

**MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Programme Approval Board for Mid-Day Meal

1.3.2007

1. A meeting of the Programme Approval Board for Mid-Day Meal was held on 1.3.2007 under the Chairpersonship of Shri Champak Chatterji, Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy (SE&L), Government of India, to review the status and progress of the implementation of the Mid Day Meal programme during 2006-07 and to consider and approve the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) 2007-08 for the States of **Gujarat, Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Tripura**. A list of members who participated in the meeting is attached at Annexure-I.

2. Shri Champak Chatterji, Secretary (SE&L) welcomed the participants. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the following key areas in the implementation of Mid Day Meal programme.
 - i) Programme outreach will be extended in the year 2007-08 to cover children at the upper primary stage in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) in the country. These will overlap with 300 Special Focus Districts identified under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) where the population of minority communities, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people is substantial. There is need to ensure convergence of all interventions in these districts/blocks.
 - ii) NP-NSPE Guidelines, 2006, stipulate that 25% of the schools/centers serving mid day meal should be visited at least once every quarter, and that all institutions should be visited at least once every year. Dedicated administrative machinery is required to be urgently set up to carry out regular inspections and monitor implementation at the school level. Findings of school visit should be documented and corrective measures, if any, should be carried out immediately to ensure that there is no interruption in the implementation of the programme.
 - iii) States should institute a system for regularly monitoring the physical and financial parameters of the programme, and ensure that there is no divergence in, for example, utilisation of foodgrains, cooking costs and the number of

children partaking in the noon meal. States should focus on these issues and institutionalize a monitoring mechanism, which is foolproof and robust to ensure the core operational objective of serving good quality meal every day to every child.

- iv) Convergence with Health related Schemes is a critical factor along with improvement of provision of toilets and drinking water at schools.
- v) Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahamadabad has documented best practices under SSA. Similar effort should be made to document best practices in the implementation and monitoring of MDMS.

3. Smt Anita Kaul, JS (EE-I) reiterated that the Mid Day Meal Programme will be extended from 2007-08 onwards to cover children in upper primary stage in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) across the country. The specific proposals of the States for extension of the programme to the upper primary stage in these blocks will be considered by the PAB; however, sanctions/ releases will be made only after formal approvals are accorded to the programme extension. She also flagged certain issues and areas of concerns in the implementation of the programme in the different states, including inter alia:

- a. Mismatch between foodgrains lifting and cooking cost utilisation; cooking costs exceeding foodgrains utilisation is cause for grave concern.
- b. Delayed lifting of foodgrains gives rise to doubts that there are interruptions in the feeding programme.
- c. Negative cash balance on cooking cost utilisation in the districts/blocks also implies interruptions in the feeding programme.

4. Smt. Anita Kaul further referred to concerns raised in the CAG report, which are grounded in the overall objectives of the mid day meal programme, including inter alia:

- a. Is the Mid Day Meal leading to improved enrolments under the SSA programme?
- b. Is the Mid Day Meal impacting class room hunger and social equity?
- c. Is the Mid Day Meal affecting teaching-learning time in schools?

5. In addition, she stated, the Parliamentary Standing Committee has sought information on:
- i) Administrative arrangements made to ensure school visits by the officials on an average 25% of the schools/centers serving mid day meal in every quarter, and visiting all institutions at least once every year.
 - ii) Measures taken to enhance active community participation and involvement of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the implementation and monitoring of the Mid Day Meal Programme.
 - iii) Enhancement of allowances paid to cooks and helpers in line with minimum wages norms
6. With these preliminary interventions, Shri Champak Chatterji, Secretary, SE&L requested the State representatives to make their presentations on the AWP&B for 2007-08.

