



**National Programme
of
Mid-Day Meal in Schools
(MDMS)**

**Annual Work Plan & Budget
2020-21**

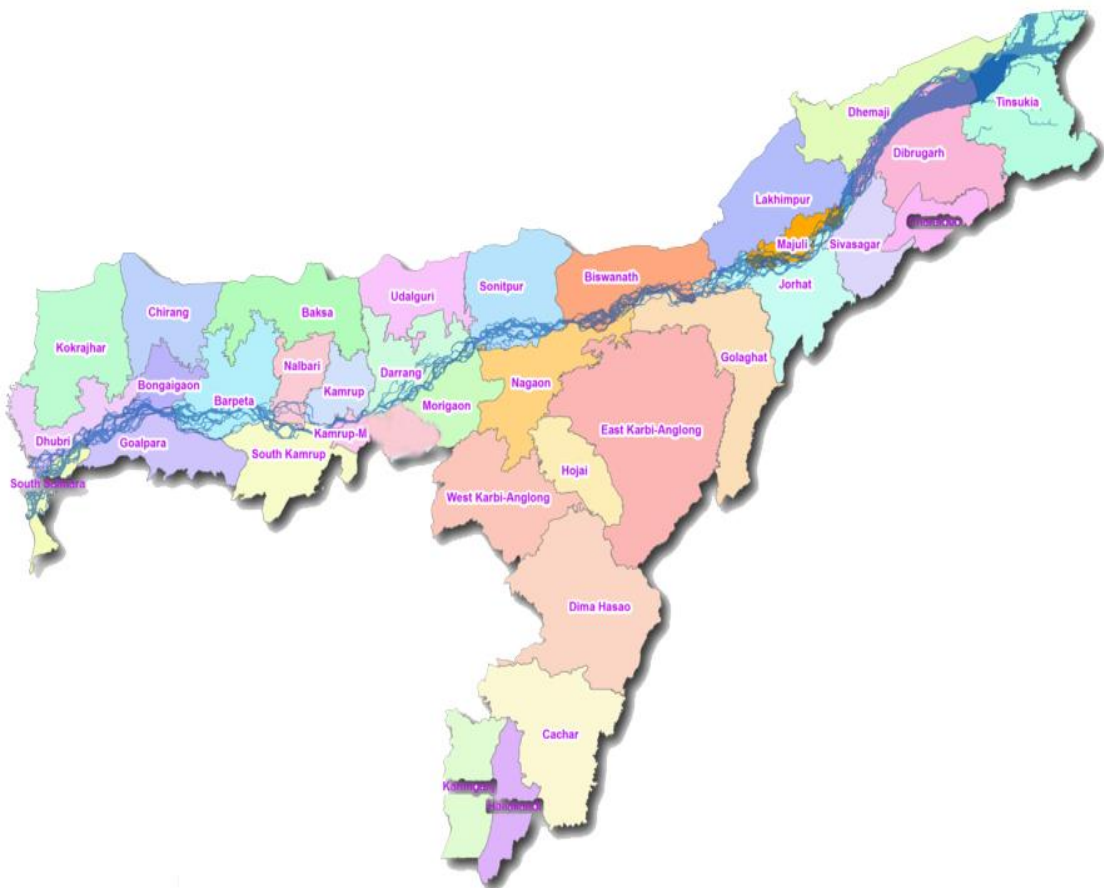
ASSAM

Kahilipara, Guwahati-781019

1. Introduction:

State Profile at a Glance:

Assam is the eastern most sentinel of India endowed with enchanting and picturesque natural beauty. The State is adorned with beautiful lush covers of greenery, a chain of hills and rivers mainly the Brahmaputra and the Barak. It has been the living place of various races, tribes and ethnic groups since time immemorial. The dynamics of synthesis and assimilation of the races make Assam glorified and rich. Assam is situated in the North-East of India and is the largest north eastern state in terms of population while second in terms of area. Assam covers an area of 78,438 km² (30,285 sq miles). The state is bordered by Bhutan and the state of Arunachal Pradesh to the north; Nagaland and Manipur to the east; Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram and Bangladesh to the south; and West Bengal to the west. A significant geographical aspect of Assam is that it contains three of six physiographic divisions of India – The Northern Himalayas (Eastern Hills), The Northern Plains (Brahmaputra plain) and Deccan Plateau (Karbi Anglong).



Pic: Map of Assam

Assam History

There are several opinions to the origin of the name "Assam". In the ancient Sanskrit literature both the names 'Pragjyotisha' and 'Kamrupa' were used as designation for ancient Assam. Its antiquity can be established from the fact that it has been mentioned in the two great epics- The Mahabharata and the Ramayana and also in the Puranas. Regarding the name 'Pragjyotisha' or 'Pragjyotishpura', Gait (1992, reprint) writes that Prag means 'former' or 'eastern' and Jyotisha 'a star', astrology, shining. Pragjyotishpur may, therefore, be taken to mean the 'City of Eastern Astrology'.

References of Kamarupa are found in literature as well as in many epigraphs. The mythology regarding the origin of the name Kamarupa tells us the story of Sati who died due to the discourtesy shown to her husband by her father Daksha. Overcome by grief, Shiva carried her dead body and wandered throughout the world. In order to put a stop to this, Vishnu used his discus to cut the body into pieces, which then fell into different places. One such piece fell down on Nilachal hills near Gauhati and the place was henceforth held sacred as Kamakhya. But Shiva's penance did not stop, so the Gods sent Kamdev, the cupid to break his penance by making him fall in love. Kamdev succeeded in his mission, but Siva enraged at this result, burnt Kamdev to ashes. Kamdev eventually regained his original form here and from then onward the country came to be known as Kamarupa (Where Kama regained his Rupa or form).

The name 'Aham' or 'Asom' was probably given by the Ahoms who came to Assam in 1228 A.D. Even though the origin is ambiguous but it is believed that the modern name Assam is itself an anglicization.

The Ahom's entered Assam fully assimilated and ruled Assam for nearly six hundred years. The period of Ahom rule is a glorious chapter in the history of Assam. The Ahom dynasty was established by Sukaphaa, a Shan prince of Mong Mao who came to Assam after crossing the Patkai Mountains. It is between 13th and 19th century that several tribal communities also came into the historical forefront of Assam. Kacharis, Chutias and Koch were the prominent tribal groups that were found in the medieval times of Assam. The rule of this dynasty ended with the Burmese invasion of Assam and the subsequent annexation by the British East India Company following the Treaty of Yandaboo in 1826. The British emperor took charge of the state and thus begun the colonial era of Assam.

Assam lost much of its territory to new states that emerged from within its borders. The British annexed Cachar in 1832 and Jaintia Hills in 1835. In 1874, Assam became a separate province with Shillong as its capital. Sylhet was merged with East Bengal on partition of India. With the partition and independence of India in 1947, the district of Sylhet (excluding the Karimganj subdivision) was ceded to Pakistan (the eastern portion of which later became Bangladesh).

However, like all other states of India, Assam was also involved in various freedom movements. With the enthusiastic participation of many courageous activists Assam, Assam became a constituent state of India in 1950. It saw further reduction of its area when Dewangiri in North Kamrupa was ceded to Bhutan in 1951. The capital of Assam was formerly Shillong (now the capital of Meghalaya), and later shifted to Dispur, a suburb of Guwahati, in 1972. The States of Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram got their own separate states.

The history of Assam has passed several stages of development to reach to its present state. The history of Assam can be divided into four eras. The ancient era began in the 4th century with the mention of Kamarupa in Samudragupta's inscriptions on the Allahabad pillar

and the establishment of the Kamarupa kingdom. The medieval era began with the attacks from the Bengal Sultanate, the first of which took place in 1206 by Bakhtiyar Khilji as mentioned in the Kanai-boroxiboa rock inscription, after the breakup of the ancient kingdom and the sprouting of medieval kingdoms and chieftain-ships in its place. The colonial era began with the establishment of British control after the Treaty of Yandaboo in 1826, and the post-colonial era began in 1947 after the Independence of India.

The first Governor of independent Assam was Sir Muhammad Saleh Akbar Hydari and Chief Minister was Gopinath Bordoloi who witnessed the foundations laid of Gauhati University (1948), Gauhati High Court (1948) and Guwahati station of All India Radio (AIR). When Gopinath Bordoloi passed away in 1950, Bishnu Ram Medhi took over as the next Chief Minister of Assam. During his tenure from 1950 to 1957, the First Five-Year Plan was started, Panchayat system of governance was introduced and the agricultural sector got more importance.

Bimla Prasad Chaliha was the third chief minister from 1957 to 1970. In 1958th the 66th session of Congress was held at Jalukbari, Guwahati. The Saraighat Bridge was constructed over the Brahmaputra river (1965), an Oil refinery was established at Noonmati, Guwahati in 1962 during his time. In 1959-60 the famous language revolt took place in Assam, and as a result Assamese became the official language of the State and Bengali also enjoyed the same status in the Cachar District of Barak Valley.

Mohendra Mohan Choudhury assumed the mantle of chief minister in 1970. The foundation of Bongaigaon Petro-Chemicals, Paper Mill at Jogighopa and Jute factory at Silghat in Nagaon were laid in his tenure. In 1972 Sarat Chandra Sinha came to power after Congress secured absolute majority. In 1974 the capital was finally shifted to Dispur in Guwahati.

The Assam Movement (1979-1985) was a popular movement against illegal immigrants in Assam. The movement, led by All Assam Students Union (AASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP), developed a program of protests and demonstration to compel the Indian government to identify and expel illegal, (mostly Bangladeshi), immigrants and protect and provide constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards to the indigenous Assamese people. The agitation programs were largely non-violent, but the Nellie massacre was a case of extreme violence. The agitation program ended in August 1985 following the Assam Accord, which was signed by leaders of AASU-AAGSP and the Government of India.

The Assam Accord (1985) was a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed between representatives of the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam Movement in New Delhi on 15 August 1985. A six-year agitation demanding identification and deportation of illegal immigrants was launched by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) in 1979. It culminated with the signing of the Assam Accord.

The accord brought an end to the Assam Agitation and paved the way for the leaders of the agitation to form a political party and form a government in the state of Assam soon after.

Culture of Assam

Assam is the meeting ground of diverse cultures. The people of the enchanting state of Assam are an intermixture of various racial stocks such as Mongoloid, Indo-Burmese, Indo-Iranian and Aryan. The Assamese culture is a rich and exotic tapestry of all these races evolved through a long assimilative process. The natives of the state of Assam are known as "Asomiya" (Assamese), which is also the state language of Assam. The state has a large number of tribes, each unique in its tradition, culture, dress and exotic way of life.

Diverse tribes like Bodo, Kachari, Karbi, Miri, Mishimi, Rabha, etc co-exist in Assam; most tribes have their own languages though Assamese is the principal language of the state. A majority of the Assamese are Vaishnavas (a sect of Hinduism). The Vaishnavas do not believe in idol worshiping and perform "Naamkirtana", where the glory of Lord Vishnu is recited. The two

important cultural and religious institutions that influence the cultural fabric of Assam: the "Satras", the site of religious and cultural practice which have been in existence for over 400 years and the "Naamghar", the house of prayers. Villagers generally associate on the basis of membership of a local Centre of devotional worship called "Naamghar". Villages are usually made up of families from a number of distinct castes.

In Assam, the caste system, although it exists, is not as prominent as in other parts of India. Other religions such as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam etc. are also practiced in Assam. The state festival of Assam is the Bihu which is celebrated in three parts during a year with great pomp and grandeur by all Assamese, irrespective of caste, creed or religion. There are various elements which are being used to represent beliefs, feelings, pride, identity, etc and are considered as important symbolic elements in Assamese culture. The quintessential symbols are the Asomiya "Gamucha", "Jaapi", "TamulPaan" and "Xorai". Traditional attire worn by women called the "Mekhela Chador" and Assamese jewellery also form an integral part of the Assamese culture.

Districts

The State of Assam is divided into 33 Administrative Districts. The districts are demarcated on the basis of the features such as the rivers, hills, forests, etc. The majority of the newly constituted districts are sub-divisions of the earlier districts. On 15 August 2015, five new districts were formed in addition to former 27 districts which are Biswanath, Charaideo, Hojai, South Salmara-Mankachar and West Karbi Anglong. On 27 June 2016, Majuli was also declared as a district. Karbi Anglong is the largest district of Assam with nearly 10,434 square kilometers of undivided area followed by Sonitpur with an area of 5324 square kilometers. Majuli carved out of the Northern parts of Jorhat is the first river island district of India.

The Districts of Assam are further placed under five Regional Divisions. The list of Divisions is as given below:

Division Name	Divisional Office	Districts
Central Assam	Nagaon	Dima Hasao, Hojai, East Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong, Morigaon, and Nagaon
Upper Assam	Jorhat	Charaideo, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Majuli Sivasagar, and Tinsukia
Lower Assam	Guwahati	Baksa, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Dhubri, Goal para, Nalbari, Kamrup Metropolitan, Kamrup Rural, Kokrajhar, and South Salmara-Mankachar
Barak Valley	Silchar	Cachar, Hailakandi, and Karimganj
North Assam	Tezpur	Biswanath, Darrang, Sonitpur, and Udalguri

Climate:

The climate of Assam is typically 'Tropical Monsoon Rainforest Climate', with high levels of humidity and heavy rainfall. People here enjoy a moderate climate all throughout the year, with warm summers and mild winters. Spring (March–April) and autumn (September–October) are usually pleasant with moderate rainfall and temperature.

Census and Socio-Economic Indicators:

According to the census of India 2011, the population of Assam stands at 3,12,05,576 of which 1,59,39,443 are males and 1,52,66,133 females. The detail analysis of Population Census 2011 published by Govt. of India for Assam state reveal that population of Assam has increased by 17.07% in this decade compared (2001-2011) to past decade (1991-2001). Following table shows some important features of population of Assam:

Particulars	
Total Population [Census 2011]:	31205576
Male Population [Census 2011]:	15939443
Female Population [Census 2011]:	15266133
Rural Population [Census 2011]:	26807034
Urban Population [Census 2011]:	4398542
Sex Ratio (female per 1000 male) [Census 2011]:	958
Child Population (0-6 Years) [Census 2011]:	4638130
Literacy Rate (%) [Census 2011]:	72.19
Male Literacy Rate (%) [Census 2011]:	77.85
Female Literacy Rate (%) [Census 2011]:	66.27

Economy and Infrastructure:

Assam's economy is rural and agricultural. Tea is cultivated in the hilly regions, and the state provides much of the tea grown in India. The valley of the Brahmaputra River is important for rice, the major food product of Assam. Other agricultural products are jute, sugarcane, cotton, oranges, and potatoes. Assam has abundant mineral resources. Coal, petroleum, limestone and natural gas are the principal mineral resources. It is also the largest producer of crude oil in India. Other minor minerals include magnetic quartzite, kaolin, iron ore, clay and feldspar etc. Oil India Limited (OIL) is the second largest hydrocarbon exploration and production Indian public sector company with its operational headquarters in Duliajan, Assam, India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Assam Silk denotes the three major types of indigenous wild silks produced in Assam—Golden Muga Silk, White Pat and warm Eri Silk. The Assam silk industry, now centered in Sualkuchi, is a labor-intensive industry. Assam enjoys global monopoly in terms of Muga Silk production. The state accounts for around 95 per cent of global Muga production. Moreover, Assam is the country's major Eri Silk producer.

1.1 Brief history:

The Mid-day-Meal Scheme is a school meal programme of the Government of India designed to improve the nutritional status of school going children nationwide. The programme supplies free lunches on working days for children in primary and upper primary classes in government, government aided, local body, Education Guarantee Scheme and alternate innovative education centres, *Madarsa* and *Maqtab*s supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and National Child Labour Project schools run by the Ministry of Labour. With a view to enhancing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children, the “**National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education**” (NP-NSPE) was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 15th August, 1995.

