



National Programme of Mid Day Meal in Schools (MDMS)

**Annual Work Plan & Budget
2016-17**

Name of the State:- West Bengal

Mid Day Meal Programme Annual Work Plan and Budget 2016-17

1. Introduction:

1.1 Brief history

The Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) of 2016-17 on Mid-day Meal scheme may be considered as advanced programme of works and activities proposed to be taken up with fund and food grains to be involved in the performance of MDMS in 2016-17. Preparation of AWP&B for each year at our end stands urgent and imperative, as Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India approves the same and allots fund and food grains thereafter in the interest of smooth and uninterrupted functioning of MDMS in West Bengal.

The study/perusal of AWP&B of 2016-17 may be meaningful, if the ongoing position of the MDMS in West Bengal is explained in brief.

The same is accordingly placed below:-

The MDMS was launched on 15th August, 1995 with a view to enhancing enrolment, retention, attendance, reducing drop-outs and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among primary children in class I to V. Initially the students were served uncooked food and that did not help the scheme achieving the objective. Consequently, Cooked Mid-day Meal Programme was introduced in West Bengal in January, 2003 in 1100 schools of six districts to start with. The programme was further extended to the upper primary stage of schools education (class VI to VIII) in Govt. (including local body), Govt. aided schools, and EGS/AIE centers in 2007-08. Thereafter, coverage of schools has increased gradually and till 2015-16 (up to December, 2015) the programme has covered 7413046 students from class I-V of 68007 Primary Schools and 4613573 students of class VI-VIII of 15665 Upper Primary schools.

1.2 Management structure

The School Education Department, Govt. of West Bengal is the apex body for implementation of this scheme and the State Level office of CMDMP which is under its administrative control is managed by following officials:-

i)	Project Director	-	-
ii)	Dy. Director(Civil)	-	On contract
iii)	Dy. Director(Food)	-	On contract
iv)	Administrative Officer	-	On contract
v)	Accounts Officer	-	(In-service Officer)
vi)	MIS Coordinator	-	(In-service)
vii)	Accountant (one)	-	On contract
viii)	Head Assistant (one)	-	On contract
ix)	UDC (2 no's)	-	On contract
x)	Data entry Operator (3 no's)	-	On contract
xi)	Gr.-D (one)	-	On contract

In the districts, the District Magistrate is the Nodal Officer. With the help of Sub-Divisional Officers and Block Development Officers, he administers the MDM programme.

District Level MDM cell is managed by the following officials:-

In-service officer and staff:-

- i) Additional District Magistrate - In-charge of MDM
- ii) 1 Deputy Magistrate - Officer in-charge of MDM cell
- iii) 1 Accounts Officer
- iv) 1 Dealing Assistant
- v) 1 MIS Coordinator

Contractual Staff:-

- vi) 1 Accountant/Accounts knowing Person
- vii) 1 Data Entry Operator/Computer Assistant

Block Level MDM cell is managed by the following officials:-

In-service officer and staff:-

- i) 1 Assistant Inspector of School/Extension Level Officer of the Block

Contractual Staff:-

- ii) 1 Supervisor
- iii) 1 Assistant Accountant (Accountant or Accounts knowing person)
- iv) 1 Data Entry Operator

Municipal Corporation Level:-

- i) Joint Commissioner of the corporation (In- charge) – In service officer
- ii) 1 MDM Coordinator (contractual)
- iii) 1 Data Entry Operator (contractual)

Municipality Level:-

- i) Executive Officer of the Municipality - (In- charge)
- ii) 1 Assistant Accountant (contractual)
- iii) 1 Data Entry Operator (contractual)

1.3 Process of Plan Formulation.

With a population of 91 million in 2011(provisional), West Bengal is the fourth largest populous State in eastern India. With a density of 1029 population per square K.M., as per 2011 Census (provisional), West Bengal is one of the most densely populated States in the country. About 68.11% of the state's population lives in rural areas and the rest 31.89% in urban areas. The percentages of Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribe population are 23.02% and 5.50% respectively.

Among the minorities, the Muslims are the dominant section in West Bengal. These three categories namely SC, ST & Minority accounting together stands to more than half of the population of rural Bengal. Population pressure puts stress on basic infrastructural needs as well as on the provisions of health and education services. The Mid-day Meal scheme has now been extended to all the areas from Hills to Jungle-Mahals with a view to promoting education and camaraderie amongst the children, irrespective of creed and caste barrier, with nutritional food support to them. The present status of coverage of schools with enrolment under MDM has already been stated above.

Population pressure puts stress on basic infrastructural needs as well as on the provisions of health and education services. The extensive population density obviously affects per capita resource allocation. Due to active interventions in all these fields, birth and death rates have dwindled more rapidly in West Bengal than in India as a whole. During the period 2001-2011, the decline in birth rate is 13.93% while during the period 1991-2001, this rate was 17.77%. Again, the decline in death rate has been decreased substantially. Infant mortality has also declined at a rate that is marginally higher than that of all India average. Sex ratio for women in West Bengal is historically worse than that of national average but the situation has improved recently and it is now just above the national average. Sex ratio for the age group 0-6 years was 963 in 2001 whereas the all India average was 927. In comparison with the all India average this sex ratio in this state is also higher in case of age groups 0-6 years, which is a very positive sign. Life expectancy in West Bengal is 67 while the national average is 63.50.

The literacy rate in West Bengal is always higher than the all-India average. Till the last decade, the progress in literacy, especially in case of female literacy, was relatively slow in the state. To achieve the goal of “education for all”, the State Govt. has taken up wholehearted efforts through various special schemes such as “Total literacy campaign”, “Non-formal education” etc. resulting in an increase of the literacy rate from 69.2% in 2001 to 77.08% in 2011 in the state. Similarly rural literacy rate (72.97%) is predictably lower than those in the urban areas (85.54%). It has improved rapidly in the recent past. The female literacy in West Bengal is 71.16% and the male literacy is 82.67%.

As on 31.12.2015 there were 68007 eligible Primary Schools including SSK, STC and Madrasah with an enrolment of 7721407 students from class I to class V and 15666 Upper Primary Schools, including MSK and Madrasah with an enrolment of 4818459 students from class VI to class VIII. As per DISE Report of 20013-14 provisional dropout rate of students was 131000 while in 2014-15 the dropout rate has become 86000 which is surely a positive sign.

On receipt of Annual Plans from the districts and Siliguri sub-division those are checked with the QPRs and Off-take reports as submitted by them. After completion of that exercise and considering the demographic status of West Bengal, the Annual Work Plan & Budget is finalized.

2. Description and assessment of the programme implemented in the current year (2015-16) and proposal for next year (2016-17) with reference to:

2.1 Regularity and wholesomeness of mid - day meals served to children; reasons for programme interruptions, if any and planning to minimize them.

Mid-day Meal is served regularly on every school day, even in holidays. If there is any occasion like cultural, social or sports involving the students in the school premises the school authorities have been suitably advised to ensure functioning of MDM in the school in a peaceful ambience. Special care has been taken to ensure service of wholesome meal to the students at noon. Stress has been given on cooking seasonal vegetables and other items which contain proper level of nutrition, protein etc. The scheme is not allowed to be disrupted under any circumstances. The same may be kept on hold under some unavoidable circumstances, if there is any local festival, invitation etc.