GUJARAT

7. Shri Bidyut Swain, Secretary, Primary Education and Smt. Sunaina Tomar, Commissioner, Mid-Day Meal & Schools, Government of Gujarat, highlighted the status of the implementation of the programme in Gujarat. The salient features of their presentation are given below:
- i. The Mid Day Meal programme was launched in Gujarat in November, 1984 from the State's own financial resources. Currently, the State is availing of Central Assistance for the implementation of the programme in classes I – V and using its own resources for the programme in classes VI – VII. A comparative statement of the coverage for the past three years is presented in the table below:

Coverage	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
No. of primary Schools	30567	31077	31682
No. of MDM centres	29198	29709	29991
Total children	3658856	3757863	3826586
Total children in class I-V	2939218	2996132	3018015
Total children in class VI – VII	719638	761731	808571

Average No. of days on which Mid Day Meal is provided	200	207	162 (Up to Jan.-07)
Total Outlay (Rs. In lakhs)	18,400	20,240	20,989
Expenditure(Rs. In lakhs)	17,942	19,030	22,600 (probable)
No. of Honorary Employees	83944	86314	86421

- ii. While enrolment of children in classes I-VII is much higher at 51,63,920, currently, the mid day meal programme covers 30,18,015 children in classes I-V and 8,08,571 in classes VI - VII in 31,682 Government and Government aided schools. Secretary, Primary Education, Gujarat, stated the some children prefer to bring *tiffins* from home, rather than partaking of the food provided in school. He stated that the meal served in school provided 180 gms of foodgrains/pulse/vegetable/oil etc. per child/ day giving more than 450 calories and 12-15 gms of proteins.
- iii. At the State level the programme is administered by the Commissioner (MDM), who is supported by one Deputy Commissioner, two Assistant Commissioners. At the district/municipal level, the Collector/Municipal Commissioner is in over all charge and is assisted by one Deputy Collector/Mamlatdar, and a team of three support staff, including Deputy Mamlatdar (Admn), Deputy Mamlatdar (Insp) and Deputy Mamlatdar (Accts). At the taluk level the Taluka Mamlatdar is in overall charge of the programme, supported by a full time Deputy Mamlatdar (Admn) and Deputy Mamlatdar (Accts). At school level Organisers, Cooks and Helpers are appointed to cook and distribute the mid day meal.
- iv. The Government of Gujarat has institutionalized a system of regular health check-up of children, which includes a referral system for children requiring treatment. Health Cards are maintained a school level for every child.
- v. The Government had made budgetary provision of Rs 209.89 crores for 2006-07; actual expenditure from state resources for the year is expected to be Rs. 226 crores. Expenditure per child per day for standard I-V and VI-VII is Rs. 2.56 and Rs. 3.46 respectively as per break-up given below:

Sr. No.	Item	Per child per day (Rs.)	
		Std. I-V	Std. VI-VII
1	Foodgrains	0.10 (Handling charges)	1.00
2	Pulse & Oil	1.19	1.19
3	Fuel/Veg & Condiments	0.70	0.70
4	Honorarium	0.33	0.33
5	Administration	0.24	0.24
	Total	2.56	3.46

- vi The mid day meal programme has contributed to a significant reduction in the drop out rate for classes I-V from 20.5 % in 2001-02 to 3.24% in 2006-07. Similarly, the drop out rate for Std. I-VII has reduced from 37.22% to 10.29%. However, there is no study report linking this reduction in dropout rate to MDMS.
- vii The management of the foodgrains distribution for classes I - V is entrusted to the Gujarat State Civil Supply Corporation (GSCSC). The GSCSC has four Zonal Offices at Ahmadabad, Baroda, Surat and Rajkot. In addition, GSCSC also procures and distributes foodgrains for children in classes VI – VII from out of State resources. GSCSC lifts foodgrains from the FCI godown and transports it to district/ taluk godowns and to Fair Price Shops (FPS). From the FPS, the food grain is taken to the school. In addition GSCSC is also entrusted with the procurement and distribution of edible oil and pulses required for the programme.
- viii The cooking cost required to convert the foodgrain into a hot cooked meal is released by the State Govt. on a quarterly basis or even in advance according to requirement. The Central Assistance from GoI is adjusted against expenditure already incurred / being incurred. Funds are released to (a) GSCSC on purchase of commodity, (b) Organizer at the school level as advance to meet expenditure on spices, fuel, vegetables, grinding etc. @ 0.70 paise per child per day. The system is well established and time tested.
- ix A monitoring system has been instituted, since 1984, through Monitoring Committees constitute at the State, district, taluk level. Monitoring is also undertaken through periodic returns and regular inspections of the mid day meal centres. Routine school visits also cover inspections of the mid day meal programme; short comings noticed are followed up with remedial action. Panchayats are involved in form of VECs and MTA/PTA in monitoring and supervising the programme. In addition, the Accountant General conducts regular audits of state and district offices. While no separate evaluation has been