In the year 2001, Mid-Day-Meal Scheme became a cooked Mid-Day-Meal Scheme under which every child in every Government and Government aided primary school was to be served a prepared Mid-Day-Meal with a minimum content of 300 calories of energy and 8-12 gram protein per day for a minimum of 200 days. The Scheme was further extended in 2002 to cover not only children studying in Government, Government aided and local body schools, but also children studying in Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative & Innovative Education (AIE) centres.

In October 2007, the Scheme was extended to cover children of upper primary classes (i.e. class VI to VIII) studying in 3,479 Educationally Backwards Blocks (EBBs) and the name of the Scheme was changed from ‘National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education’ to ‘**National Programme of Mid Day Meal in Schools**’. The Scheme was further revised in April 2008 to extend the scheme to recognized as well as unrecognized Madarsas / Maqtabas supported under SSA.

Mid-Day-Meal Programme has been started in the State of Assam with effect from January, 2005 covering children reading in classes I-IV under the supervision as well as managerial control of Directorate of Elementary, Education, Assam. However, children reading in Upper Primary classes have been covered with effect from 2008-09 in Educationally Backward Blocks and all the children reading in Upper Primary classes (I-VIII) have been covered with effect from 2009-10.

The State Government has transferred the implementation of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme to SSA, Assam w.e.f. 01-01-2014. The scheme of Mid-Day Meal has now been running under the direct supervision of SSA, Assam.

1.2 Management structure:

Following diagram depicts the management structure of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Assam-

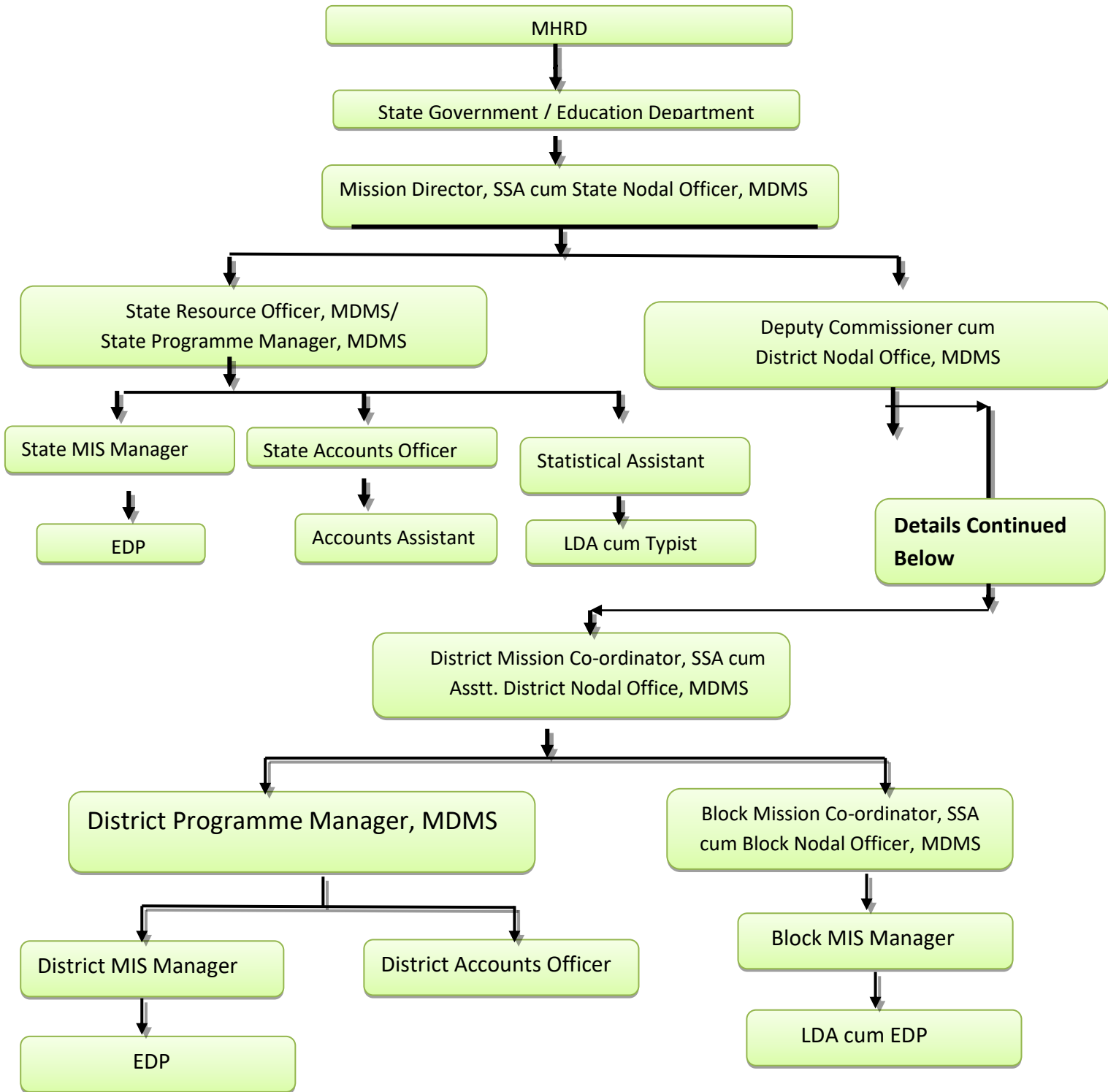


Diagram-1: Management Structure

1.3 Process of Plan Formulation at State and District level:

The Annual Work Plan and Budget, 2020-21 has been formulated on the basis of data / information reflected in the district level plans submitted by each district with due approval of

the District Nodal Officer (DNO), MDMS cum Deputy Commissioner/ Principal Secretary and data available from U-DISE, 2018-19 & MDM MIS Web portal. In this connection, an orientation workshop was organized at State Nodal Office, MDMS, Assam, Guwahati for district level functionaries (DPM, DMISM, DAO, & officers involved in MDM works) to facilitate the process for formulation of AWP&B, 2020-21 in the light of direction given by MHRD, Govt. of India. Pursuant to this, districts were organized orientation meeting for key officials (including district & block level SSA officials) involved in the process for formulation of the plan.

Special attention has been paid to the process of plan formulation toward incorporating all the action taken points regarding commitment given to MHRD, Govt. of India for implementation of the scheme under AWP&B, 2019-20, issues/suggestions raised by primary stakeholders, Govt. of Assam and community through different meetings as well as feedback received through Toll Free Contact Centre. Also decisions/directions of State Level Steering & Monitoring Committee and suggestions of District Level as well as Block Level Monitoring Committees were given due importance while preparing AWP & Budget 2020-21.

2. Description and assessment of the programme implemented in the current year (2019-20) and proposal for next year (2020-21) with reference to:

2.1 Regularity and wholesomeness of mid –day meals served to children; interruptions if any and the reasons therefore, problem areas for regular serving of meals and action taken to avoid Interruptions in future.

The State Government has taken all needful measures to run Mid-Day Meal programme in the State with utmost care and attention. School Management Committees (SMCs) and Mothers Self Help Group are involved at school level for smooth functioning of the programme. District Administration, F.C.I. Authority and District Elementary Education Office/SSA along with Gaon Panchayat Samabai Samittee (GPSS) are also playing a vital role for smooth running of the programme. In fact, steps were taken to ensure providing of cooked and hot Mid–Day-Meal in school as per approved number of working days.

2.2 System for cooking, serving and supervising mid-day meals in the schools:

Mid-Day Meal is cooked at the schools only by the Cook-cum-Helpers engaged by the SMCs. Tarpaulin have been distributed to the schools for serving cooked Mid-Day Meal to the students. It has been made compulsory that any teacher and one SMC member/Mothers Group member must taste cooked Mid-Day Meal 30 minutes before serving the same to the students & the schools have to maintain a Food Tasting Register for this purpose.

2.3 Details about weekly Menu.

2.3.1 Weekly Menu – Day wise

The SMCs have been directed to follow suggested weekly menu provided from State Nodal Office. The weekly menu was printed in MDM- calendar, 2019 as IEC material which has been provided to all schools covered under Mid-Day Meal Schemes. The suggestive weekly menu is given below:

DAYS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MENU	Rice, Dal, Leafy Vegetables	Khichidi, Soya/ Leafy Vegetables	Rice, Egg Curry/Local option/Leafy Vegetables	Rice, Dal, Mixed Vegetables	Rice, Dal, Leafy Vegetables	Khichidi/Pulao/ Local Options, Leafy Vegetables

2.3.1.1 Food items provided (fruits/milk/any other items), if any from State/UT resources. Frequency of their serving along with per unit cost per day.

State Govt. has not yet been provided any additional fund for purchase of additional food items to the children. However, SMC has been providing locally available fruits among the children from time to time.

2.3.2 Usage of Double Fortified Salt and Fortified Edible Oil; their availability and constraints, if any, for procuring these items:

The school authority and SMCs have been directed to use double fortified salt for preparation of Mid-Day-Meal vide letter No. SSA/MDM/DFS/418/2014/2424 dtd. 01/06/2018. In fact, it is found to be a regular practice of the schools to use DFS in preparation of MDM.

2.3.3 At what level menu is being decided / fixed:

There is a suggestive menu for serving Mid-Day-Meal for schools fixed by the implementing agencies. However, there is a flexibility to change the menu by SMC according to the need and availability of local varieties.

2.3.4 Provision of local variation in the menu, Inclusion of locally available ingredients/items in the menu as per the liking/taste of the children:

There are local options for 2 (two) days in the menu suggested by implementing agency, where SMC can incorporate local varieties as per need and local eating habit.

2.3.5 Time of serving meal:

The hot cooked Mid-Day Meal is provided among the children preferably in between 12.00 noon to 12.30 p.m. in school working days.

2.4 Fund Flow Mechanism - System for release of funds(Central share and State share):

2.4.1 Existing mechanism for release of funds up to school/ implementing agency levels:

- Cooking cost has been released to the SMC's bank accounts directly through RTGS from State Nodal Office.
- Monthly honourarium of Cook cum Helpers has been released directly to their individual bank accounts through RTGS from State Nodal Office.
- Fund for hand washing soap and detergent powder has been released directly to the SMC's bank accounts through RTGS from State Nodal Office.
- Fund for cost of food grains (rice) and transportation cost has been released directly to the bank accounts of District Nodal Office (DNO), MDM through RTGS from State Nodal Office. District Nodal Office has been released the fund for cost of food grains (rice) and transportation cost to the FCI authority & GPSS through RTGS.
- Fund for kitchen devices has been released to the SMC's bank accounts directly through RTGS from State Nodal Office.
- Fund for construction of kitchen cum stores has been released directly to the SMC's bank accounts through RTGS from State Nodal Office.
- Fund for office contingency has been released directly to the bank accounts of District Nodal Office (DNO) and Assistant District Nodal Office (ADNO), MDMS through RTGS from State Nodal Office.

2.4.2 Mode of release of funds at different levels:

All funds like Cooking Cost, Honorarium to Cook cum Helpers, Cost of food grains, Transportation cost, Hand washing soap and detergent powder, fund for MME has been released to the concerned levels through RTGS/NEFT mode from State Nodal Office.

2.4.3 Dates when the fund were released to State Authority/Directorate/District /Block /Gram Panchayat and finally to the Cooking Agency/School:

Levels	Date of release
Adhoc grants from State Government to Implementing Agency.	17.07.2019
Balance of 1 st instalment from State Government to Implementing Agency.	14.10.2019
Balance of 2 nd instalment from State Government to Implementing Agency.	20.03.2020
Implementing Agency to District for Cost of Food grains & Transportation Cost.	22.11.2019, 13.02.2020, 30.03.2020
Implementing Agency to SMCs bank accounts for cooking cost.	01.08.2019, 20.11.2019, 30.03.2020
Implementing Agency to personal bank accounts of Cook-cum-Helper for honorarium.	30.05.2019, 17.07.2019, 12.09.2019, 01.10.2019, 01.11.2019, 05.12.2019
Implementing agency to Cooking Agency for cooking cost and honorarium to Cook cum Helpers.	30.05.2019, 14.11.2019, 26.12.2019

2.4.4 Reasons for delay in release of funds at different levels.

The SNO, MDM office released the fund immediately as soon as received the fund from the State Govt. However, delay in receipt of 2nd and final installment of Central Recurring Share caused delay in the release of funds at different levels.

2.4.5 In case of delay in release of funds from State/ Districts, how the scheme has been implemented by schools/ implementing agencies.

The scheme has been implemented uninterrupted and smoothly by concerned School Managing Committees with active support of the community. Also School Managing Committees uses other funds available in SMCs' bank accounts for time being and after receiving funds for payment of cooking cost, SMCs adjust the amount spent from other heads.

2.4.6 Initiatives taken by the State for pre-positioning of funds with the implementing agencies in the beginning of the year, like creation of corpus funds, adoption of green channel scheme, advance release of State share etc.

The funds for payment of Cooking Cost are being released to the SMCs' MDMS bank accounts of concerned Schools directly since 2014-15 financial year and honorarium of Cook Cum Helpers are being released to the Cook Cum Helpers' personal bank accounts from SNO, MDMS, directly since April, 2016. The remaining funds viz. Cost of Food grains, Transportation Cost are being released to the MDMS bank account of the respective Deputy Commissioner & District Nodal Officer, MDMS as per requirement and accordingly DNO releases the fund to the FCI and GPSS/BSS.

2.5 Food Grains Management:

2.5.1 Time lines for lifting of food grains from FCI Depot- District wise lifting calendar of food grains:

The State Nodal Office, MDM issues allocation of rice on quarterly basis to the DNOs, MDM and subsequently, DNOs, MDM have also sub allocated the rice to the GPSS. The DNO, MDM & GPSS have been asked to lift the rice on monthly/bi-monthly/quarterly basis as per their convenience.

2.5.2 System for ensuring lifting of FAQ food grains (Joint inspections at the time of lifting etc.):

To ensure lifting of at least FAQ food grains on time, the State Govt. had constituted a Joint Inspection Team at district level with the following members vide Govt. letter No. PMA/MDM-Cell.72/2011/Pt./39 dated 24th February, 2015

- (i) Representative from District Administration,
- (ii) Representative from Food & Civil Supply Department,
- (iii) One of the Officials of district MDM Cell,
- (iv) Representative from FCI.

2.5.3 Is there any incident when FAQ food grain was not provided by FCI. If so, the action taken by the State/District to get such food grain replaced with FAQ food grain. How the food grain of FAQ was provided to implementing agencies till replacement of inferior quality of food grain from FCI was arranged:

FCI delivered Fair Average Quality (FAQ) rice in Mid-Day Meal Scheme. There is no instance recorded or no report is received by State Nodal Office, MDM till date.

2.5.4 System for transportation and distribution of food grains:

In Assam, Food & Civil Supply Department is the State Nodal Agency for transportation of food grains (rice). The Gaon Panchayat Samabai Samity (Lamps in case of Karbi Anglong & Dima Hasao districts) under Food & Civil Supply Department lifts the food grains from FCI godown to GPSS/Lamps store. The FPS of GPSS/Lamps delivers the rice at school campus from GPSS godown.

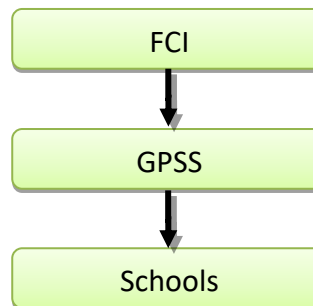


Diagram-2: Transportation & Distribution of Food Grains

2.5.5 Whether unspent balance of food grains with the schools is adjusted from the allocation of the respective implementing agencies (Schools/SHGs/Centralized Kitchens). Number of implementing agencies receiving food grains at doorstep level:

Steps have been taken to adjust the balance of food grains (rice) at school level from next allocation in the following month. In this regard, instruction has been issued to the district authorities to ensure proper utilization of food grains (rice) as per the requirement of schools.

2.5.6 Storage facility at different levels in the State/District/Blocks /Implementing agencies after lifting of food grains from FCI depot:

Lifted rice is stored at Kitchen-cum-Store room of the school in most cases. In order to prevent damage to food items from insects, animals etc., a total of **58,449** steel containers (storage bin) were provided to schools with a capacity of 50 kg. (19,126 during 2013-14 & 2014-15; 37,216 during 2017-18 and 2,107 during 2018-19) from MME head for safe storage of rice and other ingredients at school level.