Special attention has been given on cleanliness and hygienic environment in the kitchens as well as school premises. To keep the kitchens and the school premises well cleaned, two persons have been engaged out of NREGA scheme. Cook-cum-helpers belonging particularly to SHGs have been trained for proper cooking. Recently, steps were taken to impart training to the Cook-cum-helpers at Taratala Institute of Hotel Management in Kolkata. Necessary instruction has been issued to provide eggs with meal twice a week to the students in schools. School authorities have now been using AGMARK cooking oil and other necessary condiments in packaged form. School authorities have also been requested to switch over to gas based cooking in the school premises to avoid loss of time and smoky atmosphere which is likely to create health hazard to all concerned in the school. In a word, regularity and wholesomeness of MDM provided in the school premises has been properly taken care of.

No case of interruption of the programme is reported to this end from any corner.

2.2 Details about weekly Menu.

2.2.1 Weekly Menu – Day wise

In spite of the fact that the cooking cost per children is not sufficient compared to the present market value, the authority has prepared a general menu chart for the schools, considering all the parameters of the nutrition level to be provided to the children. The sample of menu chart is given hereunder:-

Day	Suggestive menu
Monday	Rice + Dal + Soyabean Curry
Tuesday	Khichadi with leafy vegetables
Wednesday	Rice + Egg curry
Thursday	Rice + Soyabean curry +Dal
Friday	Rice + Dal +Mixed vegetables
Saturday	Rice + Egg curry + Mixed vegetables

2.2.2 Additional Food items provided (fruits/milk/any other items), if any.

In Kolkata, two eggs are served in a week. Chingri fishes or any other kind of fish are served to the MDM takers in some districts like South 24Parganas, North 24Parganas (in Sundarban areas) etc.

2.2.3 Usage of Double Fortified Salt,

Iodized salts are given to the children everywhere in West Bengal.

2.2.4 At what level menu is being decided / fixed,

Generally, weekly menu is prepared by the local authorities namely the Headmaster/ Headmistress/Teacher-in-charge following the norms set by the district authorities. In some districts like Murshidabad, Kolkata etc. uniformity in preparing menu is followed throughout their jurisdiction.

2.2.5 Provision of local variation in the menu,

Mid-day meals are served to the students as per local food habit. Locally procured vegetables, ingredients etc. are also being used in preparation of meals.

2.2.6 Timings for serving of Mid day meal at school level.

In case of morning session schools, meals are generally served after completion of schools activities and in case of day session schools, meals are served in the afternoon i.e. 1.00 to 1.30 pm.

2.3 Food grains management,

2.3.1 Timeframe for lifting, District wise lifting calendar of foodgrains.

Some districts are lifting MDM rice on monthly basis and others are lifting MDM rice quarterly. In any case they are to lift rice within the 25th day of the qtr. end month.

2.3.2 System for ensuring lifting of FAQ foodgrains (Joint inspections at the time of lifting etc.)

Success of MDM programme depends largely on availability of good quality of food grains/rice. Quality of rice is an important factor to be reckoned with. Steps noted below, are taken to ensure lifting of good quality of rice from FCI depot and transportation of the same to the schools:-

- i) Allotment of rice is immediately made to all Nodal Officers on receipt of the same from the Govt. of India well ahead of the material quarter.

- ii) The Nodal Officers, on receipt of the allocation from this end, make sub-allotment to the blocks for schools.
- iii) The Nodal Officers arrange identification of stack of good quality of rice at FCI depot and obtain representative sample prior to lifting.
- iv) Lifting of rice is made from the said identified stack as per sample of rice with signatures of Quality Control Officers of FCI and State Govt.
- v) Sealed sample of rice is obtained at the time of lifting rice from FCI depot and the same is kept at the end of Lifters, Nodal Officers, DCF&S, Block and Dealers to meet any problem, if cropped up at the subsequent stage relating to quality and quantity.

2.3.3 Transportation and distribution,

MR / SR distributors / dealers appointed by Food and Supplies Department are authorized to lift and arrange supply of such lifted Stock to the school points as per advice list, chalked out by concerned BDO.

2.3.4 Number of schools receiving foodgrains at doorstep of school.

All the schools are getting rice at their doorsteps.

2.3.5 Storage facility at different levels,

Generally bags containing rice are kept on the wooden planks. These are covered with polythin sheets. Some districts are using bins for keeping rice. As all the kitchen sheds do not have store room, food grains are being kept at any available room of the schools.

2.3.6 Challenges faced and plan to overcome them.

Fund @ Rs. 60,000/- per unit cost for construction of kitchen sheds have been allotted to more than 48000 no. of schools which have no storage facilities. Besides, maintenance of the quality of food grains is a very big challenge. Some kitchen-cum-store/kitchen sheds are required additional fund for repairing kitchen sheds. Now to overcome these, proposal may be given as follows:-

- a) The MHRD, Govt. of India may provide additional fund for construction of store room.
- b) Additional fund is required for purchase of bins.
- c) Additional fund is required for repairing work of the concerned school.

2.4 Payment of cost of foodgrains to FCI.

2.4.1 System for payment of cost of food grains to FCI,

In the de-centralized structure of payment of cost of food grains, we get fund of the cost of food grains from GOI and make sub-allotment of the same to the Nodal Officers who in-turn make payment to FCI within 20 days from the date of submission of bills, for the cost of food grains lifted. The position of payment of cost of food grains has improved considerably over last few years. FCI in some cases, it was noticed, submitted bills late. However, steps have been taken to ensure timely submission of bills and payment thereof against their claim.

2.4.2 Status of pending bills of FCI of the previous year.

Payment of cost of food grains for 2014-15 has been made in full. The Financial year of 2015-16 is yet to expire and we are taking all steps to ensure full payment of cost of food grains lifted in 2015-16 by the end of April, 2016. Now up to December, 2015 payment has been made in full. It is seen frequently that the FCI fails to submit bills in time.

2.4.3 The process of reconciliation of payment with the concerned offices of FCI.

Reconciliation of payment made to FCI is done almost in every month. Our officer entrusted with this job, frequently visits the office of the General Manager, FCI and collect information regarding due to be paid, if any. Accordingly the District Magistrates and Nodal Officers are requested to look into the matter personally.

2.4.4 Relevant issues regarding payment to FCI.

Generally payment is made to the FCI within 10 days after receiving the bills submitted by the different district officials of FCI. But practically it is seen that the FCI repeatedly fails to submit the bills on time for payment. It may be ensured that payment would be made by the district officials within 10 days on receipt of the bills.

2.5 System for release of funds (Central and State).

After receipt of fund from the Govt. of India, the same is sent to the Finance Department of the State Govt. for allotment of the State matching share and after receipt of both, the School Education Department, Mid-day Meal section submits bills to Kolkata Pay & Accounts –III. The cheques are deposited into MDMS savings bank A/c at UBI, Mayukh Bhavan Branch, Salt Lake, Kolkata. Funds are allotted from the Head office to the MDMS savings bank A/c of Districts, Blocks, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations through RTGS/Core Banking System.

2.5.1 Mode of release of funds at different levels, (e-transfer of funds directly from State to School/implementing agency)

MDM funds are drawn from the Kolkata Pay & Accounts-III and deposited into MDMS savings bank A/c under control of state H.Q. Cooking Cost and Honorarium to the

cooks are directly sent to the MDMS savings bank A/c of Blocks, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations through RTGS/ Core Banking System. Thereafter, these funds are allotted to the bank A/cs of SHG/VEC/MC through core banking system.

Cost of rice, transportation cost and MME funds are sent to the MDMS savings bank A/cs of the districts through core banking system. The districts sub-allot these funds to Blocks, Municipality and Municipal Corporation through core banking system.