- x People's participation is ensured through the *Tithi Bhojan* concept, which provides for people to provide special food on special occasions, as also contributions in the form of cooking utensils, plates, etc. Gujarat has received Rs 4.84 crore worth of contribution in kind from people through the *Tithi Bhojan* concept.
 - xi For the year 2007-08, it is expected that the 31,38,848 children in classes I – V and 5,96,587 children in classes VI – VIII in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) will avail of the mid day meal programme for 215 school working days.
8. Shri Champak Chatterji invited members for their comments on the presentation made by Secretary Primary Education and Commissioner, Mid Day Meals, Gujarat.
- a. Dr. C. Chandramohan Adviser (Edu), Planning Commission, referring to the figures projected on drop-out rates stated the reduction of drop out is not reflected in increase in enrolment figures in the same period. He stated that DISE data, in fact, shows a drastic fall in the number of children enrolled. He said that coverage under MDM is about 50% of enrolment as per DISE data. Secretary (Pry Edu), Govt. of Gujarat said that as per data available with them the MDM coverage is 61.%.
 - b. Prof. Tara Gopaldas, Director, Tara Consultancy Services, stated that the Government of Gujarat should ensure that children are provided de-worming, iron, vitamin A tablets as well as iodized salt supplementation in the Mid-Day Meal.
 - c. JS (EE.I) referred to the system of Health Check Up instituted by the Government of Gujarat and suggested that an assessment of malnutrition based on age-for-weight, age-for-height and arm circumference be maintained for each child, and remedial action be taken in respect of children identified as malnourished. State representatives stated that the State Govt is planning to create such a database out of MME funds in 2007-08.
 - d. JS(EE.I) also invited attention to the agenda notes for Gujarat which point to a serious mis-match in the foodgrain utilisation and cooking cost utilisation. Ideally, the percentage utilization of foodgrains should tally with that of cooking cost because a mismatch would indicate that either the cooking assistance is not reaching the school level or there is somewhere diversion of the cash component. Commissioner (MDM), Govt of Gujarat stated that the Govt of Gujarat shall verify the figures and send the correct figures at the earliest.

e. Shri K.P. Singh, SRO, Planning Commission desired to know the percentage of students studying in private schools.

9. After detailed discussions, the following proposal was considered by the MDM-PAB for Central assistance for the State of Gujarat for 2007-08.

No. of Beneficiaries, School working days approved by PAB in 2007-08			
	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Upper Primary</i>	
		<i>EBBs</i>	Children expected to avail
No. of Students likely to avail MDM	31,38,848	80 in 18 districts	5,96,587
No. of School Working Days in full academic year 2007-08	215 days	215 days	
Average Attendance Rate	Not applicable since no. of children availing MDM as of Sep., 2006 is taken as parameter to quantify Central Assistance.		

10. Based on the above, the Central assistance for Gujarat for the Mid Day Meal Programme for 2007-08 at the existing norms of (a) foodgrain allocation of 100 gms per child per day and (b) cooking cost of Rs 1.50 per child/ school day (state government contribution Rs 0.50 per child/ school day) for primary classes I to V is worked out as under:

Anticipated number of Children availing MDM in class I - V

Primary schools :31,38,848

EGS : NIL

AIE : NIL : **31,38,848**

Anticipated number of children availing MDM in EBB in class VI – VIII: **5,96,587**

Expected no. of school working days : **215 days**

i. Food Grains allocation:

Classes I - V

= No. of children availing MDM x No. of working days x 100 gms.