2.5.7 System of fortification of food grains and their costing and logistics arrangement:

Food grains (rice) can be fortified by adding a micronutrient powder to the rice that adheres to the grains or spraying of the surface of ordinary rice grains in several layers with a vitamin and mineral mix to form a protective coating. Rice can also be extruded and shaped into partially precooked grain-like structures resembling rice grains, which can then be blended with natural polished rice. Rice kernels can be fortified with several micronutrients, such as iron, folic acid and other B-complex vitamins, vitamin A and zinc.

However, a separate budget provision will be required for fortification of food grains (rice) and logistic arrangement. In this regard, line department may be involved for this purpose.

2.5.8 Challenges faced and plan to overcome them:

It is observed that payment to FCI against cost of food grains from districts takes time. In this regard, State has decided to make payment from State Nodal Office directly through e-transfer subject to certification of the bills by the DNOs with respect to lifting status. Accordingly, Stat Govt. has issued a notification in this regard. However, F.C.I. authority denied receiving payment of cost of food grains from State level and they preferred to receive the payment only from district offices i.e. DNOs as per GOI's guidelines.

Safe storage of food grains in schools of riverine areas is found to be a difficult task mainly in rainy season. In this regard, State had already provided 58,449 Storage Bin to schools for safe storage of rice and other ingredients at school level.

2.6 Payment of cost of food grains to FCI:

2.6.1 System for payment of cost of food grains to FCI; whether payments made at district level or State level:

Presently, payment of cost of food grains to FCI is made through the concerned DNOs. In this regard, State releases fund to DNOs subject to the lifting status submitted by FCI to the State Nodal Office and accordingly, DNOs make payment as per the bills raised by FCI subject to verification of the bills by Officials of Food and Civil Supply Department.

2.6.2 Status of pending bills of FCI of the previous year(s) and the reasons for pendency:

All pending bills of FCI up to 2018-19 have been cleared. It is to be mentioned here that the State Nodal Office, MDM Scheme, Assam is being released fund for cost of food grains to different districts as per rice lifting figures submitted by FCI, Regional Office, Paltanbazar, Guwahati. However, after reconciliation with the lifting figures submitted by FCI, Regional Office, Paltanbazar, Guwahati, it is noticed that some discrepancies are arise in between the rice lifting figures submitted by district authority and FCI authority.

Payment of total pending bills of FCI up to previous year amounting Rs. 8 Lakhs is under process. Funds were released to the districts in due time for making payment to the FCI. Concerned districts have been asked to clear all the outstanding bills of FCI by 31st March/2020 without fail.

2.6.3 Timelines for liquidating the pending bills of previous year(s):

Funds were released to the districts in due time for making payment to the FCI. Payment of total pending bills of FCI up to previous year amounting Rs. 8 Lakhs is under process at DNO level. Concerned districts have been asked to clear all the outstanding bills of FCI by 31st March/2020 without fail.

2.6.4 Whether meetings are held regularly in the last week of the month by the District Nodal Officers with FCI as per guidelines dated 10.02.2010 to resolve the issues relating to lifting, quality of food grains and payment of bills:

The FCI officials of Regional Office are regularly contacted from State as well as District Offices regarding lifting of rice, bills raised by FCI, payment made to FCI etc. Meeting has been conducted with FCI officials from time to time by district authority to resolve the pending issues at field levels.

2.6.5 Whether the District Nodal Officers are submitting the report of such meeting to State Head quarter by 7th of next month:

District Nodal Officers submit minutes of the meetings to the SNO, MDMS from time to time.

2.6.6 The process of reconciliation of payment with the concerned offices of FCI:

The State Nodal Officer, MDM releases the cost of food grains to DNOs, MDM of concerned districts as per lifting status submitted by FCI to SNO, MDM. The Area Manager, FCI submits the bills to the Deputy Commissioner & DNO, MDM /Principal Secretary & DNO, MDM in case of Autonomous Council districts. The DNO, MDM has to make payment to FCI as per bills & lifting certificate submitted by FCI to DNO, MDM.

In fact, reconciliation of payment is made as per the report received from DNOs and the FCI's statement collected in each month.

2.6.7 Relevant issues regarding payment to FCI:

Sometimes anomalies are observed in the statement submitted by FCI regarding outstanding payment against lifting position. Hence, reconciliation of payment is made as per the report received from DNOs and the FCI's statement collected in each month.

As per State Govt. commitment given in the PAB meeting for approval of AWP&B, 2015-16 for centrally payment of cost of food grains to FCI, the State Govt. had issued Notification for payment of cost of food grains from SNO, MDM directly through e-transfer, but the FCI authority denied to receive the payment of cost of food grains from SNO, MDM and they preferred to receive the payment of cost of food grains from districts.

2.6.8 Whether there is any delay in payment of cost of food grains to FCI. If so, the steps taken to overcome the delay:

District Nodal Officers has been trying to clear the all FCI bills as soon as the FCI authority submitted the bills to the DNOs. However, sometimes anomalies are observed in the statement submitted by FCI regarding outstanding payment against lifting position due to which some delay for payment is occurred.

2.7 Cook-cum-helpers

2.7.1 Whether the State follows the norms prescribed by MHRD for the engagement of cook-cum-helpers or it has its own norms:

The State has followed the norms/guidelines prescribed by MHRD, Govt. of India for engaging Cook-cum-Helpers. Cook-cum-Helpers are engaged by School Management Committee locally, preferably women of disadvantage communities. The engagement of cook cum helper has been approved in SMC meeting.

2.7.2 In case, the State follows different norms, the details of norms followed may be indicated:

Does not arise.

2.7.3 Is there any difference in the number of cook-cum-helpers eligible for engagement as per norms and the CCH actually engaged:

Cook cum Helpers have been engaged as per MHRD's norms and guideline.

Eligibility norms:

Enrollment	Numbers of Cook cum Helpers Entitled
Up-to 25	1
Up-to 100	2
Up-to 200	3
Up-to 300	4
Every addition up to 100 students	Extra 1 CCH

Cook-cum-Helpers are engaged by School Management Committee locally, preferably women of disadvantage communities. The engagement of cook cum helper has been approved in SMC meeting.

2.7.4 System and mode of payment, of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers and implementing agencies viz.NGOs/SHGs/Trust/Centralized kitchens etc.

The monthly honorariums to Cook cum Helpers have been released to their personal bank account through RTGS/NEFT mode w.e.f. April, 2016. The monthly honorariums to Cook cum Helpers engaged by Akshaya Patra

Foundation in Centralized Kitchen & schools have also been released through RTGS.

2.7.5 Whether the CCH were paid on monthly basis:

Yes. The monthly honorariums to Cook cum Helpers have been paid to their individual bank accounts through RTGS from State Nodal Office w.e.f. April, 2016.

2.7.6 Whether there was any instance regarding irregular payment of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers and reason thereof. Measures taken to rectify the problem:

Cook-cum-Helpers receive their monthly honorariums through their individual bank accounts in time.

2.7.7 Rate of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers:

The rate of honorarium to cook-cum-helper is Rs.1000/- per month for 10 months in a financial year (excluding June & December) for which Rs.900/- is Central Share and Rs.100/- is State Share [90:10 ratio].

2.7.8 Number of cook-cum-helpers having bank accounts:

Numbers of Cook cum Helpers	Numbers of Cook cum Helpers having bank Account.
1,18,998	1,18,998

2.7.9 Number of cook-cum-helpers receiving honorarium through their bank accounts:

Since April, 2016, all Cook cum Helpers have been receiving their monthly honorariums in their personal bank accounts through RTGS/NEFT mode.

2.7.10 Provisions for health check-ups of Cook-cum-Helpers:

There must be a provision for health check-up of Cook-cum-Helpers to detect whether any Cook-cum-Helper has any contaminated disease or any kind of skin disease and to take safety measures if any. Under Rastriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (School Health Programme) is being implemented in schools where the Cook-cum-Helpers may be brought under the purview of these programme. Different NGOs/Clubs organize Health Camp voluntarily in time to time, viz. LIONS Club, Rotary Club etc. These NGOs may be approached to organize Health Camps especially for Cook-cum-Helpers.

2.7.11 Whether cook-cum-helpers are wearing head gears and gloves at the time of cooking of meals:

Aprons and head gears have already been provided to all cook-cum-helpers during 2014-15 & 2018-19, which are used by the Cook-cum-Helpers during the time of cooking and serving of MDM.

2.7.12 Modalities for apportionment of cook-cum-helpers engaged at school level and working at centralized kitchens, in case of schools being served through centralized kitchens:

The Cook-Cum-Helpers (CCH) engaged by concerned SMCs in schools other than Centralized Kitchen. The CCH is being received of Rs.1000/- per month for 10 months in a financial year. In case of schools under centralized Kitchen of Akshay Patra Foundation in Kamrup and Kamrup(M) districts, the CCHs receive of fifty percent of total due i.e. Rs.500/- per month for 10 months in a financial year considering their workload and the rest fifty percent of total amount is being paid to the Cook-Cum-Helpers engaged in Centralized Kitchen. It is to be mentioned that cook cum helpers engaged in the schools covered by NGO have only distributed the cooked food only.

Further, it may be stated that regarding discontinuation/release of Cook cum Helpers by School Managing Committees without any valid reason, the matter was discussed with Hon'ble Minister, Education, Assam on 11th August, 2016. The Hon'ble Minister, Education, Assam suggested that without prior approval of the appropriate authority and without any valid reason, no SMC can discontinue/release any Cook-cum-Helper from the cooking work under MDMS. Report of discontinuation/release as well as engagement of new Cook-cum-Helper is to be immediately intimated to the State Nodal Office with details of bank account etc. along with reason of discontinuance/release of Cook cum Helpers. A copy of the minutes is enclosed herewith for your kind reference.

Accordingly, a letter was issued to all District Nodal Officers, MDMS and informed that henceforth, the SMCs will not directly discontinue/release the Cook cum Helpers from the cooking works of MDMS. If, any situation for discontinuation of Cook-cum-Helper from the cooking work of MDM arises, the SMC will have to discuss the matter in the meeting of SMC and send a proposal/resolution along with reasons in writing to the Deputy Commissioner & District Nodal Officer, MDMS/Principal Secretary & District Nodal Officer, MDMS of the concerned district through Block Mission Co-ordinator, SSA & Block Nodal Officer, MDMS/ Deputy Inspector of Schools/ District Mission Co-ordinator, SSA & Assistant District Nodal Officer, MDMS for necessary approval. Without prior approval of the appropriate authority, no SMC can discontinue/release any Cook-cum-Helper from the cooking work of MDM.

2.7.13 Mechanisms adopted for the training of cook cum helpers. Total number of trained cook cum helpers engaged in the cooking of MDMs. Details of the training modules; Number of Master Trainers available in the State; Number of trainings organized by the Master Trainers for training cook-cum-helpers.:

In 2018-19 training programme on different aspects of Mid-Day Meal Scheme and maintenance of food safety, health & hygiene at school level kitchen was imparted to all the Cook-cum-Helpers along with the Heads of the Institutions and SMC Presidents. Cluster Resource Centre Co-ordinators under SSA were

imparted training in District level training programme for Resource Persons in all districts and then, Cluster Resource Centre Co-ordinators imparted the same training to all the Head of the Institutions, SMC Presidents and Cook-cum-Helpers of their respective clusters in Cluster Level Training.

Module used for training to Cook-cum-Helpers:

- Nutritional Aspect.
- Cooking and preparing different items having good nutritious value by using easily available cooking ingredients.
- Methods of cooking different items. As for example, cutting leafy vegetables after washing, but not washing leafy vegetables after cutting.
- Format of Advance Monthly Action Plan.
- Maintenance of Food Safety, Health & Hygiene at School Level Kitchen.
- Contaminated health related awareness.
- Process of making Cold Storage Facility at school level for preserving vegetables fresh.
- Hand washing activities by children before & after taking MDM.
- Tasting of cooked MDM by teacher, SMC member, Mothers Group member & Cook-cum-Helpers 30 minutes before serving the same to the students & keeping record in Food Tasting Register.
- MDMS Rules & guidelines.
- NFSA, 2015.

2.7.14 Whether any steps have been taken to enroll cook-cum-helpers under any social security schemes i.e. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana etc. and number of cooks benefitted through the same:

The matter has already been brought to the notice of Education (Elementary) Department, Govt. of Assam. Subsequently, a letter No. GLR(RC)3/2003/Pt.I/320 dtd. 27/02/2019 has been received from the Addl. Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Labour Welfare Department and directed State Nodal Officer, MDM Scheme, Assam to registration and enrolment of CCHs working under Mid-Day Meal Scheme for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Shram Jogi Mandhan Pension Yojana. Accordingly, all districts were directed to registration and enrolment of CCHs working under Mid-Day Meal Scheme for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Shram Jogi Mandhan Pension Yojana vide letter No.SSA/MDM/Pochan Abhiyan/21/2018/7605 dtd. 08/04/2019.

2.8 Procurement and storage of cooking ingredients and condiments

2.8.1 System for procuring good quality pulses, vegetables including leafy ones, salt, condiments, oil etc. and other commodities:

The SMC of the schools procure the ingredients locally so that season wise available fresh vegetables including green leafy ones can be provided with the meals. Pulses, salt, condiments etc. are being purchased in local market. In Assam, special focus was given in setting up of School Nutrition Garden in each and every school covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Most of the schools

utilize fresh organic vegetables from the School Nutrition Gardens in the preparation of Mid-Day Meal.

2.8.2 Whether pulses are being procured from NAFED or otherwise:

No. Pulses, salt, condiments etc. are being purchased by SMC in local market.

2.8.3 Whether 'First-in:First-out' (FIFO) method has been adopted focusing MDM ingredients such as pulses, oil/fats. Condiments salt etc. or not.

First In First Out (FIFO) method has been adopted in usages of pulses, vegetables and condiments in the State.

2.8.4 Arrangements for safe storage of ingredients and condiments in kitchens:

Ingredients have been safely stored in kitchen-cum-store. A total of **58,449** Storage Bin (Steel Container) have been provided to schools for storage of rice and ingredients & condiments safely in kitchen.

2.8.5 Steps taken to ensure implementation of guidelines dated 13.02.2015 on food safety and hygiene in school level kitchens under Mid-Day Meal Scheme:

Guidelines on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens under MDM Scheme have been translated into **Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages** and distributed to the schools.

MDM Rules, 2015 have also been translated into Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages and printed in the said booklet. Also the Rules have been printed in MDM Calendar, 2018 and provided to all schools.

Training has been imparted to Cook cum Helpers, President & Member Secretary and other members of the SMCs on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens, MDM Rules, 2015 and Sampriti Bhojan (Tithi Bhojan).

IEC materials having total no. of 6 posters with pictorial presentation on different aspects of MDMS have been provided to all the schools during 2019-20 FY. Contents are given hereunder-

Pages	Contents
1	Norms of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Weekly Suggested Menu and ARMS (Automated Reporting & Management System)
2	School Nutrition Garden
3	Sampriti Bhojan (Tithi Bhojan)
4	Pictorial poster on Food Safety & Hygiene aspect of implementation of MDMS at schools
5	Pictorial poster on Health & Hygiene aspect to be followed in schools as per contents provided by NHM
6	Pictorial posters related to Disaster Mgmt Information provided by Assam State Disaster Management Authority

2.8.6 Information regarding dissemination of the guidelines up-to school level:

All guidelines/ booklets/ leaflets etc. provided by Central Govt. as well as State Govt. have been circulated amongst the schools via DNOs & BNOs. Moreover, pictorial posters highlighting Do's & Don'ts in respect of Food Safety, Health & Hygiene, guidelines on Calorie Norms, School Nutrition Garden & Sampriti Bhojan and ARMS along with Weekly Suggested Menu have been provided to all schools during 2019-20 financial year.