Non-recurring fund like fund for construction of kitchen-cum-store, kitchen devices and funds for construction of dining hall are also directly sent to the MDMS bank A/c of district only. Thereafter, the districts sub-allot these funds to lower levels as per requirement.

2.5.2 Dates when the fund released to State Authority / Directorate / District / Block / Gram Panchayat and finally to the Cooking Agency / School.

S.No.	Installment / Component	Amount (Rs. In lakhs)			Date of receiving of funds by the State / UT	Status of Releasing of Funds by the State / UT				
		Gen	SC	ST		Directorate / Authority	District*			
							Date		Amount	
		Date	Amount	Amount			Date			
Gen	SC			ST						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
(A) Recurring Assistance						NA				
1	Adhoc Grant (25%)	24343.34	10274.21	2700.25	20.05.2015		24343.34	10274.21	2700.25	09.07.2015
2	Balance of 1st Installment	27304.62	11557.75	3028.72	20.08.2015		27304.62	11557.75	3028.72	05.11.2015
3	2nd Installment	17158.99	23533.14	6166.84	11.01.2016		17158.99	23533.14	6166.84	02.03.2016
(B) Non-Recurring Assistance										
4	Kitchen-cum-store	--	--	--	--					
5	Kitchen Devices	Fund for replacement of kitchen devices (49981) has been sanctioned in the F.Y. 2015-16 but the said fund was not received.								

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

The state Govt. has introduced CBS for fund transfer to lower levels - Districts, Blocks, Schools etc. since February, 2013 to avoid delay in release of MDM fund. Cooking cost and Honorarium are sent directly to MDM A/cs. of Blocks for remitting fund directly to the A/cs of Schools/SHGs & individual Cook cum helpers. Funds for other components are directly sent to the District MDM A/c.

Fund for MME, Cost of rice and transportation cost are directly transferred to the MDM A/c of district Nodal Officers. From districts, these funds are sent to the Blocks, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations through CBS. So there is a little scope of delay in release of MDM funds to the implementing levels.

2.6 Cook-cum-helpers

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

It is the duty of BDO / Municipality concerned to make payments to cook-cum-helpers belonging to SHGs and others against the bills submitted by them duly certified by School Authority. Now the fund for payment to the Cook-cum-helpers is sent to the individual A/c. of Cook-cum-helpers by the Block Development Officers who are receiving fund from the State Level Office in their A/c. NGOs are receiving fund for payment to the Cook-cum-helpers directly from the A/c. of BDOs.

2.6.2 Rate of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers,

Honorarium per cook cum helper was being paid at the rate of Rs. 1,000/- per month, not exceeding 10 months in a year. In view of price hike of essential commodities, the Govt. of West Bengal has enhanced monthly remuneration of cook-cum-helpers @ Rs. 500/- per month w.e.f. 01.10.2013. Now they are receiving honorarium @ Rs. 1,500/- per month.

2.6.3 Number of cook-cum-helpers having bank accounts,

In case of primary schools, 98297 cook-cum-helpers have bank A/cs and in upper primary schools 38437 cook-cum-helpers have bank A/cs.

2.6.4 This section should also include the details of cook-cum-helpers like eligibility as per norms, approval of cook-cum-helpers, engaged and the strategy to fill the gap (if any)

One cook-cum-helper may be engaged in a school under MDM programme having 25 students, 2(two) cook-cum-helpers for schools having 26 to 100 students and 1(one) additional cook-cum-helper for every addition of up to 100 students.

In the financial year 2015-16, 248799 no. posts of cook-cum-helpers have been sanctioned. Out of that, 244744 no. of cook-cum-helpers have been engaged so far. The gap shows therein, is to be filled up by assessing the no. of cook-cum-helpers required for the project, gradually.

2.6.5 Provisions for health check-ups of Cook-cum-Helpers,

Health check up of the cook-cum-helpers is being done when health of the children of the concerned institute is checked up.

- 2.6.6 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,

There are 61 no. of NGOs who are engaging cook-cum-helpers for working at the cooking place. These cook-cum-helpers also are placed at the schools for serving the meals to the children. All these cook-cum-helpers are engaged by the concerned NGOs/SHGs.

2.7 Procurement and storage of cooking ingredients and condiments

Mostly the school authorities arrange for storage of cooking ingredients and condiments. Where there is no store room one class room is identified as temporary store room.

- 2.7.1 System for procuring (good quality Agmark / FPO) pulses, vegetables including leafy ones, salt, condiments, etc. and other commodities.

Cooking ingredients like pulses, vegetables including leafy ones, salt, condiments, oil and fuel etc. are purchased locally by the members of Self Help Groups/others. Salt, condiments and other ingredients are purchased in sealed packaged condition. AGMARK cooking oil is used for cooking MDM. Few blocks have been purchasing cooking ingredients centrally through tender process.

- 2.7.2 Whether FIFO method has been adopted in usage of pulses and condiments etc. or not.

Yes, this method is being followed by the implementing authorities.

- 2.7.3 Arrangements for safe storage of ingredients and condiments in kitchens.

Generally ingredients and condiments are kept in a separate room used by the Headmaster as office room. Sometimes an available room in the school campus is used for storage of ingredients and condiments.

- 2.8 System for cooking, serving and supervising mid-day meals in the school and measures to prevent any untoward happening.

In most of the schools of the state, cooking and serving of cooked food are done by the members of the Self Help Groups excepting in the schools situated at GTA areas, where the same is done by the members of Mother Teacher Associations. Besides officials deputed from block/ sub-division/ district and ward councilors, the teachers of the concerned school, panchyat members and mothers of the children supervise it. Before

serving the meal one teacher, one guardian (if available in school premises) and one of the cooks taste the cooked food and after their satisfaction the cooked food is served to the students. School authorities have also been advised to depute teaching/non-teaching staff to help the students to wash their hands /dishes, get meal, eat the same and wash their hands in a disciplined way so that no untoward incident is allowed to happen.

2.9 Mode of Cooking of Mid Day Meals – LPG, smokeless chulha, firewood & others.

-Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is considered to be safe, economic, time-saving and smoke-free method of cooking MDM. We always encourage the school authorities to go for LPG for cooking MDM. With the aim in mind several meetings have been held with the LPG authorities for smooth availability of LPG connection for the schools. Now 83672 schools are using LPG for cooking MDM in West Bengal.

2.10 Kitchen-cum-stores.

2.10.1 Procedure and status of construction of kitchen-cum-store,

In the matter of getting kitchen sheds constructed, the following procedures are followed in this State:-

After receipt of fund from the Government of India under the Mid-Day-Meal scheme for the purpose of construction of kitchen sheds the same is sub allotted to the districts.

The districts, in their turn, sub allot the fund to the concerned Village Education Committees through the Sub Inspectors of schools and to the Managing Committee of schools after dovetailing this fund with other available funds of various Development Programmes, such as NREGA, BRGF etc. so that the kitchen sheds are constructed as per need of the schools depending on the roll strength.

Finally the village Education Committees in case of Primary Schools and Shishu Shiksha Kendras and the Managing Committees in case of Upper primary Schools and Madhyamik Shiksha Kendras take up the responsibility of construction of the kitchen sheds.

In some places the BDOs and Executive Officers of the Panchayat Samities are entrusted to do the construction work through their technical staff. The Zilla Parishad Engineers or other departmental Engineers are also doing the construction work as decided by the Executive Committee of the Districts.

