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Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of School Education & Literacy
MDM Division

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 8th March, 2016.

Subject: Minutes of the Regional Workshop held at Agartala, Tripura on 15th-16th January, 2016 - reg.

A Regional Workshop for East Zone was held at Agartala on 15th-16th January, 2016 for orienting the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal on preparation of AWP&B 2016-17 to review the implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme upto September, 2015.

2. A copy of the minutes of the above workshop is enclosed for information & necessary action.

Rajeev Kumar
—(Rajeev Kumar)

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1. Shri P K Srivastava,
Principal Secretary,
Govt. of Meghalaya.
2. Shri Abdus Salam,
Joint Secretary,
Govt. of Manipur.
3. Shri N N Berman,
Project Director,
CMDMP,
West Bengal
3. Shri V Lalsiamthara,
Additional State Project Director(SSA),
Govt. of Mizoram.
5. Shri Chonpa,
Dy. Project Director (MDM),
Govt. of Nagaland.
6. Shri H Dolen Singh,
MDM Incharge,
Govt. of Manipur.

7. Shri Y Bijoy Singh,
Assistant Zonal Nodal Officer,
MDM (District),
Govt. of Manipur.

8. Shri Khriekethozo,
State Co-ordinator,
Govt. of Nagaland.

9. Shri Sephua Wangsu,
Co-ordinator(MDM),
Tirap District,
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh.

10. Shri Nishan Pao,
Co-ordinator(MDM),
East Kameng District,
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh.

11. Mr Lalremruata,
MIS Co-ordinator,
Govt. of Mizoram.

12. Mr Pema T Bhutia,
APC, MDM
HRDD,

Copy also to:

1. Sr. PPS to Secretary(SE&L)
2. PPS to Joint Secretary(EE.I)
3. Dir(GP) / Dir(HK) / Dir(PV) / DS(BDS) .
4. US(SA) / US(AD) / SO(SS) / SO(NR) / SO(RKJ).

Minutes of the Regional Workshop held at Agartala, Tripura on 15-16th January 2016 for Orienting the States/UTs on preparation of Annual Work Plan & Budget for 2016-17 and to review the implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme up to September, 2015

The Regional Workshop for East Zone was held at Agartala, Tripura on 15-16th January, 2016 for orienting the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal. Besides the State representatives Shri J. Alam, Joint Secretary, MHRD, GoI, Shri P.K. Srivastava, Principal Secretary, Education Department, Meghalaya, Sri Gaya Prasad, Director(MDM), MHRD, GoI, Shri Harish Kumar, Director, MHRD, GoI, Shri Arnab Dhaki, Under Secretary, MHRD, GoI, were present in the workshop. The list of participants is enclosed at Annexure-I.

2. The Hon'ble Minister, Education Department, Govt. of Tripura inaugurated the workshop by lighting inaugural lamp. Shri U.K Chakma, Director, Elementary Education, Government of Tripura welcomed the participants in the workshop. He mentioned about the overall educational system in Tripura, coverage under MDMS in Tripura, active community participation in implementation of MDMS, innovative practices like dining halls, kitchen devices etc. in schools.

3. Shri J Alam Joint Secretary (EE.1) MHRD mentioned that MDM Scheme is running for more than 20 years in India and it has a great impact on universalizing elementary education in the Government, Govt. aided schools and Special Training Centers, this intervention supplements the efforts of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. He mentioned that though the objective of the scheme is to enhance the enrolment, attendance and retention of the children in schools yet the enrolment is declining consistently. But this decline cannot be attributed to Mid Day Meal Scheme as several other reasons including a fall in the birth rate as reported by the latest census need to be factored in.

4. Joint Secretary, MHRD informed the participating States that the funding pattern of Central Assistance has been changed to 60:40 for Non NER States, 90:10 for NER & three Himalayan States (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) and 100% for UTs w.e.f. 01.04.2015.

5. Joint Secretary, MHRD appreciated the initiatives taken by Government of Tripura like construction of dining halls etc. He also requested other States to take similar initiatives for betterment of the Scheme.