2.9 Type of Fuel used for cooking of Mid-Day Meals –LPG, Smokeless Chulha, Fire wood etc.

2.9.1 Number of schools using LPG for cooking MDM:

At present, a total of 13,474 schools have been using LPG for cooking MDM at school level.

2.9.2 Steps taken by State to provide LPG as fuel in MDM in all schools:

State Govt. has requested to provide LPG connection to remaining schools through convergence with line department. In this regard, letter has already been communicated to the State Govt.

2.9.3 Expected date by which LPG would be provided in all schools:

State Govt. will be requested to provide LPG connection at the earliest.

2.10 Kitchen-cum-stores.

2.10.1 Procedure for construction of kitchen-cum-store:

The construction of kitchen cum stores is being constructed by School Managing Committee (SMC) under the constant supervision of District Project Engineer and block level Junior Engineers of SSA. Funds have been released to the SMCs bank accounts in two installments. The 75% of the total unit cost has been released to the SMCs' bank accounts from State Nodal Office through RTGS mode as 1st installment. The 2nd installment i.e. 25% of the total unit cost has been released to the SMCs' bank accounts from State Nodal Office through RTGS mode after receiving UCs and photographs against 1st installment.

2.10.2 Whether any standardized model of kitchen cum stores is used for construction:

Construction of Kitchen-cum-store was done as per approved plan & estimate. The plan & estimate was prepared by construction agencies viz. HOUSEFED and Assam State Housing Board and the same was approved by State Nodal Officer, MDMS. Besides, Pre Feb (PEB) model/structure has been introduced for construction of Kitchen-cum-store to 12,222 schools, out of which 11,741 units have already been completed and 481 is under progress.

2.10.3 Details of the construction agency and role of community in this work:

The State Government had engaged two construction agencies namely, HOUSEFED and Assam State Housing Board for construction of Kitchen-cum-Stores under MDM programme. Accordingly, SNO, MDM had placed work order for construction of Kitchen-cum-Store one each in 44,615 schools. But, they had completed only 39,451. In fact, construction was done in close co-ordination between agencies and the SMCs concerned.

Further, Govt. had decided to construct remaining Kitchen-cum-Stores through SMCs. Accordingly, fund has released to the SMCs bank accounts (12,103 schools @ unit cost of Rs.1,41,500/- and 119 schools @ unit cost of Rs.1,98,100/-). SMCs of the concerned schools monitor the construction works and its progress & completion in time. The District Project Engineer and block level Junior Engineers of SSA constantly supervise the construction works.

Remaining 5,122 schools @ unit cost of Rs.60,000/- have not been taken up yet due to insufficient unit cost.

2.10.4 Kitchen cum stores constructed through convergence, if any:

Kitchen-Cum-Store of 39,451 schools has been done through two State Government agencies viz. HOUSEFED & Assam State Housing Board.

2.10.5 Progress of construction of kitchen-cum-stores and target for the next year:

PAB-MDM Sanction kitchen cum store	Completed by Assam State Housing Board and Housefed	Completed by SMCs	Total completed	In progress at SMC level	Yet to start	Target for 2019-20
A	B	C	D=[B+C]	E	F	G
56,795	39,451	11,741	51,192	481	5,122	Nil

2.10.6 The reasons for slow pace of construction of kitchen cum stores, if applicable:

In many cases, schools do not have sufficient land for construction of Kitchen-cum-store. In some cases, low-lying land and poor road communication are the reasons for slow pace in construction of Kitchen-cum-store.

In some areas like riverine areas/hill areas, non-available of road connectivity is the main barrier in progress of works. Manpower is used for carrying materials to the construction site. For this reason, cost of carrying materials goes higher than other areas.

During monsoon period every year a large area/some area are affected with flood water & road communication is disrupted for a considerable period of time. Consequently, progress of works suffered in the above areas during the period & completion time requires more. Dispute in SMCs is also a major hindrance for progress of work. Progress is also affected due to frequent bandh call by various organizations, conflict in border and vulnerable areas etc.

Total 5,122 units @ Rs.60,000/- sanctioned during 2008-09 are found to be difficult to construct with the approved rate as per present SOR of PWD (B), Assam.

2.10.7 How much interest has been earned on the unutilized central assistance lying in the bank account of the State/implementing agencies:

Rs. 21.51 Crore was lying in the bank as interest.

2.10.8 Details of the kitchen cum stores constructed in convergence. Details of the agency engaged for the construction of these kitchen-cum-stores:

A total of 39,451 units of kitchen cum stores have been constructed by Assam State Housing Board and Housefed.

2.11 Kitchen Devices:

2.11.1 Procedure of procurement of kitchen devices from funds released under the Mid-Day Meal Programme:

The Govt. of India had released of Rs.663.85 lakh and Rs.1566.20 lakh during 2009-10 & 2010-11 for procurement of kitchen devices. The Director of Elementary Education cum the then SNO, MDMS Assam had invited tenders for purchase of steel plate and steel Glass during 2013. However, order of the work could not be executed due to pending court cases. The court has disposed off the matter and now, fund has been released to the SMCs of 44,601 schools in their bank accounts as per rate (Rs.5000/- per school) to procure kitchen devices as per the guideline and specifications approved by Govt. of Assam.

2.11.2 Status of procurement of kitchen devices:

State Government had released an amount of Rs.883.30 lakh during 2007-08 for procurement of Kitchen devices, which has already been utilized. In fact, no fund has been received from other sources for procurement of Kitchen devices in schools.

The Govt. of India had released of Rs.663.85 lakh and Rs.1566.20 lakh during 2009-10 & 2010-11 for procurement of kitchen devices. Fund has been released to the SMCs of 44,601 schools in their bank accounts as per rate (Rs.5000/- per school) to procure kitchen devices as per the guideline and specifications approved by Govt. of Assam.

Moreover, Govt. of India has released an amount to Rs.569.70 lakh during 2016-17 for replacement of kitchen devices to 11,394 schools. Accordingly, all targeted schools have been provided LPG connection along with Gas Stove and Suraksha Rubber Hose with the help of IOC Ltd., Guwahati.

2.11.3 Procurement of kitchen devices through convergence or community/CSR:

No kitchen devices have been procured through convergence or community/CSR.

2.11.4 Availability of eating plates in the schools. Source of procurement of eating plates:

In AWP & Budget 2019-20, it was proposed to provide eating plates and drinking water glasses (steel) to the students in phased manner from MME component. Accordingly, eating plates and drinking water glasses were provided to the children of Hailakandi and Udalguri districts under MME component during 2019-20.

2.12 Measures taken to rectify:

2.12.1 Inter-district low and uneven utilization of food grains and cooking cost:

Status of utilization of food grains and cooking costs are regularly monitored from district as well as State levels. Schools are encouraged to utilize food grains at the optimal quantity, so that no uneven utilization of food grains and cooking cost is seen.

2.12.2 Intra-district mismatch in utilization of food grains and cooking cost:

Intra district uneven/mismatch of utilization of food grains and cooking cost are observed due to several reasons like local bandh, flood, ethnic violence etc. The District Nodal Officers have been asked to utilize cooking cost in proportionate of food grains and the schools are requested to make up the left-out days taking special measures.

2.12.3 Mismatch of data reported through various sources (QPR, AWP&B, MIS etc)

It has been observed that lot of errors remain while entering the data into MIS portal by computer operators. Checking at the entry level has considerably reduced such error in the current year data. Of course, few mismatches are still observed which need to be taken care of in future while entering the data in MIS web portal.

2.13 Quality of food

2.13.1 System of Tasting of food by teachers/community. Maintenance of tasting register at school level:

Cooked food is tasted by teachers / cook-cum-helper / SMC members/Mothers Group members on regular basis. The Schools authority has also been requested to maintain tasting register at school level.

State has taken initiative to provide a Food Tasting Register to each and every school covered under MDM Scheme in 2019-20 financial year where HT/HM is to keep records of tasting of food before serving of the same to the children.

FOOD TASTING REGISTER							
							Month...../20....
Date	SMC Member/Mothers Group (on a Rotation Basis)						Signature of the Teacher who Tasted
	Name of the SMC member/ Mother Group member	Designation	Time of Tasting	Menu	Remarks	Signature	

2.13.2 Maintenance of roster of parents, community for the presence of at least two parents in the school on each day at the time of serving and tasting of mid day meal:

Cooked food is tasted by teachers / cook-cum-helper(s) / SMC members / parents / community on regular basis and maintained tasting register at school level.

2.13.3 Testing of food sample by any recognized labs for prescribed nutrients and presence of contaminants such as microbe's e-coli. Mechanism to check the temperature of the cooked MDM:

Meal provided by Akshaya Patra Foundation is tested in reputed laboratory. State will also take necessary steps to test cooked MDM in reputed laboratory to ascertain the quality of food.

2.13.4 Engagement of / recognized labs for the testing of Meals:

The Akshaya Patra Foundation, Guwahati (NGO) has an ISO certified kitchen and dispatch meals for testing purpose at NABL Lab, Kolkata & Public Health Lab, Assam at regular interval.

2.13.5 Details of protocol for testing of Meals, frequency of lifting and testing of samples:

The Akshaya Patra Foundation, Guwahati (NGO), being an ISO certified kitchen, follows all the safety & quality measures and norms. At a regular interval, Food Inspector from Office of Joint Director of Health services visits the kitchen. After cooking, food is being tested by three senior category officers including Quality Officer of the foundation. The Foundation sends sample of meals for testing purpose at NABL Lab, Kolkata & Public Health Lab, Assam at regular interval.

2.13.6 Details of samples taken for testing and the results thereof:

17 numbers of samples of meals collected from schools were tested at laboratory by Akshay Patra Foundation in 2019-20 and found all the samples are in compliance with norms.

2.13.7 Steps taken to ensure implementation of guidelines issued with regard to quality of food:

A necessary guideline has been issued to all concerned including school authority to ensure implementation of guidelines with regard to maintain quality of food.

State will also take necessary steps to test cooked MDM in reputed laboratory to ascertain the quality of food.

Further, guidelines on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens under MDM Scheme have been translated into Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages and distributed to the schools. MDM Rules, 2015 (Notification) have also been translated into Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages and printed in the said booklet. The MDM Rules, 2015 have also been printed in MDM Calendar, 2018. Training have been imparted to Cook cum Helpers, President, Member Secretary and other members of the SMCs on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens and MDM Rules, 2015.

IEC materials having total no. of 6 posters with pictorial presentation on different aspects of MDMS have been provided to all the schools during 2019-20 FY with contents as stated above in the Pt. No. 2.8.5.

Moreover, cooked food is tasted by teachers / cook-cum-helper / SMC members/Mothers Group members on regular basis. The Schools authority has also been requested to maintain tasting register at school level. State has taken initiative to provide a Food Tasting Register to each and every school covered under MDM Scheme in 2019-20 financial year where HT/HM is to keep records of tasting of food before serving of the same to the children.

2.14 Involvement of NGOs / Trusts / Temples / Gurudwara / Jails etc.

2.14.1 Modalities for engagement of NGOs/ Trusts/ Temples / Gurudwara / Jails etc. for serving of MDM through centralized kitchen:

The Akshaya Patra Foundation, a public charitable trust having its Head Office at Bangalore has been engaged in providing Mid-Day Meal in Kamrup (Rural) and Kamrup (Metro) since February, 2010. Currently, it is providing Mid-Day Meal to 546 schools (Kamrup– 398 and Kamrup (Metro)- 148) to 39,249 children (Kamrup– 22,152 and Kamrup (Metro)- 17,097) through its state of art ISO certified kitchen situated at Amingaon.

Mid-Day-Meal Guideline, 2006 and Mid-Day-Meal Rules, 2015 provides for setting up of **Centralized Kitchen** for a cluster of schools in urban areas where there is a space constraint for construction of kitchens in individual school. The Mid-Day-Meal (Amendment) Rules, 2017 amending the sub-rule (2) of rule 5 of the Mid Day Meal Rules, 2015 has been notified vide G.S.R. 471 (E) dated 16th May, 2017 as below:

“(2) Every school shall have the facility for cooking meal in hygienic manner and the schools in urban areas and in identified rural areas which have good road connectivity and viable cluster of schools, for the purpose of leveraging efficiency gains, may use the facility of centralized kitchens for cooking meals wherever required in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government and the meal shall be served to children at respective school only.”

Hon’ble Finance Minister, Govt. of Assam had announced in the Budget Speech during 2016-17 (54 & 55 pages) that “Mid-day-Meal is one of the most successful programme across the country. This has evidently helped not only the retention level of the students of schools but also increasing their nutrition status. But the

challenge is to provide cooked, hygienic and healthy meal in every school remains a challenge. The successful experiment in providing cooked and hygienic meal in some Blocks in Kamrup district by involving "Akshay Patra", a reputed International NGO by centralized cooking at the Block level gives a positive outlook. The Education Department will come up with detailed guidelines for implementing mid-day meal scheme through centralized kitchens in a phased manner."

Under such circumstances, an Expression of Interest (EOI) was floated for supply of Mid Day Meal in elementary schools in Assam through Centralised Kitchen in the month of June, 2017. A total of 20 (twenty) NGOs/VOs had submitted EOI for supply of MDM in elementary schools in Assam. EOI was evaluated on the basis criteria mentioned in the EOI.

A State level committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Elementary Education Department for selection as well as for empanelment of NGOs/VOs.

The State Level Committee decided to empanel 15 (fifteen) NGOs/VOs out of 20 NGOs/VOs for allotment of districts for setting up of Centralized Kitchen in the urban area preferably in the district head quarter.

Based on the above, work order was issued for all 28 nos of districts in 2019-20 financial year. Out of 28 districts, designated NGOs surrendered the work for two districts viz. Majuli & Karbi Anglong.

The lists of the schools to be covered under NGOs were submitted by the concerned Deputy Commissioners after verification at district level. Deputy Commissioners were requested to conduct a trial run before commencement of Centralized Kitchen in the districts. Schools located within 25 KM radius of the Centralized Kitchen having good road connectivity were only considered for inclusion under Centralized Kitchen for supply of Mid-Day Meal.

After observing all the formalities, Centralized Kitchens were operationalized in 17 districts by 13 NGOs w.e.f. 1st Nov, 2019.

There were reports of continuing protests and agitation by a section of the Cook-cum-Helpers against engagement of NGOs to run Centralized Kitchens in the 17 districts of Assam and also there were reports in the print and electronic media regarding supply of poor quality of Mid-Day Meal to schools.

Accordingly, the Govt. of Assam put on hold the operationalization of Centralized Kitchen established by these NGOs temporarily until further orders w.e.f. 11/11/19.

2.14.2 Whether NGOs / Trusts/ Temples / Gurudwara / Jails etc. are serving meal in rural areas:

No. The Akshaya Patra Foundation, Guwahati (NGO) is serving meals in Kamrup (Rural) and Kamrup (M) districts in urban areas.

2.14.3 Maximum distance and time taken for delivery of food from centralized kitchen to schools:

The Akshaya Patra Foundation, Guwahati (NGO) is covering maximum 20 km distance from the centralized kitchen and it takes around 2 hrs from the kitchen to schools. It is ensured that it reaches before lunch time following ISO norms of cooked to consumption.

2.14.4 Measures taken to ensure delivery of hot cooked meals to schools:

The Akshaya Patra Foundation, Guwahati (NGO) is cooking meals in ISO certified kitchen strictly following ISO norms and pack food in SS 304 grade vessels and send through customized insulated Delivery van which keep food warm at consumption time.

2.14.5 Responsibility of receiving cooked meals at the schools from the centralized kitchen:

Cooked meals are received by Cook-Cum-helper & SMCs of the concerned schools from the Akshaya Patra Foundation, Guwahati (NGO) carried through customized insulated vehicles. The CCHs of the schools covered under NGO then distributed the meal among the children and washes utensils after delivery of food.

2.14.6 Whether sealed/insulated containers are used for supply of meals to schools:

Yes, the Akshaya Patra Foundation is providing meals through S.S. 304 grade Vessels which are completely air tight and food self-life inside the vessels is five hrs and temperature remains near about 60°C to 65°C at the time of consumption (lunch time).