Status of construction of kitchen shed (Primary & Upper Primary, Classes I-VIII) (As on 31st Dec.15)

Total sanctioned during 2006-07 to 15-16		Completed (C)		In progress (IP)		Yet to start		% of completion	
Physical	Financial (Rs. in lakh)	Physical	Financial (Rs. in lakh)	Physical	Financial (Rs. in lakh)	Physical	Financial (Rs. in lakh)	Physical	Financial
81314	85818.45	70445	71263.26	10869	14555.19	Nil	Nil	87%	83%

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

87% kitchens cum stores have already been constructed. Remaining construction works are in progress. In this connection it may be stated that due to delay in taking up the construction work, it has become difficult to complete the construction work of the kitchen sheds for which Rs. 60,000 per unit cost has been allotted.

2.10.3 Whether any standardized model of kitchen cum stores is used for construction.

We have supplied standardized model of kitchen cum stores duly prepared by the Engineering Cell of SSM. But as the price of construction material is very high some deviations in the model have been done.

2.10.4 Details of the construction agency and role of community in this work.

It has been advised to take up the construction of kitchen-cum-store by different Deptt.'s like PW(CB), PWD, P&RD, Housing, UDPHE, I&WD, WRIDD and MED. Besides construction work may also be done by the SHGs (the Jr. Engineer attached under SSA will help them), VEC & MC. The Executive Officer, Panchayat Samiti with its own infrastructure may also take up the construction work.

2.10.5 Kitchen cum stores constructed through convergence, if any

In some districts MP/MLA-LAD fund have been used to construct the kitchen-cum-stores as the allotted fund @ Rs. 60,000/- per unit cost is not sufficient to complete the kitchen sheds.

2.10.6 Progress of construction of kitchen-cum-stores during this year and target for the next year.

Up to this year the total no. of kitchen-cum-stores constructed by the districts is 70445. The reason for slow progress is that the district authorities could not complete the construction work as the allotted fund is only Rs. 60,000/- per unit cost. In the next year we may complete the remaining construction work.

2.11 Kitchen Devices

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

Under MDM, all the schools have been provided kitchen devices @ Rs. 5,000/- per school. These are procured at the District level/Block level/school level. Every after five year, replacement fund @ Rs. 5,000/- is given to the schools. But we did not get fund for replacement for 49981 units amounting to

Rs. 24.99 crore in 2015-16, though this has been approved in the last PAB meeting.

2.11.2 Procedure of procurement of kitchen devices from funds released under the other sources.

Kitchen devices are given to the Districts at the rate of Rs. 5,000/- per unit only. This per unit sanctioned amount was not sufficient in cases of some schools, where the student strength is high. This unit cost should be enhanced to Rs. 15,000/- per school.

The concerned Village Education Committees/Managing committees of schools contributed some fund from their ends to meet the requirement. Besides this, even in some cases, the Panchayat Samiti contributed from their own fund to purchase the required additional kitchen devices.

The District Nodal Officers of MDM have been advised to use MME fund as and when replacement is necessary. In this year we did not get fund for replacement, though Rs. 24.99 crore has been approved by PAB.

2.11.3 Availability of eating plates. Source of funding of eating plates.

Generally eating plates are arranged by the students for taking meals. As per a decision in the last SLMC meeting under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to distribute plates to all MDM running schools Rs. 93.66 crore has already been released for purchase of Talis / Plates in the schools under the state.

2.12 Capacity building and training for different stakeholders

2.12.1 Details of the training programme conducted for cook-cum-helpers, State level officials, SMC members, school teachers and others stakeholders

Ten days residential training of Cook-cum-helpers has already been completed with the help of Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Taratala, Kolkata, involving 30 cook cum helpers.

In other districts namely Hooghly (full), South 24Parganas (Part) Kolkata(Part), Uttar Dinajpur(Part), Nadia(Part), Murshidabad(Part), Burdwan(Part), Jalpaiguri(Part). Altogether 39262 cook cum helpers have been trained in the said districts. They will now be the Master Trainers to impart training to other Cook-cum helpers of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and mothers of the school children involved in Cooking Mid-Day Meals, in their respective district, as to how to sustain food values after cooking, as much as practicable. They will learn as to how nutritious as well as palatable meals

can be made with seasonal green leafy vegetables, animal and soya proteins, cereals, edible oil, condiments and Iodized salt etc.

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

- a) Training modules have been prepared on the basis of Govt. guidelines, orders etc.
- b) The expert teams on different fields are engaged to impart training to the Master Trainers. These Master Trainers are to impart training to the Cook-cum-helpers and other stakeholders.

2.12.3 Targets for the next year.

In the next year the remaining Cook-cum-helpers will be trained at different levels.

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

2.13.1 Procedure followed for data entry into MDM-MIS Web portal

Previously data entry operators were engaged on contract for a required period of time to do the data entry part. The remuneration for data entry work per school was fixed at Rs. 13/- including collection of data from the schools and entry of the same at Block level. Remuneration for collection of 3 forms that is School Annual Data Entry, School Monthly Data Entry fund and School Health Data Entry was fixed at Rs. 8.50/- and entry of the same at Rs.4.50/-. At many places data entry were also done through outsourcing. The expenditure for this purpose was met out of MME. Now the Data Entry Operators are being placed in each Block/ Municipality/Corporation to do the said job.

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

The school wise annual and monthly data entry are done at Block Level and the required information that are needed for generating Annual Work Plan & Budget like requirements of kitchen shed, kitchen device, number of cook cum helpers etc. and the necessary replication are also done at respective District and State Level.

2.13.3 Availability of manpower for web based MIS

Each District, Block, Municipality and Municipal Corporation have been provided with Data Entry Operators on contract basis for data entry to MDM-MIS portal together with other job responsibilities, relating to MDM, as assigned to them.

2.13.4 Mechanism for ensuring timely data entry and quality of data

For ensuring timely data entry and quality of data it has been decided that Block Level Asstt. Inspector of Schools / supervisors will henceforth verify and validate the information so collected from the schools before insertion into the MDM-MIS web portal in time. Responsibilities will be fixed on them for any insertion of incorrect data.

2.13.5 Whether MIS data is being used for monitoring purpose and details thereof.

MIS data is not used for monitoring purpose till date.

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

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

To ensure accountability, transparency and openness in all aspects of the programme, display on a board about quantity of food grains received, quantity of food grains utilized, other ingredients purchased and utilized, number of children given MDM and roster of community members involved in the programme on weekly / monthly basis and menu on daily basis have been arranged at all educational institutions covered under Mid-Day-Meal programme. Accounts of Mid-Day-Meal are placed in the meetings of the concerned Village Education Committees / Ward Education Committees. For dereliction of duty, if any, MDM rice is found grains rotten and unfit for human consumption the system of enquiry, checking of the rotten food by the quality control officials and fixing up of responsibility is done in consonant with the existing rules.

2.14.2 Dissemination of information through MDM website

Information related to MDM are being disseminated through School Education Deptt.'s website i.e. www.wbsed.gov.in. Contact details of MDM Headquarter is there for any assistance related to MDM. Important guidelines are also circulated by the website for all concerned.

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

The guardians/local people have an instinctive interest in the smooth and successful implementation of the programme. For that purpose in every rural and urban areas the VEC and Ward Committee are actively involved in

community monitoring. Besides these engaging committees, govt. officials responsible for inspection of day to day running of MDMS keep close watch on the implementation of this scheme.

2.14.4 Conducting Social Audit

Two districts namely Cooch Behar and Purulia have been selected for conducting Social Audit. The Calcutta University has been engaged to conduct this. The first meeting at the state level has been held. They are now visiting the districts for field work.

2.15 Measures taken to rectify

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

If there any low or uneven utilization of food grains and fund is detected at any level this is immediately brought to the notice of the district officials. The matter also is discussed elaborately at the state level meeting. Accordingly they are instructed to look into the matter immediately and take remedial action.