6. Sh. Tapan Chakraborty, Education Minister, Govt. of Tripura welcomed all the participants. In his speech he briefly mentioned the following points:

- Status of implementation of MDMS in Tripura during 2015-16.
- Different Initiatives taken by the State Government for betterment of the scheme.
- Achievements under MDMS during 2015-16.

He also requested MHRD, Government of India to take initiative on the following issues:

- Enhancement of cooking cost:
- Enhancement of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers:
- Setting up of Food Testing Laboratories in Tripura
- Fund provision for dining hall for safe & hygienic serving of mid-day-meal.

7. Dr. K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Secretary, Elementary Education, Govt. of Tripura welcomed all the participants and explained the importance of this workshop. He highlighted different positive aspects of MDMS in India. He requested Joint Secretary, MHRD for provisioning of flexi funds under MDMS. He also mentioned about importance of IEC activities carried out by Tripura Government for improving awareness about MDMS among the community. He also mentioned about the provisions under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) and requested the States to explore the possibilities of convergence between MDMS and SAGY.

8. Sh. Yashpal Singh, Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura welcomed all the participants and mentioned about interesting features of MDMS in Tripura. He mentioned that few initiatives like community participation, provision of safe drinking water, construction of dining halls, conducting social audit will be of great help better implementation of MDMS in schools. He also added that Government of Tripura has taken zero tolerance policy to ensure quality of MDM in schools.

9. Sh. Gaya Prasad Director, MHRD mentioned about objectives of the scheme and of the workshop and sought active participation from all the States during the discussions. He also mentioned about different initiative taken by Government of India during 2015-16 for better implementation of MDMS. He further mentioned that the MHRD has notified the Mid Day Meal rules 2015 under National Food Security Act 2013. These rules mandate tasting of Mid Day Meal by teachers before it is served to the children. Further, testing of the meal is mandatory under the MDM rules 2015 from Govt. recognized laboratories on random basis. The rules have authorized the Headmasters etc. to temporarily utilize any kind of fund available in the schools for the implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme. In case a school fails to serve Mid Day Meal to

eligible children on three consecutive days or five day in a month, the children shall be paid Food Security Allowance.

10. After the inauguration session, presentation on the formats for the Annual Work Plan & Budget for 2016-17 was made from the MHRD side. The States were informed about the latest decisions and initiatives taken by the Ministry and were requested to prepare a comprehensive AWP&B in the light of these decisions and practices followed in the States. States were also oriented about the guidelines for preparation of AWP& B 2016-17. The States were especially requested to complete action on the all the pre-requisite steps, which are mandatory for submission of the plan. It was also reiterated that the Plan should be approved by the State Steering cum Monitoring Committee and be submitted duly signed by the Pr. Secretary / Secretary of the State/UT within the scheduled date.

11. All the points of the write-up part as well as of the tables were discussed in detail the major points discussed are as follows:

- Precautions to be taken during filling up information in the relevant tables.
- It was explained to all that a few new points i.e. details of meetings at district level, testing of mid-day meal through accredited labs and payment of food security allowances have been added in the plan formats.
- The States/UTs were informed about slight modification in Table AT-14 with the suggestion that the States/UTs may indicate the proposed number of children to be covered instead of average number of children who availed MDM during the first three quarters of the financial year.
- A point on action plan for implementation of Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) was decided to be added in the Plan.
- States were also requested to provide the financial requirements for rolling out of Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) based monitoring system in their respective States/UTs in the table AT-10 of AWP&B-2016-17.
- Preparation of district AWP&B.

12. The next presentation was on the review of performance on the overall implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme in the participating States during 2014-15 and in the first two quarters of 2015-16. The presentation covered topics viz. key challenges in implementation of MDMS, coverage of children, coverage of working days, utilization of food grains, utilization of cooking cost, payment of honorarium to coo-cum-helpers, utilization of MME fund, utilization of Transport Assistance, progress of construction of kitchen cum stores, status of SSMC meeting held in States/ UT etc. the major issues discussed are as under:

- The States were requested to timely submit the Quarterly Progress Reports. It was reminded that as per the MDM Guidelines the QPR should be submitted within one month of completion of the quarter. However, there is a huge delay in submission of 1st and 2nd QPR by the participating States except Tripura and West Bengal.
- The status of non-completion of kitchen-cum-stores in the State of Manipur, Mizoram and West Bengal were also discussed in detail. Representatives from these States informed that necessary measures are being made to complete construction of kitchen-cum-stores in a time bound manner.
- Low utilisation of funds under MME and TA was also discussed in detail and the States/UTs were requested to fully utilize the funds available under MME for the better monitoring of the scheme and for timely transportation of food grains to schools.
- As per MDM Guidelines the State Steering cum Monitoring Committee should meet at least once in every quarter; however no meeting of SSMC was held during the first two quarters of the year except in Tripura.
- Regarding non-release of 1st instalment under MDMS to the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, the State representatives from both the States informed that due to internal problem with State Finance Department, they are unable to furnish required information to GoI for release of fund. Joint Secretary, MHRD expressed his concern over this matter and requested the State Representatives of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland to resolve the issue at the earliest.
- The State of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur raised the issue of inadequate TA rate prevailing in their States and the related problems in transportation of food grains. Sh. Prasad, Director (MDM), MHRD informed that the States may send proposal to GoI for revision of TA rates with current prevailing PDS rates in their States with all other relevant documents.

Joint Secretary, MHRD requested all the States/UTs to pay more attention towards critical issues and also urged them to take stock of things regularly to take remedial actions accordingly.

13. The next presentation was on the MDM-MIS system. During the review of MIS status of the participating states it was noticed that the status of the annual and monthly data entries up to November 2015 is very low in the State of Nagaland. The State of Meghalaya has not yet completed the monthly data for the FY 2014-15 till date. Representatives from Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland informed about poor internet connectivity in remote areas. Some States also mentioned about lack of manpower in the form of data entry operators. Sh. Prasad, Director (MDM), MHRD reminded the States of the recent letter issued by the Ministry for

utilizing the services of the data entry operators of SSA in case of shortage of Manpower and advised the States and UTs to complete all data entries in the web portal. The issue of mismatch in the data from MDM-MIS and data from QPRs was also discussed in detail and the States/UTs were requested to improve the data entry process and keep close check on the quality of data to eliminate these discrepancies.

14. Another presentation was made on the crucial element of payment of cost of foodgrains to FCI. It was informed that as per the Guidelines, FCI will raise bills by 10th day of the next month from the month of lifting of food grains and States/UTs would make payment within 20 days from the date of receipt of bill. It was also mentioned that the payment of cost of food grains has been decentralized at district level from 1st April, 2010.

It was shared that some district authorities in the States/UTs are not making payment towards the cost of food grains to FCI within the stipulated 20 days from the date of receipt of bill and as a result the States/UTs have cumulative outstanding month wise bills for more than 364 Cr. as on October, 2015. In the light of the statement of FCI up to the month of October, 2015, all the States/UTs were requested to expedite the process of payment of cost of foodgrains to FCI. Representatives from participating States/UTs assured to make timely payment to FCI.

15. The States/UTs also made presentation on the draft Annual Works Plan & Budget for 2016-17. The salient features of the presentation of some States/UTs are given below:

i) Arunachal Pradesh

In the presentation made by the State, the State representative informed about implementation status till 2nd quarter of 2015-16 indicating the components like coverage of schools, children and working days, lifting and utilisation of food grains etc. The State also reflected the following issues under MDMS:

- ✓ Delay in release of fund by State Finance Department for MDM scheme.
- ✓ Delay in submission of reports due to poor internet connectivity in the District/Block.
- ✓ Testing of Food Samples not done due to absence of Accredited Laboratory in the State.
- ✓ Enhancement of MME component.
- ✓ Kitchen cum Stores which were constructed during 2006-07 and 2007-08 are in a dilapidated conditions. Hence fresh fund may be allotted for the construction of the same.

Sh. Prasad, Director (MDM), MHRD informed that enhancement of MME is under consideration of the competent authority. He further added that, there is no such provision for repairing of Kitchen cum Stores under this scheme and State may do the same from their own resources.

ii) Manipur

In the presentation made by the State, the State representative informed about implementation status till 2nd quarter of 2015-16 and following initiatives taken by the State government for better implementation of MDMS.