= 31,38,848 x 215 x 0.0001 MTs

= **67485.23 MTs** (at an estimated cost of Rs 38,12,91,550 @ Rs. 5650 per MT)

ii. Cooking Assistance:

Classes I - V

= No. of children availing MDM x No. of working days x Rs.1.50

= 31,38,848 x 215 x Rs. 1.50

= Rs. 101,22,78,480/-

District wise break up of allocation of food grain and central assistance will be intimated separately based on the above.

iii. Management, Monitoring & Evaluation

Classes I-V

= 1.8% of (Cost of food grains + cooking assistance)

= 0.018 x (Rs. 38,12,91,550 + Rs. 101,22,78,480)

= 0.018 x 139,35,70,030

= **Rs. 2,50,84,260**

The PAB considered the proposal of the State Government for extension of the programme to Upper-primary schools located in EBB and accepted, in principle, the following parameters for grant of Central assistance:

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------|
| i) | No. of children of Upper primary in EBBs who are likely to avail MDM for 2007-08 | = 5,96,587 |
| ii) | No. of school working days | = 215 |

The actual quantum of assistance to be provided for Upper-primary schools will be decided after formal approvals for extension of the programme to Upper-primary stage.

KARNATAKA

11. Shri Vijay Bhaskar, Secretary Primary and Secondary Education, Karnataka and Shri Madan Gopal, Commissioner, Public Instruction made a presentation of the present status and progress of the mid day meal programme in Karnataka. Shri Vijay Bhaskar stated that the Government of Karnataka had initiated the Mid Day Meal programme (hot cooked meal) from its own resources in seven educationally backward north eastern districts of the State in June 2002 for children in class I - V enrolled in Government Schools. In 2004-05 the Scheme was extended by the State Government to the remaining 20 districts of the State under the *Akshara Dasoha* programme. In the same year Central Assistance for hot cooked mid day meal became available to the State under NP-NSPE and consequently the Scheme was further extended to Government aided Schools w.e.f 1-9-2004. Currently, the State Government is utilizing Central Assistance for children in classes I – V in Government Schools, Aided Schools and EGS/AIE Centres. It is providing mid day meals to children in classes I to VII from its own resources. He stated that by and large the programme is running well and that there are no general disruptions unless there is a local level problem near the school.

12. The administration of the programme is entrusted to an officer of the level of Joint Director at the State level. At the State level a designated Class I officer (Education Officer, Mid Day Meal) is appointed to oversee the programme under the overall

supervision of the Chief Executive Officer Zilla Panchayat. At the block level an Assistant Director, MDM implements, monitors and supervises the programme. Meetings of the State Monitoring and Steering Committee are held under the chairpersonship of the Additional Chief Secretary regularly; the last meeting took place in February 2007. On a query raised about GoI participation in the meetings of the State Monitoring and Steering Committees, he stated that GoI officials are invited to the meetings; unfortunately however, the meetings are convened at short notice and therefore GoI officials are not able to participate in the meetings.

13. Shri Vijay Bhaskar stated that the Government of Karnataka has recently launched the *Suvarna Arogya Chaitanya*, a health scheme, and designed a 10-year health card for tracking the health of all children in school. The programme is implemented in campaign mode. All government doctors, and where necessary, private doctors, conduct health check-up of children, including weight, height, eye, ear, and teeth check-up, and make a record of history of past ailments, if any. The Health Check-up will also facilitate the identification of under-nourished children by recording age-for-weight and age-for-height details, and enable the State to take remedial steps in respect of such children.
14. Under various programmes, including Total Sanitation Project (TSP), ARWS, etc, 85% schools have a toilet and drinking water facilities. Unfortunately, however, the existing schemes provide for only one toilet unit, irrespective of the number of children enrolled in schools. Consequently, often the toilets are not opened for use by children; almost always being reserved for exclusive use by teachers. He suggested that this should be corrected; and the number of toilets provided should be based on the number of children enrolled in school.
15. The Government of Karnataka has also provided LPG gas connections to all schools for the implementation of the mid day meal programme. However, the state is facing problems with LPG distribution to the schools, since LPG allotted to schools is often diverted and the school have to wait for refill. He suggested that the matter should be taken up with the Ministry of Petroleum for an earmarked provision of LPG cylinders to schools. Secretary, SE & L suggested that the state should formally write about the problem so that the matter can be taken up with the Ministry of Petroleum.
16. State also mentioned that a kitchen garden scheme called the “Swasthi Program” has also been introduced to participate children in the growing and planting of Kitchen garden plants .This will be a practical session also for the students to move close with nature and to nurture plants.
17. Shri Madan Gopal, Commissioner, Public Instruction, made a powerpoint presentation in which he pointed out that the number of Government Schools covered under the programme is 43414 and Aided Schools 2830. The total number of Kitchen Centers in the State is 37802. Data on enrolment, attendance and usage of the mid day meal is as per the details below:

Class	Enrolment	Attendance	Usage
1-V	4413471	4117902	3852508
VI-VII	1726693	1621426	1505627
Total	6140164	5739328	5358135

19. The facilities provided for the implementation of the programme includes

- Kitchen sheds: 32971 provided representing 87.22%
- Water facilities: 29582 provided representing 78.26%
- Cooking Gas: 37713 provided representing 99.76%

20. He further stated that mid day meal is provided with the following calorific content 490 calories, 12 gms protein.

Rice	: 100gms
Pulses	: 20gms
Vegetables	: 50gms
Salt	: 02gms
Oil	: 03gms

21. A weekly menu is prescribed, though not always strictly adhered to. The prescribed menu includes:

- Monday: Sweet pongal/ khara bhat
- Tuesday: Chapati/roti+sabji
- Wednesday: Rice + Sambhar
- Thursday: Lemon Rice
- Friday: Bisi bele bhat
- Saturday: Upma

22. The cost break-up is been worked out as follows:

Sl No	Item	Cost
1	Pulses, Oil & Salt (including transportation)	Rs 0.71
2	Vegetables	Rs 0.50
3	LPG	Rs 0.40
4	Salary, Honorarium, Contingencies, Additional nutrition	Rs 1.55
5	Total per child	Rs 3.16

23. The State Government has also made provision for micro-nutrient supplementation in the form of (a) Vitamin A, 2 lakhs IU, 2 tablets/year; (b) Iron and Folic acid tablets,

20 mg (every alternate days for 36 weeks), 108 tablets/year; (c) De worming tablets 400 mg - 2 tablets/ year; (d) Double fortified salt (iron+iodine). The total cost of micronutrient supplementation works out to Rs 11/- per child/year.

24. In addition, the State Government has laid down norms for the appointment of cooks as follows:

Category	No. of children	No. of cooks
A1	Upto 25 children	1
A	26-70 children	2
B	71-300	3
C	301 and above	4

25. Shri Madan Gopal elaborated that all cooks are women; the first cook belongs to SC/ST, the second from general category, the third from OBC and the fourth from a minority community. Priority is given to widow and destitute women.
26. The remuneration paid to Head Cooks is Rs 650 per month; Cooks are paid Rs 450 per month; Assistant Cooks Rs 400 per month and Helpers Rs 300 per month. A proposal has been submitted to the Government for enhancement of their honorarium and to bring them under insurance cover.
27. Training of cooks is undertaken at the cluster level to cover issues of (a) Cleanliness, (b) Hygiene, (c) Nutrition, (d) Safety, (e) Maintenance of Accounts, (f) Conservation of food grains, and (g) use of cooking gas.
28. NGO participation in the programme has been fairly wide spread with 53 NGOs implementing the programme in 2931 schools and reaching out to 632149 children. NGO participation includes ISKCON, J.S.S ,Adamy Chethana, Mohsin Sheriff Foundation and Krishna Math.
29. An evaluation of the mid day meal programme was entrusted to the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (Prof. Rama Naik). Significant findings of the evaluation are: (a) Improvement in attendance; 87% children reportedly attend school regularly; (b) improvement in children's health; (c) achievement of social equity;(d) mid day meal has stopped children from being hungry in school; (e) increase in number of cooks belonging to different categories; (f) use of gas has reduced pollution.
30. For the year 2007-08 the Government of Karnataka has sought the following assistance:

Classes 1-V

No. of children likely to avail	44,13,471
Food Grains	104157.92 Mts
Transportation Cost	781.18 lakh
Central Assistance	15623.69 lakh