2.15.2 Intra-district mismatch in utilization of food grains and cooking cost.

Same as 2.15.1

2.15.3 Delay in delivering cooking cost at school level.

The State Govt. has introduced CBS for fund transfer to lower levels i.e. Districts, Blocks, Schools etc. since February, 2013 to avoid delay in release of MDM fund.

Cooking Cost and Honorarium are sent directly to MDM A/cs. of Blocks for remitting fund directly to the A/cs of Schools/SHGs & individual Cook cum helpers. Funds for other components are directly sent to the District MDM A/c.

2.15.4 Delay in payment to FCI

Generally there is no delay in payment to FCI. The implementing authorities cleared the bills within 10 days on receipt of the bills. But at time, it is seen that bills are not submitted by the FCI in time. In this financial year all payment to the FCI authority has been made up to 3rd qtr.

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

The matter was significantly discussed in the meeting with the Nodal Officers. Whenever any discrepancy is noticed steps are being taken to resolve the matter without any further delay.

2.16 Details of Evaluation studies conducted by State/UTs and summary of its findings.

Evaluation studies were conducted by the state by way of engagement of monitoring institutions

Findings after evaluation studies are as follows:-

- ❖ The students and guardians of the visited schools expressed their satisfaction about the quality and quantity.
- ❖ All the visited schools are serving of hot cooked MDM maintaining regularity.
- ❖ During distribution of meal the students are found maintaining discipline.
- ❖ Green leafy vegetables & double fortified salt are used in preparation of MDM.
- ❖ Training of cook-cum-helpers found effective.
- ❖ Students are encouraged to wash hands.
- ❖ Under privileged women are drawn from the locality as cook-cum - helpers for MDM.
- ❖ Health check up of students, though not regular, but are being maintained.

2.17 Write up on best/ innovative practices followed in the State.

- ❖ State Fund of Rs. 93.66 crore has been released for purchase of Thalys / Plates to the A/c. of MDM implementing agencies through RTGS system.
- ❖ Allotment of fund 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, 1540 dining halls have been constructed at different districts with the help of local administration / local contribution / MP LAD etc.
- ❖ State Government has allowed Rs. 500/- as additional honorarium per month per Cook cum helper since October, 2013.
- ❖ Arrangement of Hand washing before and after meal has been made in each and every school.
- ❖ The system of tasting of cooked food by one teacher and one cook prior to distribution to the students in the school has already been strictly introduced and it is being properly complied with. A register is being maintained for recording the quality of the food and the names of the MDM tasters who taste the food.
- ❖ Social Audit is a programme monitored by the people and the Government jointly. Calcutta University has already been engaged for this purpose. They are now visiting the districts for field work.

- ❖ Muraliganj High School under Siliguri Sub-division has been judged as the best school for implementing Mid-day meal by the Govt. of India. Hand washing and cooking methods are main qualities maintained by this school. The cook-cum-helpers are cooking by wearing apron and mask and all the cooked food are kept in covered utensils. The delicious hot cooked foods are being served to the children after washing their hands properly. CCTV cameras have been installed in the kitchen shed and the place where Mid-day meals are served. The Head master monitors this programme personally in every day and one regular teacher & one Para Teacher are deputed to maintain the whole programme systematically. Representatives from different countries like Afghanistan , Phillipines, Canada, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh etc. visited the school to observe the implementation of Mid-day meal scheme by this school. The school has already received various awards like 1)“Jamini Roy Award“(state level most prestigious award first in North Bengal) 2). “Sishu Mitra Vidhyalaya award” (District level) 3) “Nirmal Vidhyalaya award “(Block level) for proper implementation of Cooked mid-day meal Programme.
- ❖ Krishna Chandrapur High School of Diamond Harbour Sub-division under South 24Parganas district has made elaborate arrangement of some good practices to enrich efficacy of MDM scheme. Low cost effective gas based cooking has been introduced. CCTV has been installed in the school to oversee the works and activities of different items from one place i.e. room of the headmaster. The school has well furnished kitchen, proper sanitation system, separately for boys and girls, kitchen garden, well furnished dining hall, fire extinguisher system. The said school serves egg with MDM twice a week to the students.
- ❖ Sankrail block of West Medinipur made arrangement for procurement of model hygiene kit centrally to be distributed to all schools within its jurisdiction. This will ensure safe practices which is also a motto of Nirmal Bharat Abhijan. This practice will soon be replicated throughout the district.
- ❖ Golapbag primary school of Birbhum district grow vegetables in the kitchen garden of the school and utilize the vegetables in Mid-Day-Meal. Vidyasagar G.S.F.P. Vidyalaya under Taherpur, Nadia district Solar System is used for heating water for Cooking Mid-Day-Meal. Besides this, in some schools Model Dining Hall is constructed to facilitate the Children to have their meals in good manner. Community members often contribute their agricultural produce to this programme. Utensils were also provided by the people of the locality where the number of students is high.
- ❖ Admirable effort has been taken by the district, Hooghly for training of the Cook cum Helpers. They are trained how to cook healthy, tasty and nutritious food within the approved cost limit and how to maintain hygiene as well as to take safety measures while cooking Mid-day Meal with the help of SIMS School of Hotel Management, Burdwan during the month of November, 2014. Altogether 2700 Cook cum helpers and 1000 teachers were trained by this programme.

- ❖ System of imparting suitable training on MDM scheme to the District Inspector of schools of Secondary & Primary and the new batch of Inspectors and Sub-inspectors of schools has been introduced in the Administrative Training Institute (ATI) of Govt. of West Bengal at Salt Lake, Kolkata.
- ❖ Baseline survey on nutrition level of school students of all districts has been conducted by the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (West Bengal Unit) and they have submitted reports. A total of 12020 students from Primary and 12091 students from Upper Primary schools from 20 educational district participated in the study.

2.18 Untoward incidents

2.18.1 Instances of unhygienic food served, children falling ill

We always advise all concerned to be uncompromising with health and hygienic aspect of MDM. Still an unhappy incident took place on 11.09.2015 in Barabainan Balika Vidyalaya, Burdwan where 134 students felt ill after taking MDM. Immediately they were taken to Block Primary Health Centre. After preliminary treatment 130 students were discharged. Four students were admitted to the hospital and they were discharged on the next day. Cook cum helpers has been changed and the HM of the school has been directed to remain alert in future.

2.18.2 Sub-standard supplies,

No substandard supply of rice is reported during the period of report.

2.18.3 Diversion/ misuse of resources,

No report is received on the above noted matter.

2.18.4 Social discrimination

There is no information of social discrimination at this level.

2.18.5 Action taken and safety measures adopted to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

Case of any untoward incidents whenever reported to this end the matters were taken serious care without delay and after obtaining reports from the Nodal Officers end necessary remedial measures are taken.

2.19 Quality of food

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

The system of tasting cooked food by one teacher and one cook prior to service of the same to the students at noon in the school has already been

introduced and it is being maintained strictly. A register has also been maintained for recording the names of the MDM tasters and quality of the food.

2.19.2 Testing of food sample by any reputed labs for the presence of nutrients and presence of microbes, if any, as per norms of Mid-Day Meals.

In Kolkata District food samples have been taken from various schools selected at random and sent to the West Bengal Public Health Laboratory (Pasture Laboratory). Results to be given in a tabular form.

2.19.3 Engagement of NABL / recognized labs for the testing of Meals.

Microbiological and chemical analysis of cooked foods are being done by the accredited laboratories.