- ✓ Flow of fund is streamlined and even able to release in advance after opening a dedicated account exclusively for MDM Scheme at the State Government level.
- ✓ Direct communication from State Authority to School Authority through BULK SMS helped in streamlining the implementation.
- ✓ Licensee of Kitchen Sheds under MDM has been initiated with the Chief Medical Officer concerned.
- ✓ Surprise inspection to school by State/District Team helps in streamlining the implementation of the scheme.

The following issues have also been raised by the State Government:

- ✓ Inadequate transportation assistance
- ✓ Enhancement of cooking cost.
- ✓ PAB approval and quantification of requirements may please adhere towards the projected enrolment.

In response to the issues raised by the State, Director (MDM), Govt. of India informed that proposal is under consideration for enhancement of cooking cot, transportation assistance, honorarium to cook-cum-helpers and MME.

iii) Meghalaya

The State Govt. representative mentioned the following initiatives taken by the State Government:

- ✓ Cooking Cost and Honorarium to cook-cum-helpers have been transferred directly from the Directorate Account to the Bank Account of the schools through Electronic Transfer in order to avoid delay of receiving of funds by the schools.

- ✓ The Corpus Fund amounting to Rs.10.00 Crores for Mid Day Meal during 2015-16 has been sanctioned by State Government and the amount has been released for cooking cost and Honorarium to Cook-cum-helpers during the Month of April 2015 while awaited sanctioned from GOI for 2015-16.
- ✓ Painting of important phone numbers in a proper place in schools to be used in case of emergency.

iv) Mizoram

The State Govt. representative mentioned the following initiatives taken by the State Government:

- ✓ Mid-Day Meal Rules 2015 is in the process of being implemented and the applicable points were abstracted & translated into Mizo and circulated to all concerned schools for strict compliance.
- ✓ Separate Circular was also issued and circulated to all Schools concern regarding the excessive and exaggerated enrolment for the purpose of MDM & CCH entitlement.
- ✓ Testing of selected Food Samples commonly prepared in Mid-Day Meal was conducted in RIPANS (Regional Institute of Paramedical and Nursing Sciences) an autonomous institute under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India.
- ✓ Social Audit is proposed to be conducted in 2-3 villages in selected District in every quarter from the ensuing FY. The SIRD (State Institute of Rural Development) will be conducting the Social Audit.

v) Sikkim

The State Govt. representative mentioned the following initiatives taken by the State Government:

- ✓ Introduction of green channel.
- ✓ Introduction of state web portal.
- ✓ Opening of MDM account by all schools.
- ✓ Fund transfer directly to school's MDM account
- ✓ Engagement of MIS coordinator/computer operator at district level & state level.

✓ En-bloc sanction being accorded.

✓ Assignment of In-charge ship. (Districts).

vi) Tripura

The State Govt. representative mentioned the following initiatives taken by the State Government

- ✓ Introduction of e-Transfer System
- ✓ Training of Cook-cum-Helpers
- ✓ Fixed Monthly Inspection Target
- ✓ Provision of Dining halls in schools
- ✓ Provision of Safe Storage Facility in schools
- ✓ Provision of Safe Drinking Water in schools
- ✓ Provision of Kitchen Garden

vii) West Bengal

The State Govt. representative mentioned the following initiatives taken by the State Government:

- ✓ Testing of food samples by West Bengal Public Health Laboratory (Pastur) has been started in Kolkata district.
- ✓ Baseline Survey on Nutritional Assessment by NNMB (National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau West Bengal Unit) has been done. Follow up action has been taken and NNMB are performing dissemination workshop in all the districts.
- ✓ Residential training of cook cum helpers is being arranged at IHM, Taratala besides around 5300 cook cum helpers of different districts have been trained. Our target is to train 100 percent CCH. In this regard a master plan has been prepared.
- ✓ State Government has allowed Rs. 500/- as additional honorarium per month per Cook cum helper since October, 2013.

- ✓ Posts of MIS-coordinators dedicated for MDM at State Head Quarters and District Levels have been created and fund for the same is provided from the State Government Budget.
- ✓ State Fund of Rs. 10 Crore has been released for purchase of Thalys / Plates in Jungle Mahal, Sunderban and Tea Garden areas.
- ✓ Allotment of Rs. 29.72 crore has already been given from state exchequer for construction of dining halls (969) in Jungle-Mahal and Sundarban areas. Besides above, 942 dining halls have been constructed at different districts with the help of local administration / local contribution / MP LAD etc.