Average working day	236
Classes VI - VIII	
No. of EBBs	61
No. of children likely to avail	25.45lakhs
Central assistance @ Rs. 1.50	Rs.28.79 cr.
Transportation cost	Rs.2.16 cr.
Foodgrains reqt. @ 150 gms pcpd	2.88 lakh quintals
Average working days	236

31. With this Chairperson invited the PAB members to make their comments:

- a. Shri Chandra Mohan, Advisor, Planning Commission, suggested that the calorific value presented should be verified. He estimated that the calorific value of the food given would work out to 390, not 490 calories.
- b. Supplementing the intervention made by Advisor Planning Commission, Smt Anita Makhijani, Food & Nutrition Board, Department of Women and Child Development stated that 100 gms of rice cannot give 345 cal. She also suggested that micro biological analysis of the food quality should be conducted as part of quality checking, particularly in cases where cooking is undertaken through centralized kitchens and there is a significant time gap between cooking, distribution and eating of food.
- c. Prof. Tara Gopaldas suggested that efforts should be made to bring about convergence between the mid day meal programme and the ICDS programme.
- d. JS (EE1) stated that the claim of 236 working days for 2007-08 is high. Education Secretary stated that the 236 working days includes ½ day working day on Saturdays, when children are served mid day meal before the leave for home in the afternoon.

32. Based on the above, the Central assistance for Karnataka for the Mid Day Meal Programme for 2007-08 at the existing norms of (a) foodgrain allocation of 100 gms per child per day and (b) cooking cost of Rs 1.50 per child/ school day for primary classes I to V is worked out as under:-

Anticipated number of Children availing MDM in class I - V

Primary schools :38,52,508

EGS : NIL

AIE : NIL **38,52,508**

Anticipated number of children availing MDM in EBB in class VI – VIII: **8,13,153**

Expected no. of school working days : **236 days**

i) Food Grains allocation:

Classes I - V

= No. of children availing MDM x No. of working days x 100 gms.
= 38,52,508 x 236 x 0.0001 MTs
= **90,919.18 MTs** (at an estimated cost of Rs. 51,36,93,367 @ Rs. 5650 per MT)

ii) Cooking Assistance:

Classes I - V

= No. of children availing MDM x No. of working days x Rs.1.50
= 38,52,508 x 236 x Rs. 1.50
= **Rs 136,37,87,832/-**

District wise break up of allocation of food grain and central assistance will be made separately based on the above working.

iii) Management, Monitoring & Evaluation

Class I - V

= 1.8% of (Cost of food grains + cooking assistance)
= 0.018 x (Rs. 51,36,93,367 + Rs. 136,37,87,832)
= 0.018 x (Rs. 187,74,81,199)
= **Rs. 3,37,94,662/-**

The PAB considered the proposal of the State Government for extension of the programme to Upper-primary schools located in EBB and accepted, in principle, the following parameters for grant of Central assistance:

- i) No. of children of Upper primary in EBBs who are likely to avail MDM for 2007-08 = **8,13,153**
- ii) No. of school working days = **236**

The actual quantum of assistance to be provided for Upper-primary schools will be decided after formal approvals for extension of the programme to Upper-primary stage.

UTTARAKHAND

33. Ms. Namrata Kumar, Additional Secretary, Department of School Education, Uttarakhand presented the State's AWP&B for consideration by the PAB and made a detailed presentation on the implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Programme in the State.

34. She stated that a WFP study was conducted on nutritional levels, the main findings of which were that the:

- The highest concentration of poverty is found in the districts of Rudraprayag and Chamoli.
- Malnutrition was uniformly distributed across the state.
- Though not clear cut, there is a relation between poverty and malnutrition at the State and district level; Relation between poverty and nutrition varies from district to district
- Male-female gap in stunting is less as compared to the all India average.
- Stunting rates are far higher in urban areas with no major gap between male and female.
- In rural areas, girl child is more undernourished.
- Stunting rates are highest in Uttarkashi followed by Champawat, Tehri Garhwal, Pauri, Udham Singh Nagar and Haridwar.

