further, CCEA also approved several initiatives, without any additional financial implications, in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the scheme :

- i) Flexibility to create any new intervention and increase/decrease any norm in the scheme within the approved outlay and subject to the approval of Empowered Committee headed by Hon'ble Shiksha Mantri.
- ii) The flexibility of changing the component-wise allocation within the approved outlay is given to Programme Approval Board (PAB), which can decide the allocation on an annual basis.

- iii) Steps will be taken to ensure payment of honorarium to Cook-cum-Helpers in the lines of DBT directly into their bank accounts from State level.
- iv) Emphasis will be laid on transfer of cooking cost directly to the school's bank account in the lines of DBT through State Government directly from State level.
- v) Field inspections by students of eminent Universities / Institutions and also trainee teachers of District Institute of Education Training and Regional Institutes of Education, for enhanced monitoring of implementation of scheme at field level.
- vi) 3rd party independent monitoring by using Food & Nutrition Departments of Central Universities, Agriculture Universities and eminent institutes like National Institute of Nutrition etc.
- vii) The following interventions will be packaged and positioned as special nutritional interventions:
 - a) **TithiBhojan:** The concept of TithiBhojan will be encouraged extensively. TithiBhojan is a community participation programme in which people provide special food to children on special occasions/festivals.
 - b) **School Nutrition Gardens:** Efforts will be made to promote development of School Nutrition Gardens in schools to give children first hand experience with nature and gardening.
 - c) **Social Audit:** Social Audit in all districts is made mandatory. Social Audit is collective monitoring of a scheme by people's active involvement covering issues of equity, equality and expenditure management.
- viii) Nutrition and Health parameters of children will be mapped at District and Block levels in convergence with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare alongwith extensive monitoring through IT intervention and other methods.
- ix) **Vocal for local :**
 - a) Usage of locally grown food items like millets, vegetables, condiments etc. will be systematically undertaken by states/UTs under the Scheme. This not only promotes nutrition through local traditional food items, but it also contributes to local economic growth.
 - b) Farmers' Producers Organizations, Federation of Women's Self-Help Groups etc. in implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
 - c) States/UTs to be encouraged to empower District Collector / District Magistrate to decide menu suitable to the local conditions within the prescribed nutrition and food norms and to procure locally grown food items from Farmers Producers Organizations, Federation of Women's Self-Help Groups etc. so as to promote local employment

generation and economic development while simultaneously improving the nutrition standards.

x) Convergence :

- a) The existing system of health check-ups, immunization and health cards for 100% school going children will be strengthened in convergence with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- b) Convergence with Ministry of WCD will be undertaken with reference to BalVatika and co-located schools.
- c) The States and UTs may procure pulses as per their local taste for the **"Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)"** scheme from the Central buffer stock created by the Government of India.

xi) Community mobilization:

- a) To encourage States and UTs to promote community participation in the lines of TithiBhojan of Gujarat.
- b) Strengthening of the existing system of tasting of meals by parents / teachers / community members before serving to children.

xii) Monitoring :

- a) Continuation of existing fund release mechanism of the Scheme in which funds are released in two instalments (effectively 3 instalments i.e. ad-hoc grants, balance of first instalment and second instalment).
- b) To ensure proper management structures at different levels i.e. States, districts and blocks within the existing available funds.
- c) An institutionalized mechanism for systematic monitoring and implementation of Scheme will be developed including dietary intake, nutrition status, health parameters and Body Mass Index of children. Institutions with domain expertise in nutrition like Food & Nutrition Departments of Central / State Universities, National Institute of Nutrition etc. will be engaged.
- d) A robust IT enabled MIS system using latest digital technologies will be developed to closely monitor the programme. The system may also include seamless tracking of health and nutritional status of children from pre-school to primary school.
- e) All States and UTs will be encouraged to strengthen IT based grievance redressal system / suggestion system, which empowers parents / students to upload evidences of their experiences with the scheme.
- f) Independent third-party evaluation along with regular social audit will also be carried out by states/UTs every year and reports will be sent to the centre before allocation of resources for the next year.
- g) Strengthening of the existing monitoring system to be done to ensure daily information is received from all schools.