The following issues have also been raised by the State Government:

- ✓ Change in sharing pattern under MDMS
- ✓ Repairing of previously constructed kitchen-cum-stores
- ✓ Initial installation charges of LPG
- ✓ Requirement of fund for construction of dining halls in schools.

The workshop concluded with the vote of thanks to the chair.

Annexure 1**List of Participants**

| S. No. | Organization /State | Name of Participation Officers / Officials | Designation |
|--------|---------------------|--|--|
| 1 | MHRD , Gol | Sh. J Alam | Joint Secretary, MHRD, Gol |
| | | Sh. Gaya Prasad | Director, MHRD, Gol |
| | | Sh. Harish Kumar | Director (HK), MHRD, Gol |
| | | Sh. Arnab Dhaki | Under Secretary, MHRD, Gol |
| 2 | Ed.CIL | Sh. Rajat Gupta | Sr. Consultant, MIS, TSG-MDM |
| | | Sh. Tanmoy Ghatak | Sr. Consultant, Plan Monitoring, TSG-MDM |
| 3 | Arunachal Pradesh | Sh. Tani Talom | Dy. DEE (MDM) |
| | | Sh. Sephua Wangsu | Coordinator (MDM), Tirap District |
| | | Sh. Nishan Pao | Coordinator (MDM), East Kameng District |
| 4 | Manipur | Abdus Salam | Joint Secretary, Govt. of Manipur |
| | | RK Tenedy Singh | Nodal Officer / MDM, Manipur |
| | | H. Dolen Singh | MDM-incharge (State) |
| | | Y. Bijoy Singh | Assistant Zonal Nodal Officer / MDM (District) |
| 5 | Meghalaya | Sh. P.K. Srivastava | Principal Secretary, Govt of Meghalaya |
| | | Sh. W. Nengnong | Monitoring Officer MDM, DSEL, Shillong |
| | | Sh. O.L. Kurbah | MIS-MDM, DSEL, Shillong |
| | | Sh. D.J. Sakhkar | Planning & Monitoring Consultant MDM, DSEL, Shillong |
| 6 | Mizoram | Mr. V Lalsiamthara | Addl. State Project Director (SSA) |
| | | Mr. Mickey Lalengkawla | District Project Co-ordinator (SSA, Mamit) |
| | | Mr. H.C. Zirtluanga | Asst. Co-ordinator (MDM) |
| | | Mr. Lalremruata | MIS Co-ordinator (MDM) |
| 7 | Nagaland | Sh. Chonpa | Dy.Project Director (MDM) |
| | | Sh. Khriekethozo | State C-ordinator (MDM) |
| | | Sh. Zulukaba | Accounts Assistant (MDM) |
| 8 | Sikkim | Mr. Pema T. Bhutia | APC/MDM/HRDD |
| | | Mr. C.S.Subba | AEO/East/ HRDD |
| 9 | West Bengal | Sh. N.N. Barman | Project Director, CMDMP, West Bengal |
| | | Sh. Ambar Hore | MIS -Coordinator, MDM (State HQrs), West Bengal |
| | | Sh. Riddhi Mukherjee | Computer Conversant Personnel, MDM (State Hqrs.) |
| 10 | West Tripura | Sh. A. K. Reang | DEO, West Tripura |
| 11 | Sepahijala | Sh. Gour Gopal Das | DEO, Sepahijala |
| 12 | Khowai | Sh. Krishnadhan Debba | DEO, Khowai |
| 13 | Gomati | Sh. Laxman Das | DEO (I/C), Gomati |
| 14 | South Tripura | Sh. Makhhan Jamatia | DEO (I/C), South Tripura |
| 15 | Unakoti | Sh. Shyamal Das | DEO (I/C), Unakoti |
| 16 | North Tripura | Sh. Barun Das | DEO (I/C), North Tripura |
| 17 | Dhalai | Sh. Subha Ranjan Das | DEO (I/C), Dhalai |