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मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय  
स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग  
शास्त्री भवन  
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY  
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NEW DELHI-110 115

D.O.No 3-2/2013-EE-5 (MDM1-2)

13<sup>th</sup> December, 2013

Dear *Dr. Vidyasagar,*

The 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Review Mission visited Jharkhand from 21<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 to review the implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) and assess the nutritional status of the beneficiary children, in two districts – East Singhbhum and West Singhbhum as per the prescribed Terms of Reference (ToRs). The JRM team was headed by Dr. A Laxmaiah, Scientist 'F' and HoD, Division of Community Studies and Officer In Charge of NNMB, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad Other members of the team were - representatives from MHRD and Government of Jharkhand; Office of the Supreme Court Commissioner for MDMS and the Monitoring Institute for the scheme in Jharkhand. Sr Technical officer, Scientist 'B' and Research Assistants, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, and Consultants from Ed CIL's Technical Support Group for Mid-Day Meal Scheme assisted the JRM. A total of 42 schools and 1080 children (528 boys and 552 girls) were surveyed.

The JRM team was appreciative of the best practices like community participation in management of MDM, effective management of MDM through Bal Sansad, popular film on Mid Day Meal for effective advocacy, initiative of Co-operative Department to get regular supply of fresh vegetables through vegetable growers' cooperative societies for schools, etc.

By using Body Mass Index – Z Scores on a sample of 1080 school children (528 boys and 552 girls) availing Mid Day Meal, it is found that in East Singhbhum District 28.5% boys and 21.2% girls were moderately under-nourished whereas in West Singhbhum District 21.8% boys and 16.4% girls were under-under-nourished. Overall the prevalence of stunting was about 30%. The prevalence of stunting amongst boys was higher as compared to the girls in both the districts.

The Joint Review Mission expressed its concern over issues like delay in release of central assistance to school, delay in payment of honorarium to Cook-cum-Helpers in East Singhbhum District, non-payment of FCI bills, non-delivery of food grains up to the school level, use of cooking cost for payment of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers in West Singhbhum Districts, poor maintenance of record in schools, etc.



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना  
Mid Day Meal Scheme



**Based on their observations, the JRM team has made the following recommendations:**

- i) Meeting of State Level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee should be convened quarterly, to review the above issues. Similarly, the meeting of District Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, District Level Steering cum Monitoring Committee and Block Level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee may be held regularly.
- ii) Fund flow system may be streamlined for timely release of fund to the Districts, schools for the uninterrupted and smooth implementation of scheme; Green Channel Scheme may be adopted.
- iii) Food grain should be delivered up to schools level. The expenditure incurred by the school officials for transporting the food grain from the godown of State Food Corporation (SFC) may be reimbursed. Food grain and other ingredients of mid day meal should be stored safely in bins or air tight containers.
- iv) Training may be given for the record management of all items of mid day meal.
- v) Encourage the use of Ag-mark or BSI mark ingredients under mid-day meal.
- vi) Infrastructure facilities may be created in all the schools.
- vii) MDM from the Centralised Kitchen should be weighed at the time of its delivery at the schools.
- viii) Food samples may be kept in schools for testing in case of any untoward incident. They should also be got tested from reputed Laboratories recognized by National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (NABL).
- ix) State, District, Block Emergency Plan may be finalised and Telephone Nos. of Primary Health Centre, District Hospitals, Ambulance, Police, Fire Brigade should be painted in all schools for use during emergency.
- x) The Mid Day Meal Menu should have more variety and nutrient density per portion. The JRM Nutrition team recommends implementation of the suggested recipes, given at Annexure-XI of the main Report in a phased manner.
- xi) The JRM Nutrition team recommends the use of the Mid Day Meal as a medium to impart Nutrition Education to children, teachers and parents. Health and Nutrition education should become an integral part of the scheme.
- xii) The schools should be encouraged to organize health melas, cooking competitions and pro-active parents and community participation. The team has indicated important nutrition messages along with specific recipes recommended for implementation.



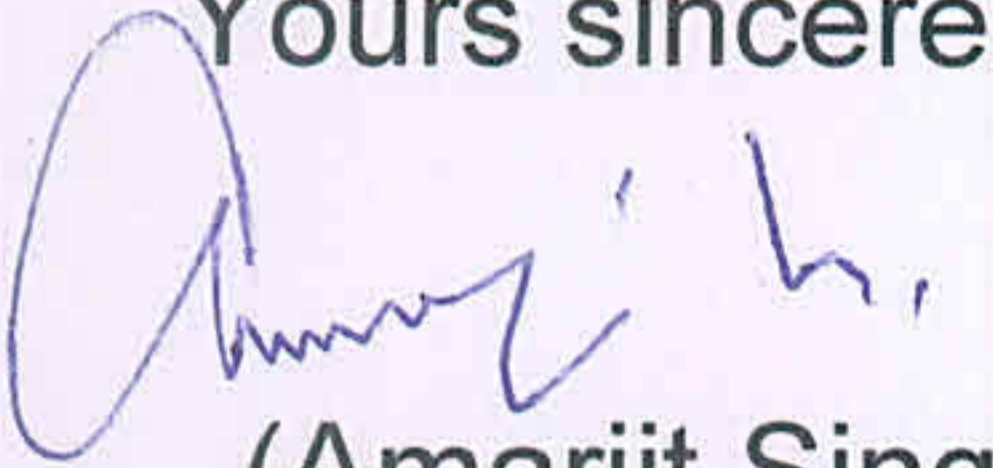
The detailed Report of the JRM has already been made available to the State Government on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2013. The State may also kindly act on the detailed guidelines issued on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2013 for effective implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme. ***We need to ensure that there is an emergency health plan for taking care of any untoward incident. Please also ensure that the cooking area is fully segregated and care is taken that no child goes near the cooking vessels while cooking is taken place.***

I shall appreciate, if you could submit an action taken note on the recommendations made in the detailed JRM Report, which has already been presented to the State Government.

A little effort on your part will ensure that no child goes hungry in schools in your State.

With regards,

Dr. K. Vidyasagar,  
Principal Secretary,  
Human Resource Development,  
Government of Jharkhand,  
Ranchi, Jharkhand

Yours sincerely,  
  
(Amarjit Singh)