2.14.7 Tentative time of delivery of meals at schools from centralized kitchen:

Generally, it takes two hours from centralized kitchen. Meals are served within 12 noon of all schools covered under centralized kitchen.

2.14.8 Availability of weighing machines for weighing the cooked MDM at school level prepared at centralized kitchen:

No weighing machine is available at school level. However, in centralized kitchen the same is available and is being used in regard to cooked MDM.

2.14.9 Testing of food samples at centralized kitchens:

The Akshaya Patra Foundation, Guwahati (NGO), being an ISO certified kitchen, follows all the safety & quality measures and norms. At a regular interval, Food Inspector from Office of Joint Director of Health services visits the kitchen. After cooking, food is being tested by three senior category officers including Quality Officer of the foundation. The Foundation sends Meals for testing purpose at National Collateral Management Service Ltd. & Fare Labs Pvt. Ltd. at regular interval.

Total 17 samples were tested during 2019-20 financial year and found compliance with norms.

2.14.10 Whether NGOs / Trusts/ Temples / Gurudwara / Jails etc. is receiving grant from other organizations for the mid day meal. If so, the details thereof:

Since, **cost of Mid-Day Meal provided by** the Akshaya Patra Foundation, Guwahati (NGO) is approx. Rs.8 per meal. The source of fund of organization is:

- 1) Grant: Grain & Cash subsidy from Govt.
- 2) Donation.

2.15 Systems to ensure transparency and accountability in all aspects of programme implementation,

2.15.2 Display of logo, entitlement of children and other information at a prominent visible place in school:

MDM Logo has been displayed in the front veranda of the schools. The entitlement of children and other information have been printed in MDM calendar. The same have been displayed in hoarding also. Hoardings are installed in the office campus of Deputy Commissioners, Inspector of Schools, DEEOs, BEEOs. Further, State Govt. has decided to provide White Board during 2015-16 to all schools to reflect MDMs entitlement of children in respect of norms of cooking cost, rice, honorarium to cook cum helpers, stock of food grains, medical plan and other important information.

During 2019-20, MDM Logo has been provided to all the schools of seven aspirational districts of Assam from MME component.

2.15.3 Dissemination of information through MDM website

All the information in respect of Mid-Day Meal Scheme is uploaded in MDM website as per specific format. During 2018-19, a separate MDM Website has been created and all important information / guidelines etc. will be uploaded.

2.15.4 Provisions for community monitoring at school level i.e. Mother Roaster, Inspection register:

All Schools have maintained Inspection Register to note down the observations/comments by the inspecting officials. Also, SMCs, Mother Groups regularly monitor the functioning of MDMS and provide concurrent support to the schools in this regard. Moreover, it has been made compulsory that any teacher and one SMC member/Mothers Group member must taste cooked Mid-Day Meal 30 minutes before serving the same to the students & the schools have to maintain a Food Tasting Register for this purpose.

2.15.5 Conducting Social Audit:

State conducted Social Audit for SSA & MDMS with a view to ensure transparency, accountability & participation of community in school development activities. Social Audit manual was developed in the State with the inputs of Resource Person, Teachers, SMCs and provided to the selected SMCs for conducting Social Audit. Social Audit teams were constituted with the representative of PRIs, local Retired Teacher, NGOs, local educated Youth,

Mothers Group and the Group Co-ordinators were given training at district level. During the financial year 2018-19, a total of 47,818 schools were covered under social audit in convergence with Samagra Shiksha.

At present, third party external evaluation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme is being conducted in 7 aspirational districts of Assam viz. Barpeta, Baksa, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Hailakandi and Udalguri by an organization named The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI), North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati.

2.15.5.1 Whether Social Audit has been carried out or not:

In 2019-20 Social Audit has not been conducted.

2.15.5.2 If no, in 2.15.5.1, reasons thereof:

As during the financial year 2018-19, a total of 47,818 schools were covered under social audit in convergence with Samagra Shiksha, initiative was taken to conduct third party external evaluation. At present, third party external evaluation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme is being conducted in 7 aspirational districts of Assam viz. Barpeta, Baksa, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Hailakandi and Udalguri.

2.15.5.3 Details of action taken by the State on the findings of Social Audit:

In 2019-20 Social Audit has not been conducted.

2.15.5.4 Impact of social audit in the schools:

In 2019-20 Social Audit has not been conducted.

2.15.5.5 Action plan for Social Audit during 2020-21.

There is no plan to carry out Social Audit in 2020-21.

2.16 Capacity building and training for different stakeholders

2.16.2 Details of the training programme conducted for State level officials, SMC members, school teachers and others stakeholders:

In 2018-19 training programme on different aspects of Mid-Day Meal Scheme and maintenance of food safety, health & hygiene at school level kitchen was imparted to all the Head of the Institutions, SMC Presidents and Cook-cum-Helpers. Cluster Resource Centre Co-ordinators under SSA were imparted training in District level training programme for Resource Persons in all districts and then, Cluster Resource Centre Co-ordinators imparted the same training to all the Head of the Institutions, SMC Presidents and Cook-cum-Helpers of their respective clusters in Cluster Level Training.

In the training of SMCs under SSA, the Mid-Day-Meal has been taken a major subject of discussion with the SMC members. Apart from SMC's role and responsibilities in MDMS, the subjects like books of accounts, hygiene and safe drinking water, emergency plan, kitchen garden, Sampriti Bhojan, food safety & hygiene etc. were covered in the training module.

Role of SSA functionaries in MDMS is also discussed in different meetings held at State & District levels from time to time.

In 2019-20, State Level Induction Training programme was conducted where newly engaged district level MDMS officials were participants. All important aspects of Mid-Day Meal Scheme were covered in the training programme.

2.16.3 Details about Modules used for training, Master Trainers, Venues etc.

State Level Induction Training Programme was conducted in the conference hall of the State Nodal Office, MDMS, Assam on 20-01-2020 and 21-01-2020. Modules used for the training are given below-

Day 1:

- Introduction to Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Mid-Day Meal Rules.
- U-DISE & Category of Schools.
- Various Aspects of Nutrition.
- Maintenance of Food Safety, Health & Hygiene at School Level Kitchen.
- Child Safety at Schools under Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
- Food Grains & Transportation Management

Day 2:

- Cooking Cost.
- Community Participation in MDMS.
- Cook-cum-Helper Management.
- ARMS and MIS Web Portal.
- School Nutrition Garden.
- Sampriti Bhojan.
- Kitchen-cum-Stores.
- QPR (Quarterly Progress Report)

2.16.4 Targets for the next year:

All CCHs have been provided training up to 2018-29. However, induction training programme will be organized for new employees after filling up vacancy positions under Mid-Day Meal Scheme in 2020-21.

2.17 Management Information System at School, Block, District and State level and its details.

2.17.2 Procedure followed for data entry into MDM-MIS Web portal:

The School Monthly Data Capture Format (MDCF) is the main source of information for monthly data entry into MDM-MIS portal. The Head Teacher/Head Masters/Principals were instructed to submit the duly filled up School Monthly Data Capture Format (MDCF) of every month on or before 5th day of its following month or along with salary bills whichever is earlier to the respective Education Block Offices. The Block level Data Entry Operators make data entry into the MDM-MIS portal. The Govt. of India issued instruction vide letter No. F.No.12-1/2010-MDM 2-1 Dated 12th Oct., 2015 to involve Data Entry Operators engaged under SSA in the work of data entry into MIS Web

Portal. Accordingly, necessary instruction has been issued to engage EPDs of Block offices in data entry works. On the other hand, EDP has been engaged on man days basis through outsourcing for online data entry in the MDMS MIS Web Portal whenever required. Data entry is monitored from the State Nodal Office of MDMS, Assam and all logistic supports are given whenever and whatever required.

2.17.3 Level (State/ District/ Block/ School) at which data entry is made:

School wise format is collected by CRC/ Block EDP/Block Accountant under SSA / Sub-Inspector of School and data entry has been done at Block level mainly on man-days basis/ EDPs of Block Offices.

2.17.4 Availability of manpower for web based MIS:

Initially, MIS data entries have been done by the block level SSA EDPs. Subsequently, for incomplete and due to urgency, data entry has been done on man-days basis through outsourcing.

2.17.5 Mechanism for ensuring timely data entry and quality of data:

The Head Teacher/Head Masters/Principals were instructed to submit the duly filled up School Monthly Data Capture Format (MDCF) of every month on or before 5th day of its following month or along with salary bills whichever is earlier to the respective Education Block Offices. The block level Data Entry Operators are to complete data entry into the MDM-MIS portal by 10th working day of the month.

2.17.6 Whether MIS data is being used for monitoring purpose and details thereof:

MIS data have been used for planning process for preparation of AWP&B, 2020-21. It is also a part of the monitoring system to ensure service of Mid-Day Meal to the children in all the eligible schools.

2.18 Automated Monitoring System (AMS) at School, Block, District and State level and its details.

2.18.2 Status of implementation of AMS:

Automated Reporting & Monitoring System (MDM-ARMS) for collection of daily meal served data from schools for real time monitoring of MDMS has been rolled out in the State Assam in the month of October, 2017. Total nos. of 50,438 schools are ported in ARMS Web Portal. At present, the no. of schools that are reporting Daily Data in ARMS is 37487 out of 50,438 which is exactly **74.32%** of total ported schools [as on **04/03/2020**].

2.18.3 Mode of collection of data under AMS (SMS/IVRS/Mobile App/Web enabled):

Modes of data reporting in ARMS are SMS, Web mode & Mobile Application.

2.18.4 Tentative unit cost for collection of data:

NICSI is yet to submit pre-receipted bill against 2019-20.

2.18.5 Mechanism for ensuring timely submission of information by schools:

The Daily data reporting time in ARMS in Assam is fixed from 10:10 to 5:00 PM and for non reporting of data of any school, the respondents will be alerted by sending 3 periodic group SMS as per their role/ hierarchy. Moreover, district-level, block-level and cluster-level stakeholders in the state are also instructed to ensure timely submission of daily data by schools.

2.18.6 Whether the information under AMS is got validated:

The daily data reported in ARMS by the respondents are successfully delivered into the central server and the respondents are getting the acknowledgement against the successful delivery of daily data in their registered mobile phone. However, few issues faced by the respondents regarding non-delivery of MDM data are directly pursued with the NIC-HP and accordingly issues are being solved.

2.18.7 Whether AMS data is being used for monitoring purpose and details thereof:

ARMS is designed to monitor the implementation of the scheme at school level on daily as well as monthly basis. The present status of availability of fund and food grains for the non serving MDM schools are reflected in the ARMS web portal and accordingly the stakeholders at different levels are engaged for remedial measures.

2.18.8 In case, AMS has not been rolled out, the reasons therefore may be indicated along with the time lines by which it would be rolled out:

Does not arise.

2.19 Details of Evaluation studies conducted by State/UT and summary of its findings.

At present, third party external evaluation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme is being conducted in 7 aspirational districts of Assam viz. Barpeta, Baksa, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Hailakandi and Udalguri by an organization named The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI), North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati.

The evaluation study will be completed by March, 2020 and summary of findings will be submitted to the MHRD, Govt. of India.

2.20 Case Studies / Write up on best/ innovative practices followed in the State along with some high resolution photographs of these best / innovative practices:

Dissemination of information to all stakeholders through pictorial presentation:

IEC materials having total no. of 6 posters with pictorial presentation on different aspects of Mid-Day Meal Scheme have been provided to all the schools and offices during 2019-20 FY with contents as given hereunder-

Pages	Contents
1	Norms of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Weekly Suggested Menu and ARMS
2	School Nutrition Garden
3	Sampriti Bhojan (Tithi Bhojan)
4	Pictorial poster on Food Safety & Hygiene aspect of implementation of MDMS at schools
5	Pictorial poster on Health & Hygiene aspect to be followed in schools as per contents provided by NHM
6	Pictorial posters related to Disaster Mgmt Information provided by Assam State Disaster Management Authority

Hoarding on Sampriti Bhojan:

Hoardings on Sampriti Bhojan have been installed in two prominent places of all the districts to promote the concept and encourage people to come forward for providing food to children in the schools on special occasions such as festivals, anniversaries, birthdays, marriages, and days of national importance etc.

Kitchen Garden in Schools:

Setting up of School Nutrition Garden (Kitchen Gardens) highlights the critical learning of lifelong skill and seeks to achieve a goal where children learn the skill of growing their own food. School children also learn to appreciate conservation of nature as well as the importance of vegetables for health and wellness. Benefits of School Nutrition Gardens are-

- School Nutrition Gardens are the best source of fresh organic vegetables.
- Students get nutritious vegetables in MDM.
- Establish the green atmosphere in the school surrounding.
- Students get knowledge of work.
- Knowledge of horticulture and agriculture growth can be developed.
- Awareness about environmental education.
- Information of vegetables and its uses.
- Increase involvement of students, teachers and community.
- Upholds dignity of labour.
- Instills love for nature.
- Promotes concept of greenery.
- Helps in developing a good hobby.
- Helps in beautifying the school.
- Encourage self sufficiency.

Each & every school covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme must have School Nutrition Garden irrespective of availability of land. Plants may be grown in small containers, cans, jars, discarded earthen pots, wooden peti, ceramic sinks, food tins, bags where land is not available for SNG.

Most of the Kitchen Gardens set up in 2018-19 were washed away in the devastating flood in Assam during July/19 and August/19. Considerable steps were taken to set up School Nutrition Garden in each & every school covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme again. Following instructions were given to all the schools-

- (A) Each & every school covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme must have School Nutrition Garden irrespective of availability of land. Plants may be grown in small containers, cans, jars, discarded earthen pots, wooden peti, ceramic sinks, food tins, bags where land is not available.
- (B) Along with the plantation of plants/shrubs of seasonal vegetables of winter & summer seasons, plants/shrubs having vegetables & fruits throughout the year in all seasons and fit in with local food habits should be planted & nurtured. As for example, papaya plant.
- (C) The scientific name as well as local name along with nutritional value of each plant/shrub must be displayed properly.
- (D) Eco Club, enthusiastic children, SMC Members & interested persons from the community may look after the development of School Nutrition Gardens.
- (E) The Head of the Institution is to depute a teacher of his/her school as Nodal Teacher for maintaining & developing School Nutritional Garden in his/her respective school.
- (F) A register in this regard is to be maintained by every school which will include columns for recording item-wise total weight of the produce as & when utilized from the School Nutrition Garden. A format for the same is given hereunder-

Sl. No.	Date	Name of the item	Total weight in KG	Signature of the Nodal Teacher/Head of the Inst.
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SMCs of the concerned schools were requested to develop School Nutrition Gardens in their own schools with the help of SMC members, teachers, Eco club headed by the Head Teacher/Head Master, enthusiastic students and interested community members. The result is so encouraging in almost all schools. The students are enjoying eating green vegetables from their own kitchen garden.

District Level Committees for School Nutrition Gardens were constituted under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner and representatives of all line departments in all districts during 2019-20 to ensure setting up of School Nutrition Gardens in all schools in convergence with all line departments.

MDM IEC Calendar:

State has provided MDM calendar to all schools and offices of Education Department and district administration with the information like suggested weekly menu, calorie

chart, norms with respect to all components (Cooking cost, honorarium to Cook-cum-Helper, Transportation Cost, Days to be served MDM, food grains entitlement etc). The calendar also displays best initiatives in the State with photographs portraying children of schools. The SSA-MDM Toll Free Number and address for communication to State MDM Offices have also been enlisted in the Calendar. It may be mentioned that guidelines of Sampreti Bhojan (Tithi Bhojan) provided by MHRD, Govt. of India has been translated into Assamese language and printed in MDM Calendar, 2019.

Group Hand-washing before Mid-Day-Meal:

Assam model of Group Hand-washing before Mid-Day-Meal is one of the best model in the country with low cost high value principle, which is appreciated at the national/international level. As reported, this activity has enhanced enrolment and retention of children in schools vis-à-vis reduced the diseases like diarrhea, skin disease etc.