2.19.4 Details of protocol for testing of Meals, frequency of lifting and testing of samples.

The food samples are drawn by the food safety officers maintaining the norms of laboratory. In this regard food safety officers have been imparted with the training by the laboratory.

2.19.5 Details of samples taken for testing and the results thereof.

66 samples from 26 schools were collected by the Food Safety Officers of Kolkata Municipal Corporation who was imparted with the training of collection of food samples by the West Bengal Public Health Laboratory.

The samples were tested at the West Bengal Public Health Laboratory.

Out of 66 samples 54 samples were found meeting norms and 12 samples were found below norms.

2.20 Involvement of NGOs / Trusts.

2.20.1 Modalities for engagement of NGOs/ Trusts for serving of MDM through centralized kitchen.

They are engaged as per norms.

2.20.2 Whether NGOs/ Trusts are serving meal in rural areas

No.

2.20.3 Maximum distance and time taken for delivery of food from centralized kitchen and school

NGOs are serving meals through cluster kitchen in urban areas covering the schools situated within 1km from the cluster kitchen.

2.20.4 Measures taken to ensure delivery of hot cooked meals to schools

As soon as the meals are prepared, the meals are carried to the schools within covered container by means of trolley van as early as possible.

2.20.5 Testing of food samples at centralized kitchens

Food samples are being collected from the big cluster kitchen for testing.

2.21 Status of Rastriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (School Health Programme)

2.21.1 Provision of micro-nutrients, Vitamin-A, de-worming medicine, Iron and Folic acid (WIFS), Zinc.

Only de-worming, iron and folic acid tablets are distributed to the concerned students under Mid-day Meal scheme. The Doctor of the Health Deptt. are checking up status of health of the children and proper health care and supplementation of micro-nutrients, where necessary, are given. Status is as follows:-

De-worming tablets distribution		Iron & Folic Acid supplementation	
No. of schools	No. of children covered	No. of schools	No. of children covered
8580	390355	18869	858253

2.21.2 Distribution of spectacles to children with refractive error,

In this year (up to Dec. 15), 20822 no. of spectacles are given to the children in 4118 no. of schools.

2.21.3 Recording of height, weight etc.

There is a provision to record height, weight etc. in the schools.

2.21.4 Number of visits made by the RBSK team for the health check-up of the children.

In this year (up to Dec. 2015), 34304 schools were visited and 3467311 no. of children have been covered.

2.22 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.

Following is the monitoring structure at different levels:-

Block Level:- Besides BDO, one Block level supervisor on contract basis has been engaged where Assistant Inspector of Schools (AI) is not posted till now. All the officers including SI of schools at block level are entrusted to monitor the programme and report to the concerned DIs from time to time.

District Level :- The District Magistrate, Additional District Magistrate, in-charge, MDM and one officer in-charge in the rank of Dy. Magistrate are at the helm of the district monitoring cell. The District Inspectors of schools of both primary and secondary are also engaged in the MDM monitoring system. They all are required to visit a certain number of schools every month and submit their monitoring report in prescribed format to the

Secretary, SED, with a copy to the DM concerned. Each level discusses the monitoring results in their respective Steering-cum-monitoring committee meeting regularly and the feedback is sent to the next higher level.

State Level:- At the state level the Project Director and the two Dy. Directors regularly monitor the MDM and submit monitoring report to the Secretary of School Education Department. The District Inspectors of schools also submit monthly monitoring statement to the Secretary of the Department regularly in prescribed format with a copy to the concerned DM. All these reports and feedbacks of the districts are discussed in the State steering-cum-monitoring meeting. To strengthen this initiative, the Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, has circulated a comprehensive circular indicating the duties and responsibilities of respective nodal and monitoring officers.

Govt. of India has already advised formation of State wise Jt. Review Mission to oversee the functioning of MDM scheme. In our state a Task Force Committee on MDM scheme has already been formed and it has been functioning for the last two years. The members of the Committee visit the districts to inspect the MDM functioning in schools.

This year School Education Department has engaged 4 (four) Expert Authorities for monitoring purpose namely:-

- 1) Dr. Rafiqul Islam, Associate Professor, Deptt. of Rural Extension, Visva-Bharati University
- 2) Dr. Nabin ananda Sen, Associate Professor, Deptt. of Business Management, Calcutta University
- 3) Anuradha Talwar, Advisor to the Commissioners to the Supreme Court of India
- 4) Pratichi (India) Trust, Burdwan University Building, Salt Lake, Kolkata-91

Activities:

Each Expert Authority will visit at least 100 schools of various categories in a District. They will see the daily attendance, menu, storage, hygiene etc. Visits will be sudden and unscheduled.

Again, in our last SLMC meeting a decision has been taken to increase monitoring institute at least one per district by the reputed Universities/Colleges. Necessary steps have been taken to engage Universities/Colleges for this purpose.

Besides, the Administrative Officers, District Inspectors of schools, Assistant Inspectors and Sub-inspectors of schools are also engaged in monitoring activity.

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

2.23.1 Number of meetings held at various level and gist of the issues discussed in the meeting,

No. of Block Level Steering cum Monitoring Committee meeting is 752, District Level Steering cum Monitoring Committee meeting is 82 and the no. of State Level Steering cum Monitoring Committee Meeting is 1.

Main issues are:-

- a) Failure of supply of rice by the FCI
- b) Quality of rice.

- c) Payment to FCI
- d) Management structure
- e) Inadequate cooking cost
- f) Repairing of kitchen sheds
- g) Dining hall
- h) Timely payment to the cook cum helpers
- i) Opening of bank A/c. by the cook cum helpers

2.23.2 Action taken on the decisions taken during these meetings.

Failure of supply of rice by the FCI – It is reported frequently by the districts that rice could not be supplied to the Nodal Officers against their demand for want of stocks at godowns of the FCI. The authority of FCI at state level has been requested to see the matter so that MDM programme is not hampered due to non-supply of rice.

Quality of rice – It has been directed that the implementing agencies will not accept bad quality of rice. Several orders and guidelines have been issued in this regard. If bad quality of rice reported the distributing agencies are asked to withdraw the rice from that school instantly.

Payment to FCI – Generally the FCI will submit bill within 10th of the next month and payment will be made by the Nodal Officers within 20th of that month. But it is reported frequently that the district authorities are not getting bills in time. As a result payment cannot be made within the stipulated date. However, the Regional General Manager, FCI have been requested to submit the bill within the date.

Management structure: Management structure for implementing MDMS at different levels seems to be very weak. A uniform structure in this matter is being considered.

Inadequate cooking cost: The cooking cost is very insufficient due to consideration of the present market price. As a result quality of cooked food cannot be maintained. We have already brought it to the notice of Govt. of India and state Govt.

Repairing of kitchen sheds: There is no provision to provide fund for repairing cost of kitchen sheds which have been constructed much earlier. Considering the urgency the Govt. of India have been requested to think over the matter.

Dining hall: Much needed dining halls for the children under MDMS should be considered as early as possible. Most of the children of the schools are taking MDM at open spaces sitting under the sky in unhygienic condition. However the State Govt. has sanctioned 969 dining halls involving Rs. 29.73 crore. Further proposal of Rs. 3237.58 lakh is under consideration of the state Govt.

Timely payment to the cook cum helpers: For timely payment to the cook cum helpers we now transfer the fund to the A/cs of the BDOs directly through RTGS. In turn, BDOs are sending the honorarium to the A/cs of the cook cum helpers.

