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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
SHASTRI BHAVAN
NEW DELHI-110 115

D.O.No 13-7/2013-Desk (MDM)

Dated: 27th August 2013

Dear *Amarjit Singh*,

The 5th Joint Review Mission visited Madhya Pradesh from 11th August to 21st August, 2013 to review the implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) in two poorly performing districts viz. Sheopur and Sehore as per the prescribed Terms of Reference (ToRs). The JRM headed by Dr.(Mrs) Mridula Saxena, Professor & Head Dept. of Home Science & Hospitality Management, PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education, NCERT, Shyamla Hills, Bhopal included representatives from MHRD; Government of Madhya Pradesh; Office of the Supreme Court Commissioner for MDMS and MP Institute of Social Science Research, Ujjain - the Monitoring Institute for the scheme in Madhya Pradesh. The JRM was also assisted by a Professor and Research Assistants from Govt. PG Girls MLT College, Bhopal and Consultants from Ed CIL's Technical Support Group for Mid-Day Meal Scheme. The JRM covered 48 schools in Sheopur and Sehore districts.

The mission appreciated the best practices like preparation of meals under the able guidance of Antyodaya Card holders (ACH) Citizens, maintenance of mothers' roster at school level for monitoring the quality of the meal, independent management structure for MDMS till district level, restriction on the entry in kitchen-cum-stores without prior permission of HM in Sehore, effective grievance redressal mechanisms, release of MME to school level, special Treat to children on 15th August and 26th January, practice of keeping a sample of cooked meal in tiffin for 24 hours at school level in Sehore, inspections of cooked MDM by Town Inspectors in Sheopur district and availability of MDM-MIS formats at school level.

Using Body Mass Index Z score (WHO 2007) as recommended by WHO, on a sample of 856(420 girls and 436 boys) school children availing mid-day meal; District wise data reveals that 28.7% boys and 5.2% girls were moderately under nourished in Sheopur District. Whereas in case of Sehore district, 20.2% boys and 7.6% girls were moderately under nourished. As far as nutrient deficiencies are concerned, it was seen that in all, almost 50% of the children showed one or the other kind of deficiency (Calorie- Protein, Vitamin A and B-Complex, Iron).

The mission expressed its concern on inadequate quantity of meals served in most cases especially in Sheopur district, inadequate calorie and protein content in the meal served except on Tuesday and Friday, excessive use of spices and oil while cooking. The other areas of concern as identified by the mission are low coverage of children against enrolment in the visited schools, poor record keeping at the schools as well as SHG level, huge amount of pending payment of Transportation assistance by Nagrik Aapoorti Nigam to lead/link societies and SHGs, poor convergence with School Health Programme, large number of vacant positions



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Mid Day Meal Scheme

at State and district levels, poor functional condition of kitchen sheds in Sheopur, lack of comprehensive policy and plan for the capacity building of self help groups, lack of community participation, non-display of entitlements of children in the schools, use of non-agmark certified ingredients especially cooking oil .A summary of the recommendations can be seen at **Annexure**

A. The detailed report is also enclosed herewith.

In addition, your attention is drawn to the following critical issues:

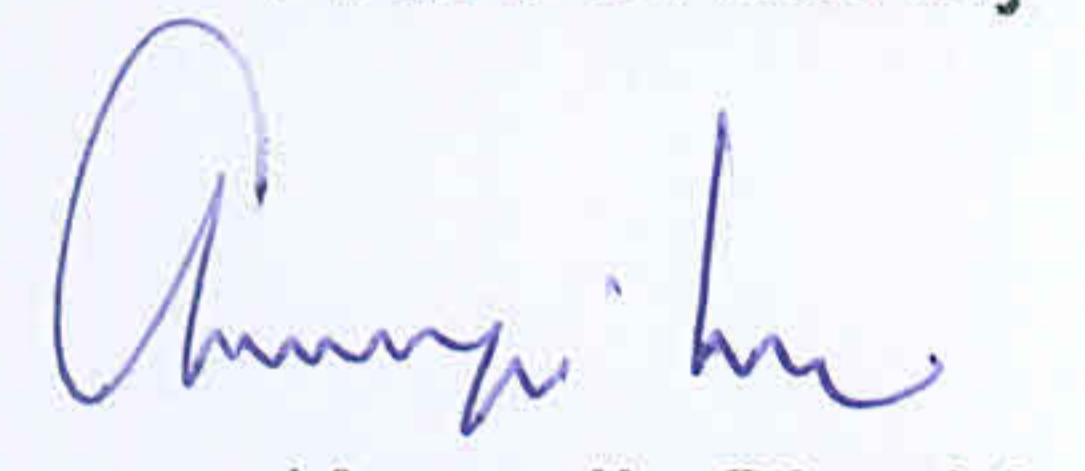
- i. Filling up of vacant positions in the governance structure at all levels and defining clear roles and responsibilities.
- ii. Tasting of the meal by at least one teacher before it is served to the children.
- iii. Safe storage and supply of ingredients to schools. Procurement of pulses and ingredients of branded and Agmark quality and supply to schools on the lines of Maharashtra by the State Civil Supplies Corpn.
- iv. Capacity building of cook-cum-helpers as well as inspection staff.
- v. Creating greater awareness about the entitlements of the children under the Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- vi. Convening of District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting under the Chairmanship of Member of Parliament from the district.
- vii. Convening of regular review meetings at District level.
- viii. Social Audit of the Scheme on the pattern of Andhra Pradesh.
- ix. Testing of food samples by reputed NABL approved Food Laboratories.
- x. Submission of Action Taken Notes on reports of the Monitoring Institutes, Joint Review Mission etc.
- xi. Need for an Emergency Medical Plan

I shall appreciate, if you could submit an action taken note on the above within a period of 3 months.

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

With regards

Yours sincerely


(Amarjit Singh)

**Mrs Aruna Sharma
Additional Chief Secretary
Government of Madhya Pradesh
School Education Department
Madhya Pradesh**