Honourarium to Cook cum Helpers through e-transfer:

Prior to April, 2016, the monthly honorarium of Cook cum Helpers had been released in the SMC's bank account from State Nodal Office, Guwahati. Accordingly, monthly honourarium of CCHs were paid by SMC's President and Member Secretary through cheque or cash. The process of disbursal of monthly honorarium took a reasonable period of time leading the Cook cum Helpers engaged by SMC in trouble for getting their monthly honorarium in time. Sometime, report of siphoning of amounts sanctioned at different level had also been reported. The Cook cum Helpers Association had been demanding frequently to release their monthly honorarium through their individual bank account.

To make the system of disbursal of monthly honorarium more transparent and to plug the loopholes in respect of proper disbursal of monthly honorarium of Cook cum Helpers to their individual bank accounts directly it is decided to take help of platforms of different banks right from nationalized, regional rural banks and also private banks to transfer the fund through RTGS from State Nodal Office to avoid unnecessary delay in getting their monthly honorarium from SMCs.

Subsequently, all Cook cum Helpers were persuaded and motivated to open zero balance bank accounts with the help of bank branches available locally during 2015-16 and 2016-17. Accordingly, they opened bank accounts in different banks and provided to State Nodal Office through District Nodal Office. Details of bank accounts of CCH were given to Axis Bank, Bhangagarh branch, Guwahati for validation and necessary correction like IFS code etc. for initiating the exercise.

Subsequently, the monthly honorarium of Cook cum Helpers @Rs.1000/- have been released to their personal bank account through RTGS/NEFT mode w.e.f. April, 2016.

Positive Impact:

Adoption of this electronic transfer mode of fund has made the process of disbursal easy, transparent, well monitored and corruption free. CCHs are now more motivated in performing their assigned duties for feeding the children. This will be a positive step towards achieving the universal objective of women empowerment to embolden the society, as such.

The Mid-Day Meal scheme is being efficiently and properly implemented as per the guidelines and all the Cook-cum-Helpers are playing a very vital role in this regard.

Display Board:

Display board along with duster and markers has been provided to the schools for displaying day-to-day MDM records for transparency.

Tarpaulin (sitting mat):

Tarpaulin (sitting mat) has been provided to the schools for eating MDM in hygienic manner.

Printing of “Guideline on Food Safety & Hygiene at School Level Kitchens”:

Guidelines on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens under MDM Scheme have been translated into Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages and distributed to the schools. MDM Rules, 2015 have also been translated into Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages and printed in the said booklet. Training has been imparted to Cook cum Helpers, President & Member Secretary of the SMCs on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens and MDM Rules, 2015.

2.21 Untoward incidents

2.21.2 Instances of unhygienic food served, children falling ill :

No instance of unhygienic food served & children falling ill are reported in the State.

2.21.3 Sub-standard supplies:

FCI delivered Fair Average Quality (FAQ) rice in Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

2.21.4 Diversion/ misuse of resources:

No report has been received by the State regarding diversion and misuse of Mid-Day Meal rice during 2019-20.

2.21.5 Social discrimination :

The State of Assam is blessed with no social discrimination. Mid-Day-Meal is taken by children together indifferent of caste, creed, religion etc.

2.21.6 Action taken and safety measures adopted to avoid recurrence of such incidents. Whether Emergency Plan exists to tackle any untoward incident:

Time to time SMCs has been instructed to maintain hygienic environment during preparation and delivery of Mid-Day Meal and to maintain fire safety. Fire extinguishers have also been provided in the schools for Fire safety. Almost all schools have display Emergency plan in front of office room of the schools. Posters on Child Safety Measures have been provided to all the schools with the following contents during 2019-20 under MME component-

“Mid-Day Meal Scheme is a flagship programme of the Govt. of India as well as Govt. of Assam. All possible precautionary measures must be taken in the schools to avoid any untoward situation. Some of the important points on precautionary measures are reiterated hereunder:

- i. *Children are strictly prohibited from entering cooking area during preparation Mid-Day Meal. In case of any compulsion, children may enter the cooking area only under strict adult supervision.*
- ii. *Children cannot be allowed in any kind of cooking works in the schools i.e cutting of vegetables, washing of ingredients or raw materials etc.*
- iii. *Children are to be barred from roaming around near the containers of hot cooked meal, water tank etc. as easy access to these areas may cause accidents.*
- iv. *Storage of fuels, disinfectants, detergents, cleaning agents must be kept strictly away from the reach of children and must not be mixed with edible raw materials used for cooking.*
- v. *Generally no pesticides/insecticides are encouraged or used in cooking area. In case of emergency, the same may be used while kitchen is not in operation and under strict supervision of licensed expert.*
- vi. *Arrangement for extinguishing fire must be in place for emergency use.*
- vii. *Utmost care must be taken to prevent exposure of children to fire or smoke.*
- viii. *Electric wires of the kitchen-cum-stores must be checked on regular basis to ensure no wire with open end exists in the electric lines.*
- ix. *Child Safety in the School Nutrition Garden must be ensured. Correct-sized tool is to be selected. Sprays and fertilizers must be kept out of reach. Use of chemicals is to be strictly restricted. Safe storage of equipment and tools must be provided. Exposure to high sunlight and warm temperature should be limited. Buckets of water are not to be left unattended around very young children.*
- x. *If LPG is used in the school, then cylinders, pipe and Suraksha Rubber Hose must be checked on regular basis to avoid any untoward situation due to leakage.*
- xi. *Cook-cum-Helpers are not allowed to leave the cooking area unattended during cooking and serving of Mid-Day Meal.*

It is an appeal to all the District/Block/Cluster level officials, Head of the Institutions, SMC/SMDC members, Mothers' Groups, Cook-cum-Helpers and community members to keep vigilance so that all precautionary measures under Mid-Day Meal Scheme are in place and followed in the schools properly. "

2.22 Status of Rastriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram:

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) is a continuous School Health Programme to improve child survival & quality life. Systematic approach to early identification of **4Ds: Defects at birth, Diseases, Deficiencies and Developmental delays including Disabilities in children in the age group of 0-18 years**. Existing school health programme under NHM is now expanded to include comprehensive screening for all children. Scheme is expected to cover more than 27 crore children in a phased manner.

This initiative ensures free management and treatment including surgical interventions at tertiary level through NHM. To cover the AWCs and schools, Mobile Health Teams (MHT)

are entrusted to accomplish the goal. MHTs are running through out the Assam in which comprises following members:

- **First Team:** Two nos. MO (Ayush), one ANM, one Pharmacist.
- **Second Team:** One MO (Ayush), one Dental Surgeon, one ANM, one Pharmacist.

2.22.2 Provision of micro- nutrients, de-worming medicine, Iron and Folic acid (WIFS):

Provision of micro-nutrients:

Vitamin A deficiency has been recognized as one of the major preventable public health and nutritional challenge. An estimated 5.7% children in India suffer from eye signs of Vitamin A deficiency. Recent evidence suggested that even mild form of Vitamin A deficiency increases morbidity and mortality among the U-5 children. Under the National Prophylaxis Programme for Prevention of Blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency, there is a provision of administration of Vitamin A on a periodic basis.

National De-worming Day:

Through this programme all pre-school and school-age children (enrolled and non-enrolled) age between 1-19 years are de-wormed through the platform of schools and Anganwadi Centres in order to improve their overall health, nutritional status, access to education and quality of life.

De-worming is done by using tablet Albendazole in single dose, which is to be chewed and swallowed along with water. The tablet is effective, safe and the drug available under Govt. supply complies with all statutory quality standards. Extensive experience of de-worming millions of children worldwide confirms that this drug itself causes only rare, mild and transient adverse reactions in case of children harbour more infections of high intensity, which need treatment for worm infestation. These reactions are generally related to degeneration of the worms that have been killed. Mild abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and fatigue are the most commonly reported adverse events in some children with increased worm load, are not serious and do not normally require medical treatment. An Emergency Response System has been put in place by the Health and Family Welfare Department of the State Government to manage any adverse events, mild and/ or severe. In case of any such adverse events, don't panic, as these adverse events are usually very mild in nature and likely to subside soon.

Children and young adults are most vulnerable to worm infestation. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 241 million children between the ages of 1 and 14 years are at risk of parasitic intestinal worms in India, known as soil-transmitted helminths (STH). These parasitic infections result from poor sanitation and hygiene conditions, and are easily transmitted among children through contact with infected soil.

Worms can cause anaemia and under-nutrition, thereby impairing mental and physical development. Children with the highest intensity of worm infestation are often too sick or too tired to concentrate at school or attend school at all. Subsequent life outcomes for these children are also considerably impacted due to lower lifetime incomes.

As per National Centre for Disease control (2016) the prevalence of worms in Assam is 50% and is among the high prevalence states in India. Similarly, prevalence of under-nutrition (stunting) is 36% while prevalence of anaemia among adolescent is 47% in Assam. This necessitates deworming among all especially children and adolescent of 1 to 19 years to-

- Improved cognition, educational achievement.
- Reduction in school absenteeism.
- Reduction in community helminth transmission.

A total of 29,07,934 children in 36,176 schools were provided de-worming tablets during 2019-20.

National Iron Plus Initiative (NIPI) :

Anemia, a manifestation of under-nutrition and poor dietary intake of iron is a serious public health problem among pregnant woman, infants, young children and adolescents. The magnitude of Anaemia together with the associated adverse health, development and economic consequences, highlights the need for intensified action to address this public health problem. Data suggests that 7 out of every 10 children aged 6-59 months in India are anemic. Anemia is a major public health problem in Assam. In Assam and as per NFHS-4 (National Family Health Survey-4), 46% of all women, 44.8% of pregnant women, 35.7% of U-5 children are anemic in Assam.

According to the WHO, Weekly Iron and Folic acid Supplementation (WIFS) is a key intervention for prevention of anemia. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI launched the WIFS programme in 2012 to meet the challenge of the high prevalence incidence of anemia in children and adolescents which is renamed as NIPI in 2013. WIFS is an evidence-based response to the prevailing anaemia situation and includes weekly supervised ingestion / administration of IFA supplementation. The program's long term goal is to break the intergenerational cycle of anaemia: while in the short term, it improves India's human capital through improved nutrition status.

This programme is for all school going boys and girls in school (5-19 years) and out of school girls (5 -19 years) in urban and rural areas and will be implemented through the platform of Government / Government aided/ municipal schools and AWCs. The strategy involves a "fixed day – Monday" approach for IFA distribution. Teachers and AWWs supervise the ingestion of the IFA tablet by the beneficiaries.

Advantages of supplementations are :

- Increase in IQ leading to better academic performance of the students.
- Increase in learning ability
- Increase in concentration.
- Increase in energy levels and output in day to day work.
- Increase in overall capacity to work and earn.
- Physically more active facilitating increased participation in extra-curricular activities.
- Reduction in school absenteeism.

A total of 38,95,812 children in 43,768 schools were provided weekly iron & folic acid supplementation (WIFS) during 2019-20.

2.22.3 Distribution of spectacles to children with refractive error:

The children are screened through MHT in schools and identified children are referred to the appropriate health facility for further screening. 7,962 nos. of children were distributed spectacles in 2019-20

2.22.4 Recording of height, weight etc.:

Height and weight of the children in AWC and schools are measures by the MHT by using infant-meter/ stadio-meter, weight scale, categories them as severe/moderate malnourished children and refer them to the counseling centre for proper counseling.

2.22.5 Number of visits made by the RBSK team for the health check- up of the children (Please ensure to upload at least two photographs of the visit of the medical team in each school on MDM-MIS portal).

Mobile Health Teams are there for screening children in AWCs and schools and refer the children to other health facilities for secondary/ tertiary treatment free of cost.

Screening of children is done twice in a year in AWC and once in a year in school through Mobile Health Team.

Under this programme, a total of 24,37,781 children in 28,620 schools were covered during 2019-20.

2.23 Present monitoring structure at various levels. Strategy for establishment of monitoring cell at various levels viz. Block, District and State level for effective monitoring of the scheme:

State Steering cum Monitoring Committee headed by the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam monitors the implementation of the scheme at State level.

The District Administrations regularly holds District Development Committee meeting to discuss inter-alia implementation of Mid-Day Meal scheme in the district. However, District Level Monitoring Committees headed by the Deputy Commissioners and Block Level Monitoring Committees under Mid-Day Meal Scheme have been already constituted in all the districts of Assam during the months of Oct/19, Nov/19 and Dec/19 to oversee the effective implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Functions of the committees were also notified and the details are given hereunder-

The functions of these committees are to:-

1. Guide the various implementation agencies.
2. Monitor programme implementation, assess its impact and take corrective steps.
3. Take action on reports of independent monitoring/evaluation agencies.

4. Effect co-ordination and convergence among various departments, agencies (e.g. FCI) and schemes.
5. Mobilize community support and promoting public-private partnership (PPP).

These committees are also requested to perform some specific functions in addition-

1. Ensuring Food Safety, Health & Hygiene at school level under Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
2. Ensuring that contingency plan under MDMS at school, block and district level is in place for avoiding any untoward situation.
3. Ensuring 100% schools reporting in Automated Reporting & Monitoring System.
4. Reviewing the constructions works under MDMS e.g. Kitchen-cum-Stores.
5. Block Level Committees will submit their reports/minutes of the monthly meeting to the District Level Committee for taking necessary actions.
6. District Level Committee will review the minutes/reports of the meeting of Block Level Committees in addition to the normal functions of the committee.
7. District Level Monitoring Committee will review the school-wise allotment of food grains (rice) and lifting of the same from FCI and supply of the same to the schools along with payment of cost of food grains to the FCI.
8. District Level and Block Level Monitoring Committees will review the status of implementation of any initiative as & when taken under MDMS and take corrective measures if necessary.
9. District Level and Block Level Monitoring Committees will review the complaints/grievances under MDMS. District Level Committee will take appropriate actions against any complaint/grievance as per rule.

2.24 Meetings of Steering cum Monitoring Committees at the Block, District and State level

2.24.2 Number of meetings held at various level and gist of the issues discussed in the meeting:

The meeting of the State Steering cum Monitoring Committee (SSMC) of Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Assam was held on 11th October, 2019. Major issues discussed in the SSMC meeting:

- i) Status of constitution of District as well as Block Level Monitoring Committees of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in all districts and Blocks.
- ii) Maintenance of safety & hygiene in implementation of MDM scheme at school level kitchen.
- iii) Developing a pictorial poster/booklet in consultation with National Health Mission, Assam showing process of storage of food grains and other cooking ingredients, cooking & serving of MDM to the students highlighting the Do's and Don'ts etc. to ensure hygienic environment at school level.
- iv) Status of implementation of Automated Reporting & Monitoring System (ARMS).
- v) Setting up of School Nutrition Garden in all schools.
- vi) Operationalization of Centralized Kitchens through NGOs.

- vii) Developing a comprehensive guidelines laying down the modus operandi for ensuring continuity & quality of service, delivery of hot cooked MDM to the schools in time, quality of MDM and its hygienic aspect etc

The District Administrations regularly holds District Development Committee meeting to discuss and review inter-alia implementation of Mid-Day Meal scheme in the district with DEEOs cum DMCs, BEOs cum BMCs, SSA & MDM officials etc.

2.24.3 Action taken on the decisions taken during these meetings:

Necessary actions have been taken as per resolutions taken during the meetings held at State, District for improvement of implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

2.25 Frequency of meeting of District Level Committee held under the chairmanship of senior most MP of the District to monitor the scheme. Gist of the issues discussed and action taken thereon:

Meeting of District Level Committee held under the chairmanship of senior MP is held twice in a year in every district.

2.26 Arrangement for official inspections to MDM centers/schools and percentage of schools inspected and summary of findings and remedial measures taken:

The Director of Elementary Education, Assam and the then SNO, MDMS issued instruction to the District, Sub-divisional and Block level officers to inspect at least 25% schools/centres in every quarter. As reported, the district level officers inspect schools regularly. Target for school inspection has been fixed as below for DEEO, D.I. of schools, BEO, S.I. of schools.