Opening of bank A/c. by the cook cum helpers: To ensure timely payment to the cook cum helpers it is directed to open bank A/c of the cook cum helpers. But all of them could not submit bank A/cs in details. They have been asked to submit the A/cs in details to this office immediately. 38437 no. of bank A/cs have been opened in the name of individual cook cum helpers.

2.24 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.

To monitor the scheme by-monthly meetings of the Steering cum Monitoring Committee at district levels are held under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate. We have requested the District Magistrates to conduct the meeting under the chairmanship of the senior most MP of the district.

2.25 Arrangement for official inspections to MDM centres/schools and percentage of schools inspected and summary of findings and remedial measures taken.

Arrangements for official inspection to MDM centers has been made for officers of each and every level. Besides, District Magistrate, Additional District Magistrate, Officer In-charge of MDM Cell at District Level, SDOs, BDOs, DIs AIs, SIs have been entrusted for physical inspection of the MDM centers. They discuss the feedback in the steering-cum-monitoring committees at respective levels so that prompt correctional measures can be taken in case of any deviations found during official inspection.

In this way a certain percentage of schools are regularly being monitored every month. In most of the cases the MDM service was found satisfactory. In some cases there is a complaint of supply of bad quality of rice. Besides in some schools there is inadequacy in infrastructural facilities such as small kitchen shed or unfinished kitchen sheds, lack of dinning space, inadequate drinking water facilities. We have then and there brought this to the knowledge of respective Nodal Authorities so that these deficiencies are met up as early as possible. In tribal infested areas 100gm of rice for primary students proved inadequate. This point was duly intimated to Govt. of India to consider enhancement per capita rice quantity for these tribal affected school students. The JRM team who visited our state earlier also experienced this inadequacy.

During the last three quarters, the District Inspectors (DI) of school and his officers (AI, SI etc.) and the District Magistrate and his officers (ADM, SDO, OC-MDM, BDO and other supervising staff) have visited several no. of schools.

(From April to Dec. 2015)

Visiting Officers	No. of Schools visited	Findings		
		No. of schools running satisfactorily	No. of intermittent schools	No. of schools not running MDM
State Level	48	45	3	0
District Magistrates & his Officers (ADMs, SDOs, OC-MDM, BDOs & Jt. BDOs)	6542	50102	3824	0
DIs & his Officers (ADIs, AIs, SIs,)	64806	16348	1074	01
Total	71396	66495	4901	01

Causes :- 1) Want of steady flow of fund 2) SHG Problem 3) Want of dining hall

2.26 Feedback/comments in respect of report of Monitoring Institutions designated for your State/UTs to monitor implementation of MDM and action taken thereon.

Monitoring Institutions have been engaged to monitor the implementation of MDM programme including nutritional status of the children in districts. They are now conducting the survey and their reports have been submitted. So far it is known from the reports that MDM is being implemented throughout the state more or less satisfactorily.

Observations and area of concern of the Monitoring Institutions are as follows:-

- ❖ All the visited sample schools serving of hot cooked MDM is regular.
- ❖ In general the students of the sample schools expressed their satisfaction about the quality.
- ❖ Green leafy vegetables & double fortified salt are used in preparation of MDM.
- ❖ Supplied food grains are of FAQ Grade- A quality.
- ❖ Training has been provided to cook-cum-helpers found in sample visited schools.
- ❖ Buffer stock of one month's requirement maintained.
- ❖ Honorarium to the CCH paid regularly.
- ❖ Majority of the visited schools have pucca kitchen shed.
- ❖ Students are encouraged to wash hands before and after eating MDM.
- ❖ Considerable number of schools found to be received fund through e-transfer.
- ❖ Under privileged women are drawn from the locality as cook-cum - helpers for MDM.

Area of concern are as follows:-

- ❖ Dining hall is not found in many visited sample schools.
- ❖ Delay in providing Cooking Cost to school/SHG end.
- ❖ Pucca kitchen sheds are still absent in a few schools.
- ❖ Buffer stock is not maintained in all visited sample schools.
- ❖ Quality of meals is not maintained up to the mark in some schools.

Necessary remedial action is being taken against these shortcomings.

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.

To avoid any untoward incident, orders have been issued from our Deptt. to take all necessary safety measures for maintenance of health and hygienic aspects of MDM which includes clean and spacious pucca kitchen shed, cleaning of cooking utensils before and after cooking and consumption of MDM, use of headgear and apron at the time of cooking and serving MDM, use of AGMARK and sealed cooking oil and condiments, use of packaged iodized salt, tasting of cooked food by one teacher, one cook and if possible with one guardians before serving the MDM to the students, installation of fire extinguisher in every school etc. Besides every school has arranged displaying notice board indicating important telephone numbers of nearby health centre, fire service, BDO, SI of school and local police station, so that the concerned office can be contacted immediately as and when necessary. Besides above all the schools have been asked to keep first aid box to tackle emergency situation, if needed.

For maintenance of safety as well as hygiene while serving hot cooked meals to the students the Secretary, School Education Deptt. has issued a guideline :

- a) Before serving the hot meal to the students, vessels containing the hot meals should be kept in a higher platform namely table, bench etc.
- b) It is better to make the students sit and serve the meals to them instead of queuing to take their food. However, if unavoidable the queue should be orderly and teachers should be present to ensure there is no pushing and shoving which can lead to accident.
- c) For avoiding rush, meals may also be distributed from three or four distribution centers.
- d) Adequate taps should be arranged for washing hands and plates.
- e) While distributing meals, beside teachers and members of SHGs cooperation from the parents and other member of the community may be sought for.

2.28 Grievance Redressal Mechanism

2.28.1 Details regarding Grievance Redressal at all levels,

Redressal Mechanism means and includes some norms / procedures resorted to for keeping a system /scheme alive or responsive to the needs of beneficiaries. It plays an important role for the survival / sustenance of any scheme.

In our State the Grievance Redressal Mechanism plan has been devised as follows:

Committee on Grievance Redressal relating to MDM programme has been set up at the Block and Municipality levels headed by the Block Development Officer at Block level and Executive Officer at Municipality level. This Committee consists of Karmadhakshyas of Shiksha, Sanskriti, Tathya- O- Krirah Sthyee- Samittee and Khadya-O-Sraboraha Sthayee Samittee of the

Concerned Panchayat samittee, the Pradhans of Grampanchyats and Sub-inspectors of schools at the block level.

At the Municipality level such committee consists of local councilors and the concerned sub-inspectors of schools.

The committee enquires into all complaints on MDM and takes necessary remedial measures within 30 days from the date of receipt of complaint. A log book is maintained at the block/municipality level where particulars of such complaint and actions taken are recorded. The concerned Block Development Officer/Executive Officer of Block/Municipality submits a monthly report within 7th of the next month to the districts on the natures of such complaints, dates of receipts of the complaints and actions taken thereto and the District Magistrate, at his end complies the same and send a monthly compiled report to the Project Director, MDM by 10th of the month. The Project Director, in his turn, keeps a record of such reports and pursues the matters with District Magistrates.

- Online Grievance Redressal system has been made;
- Complaint Boxes are kept at every concerned level;
- Telephone numbers have also been given to the Web-site for public view;
- For maintaining transparency of MDM a notice board has been erected in front of every MDM running school displaying the following particulars in a board for public view;

A) Total no. of students covered under the scheme;

B) No. of days and time when the meals are served;

C) Weekly menu;

D) No. of students present on that day;

E) No. of students taken MDM on that day;

F) Telephone no. of BDO, SDO, SI of schools, DI of schools, nearby health centers, Sub-divisional /district health centers are painted on the wall.