xiii) Capacity Building:

- a) To ensure training of all cook-cum-helpers states/UTs to involve Institutes of Hotel Management & Food Craft Institutes of Ministry of Tourism, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, local mother's groups, etc.

xiv) Motivating Cooks:

- a) Wherever feasible, cook-cum-Helpers may be named as 'Bhojan Mata'.
- b) To encourage States to organize cooking competitions in order to motivate cook-cum-helpers towards use of locally available food material and to promote variety menu.

xv) Special Focus:

- a) To make adequate provision for supplementary nutrition in aspirational districts / tribal districts / districts with identified high cases of malnutrition etc.
- b) In such districts, monitoring of attendance and quality of MDM to be undertaken directly under the supervision of District Collector.

xvi) Awareness Generation:

- a) To prepare annual calendar of activities for Mid-Day Meal Scheme for dissemination of information to popularize the benefits of the Scheme and to make people aware of their rights under the Scheme.

xvii) Disaster Management:

- a) To ensure every school has a disaster management plan.
- b) Provision of hot cooked meal or Food Security Allowance to children when schools are closed due to a disaster impacting the state/UT, part of state/UT, some states/UTs or whole country as maybe declared by the state/central government under its powers as Disaster Management Authority.

5. The assistance for components of cooking cost, honorarium to Cook-cum-Helpers, Construction of Kitchen-cum-stores, repair of 10 year old kitchen-cum-stores, procurement / replacement of kitchen devices and Innovation / Flexibility will be shared between the Centre and States/UTs as per the approved funding pattern of 90:10 for North Eastern Region (NER) States, 2 Himalayan States and UT of Jammu & Kashmir, 100% for Union Territories without Legislature and 60:40 for other States as well as Union Territories with Legislature (Delhi and Puducherry).

Field visit Format

- 1) Name of the school:
- 2) Name of the block:
- 3) Name of the District:
- 4) Total enrolment of the school:
- 5) Total number of Children (Elementary Section) availing MDM on the day of visit:
.....
- 6) Is hot cooked meal served on all school days to all children present: (Yes/No)
- 7) If not served, whether alternative arrangements made or not: (Yes/No)
- 8) Type of kitchen for providing MDM.
 - a) School based kitchen
 - b) Centralized kitchen
- 9) Is, school receiving food grains in advance (Yes/No)
- 10) Availability of buffer stock of one month (Yes/No)
- 11) Is school receiving cooking cost in advance (Yes/No)
- 12) Availability of advance cooking cost of one month (Yes/No)
- 13) Are CCHs engaged as per norm (Yes/No)
- 14) Number of Cook cum Helpers (CCH) engaged by the School
- 15) Is honorarium paid till last month (Yes/No)
- 16) Are CCHs receiving honorarium in time (Yes/No)
- 17) Whether training has been imparted to CCHs (Yes/No)
- 18) Availability of kitchen devices.
 - a) Cooking and Serving Utensils (Yes/No)
 - b) Eating Plates (Yes/No)
 - c) LPG is being used for cooking meal (Yes/No)
- 19) Whether the following information is displayed at a visible place.
 - a) Entitlement of children (Yes/No)

b) Menu for the week

(Yes/No)

20) Whether daily data is being furnished on Automated Monitoring System (AMS) system. (Yes/No)

21) Whether School Nutrition Kitchen Garden has been developed in the School. (Yes/No)

22) Whether one teacher and SMC member taste the food before serving to the children. (Yes/No)

23) If the food served as per the menu on the day (Yes/No)

24) If the school has contingency plan in place (Yes/No)

25) Status of Health check up of all children. (Yes/No)

26) Please taste the food, how would you grade it.

a) Good

b) Average

c) Poor