- DEEO will have to visit 15 schools in a month.
- D.I of schools will have to visit 20 schools in a month.
- BEO will have to visit 25 schools in a month.
- SI of schools will have to visit 40 schools in a month.

Apart from above, SSA & MDM functionaries from State to District & Block level offices are also entrusted to visit schools to monitor the implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the schools and also to provide necessary support at field levels for smooth implementation of MDM activities.

2.27 Details of the Contingency Plan to avoid any untoward incident. Printing of important phone numbers (eg. Primary health center, Hospital, Fire brigade etc) on the walls of school building:

The DNOs, MDMS cum Deputy Commissioners/Principal Secretaries (Autonomous Council) were instructed by the Govt vide letter no. PMA/MDM-Cell/62/2011/36, dtd. 25th July, 2013 to ensure having of a contingency plan at School, Block, Sub-Division and at the District Level to face any sort of incident that may possibly occur in connection with MDM scheme. The contact numbers of the important functionaries are to be displayed in visible place preferably Wall in the schools to use at urgent/emergency moment. All schools including offices have maintained above instruction.

i. Contingency Plan for district :

The important phone numbers of Deputy Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, District Civil Hospital, Ambulance service, DEEO, DMC are reflected on the wall of DEEO/ DMC office and Inspector of Schools office and the phone Number of Head teacher of all schools are reflected in a diary.

ii. Contingency Plan for Block :

The important phone numbers of Deputy Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, District Civil Hospital, Ambulance service, DEEO, DMC, BEEO, BMC, Public Health Centre are reflected on the wall of BEEO/ BMC office and the phone Number of Head teacher of all schools are reflected in a diary.

iii. Contingency Plan for Schools :

- The important phone numbers of Deputy Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, District Civil Hospital, Ambulance service, DEEO, DMC, BEEO, BMC, Public Health Centre, Headmaster of the school, SMC President are reflected on the wall of the School.
- Schools should keep First-Aid-Box with adequate medicines, bandage, detol, cotton, sand etc.

Also, the following steps are taken by District authority / school authority.

- ✓ If cooked food is found contaminated that may be buried under ground.
- ✓ Unusable rice may be destroyed in presence of district administration.
- ✓ Always use agmarked oil, turmeric etc. in cooking food.
- ✓ Cooked food must be tested by the teacher/ SMC member before 30 minutes ahead of distribution of the same among the children.
- ✓ Fast aid training to be arranged for teacher & SMC members.
- ✓ Fire extinguisher shall be installed in the school.

In this regard, instruction from the Government will be issued shortly to the District Administration, district and block officials of Education Department and School authority for strict compliance.

2.28 Grievance Redressal Mechanism

2.28.2 Details regarding Grievance Redressal at all levels:

Most of the *grievances* relating to MDM Scheme in the district as well in the state are usually received via writing. Use of IT for grievance redressal has been given due importance for fast and prompt action. A dedicated email & WhatsApp group have been provided / created to receive complaints regarding MDM Scheme from different stakeholder in the districts. A Toll Free Contact Centre is setup at State Mission Office for SSA & MDMS with the number 18003453525.

Complaints received at state are referred to the concerned district officials to inquire into the matter with competent authority and take necessary action as deemed appropriate. Accordingly, all complaints have been redressed.

2.28.3 Details of complaints received i.e. Nature of complaints etc.

Most of the complaints are related to quality & quantity of MDM, corruption, irregularities of serving MDM etc.

2.28.4 Time schedule for disposal of complaints:

The complaints are resolved as soon as possible and it is made sure no complaints remain unsolved.

2.28.5 Details of action taken on the complaints:

As reported, necessary actions have been taken against 32 complaints till March, 2020.

2.29 Details regarding Awareness Generation & Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities and Media campaign, carried out at State/district/block/school level:

Various steps are taken for awareness generation on MDMS in the State. Hoardings on MDMS as IEC were installed in prominent places of district headquarters. Arrangement has also been made for fixing / fitting MDM logo in all schools. MDM Calendars having information with regard to norms of the scheme, MDM Rules, 2015, Guidelines of Tithi Bhojan are also provided to schools and offices of Education Department and district administration offices. In SMC training, issues related to MDM are also shared. Detailed MME activities have been furnished in a separate MDM plan.

Guidelines on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens under MDM Scheme, MDM Rules, 2015 and other aspects of Mid-Day Meal Scheme have been translated into **Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages** and distributed to the schools.

IEC materials having total no. of 6 posters along with one MDMS calendar have been provided to all the schools during 2019-20 FY. Contents are given hereunder-

Pages	Contents
1	Calendar, 2020 with holidays list
2	Norms of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Weekly Suggested Menu and ARMS
3	School Nutrition Garden
4	Sampriti Bhojan (Tithi Bhojan)
5	Pictorial poster on Food Safety & Hygiene aspect of implementation of MDMS at schools
6	Pictorial poster on Health & Hygiene aspect to be followed in schools as per contents provided by NHM
7	Pictorial posters related to Disaster Mgmt Information provided by Assam State Disaster Management Authority

In 2019-20, hoardings on Sampriti Bhojan have been installed in two prominent places of all the districts to promote the concept and encourage people to come forward for providing food to children in the schools on special occasions such as festivals, anniversaries, birthdays, marriages, and days of national importance etc.

Sampriti Bhojan
under Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Assam
 An initiative taken by Ministry of Human Resource Development
 (Department of School Education & Literacy), Govt. of India

Sampriti Bhojan, a community participation programme, has been initiated under Mid-Day Meal Scheme by relying on the traditional practice of providing food to people on special occasions such as festivals, anniversaries, birthdays, marriages, and days of national importance etc. in the state of Assam. Members of the community voluntarily provide nutritious and healthy food to the children as full meal or an additional food item in the form of sweets, namkeens, fruits or sprouts etc. on such special occasions/festivals. Sampriti Bhojan supplements or complements Mid-Day Meal.

1. Benefits/Need of Sampriti Bhojan:

- Sense of belonging among the community.
- Supplementation of the nutritional value of MDM food.
- Development of rapport with the local community.
- Inculcation of the feeling of equity among the children of all communities.

2. Points for effective implementation:

★ Identification of donors and awareness generation:

- Initiatives may be taken for involving donors-individual, NGOs or other charitable organizations.
- School Management Committee (SMC) members may also discuss ways for community involvement and mobilization.
- The concept and importance of Sampriti Bhojan may be discussed during the SMC meetings to emphasize the significance of additional meals for enhancing the nutritional status of children.
- A frequency/time schedule may also be prepared for the distribution of Sampriti Bhojan on an adequate interval suitable to the donor and also to encourage the participation of other donors.
- If the nature of the donation could be termed as a major donation e.g for a class or many classes or the whole school then the Donor may be invited to be present during the serving of Sampriti Bhojan or Donor's name may be announced in the morning assembly.

★ Items to be provided under Sampriti Bhojan:

- During Sampriti Bhojan food items to be provided to children may be a full meal or as an additional item.
- The food articles to be provided to children should be as per food habits of the children of the region.
- Fruits, milk, sweets, eggs, biscuits, halwa, Chikki, sprouts etc. or any other item liked by children may be provided as an additional item.
- A list of food items preferred by children may also be prepared and shared with the concerned interested community people for future use to ensure maximum satisfaction of the children.

★ Other items that may be provided:

The items like plates, glasses, spoons, water filters, food processors, school bags, soaps, liquid hand-wash or any other item as per the need of the children and the school may also be considered to be provided under Sampriti Bhojan.

★ Management of items provided under Sampriti Bhojan:

- Separate registers shall be maintained for keeping record of the donations, record of category wise items and also record of donors of Sampriti Bhojan.
- The donors may be honoured or given recognition by the school during SMC meetings or annual functions of the school with the community to encourage the practice.

Toll Free No : 18003453525 (For any complaint/grievances, queries, information/suggestion etc.)
 Office of the State Nodal Officer, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati- 781019

Pic: Hoarding on Sampriti Bhojan

2.30 Overall assessment of the manner in which implementation of the programme is contributing to the programme objectives and an analysis of strengths and weaknesses of the programme implementation:

Mid-Day Meal Scheme is playing a vital role in providing nutrition to the students, in increasing retention in the schools, in minimizing gender differences & class differences, in inculcating sense of secularism in the mindset of the students, in developing culture & finally good citizenship. Impact of MDM scheme is found to be wide and varied. The impact of the Scheme has been considerably significant with regard to enrolment and retention of children in schools. The food provided in school has given physical and mental strength to the children for study and created a joyful atmosphere in classrooms activities.

As far as the implementation of MDMS in the State is concerned, the areas of strength and weakness may be mentioned as below:

Strength:-

1. Community participation.
2. Awareness of parents/ guardians.
3. Absence of social and caste prejudice.
4. Awareness of parents/ guardians.
5. Adequate budget provision.
6. Incorporation of group hand-wash facilities, Kitchen Garden.
7. Strong monitoring and support system of all stakeholders.

Weakness:-

1. Lack of knowledge on books of accounts on the part of SMC.
2. Computerization of data to monitor all aspects of MDM scheme.

2.31 Action Plan for ensuring enrolment of all school children under Aadhaar before the stipulated date:

No such plan has been made /received yet.

2.32 Contribution by community in the form of Tithi Bhojan or any other similar practices in the State/ UT:

Sampriti Bhojan, a community participation programme, has been initiated under Mid-Day Meal Scheme by relying on the traditional practice of providing food to people on special occasions such as festivals, anniversaries, birthdays, marriages, and days of national importance etc. in the state of Assam. Members of the community voluntarily provide nutritious and healthy food to the children as full meal or an additional food item in the form of sweets, namkeens, fruits or sprouts etc. on such special occasions/festivals. Sampriti Bhojan supplements or complements Mid-Day Meal.

In this regards, State Govt. had issued notification on 25thAugust/2015 vide No.PMA/MDM-Cell/09/2015/4 dtd. 25th August, 2015.

During 2019-20, hoardings on Sampriti Bhojan have been installed in two prominent places of all the districts to promote the concept and encourage people to come forward for providing food to children in the schools on special occasions such as festivals, anniversaries, birthdays, marriages, and days of national importance etc.

2.33 Kitchen Gardens

2.33.2 Status of availability of kitchen gardens in the schools. (Please furnish school wise details for all districts in the table given at Annexure – W 1.):

Most of the Kitchen Gardens set up in 2018-19 were washed away in the devastating flood in Assam during July/19 and August/19. Considerable steps were taken to set up School Nutrition Garden in each & every school covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme again.

At present, 22,154 schools have Kitchen Gardens and setting up of Kitchen Gardens is in progress in 11568 schools.

2.33.3 Mapping of schools with the corresponding Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK):

District Level Committees for School Nutrition Gardens were constituted under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner and representatives of all line departments in all districts during 2019-20 to ensure setting up of School Nutrition Gardens in all schools in convergence with all line departments. District Level Committees of School Nutrition Gardens during 2019-20 have been advised to take necessary steps for mapping of schools with the corresponding Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

2.33.4 Details of the mechanisms adopted for the setting up and Maintenance of kitchen gardens:

District Level Committees for School Nutrition Gardens were constituted under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner and representatives of all line departments in all districts during 2019-20 to ensure setting up of School

Nutrition Gardens in all schools in convergence with all line departments. The Deputy Commissioners, all districts, were requested to ensure set up kitchen gardens in all the schools covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme as per guidelines issued by the MHRD, GOI, vide No.1-8/2019-Desk (MDM) Dtd. 15th October, 2019. Following instructions were given to all the schools-

- Each & every school covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme must have School Nutrition Garden irrespective of availability of land. Plants may be grown in small containers, cans, jars, discarded earthen pots, wooden peti, ceramic sinks, food tins, bags where land is not available.
- Along with the plantation of plants/shrubs of seasonal vegetables of winter & summer seasons, plants/shrubs having vegetables & fruits throughout the year in all seasons and fit in with local food habits should be planted & nurtured. As for example, papaya plant.
- The scientific name as well as local name along with nutritional value of each plant/shrub must be displayed properly.
- Eco Club, enthusiastic children, SMC Members & interested persons from the community may look after the development of School Nutrition Gardens.
- The Head of the Institution is to depute a teacher of his/her school as Nodal Teacher for maintaining & developing School Nutritional Garden in his/her respective school.
- A register in this regard is to be maintained by every school which will include columns for recording item-wise total weight of the produce as & when utilized from the School Nutrition Garden. A format for the same is given hereunder-

Sl. No.	Date	Name of the item	Total weight in KG	Signature of the Nodal Teacher/Head of the Inst.
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Moreover, poster on various aspects of School Nutrition Gardens including important guidelines for setting up of School Nutrition Gardens issued by the MHRD, Govt. of India, have been provided to all the schools and state/district/block offices.

2.33.5 Whether the produce of these kitchen gardens is used in MDM:

Produce of kitchen gardens is used in MDM and students are enjoying eating green vegetables from their own kitchen garden.

2.33.6 Action plan for setting up of kitchen gardens in all schools:

Kitchens gardens will be set up in all the remaining schools during 2020-21 by adopting mechanism and plan mentioned above at Pt. No 2.33.4.

2.34 Details of action taken to operationalize the MDM Rules, 2015.

As per Notification of MDM Rules, 2015, the DNOs, MDM have been informed to implement the Rules immediately for implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme. In addition, the MDM Rules, 2015 has been translated into Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages and printed with the booklet on “guidelines on food safety and hygiene for

school level kitchens under MDM Scheme” and distributed to the schools. Accordingly, training has been conducted to Cook cum Helpers, President & Member Secretary of the SMCs on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens and MDM Rules, 2015. Further, MDM Rules, 2015 has also been printed in the MDM Calendar, 2018 and provided to all schools of educational offices. During 2019-20, it is proposed to install hoarding on MDM Rules, 2015 in the prominent places of the districts.

2.35 Details of payment of Food Security Allowances and its mechanism.

No payment of Food Security Allowances has been materialized till date. However, details of payment of Food Security allowance has been communicated to the district and block level offices.

2.36 Cooking Competition

2.36.2 Whether cooking competitions have been organized at different levels in 2019-20:

No cooking competitions have been organized in 2019-20.

2.36.3 if yes in 2.36.1,

2.36.3.1 the number of participants in these competitions:

Does not arise.

2.36.3.2 Details of judges:

Does not arise.

2.36.3.3 How many participants were awarded:

Does not arise.

2.36.3.4 Was the awarded participants given any cash prizes:

Does not arise.

2.36.3.5 Whether the awarded recipes have been shared with schools:

Does not arise.

2.36.4 Details of action plan for year 2020-21:

Cooking competition will not be organized in 2020-21.

2.37 Details of minor modifications from the existing guidelines carried out by District Level Committee chaired by the District Magistrate:

No proposal is received from the districts till date.

2.38 Details of new interventions (preferably for areas affected with malnutrition, anemia etc, aspirational districts) envisaged under 5% flexi funds – For each intervention, please provide detailed information in the below template

2.38.2 Background Note:

During this financial year 2020-21, 02 (two) activities for supplementary nutrition has been proposed under flexi fund Viz.

- i) Development of School Nutrition Gardens by attaching one farmer to every school of the locality @Rs.2000/- per farmer per school for setting up

and developing School Nutrition Garden and also to impart training to the children in horticulture and agriculture.

- ii) Providing Multi-vitamin, milk or eggs or banana or paneer or food of similar nutritional value to the children.

2.38.3 Objectives:

The objectives of flexi fund are

- i) To improve the effectiveness of the scheme by addressing the gaps.
- ii) To identify the areas affected with malnutrition and anemia etc. and to take corrective measures.
- iii) To uplift the nutritional value of the meals served etc.
- iv) To boost immunity of the children.

2.38.4 Rationale for the intervention:

(A) Rational against development of School Nutrition Gardens:

- School Nutrition Gardens are the best source of fresh organic vegetables.
- Students get nutritious vegetables in MDM.
- Establish the green atmosphere in the school surrounding.
- Students get knowledge of work.
- Knowledge of horticulture and agriculture growth can be developed.
- Awareness about environmental education.
- Information of vegetables and its uses.
- Increase involvement of students, teachers and community.
- Upholds dignity of labour.
- Instills love for nature.
- Promotes concept of greenery.
- Helps in developing a good hobby.
- Helps in beautifying the school.
- Encourage self sufficiency.