G) Today's menu;

H) Stock of rice as on that day;

At State Level, Grievance can be sent to the following numbers:-

Phone No. (033)2359-6761, 6798, 6799

Fax-(033)23344052

E-mail: director.cmdmp@gmail.com

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

Number of Complaints received and status of complaint

During 01.04.14 to 31.12.2015

Nature of Complaints	Name of Districts	Number of Complaints	Year/Month of receiving complaints	Status of complaints pending	Action taken
Food Grain related issues	10	25	01/04/2014 to 31/12/2015	1	24
Delay in Funds transfer	3	7		0	7
Misappropriation of Funds	6	12		7	5
Non-payment of Honorarium to cook-cum-helpers	3	6		0	6
Complaints against Centralized Kitchens/NGO/SHG	5	38		17	21
Caste Discrimination	0	0		0	0
Quality and Quantity of MDM	4	19		1	18
Kitchen –cum-store	2	6		5	1
Kitchen devices	3	9		1	8
Mode of cooking /Fuel related	1	1		1	0
Hygiene	0	0		0	0
Harassment from Officials	2	2		2	0
Non Distribution of medicines to children	0	0		0	0
Corruption	3	6		3	3
Inspection related	0	0		0	0
Any untoward incident	2	7		6	1
Others	1	8		0	8
Total	--	146	--	44	102

2.28.3 Time schedule for disposal of complaints,

If the complaint is in the position of disposal at the receiving end then it takes maximum 7 -10 days for disposal. But, if the solution needs enquiry and report from other offices then it takes 1-3 months for final disposal.

2.28.4 Details of action taken on the complaints.

We have received 146 complaints in the state at different levels amongst these 102 no. of complaints had already been disposed off.

2.29 Details regarding Awareness Generation & IEC activities and Media campaign, carried out at State/district/block/school level.

In our state we have prepared three no's of radio spots on MDM and broadcasted the same through All India Radio from 6 Radio Stations of our state. Side by side we have developed two TV spots on MDM and those would be telecast within a fortnight from Door Darshan, Kolkata. We have also taken recourse to the printing media and published the salient features of MDM in daily and local newspapers for awareness of the general public and implementing agencies. A leaflet describing the salient features both in English and vernacular were also circulated among the masses for creating awareness. Besides the salient features of MDM such as cooking cost, honorarium to cook cum helpers, scale of rice for each student etc. are ventilated to the public through local cable channels.

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.

All out efforts have been taken by Govt. of West Bengal to improve standard of Education at all levels like Primary and Upper Primary with emphasis on attendance of the students with nutritional food support to them.

With the active support of Government officials, Local Bodies, Panchayat Raj Bodies and Community involvement this programme has reached a satisfactory level leaving a major impact on Socio Economic aspects in our State.

The first positive impact of the CMDM Programme has been in the increase of roll strength in our Schools and the attendance therein. Students belonging to the economically weaker strata of our society have been its chief beneficiaries. This has also helped in lowering the drop out percentage in our Schools.

Secondly, we all know that hunger is the greatest enemy in the way of spreading education and also tells upon their health condition not to speak of malnutrition. CMDMP has definitely stood by the side of these students of the weaker sections of the society by providing a full meal at least one time in a day. The MDM is also in some cases the main source of nutrition for the child. The Medical Check-up, tied up with the Health Department Officials, for School students also indicated the impact on the general health of students.

Thirdly, CMDMP is a boon to the students of drought affected areas, especially during summer time as it provides nutritious support to children of elementary stage.

Fourthly, CMDMP has also promoted gender empowerment by the increasing number of employment opportunities for poor rural women. In our State, women constitute approximately 93% of persons who have been engaged in MDM cooking purpose out of total 244744 no. of cum helpers. Opening of such employment opportunity is one of the major positive spin offs of CMDM Programme. Its socio economic impact cannot be underestimated.

Lastly, we can say that CMDMP has been instrumental in the inflow of more than Rs. 1,500 crore of rupees in our economy by way of infrastructures creation, purchase of cooking materials, cost of food grains, honorarium to Cook-cum-helpers, and ancillary activities related with CMDMP. Inflow of such a huge amount of funds in the implementation of CMDMP has a direct impact on the Socio Economic aspect of our society.

Although the coverage of MDM in Rural Areas is satisfactory, we are facing some challenges, especially with regard to space problem for kitchen purposes in urban areas like Kolkata, Siliguri, Asansol etc. other challenges include:-

- Erratic and inadequate supply of LPG gas connection is a point of our weakness.
- Cost of Kitchen Devices per school still remains at Rs.5,000/-, but in schools where MDM taker students strength is higher, this ceiling of Rs.5,000/- per school is quite insufficient which causes problems during implementation at the school level.
- We all know that construction of Hygienic Pucca Kitchen-cum-store is very important for preparation of safe and Hygienic Mid-Day-Meal in all Schools. We are yet to construct such sheds in all schools. In some cases the earlier ceiling of Rs. 60,000/- unit cost per kitchen-cum-store shed stood as a block due to escalation of prices.
- Implementation of MDM in cosmopolitan areas like Kolkata, Siliguri, Asansol etc. still remains a challenge.

The problem of lack of community participation in the MDM scheme has to some extent been overcome by spreading awareness with the help of seminars/workshops and media campaign. Staff shortage problem has also been improved with the engagement of extra manpower at all levels.

As a result of all these measures the performance of MDM in our state has been brighter. The coverage of primary schools has been covered 100% and enrolment coverage is 97% up to 3rd quarter of 2015-16. In the case of upper primary school coverage raised to 99.99% and enrolment coverage is 97.70% up to 3rd quarter 2015-16.

The problem of Urban Areas has been proposed to be managed in the following ways.

- Area wise cluster kitchen sheds - Already 146 such cluster-kitchens have been constructed in metropolitan areas and made operational.
- Engagement of small but efficient NGOs to run these centralized kitchens and transporting the same to the allotted schools in hygienic condition.
- Regular supply of LPG gas with the help of LPG supplying authorities.
- Reluctance of the school managing committee/teachers, have been mitigated by circulating stringent Govt. circulars, constant persuasion and awareness creation by way of meeting, seminar, workshop etc.

Hope, with the adoption of all these measures, the coming years would definitely experience a brighter scenario in respect of MDM in our state.

2.31 Contribution by community in the form of Tithi Bhojan or any other similar practices in the State/ UT etc.

The practice of Tithi Bhojan in some local name is in vogue. But it is not accounted for the year 2015-16. We have also discussed the matter with the district officials under MDM section and asked them to introduce this immediately.

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

-A file has been sent to the state Govt. for issuing Administrative instruction.

2.33 Details of payment of Food Security Allowances and its mechanism.
-Not yet started.

2.34 Any other issues and Suggestions.

- ❖ Construction of a separate dining hall in each and every school may be considered for the Mid-day Meal takers to ensure a safe and clean place.
- ❖ Supply of storage bins in schools for preservation of food grains, pulses etc. may be considered for safe storage.
- ❖ Providing compulsory headgear and gloves for the cooks.
- ❖ Remuneration to the Cook-cum-helpers may be paid for 12 months instead of 10 months in a financial year.
- ❖ Repairing cost for kitchen sheds may be allowed.
- ❖ Transporting meals from cluster kitchens to the school premises is a problem – So fund may be allowed.
- ❖ Rs. 5000 for kitchen devices is inadequate for schools with higher enrolment.
- ❖ Kitchen sheds constructed with the ceiling of Rs. 60,000/- per unit cost do not have store room.
- ❖ Initial installation charges for LPG connection need to be considered.

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