35. The mid day meal programme in Uttarakhand has expanded over the years in a phased manner. Till May 2002, a system of dry rations was in existence. From May 2002 to November 2002 the mid day meal programme was in the first phase implemented in 107 schools in Sahaspur block, Dehradun district covering 10494 children. In the second phase from November 2002 to July 2003 the programme was extended to two blocks of every district covering 3196 schools and 2,37,248 children. In the third phase from July 2003 onwards the programme reached out to all children in all primary schools (11331 schools; 7,87,193 children). In Phase four (February 2007) the programme were extended to cover 1442 EGS and AIE centres

36. The current programme coverage is given below:

No. of Primary Schools	
■ Govt. (local bodies/Govt. aided)	: 12141
■ No. of EGS Center	: 1609
■ No. of AIE Center	: 187
Enrollment	
■ Enrollment EGS	: 41431
■ Enrollment AIE	: 10062
■ Enrollment in Govt. & aided Schools:	1124467
Total enrolment (6-11)	
■ Boys	: 613470
■ Girls	: 562490
■ Total	: 1175960
Total (6-11) Drop Out	
■ Boys	: 2649

■ Girls	: 2528
■ Total	: 5177

44. The role of the Implementing Agencies at different levels has been identified. At the State level the Department of School Education implements the MDM programme;(i) it makes budgetary provisions, (ii) lays down systems for procurement of foodgrain and its distribution, (iii) lays down systems for supervision and monitoring. The Directorate of School Education was responsible for implementing the programme till December 2005; since then the responsibility for implementation has been entrusted to the SSA Society in the State. The Department of Food and Civil Supplies is the assisting department.
45. At the State level a Steering Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. District level Monitoring Committees are set up under the chairmanship of District Magistrates. Block level Monitoring Committee are under the chairmanship of Block Development Officer and at the village level the School Management Committee under the chairmanship of Gram Pradhan monitors and supervises the implementation of the programme. The monitoring committee is required to ensure that (a) teachers are present during meal times, (b) food is being served regularly/ daily, (c) food grain is supplied in a timely and regular manner to schools, (d) oversee the quality of food, (e) discrimination on the basis of gender, caste, class, community, religion or region does not take place.
46. Transportation of food grains takes place from the FCI godown to the RFC, from where it is transported to the FPS and to the schools. The DSO and ADEO (B) is responsible for ensuring supply of food grain from district to FPS. The NPRC and CRC provide assistance in distribution and the SMC is responsible for lifting food grain from FPS to school. The District Magistrate functions as the nodal officer for ensuring coordination between the Department of Food and Civil Supplies and the Department of Education. Transport charges are decided at the district level by the District Magistrate and have been increased from 100 per quintal to Rs 180 per quintal.
47. Vide Government Order (no.78/basic. edn /2003) issued on June 06, 2003 the roles and responsibility of VEC and SMC have been laid down. The School Management Committee comprises the Gram Pradhan as the President, School Head Teacher as the Secretary, a mother of one of the children from each class is a member, two male members, three other prominent members form the village community, and a Bhojan Mata - mother of one of the children enrolled in the same school
48. The Bhojan Mata is selected on the basis of the following criteria:
- Mother of one of the child enrolled in same school
 - Belonging to same village
 - Belonging to BPL community

- Preference to SC, ST, minority, OBC
- Selected by the VEC

42. The honorarium amount paid to the Bhojan Mata has been revised in January 2007 and is paid as per the following enrolment:

Sl No	Enrolment	Honorarium
1	Upto 25	Rs 500
2	26 – 50	Rs 700
3	50 – 100	Rs 900
4	In case of more than 100 one helper is provided	Rs 500

43. Record keeping at the school level includes a record of the grain stored in schools in grain bins (PMGY). Two types of registers are maintained for keeping records, which track (a) Attendance, (b) Food Utilization and (c) Expenditure

44. Independent evaluation of the programme has been undertaken by research agencies empanelled in the SSA society. Two studies have been conducted on MDM on (a) Capacity and Effectiveness of SMCs and VECs in Managing MDM, and (b) Extent of Convergence for Effective Implementation of the Programme. A ToR has also been signed with NIAR –a monitoring institution assigned by GoI for independent evaluation of SSA, which includes evaluation of MDM since 2006-07. In addition FCI conducted study in 2005-06 on effectiveness in grain transportation.