(B) Rationale against Providing Multi-vitamin, milk or eggs or banana or paneer/mushrooms or food of similar nutritional value:

In 2019, India ranks 102 out of 117 countries in Global Hunger Index which is very alarming. It is very important to fight against malnutrition, anemia, stunting and wasting. Protein and vitamins are two most important nutrients during growth stage of human life. Provision of additional food items with high protein and vitamins will add value towards improvement of nutritional status of the children.

During this emergency period of crisis due to outbreak of COVID-19, it is very essential to take necessary steps to safeguard and boost immunity of the children.

2.38.5 Time lines:

During the financial year 2020-21.

2.38.6 Coverage:

2.38.6.1 Number of Districts: 33 districts.

2.38.6.2 Number of schools: 54013

2.38.6.3 Number of children: 40,52,306

2.38.6.4 Number of working days: 235 days both for LP and UP stage, 312 for NCLP.

2.38.7 Requirement of Funds:

The total 5% flexi fund amounting to Rs. 3224.83 lakh.

2.38.8 Monitoring:

The monitoring will be carried out by the District Level and Block Level Monitoring Committees, departmental officers and MDMS officials for proper implementation of the activities to be carried out under the flexi fund and effective utilization of the fund.

2.38.9 Outcome measurement :

Outcome measurement will be done through conducting random survey and observation and also by taking feedbacks of children and stakeholders.

2.38.10 Impact assessment :

The impact of the implementation of the activities under flexi fund will be assessed in the next financial year.

2.39 Any other issues and Suggestions.

- Setting up of School Nutrition Gardens is playing a vital roles in the enhancement nutritional status of the children in the state of Assam , in addressing malnutrition and micro nutrient deficiencies by consumption of freshly grown vegetables, in providing children opportunity to explore first-hand experience with nature and gardening, in reducing the harmful effects of climate change, in lowering immediate temperature of the school area, in making schools visually appealing and also in reducing harmful effects of climate change etc. Schools have been instructed to set up School Nutrition Garden compulsorily in the school premises. No grant for purchasing seeds, tools etc. required for setting up of School Nutrition Gardens is there as on date. However, state has successfully set up School Nutrition Gardens in almost all the schools.

Therefore, a special grant for setting up of School Nutrition Gardens in all schools covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme may be considered by the Central Govt.

- State has set up dedicated cell for MDMS engaging key functionaries on contractual basis. Present norms for allocation of MME fund under AWP & B needs to be re-considered to enhance the salary of MDM functionaries and also to fill up vacant posts under MDMS at block level vis-à-vis to carry out all essential activities.
- Cook cum Helpers has been paid honorarium of Rs.1,000/- per month for 10 months in a financial year w.e.f. 2010. No enhancement of honorarium is made since 2010. In this context, a number of memorandums have been received from Cook cum Helpers Associations (district units) with the demands for enhancement of their monthly honorarium etc. The common demands are provision for enhancement of monthly honorarium, provision of honorarium to Cook cum

Helpers for 12 months, provision of job security, medical, pension, insurance, social security etc. to Cook cum Helpers. Subsequently, Associations have been made frequently stage/dharna in front of the office of State Nodal Officer, MDMS, District Nodal Officer, MDMS, DC's office, Block offices etc. However, Central Government is requested kindly to look into the matter sympathetically and enhance the monthly honorarium of CCHs as they are come from weaker section/BPL category.

- It may be mentioned that Govt. of India did not provide honorarium of CCHs for the month of July (considered as Summer Vacation) and December (considered as Examination Month). But, cooking cost is being provided to the schools for the month of December. It is pertinent to mention here that schools remain open for at least 10 to 15 days during the month of December and children attend the schools from 1st week of the month of December for examination. The CCHs attend the schools in these 10 to 15 days during the month of December for cooking & serving MDM to the children.

Under such circumstances, Central Government is requested to consider the matter and to provide honorarium to CCHs for the month of December.

- Mother Self Help Group may be engaged in schools to relieve teachers for carry out day to day activities of the MDM Scheme.
- Improvement in nutritional value of the food through additional micro nutrient.

School wise information on kitchen gardens

S. No.	Name of District	Name of Block	Name of school	Type of kitchen field (open field, terrace, containers)	Size of kitchen garden (approx. sq mt)	Main produce	Quantity of produce (in Kg)	Participating agencies (KVK, Horticulture Dept., Community, School's own initiative)

Note : At least three photographs to be uploaded on MD

Plan under Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME), Non-recurring Grant & Flexi Fund for 2020-21 :

[1] Setting up of Management Structure & Capacity building of staff:

The State Government had decided to implement MDMS through Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Assam with dedicated MDMS cells and experienced as well as qualified staff w.e.f. 1st January, 2014. Accordingly, officers/ staff have been engaged to look after day to day activities of Mid-Day Meal scheme as shown below. All staff/functionaries have already been trained about the roles and responsibilities of the officials and also provided with infrastructure cum technical facilities to perform the job in prompt manner.

Present Staff position:

State level :

Position	Total Numbers	In position
State Programme Manager	1	1
State MIS Manager	1	1
State Accounts Officer	1	1
Accounts Assistant	1	0
Statistical Assistant	2	0
LDA cum Typist	2	0
Electronic Data Processor	4	4
Total	12	7

N.B.: 3 nos. of vacancy positions have been filled up in 2019-20. Remaining vacancy positions will be filled up within the first quarter of 2020-21.

District & Block Level :

Position (one each of the districts)	Total position	In position
District Programme Manager	33	27
District MIS Manager	27	10
District Accounts Officer	27	11
Electronic Data Processor (District level)	33	5
Block MIS Manager	145	0
Electronic Data Processor (Block level)	145	0
Total	410	53

N.B.: 15 nos. of vacancy positions at district levels have been filled up during 2019-20. Remaining district level vacancy positions will be filled up during the 1st quarter of 2020-21. However, block level vacancy positions will be filled up subject to increase of MME fund to 4% from present 3%.

[2] Media Campaign:

It is proposed to campaign through audio–visual on various issues on MDMS viz. MDM Rules, 2015, Tithi Bhojan, Food Safety & Hygiene, Roles of SMCs/Stakeholders, advertisement on Sampriti Bhojan etc. for awareness generation among the masses in 2020-21.

[3] Eating Plate & Drinking Water Glass:

Children bring eating plate from their home for taking MDM in school. State Govt. has not provided eating plate under MDM Scheme. It may be mentioned that WP(C) No.618/2013 filed by Antarrashtriya Manav Adhikar Nigraani Parishad is pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme. In this connection, queries regarding availability of eating plates and glasses etc. were made and it was replied that eating plates for taking MDM and drinking water glasses will be provided to the children in phased manner as the financial involvement is too high. Initiatives have been taken to provide Eating plates and glasses to the schools of Hailakandi and Udalguri districts during 2019-20.

So, it is proposed to provide eating plates & drinking water glasses to the children in other two (2) aspirational districts (Baksa and Darrang). The other aspirational districts will also be taken up subject to availability of fund.

[4] Contingency Fund for Schools:

Schools need to purchase cleaning accessories such as broom, cloths, mops and brushes for cleaning cooking and serving areas of schools. Schools are to purchase some registers other than Food Grains Register, Cash Book, Daily Performance Record Register and Food Tasting Register viz. Register for School Nutrition Gardens, Register for Sampriti Bhojan, Parents Roaster, Inspection Register etc. Schools are to submit Annual Data Capture Format yearly once and Monthly Data Capture Format (UC) every month. Schools need contingency fund for meeting situational expenditures which is not covered under Cooking Cost, but very essential for properly implementation of Mid-Day Meal scheme. Hence, it is proposed to provide Rs.200/- to each school as contingency fund in 2020-21.

[5] Steel Containers:

As per guidelines on Food Safety, Health & Hygiene under Mid-Day Meal Scheme issued vide Gol letter No. F.No 14-2/2013-EE.5 (MDM 1-2) Dated New Delhi, the 13th February, 2015, ingredients like double fortified salt, condiments, oils, soya bean, pulses etc. should be stored in airtight containers. Maintenance of food safety, health & hygiene under Mid-Day Meal Scheme is a matter of utmost important. It is proposed to provide one good quality steel container (approx. 10-15 liters) to all the schools in 2020-21.

[6] Administrative cost for purchase of hand washing soap & detergent powder:

Every year, fund @Rs.450/- per school is provided for purchase of hand washing soap for using before and after taking MDM & detergent powder for washing the kitchen devices as administrative cost. Hand washing is one of the precautionary measures against the outbreak of COVID-19. Moreover, grant @Rs.450/- per school for purchasing hand washing soap and detergent is not sufficient. Hence, it is proposed to continue the above activity @Rs.800/- per school.

Proposed Activity-wise Plan of Action under Management, Monitoring & Evaluation (MME) Component of AWP&B, 2020-21 under Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Schools.		
<i>[Rs. in lakh]</i>		
#	Activity	Activity wise allocation of fund
A	School Level	
1	Campaign through audio–visual on various aspects on MDMS viz. MDM Rules, 2015, Child Safety, Food Safety, Health & Hygiene, Roles of SMCs/Stakeholders, School Nutrition Gardens, Sampriti Bhojan etc. for awareness generation among the masses.	20.00
2	Providing eating plates and drinking water glasses to the students.[@Rs.150/- per set of eating plate & drinking water glass for the children of 02 aspirational districts viz. Darrang and Baksa covering 2,61,825 children]	392.74
3	Contingency fund to schools for purchasing broom, cloths, mops, brushes and for other essential expenses @ Rs.200/per school for 53,879 schools	107.76
4	Providing one good quality steel container (approx. 10-15 liters) to all the schools except schools under Centralized Kitchens. @ Rs.275/- per school for 53,333 school.	146.67
5	Administrative cost for purchase of hand washing soap & detergent @ Rs.800.00 for 53,879 schools	431.04
6	Implementation of Automated Reporting and Monitoring System (ARMS)	10.00
	Sub Total	1108.21
B	Management, Supervision/ Training /External / Internal Monitoring Evaluation	
7	Remuneration of MDM Staff & Resource Person & implementation of CPF	418.00
8	TA, Office contingency, stationery items and computer consumables, meetings, computer & furniture, hiring of vehicle etc.	85.76
9	Expenditure for data entry into MIS Web Portal (Men days, printing of form etc.)	15.00
	Sub Total	518.76
	Grand Total (A+B)	1626.97

Non-Recurring Proposal for 2020-21:

[1] Kitchen Devices for 20 Model Schools [Non-Recurring]:

A total of 20 Model Schools have been operationalized across the State. Out of 20 Model Schools, academic session was started in 14 Model Schools from 2015-16, 1 Model School in 2016-17 and 4 Model Schools in 2018-19.

Kitchen cum Stores have been provided to 14 Model Schools and MDM has been implemented smoothly. Remaining 6 Model Schools, Kitchen cum Stores will be provided during 2020-21. But, school authority has implemented MDM in these 6 Model Schools in temporary kitchen shed.

There is a provision under Mid-Day Meal Scheme to provide kitchen devices to the schools. Earlier, Govt. of India provided Rs.5000/- as lump sum for procurement/replacement of kitchen devices. But in 2019-20, Govt. of India revised the rates for procurement/replacement of kitchen devices @10,000/- to Rs.25,000/- on sharing basis as per existing sharing pattern (90:10), linked to enrolment as follows:

Enrolment (No. of children)	Unit cost (in Rs.)
Up to 50	Rs.10,000/-
51-150	Rs.15,000/-
151-250	Rs.20,000/-
251 & above	Rs.25,000/-

As we have not provided kitchen devices to 20 Model Schools till date, so, in this financial year, kitchen device is proposed to be provided to 20 Model Schools as per norms and the proposal is kept in AWP&B, 2020-21:

Enrolment (No. of children)	No. of Model School	Central Share (90%) [in Rs.]	State Share (10%) [in Rs.]	Total [in Rs.]
Up to 50	0	-	-	-
51-150	0	-	-	-
151-250	6	1,08,000/-	12,000/-	1,20,000/-
251 & above	14	3,15,000/-	35,000/-	3,50,000/-
Total	20	4,23,000/-	47,000/-	4,70,000/-

[2] Repairing of Kitchen cum Stores [Non-Recurring]:

Govt. of India has decided to provide fund for repairing of kitchen cum stores constructed 10 years ago i.e. prior to financial year 2008-09 and asked to submit a proposal for repairing of kitchen cum stores @Rs.10,000/- per school on sharing basis as per existing sharing pattern (90:10).

Govt. of India had sanctioned 30,068 kitchen cum stores during the financial year 2006-07, out of which 28,968 kitchen cum stores were constructed by Assam State Housing Board and Housefed and remaining 1100 units @Rs.60,000/- could not be constructed by the agencies due to escalation of price of raw materials, labour cost etc.

So, it is proposed to repair 28,968 units of kitchen cum stores @Rs.10,000/ per unit and the proposal is kept in AWP&B, 2020-21 as per following details:

No. of kitchen cum stores constructed prior to F.Y. 2008-09	Central Share (90%) [in Rs.]	State Share (10%) [in Rs.]	Total [in Rs.]
28,968	26,07,12,000/-	2,89,68,000/	28,96,80,000/-

Utilization of Flexi Fund – 5% of Annual Work Plan & Budget:

During this financial year 2020-21, 02 (two) activities for supplementary nutrition are proposed under flexi fund Viz.

- iii) Development of School Nutrition Gardens by attaching one farmer to every school of the locality with yearly financial assistance @Rs.2000/- per farmer per school for setting up and developing School Nutrition Garden and also to impart training to the children in horticulture and agriculture.
- iv) Providing Multi-vitamin or milk or banana or paneer or food of similar nutritional value to the children.

(C) Rational against development of School Nutrition Gardens:

- School Nutrition Gardens are the best source of fresh organic vegetables.
- Students get nutritious vegetables in MDM.
- Establish the green atmosphere in the school surrounding.
- Knowledge of horticulture and agriculture growth can be developed.
- Awareness about environmental education.
- Information of vegetables and its uses.
- Increase involvement of students, teachers and community.
- Upholds dignity of labour.
- Instills love for nature.
- Promotes concept of greenery.
- Helps in developing a good hobby.
- Helps in beautifying the school.
- Encourage self sufficiency.

(D) Rationale against providing Multi-vitamin or milk or banana or paneer or mushrooms or food of similar nutritional value:

During crisis period due to outbreak of COVID-19, it is very essential to safeguard and boost immunity of the children. In this emergency situation, providing Multi-vitamin to the children will be given top most priority. In 2019, India ranks 102 out of 117 countries in Global Hunger Index which is very alarming. It is very important to fight against malnutrition, anemia, stunting and wasting. Protein and vitamins are two most important nutrients during growth stage of human life.

Detail Budget Estimate of Flexi fund, 2020-21 :

(Rs. in Lakh)

#	Particulars	Amount	Remarks
1	Total Central Share of Recurring & Non-recurring Budget during 2020-21	Rs.64496.57	
2	Flexi fund [5% of Rs.64496.57 lakh (Total Central Share of Recurring & Non-recurring Budget during 2020-21)].	Rs.3224.83	Rs.2902.35 [Central Share] and Rs.322.48 [State Share]
3	Fund for development of Kitchen Garden @ Rs.2000/- per farmer attached to each school for 53,879 schools for providing support to School Nutrition Gardens. (All schools other than NCLP)	Rs.1077.58	A farmer from the locality will be attached to every school @Rs.2000/- per farmer per school for setting up and developing School Nutrition Garden and also to impart training to the children in horticulture and agriculture.
4	Fund required for purchase of Multi-vitamins or food of similar nutritious value @Rs.53/- per head (approx.) for 40,52,306 students.	Rs.2147.25	Providing Multi-vitamins/ milk /banana / paneer/mashroom or food of similar nutritional value to the children.