45. Initiatives taken in 2006-07 include (a) large scale training of community members, (b) Guidelines on conversion of food with break down of cost and calories prepared with the help of nutritionists experts, (c) Introduction of a variety of food – haluwa, fruits, eggs, salad, (d) Involvement of Parents (mothers) in monitoring, (e) MDM made into a learning programme – utensils and grain bins converted into TLMs, (f) Campaign for community participation through posters, Meghdoot post cards, messages from Chief Minister and Education Minister.

46. In December 2006 the State Government has issued a Government Order for providing Rs 1/- per child/ school day from its own resources. This is in addition to the GoI cooking cost of Rs 1.50 per child/school day.

47. The current status of the programme is tabulated below:

Sl No	Item	
1	Coverage of children from primary schools, EGS and AIE	6,96,845 / 7,75,828
2	Working Days	233 days
3	Average attendance	80%

4	Foodgrains allocation	14535.95 quintals
5	Foodgrains utilisation till 31.12.06	9031.40 quintals (62%)
6	GoI share	Rs 17.96 crores
7	GoI releases	8.89 crore (November 2006)
8	Share budget provision	43.43 crores
9	State budget releases (provision for additional Rs 13.27 crore @ Rs 0.50 in supplementary budget not yet released)	34.15 crores
10	Expenditure till 31.12.2006	Rs 26.95 crores (63% of available funds)
11	Anticipated expenditure	100%

48. The focus of the proposal for 2007-08 aims at ensuring that (a) school provides a package of activities for the wholesome development of children, (b) Monitoring and Inspection systems are streamlined, (c) a continuing campaign for involving community is taken up, (d) convergence of funds for better management. The Government of Uttarakhand has accordingly submitted a proposal of Rs 31.24 crores for primary schools and Rs 7.61 crores for upper primary stage in 21 EBBs, making a total of Rs 38.85 crores. The State will also make contribution at the rate of Rs 1/- per child/ school day, amounting to Rs 19.07 crore and making a total budgetary provision of Rs 46 crore.
49. After a detailed discussion, Central Assistance for Uttarakhand for the Mid Day Meal Programme for 2007-08 at the existing norms of (a) foodgrain allocation of 100 gms per child per day and (b) cooking cost of Rs 1.50 per child/ school day for primary classes I to V is worked out as under:-

Anticipated number of Children availing MDM in class I – V

Primary Schools : :6,51,816

EGS : 34,951

AIE : 11,479

6,98,246

Anticipated number of children availing MDM in EBB in class VI – VIII: **81,086**

Expected no. of school working days : **220 days**

i) Food Grains allocation:

Classes I - V

= No. of children availing MDM x No. of working days x 100 gms.

= 6,98,246 x 220 x 0.0001 MTs

= **15,361.41 MTs** (at an estimated cost of Rs. 8,67,91,967 @ Rs. 5650 per MT)

ii) Cooking Assistance:

Classes I - V

$$\begin{aligned} &= \text{No. of children availing MDM} \times \text{No. of working days} \times \text{Rs.1.50} \\ &= 6,98,246 \times 220 \times \text{Rs. 1.50} \\ &= \text{Rs } 23,04,21,180/- \end{aligned}$$

District wise break up of allocation of food grain and central assistance will be made separately based on the above working.

iii) Management, Monitoring & Evaluation

Class I - V

$$\begin{aligned} &= 1.8\% \text{ of (Cost of food grains + cooking assistance)} \\ &= 0.018 \times (\text{Rs. } 8,67,91,967 + \text{Rs } 23,04,21,180) \\ &= 0.018 \times (\text{Rs. } 31,72,13,147) \\ &= \text{Rs. } 57,09,837/- \end{aligned}$$

The PAB considered the proposal of the State Government for extension of the programme to Upper-primary schools located in EBB and accepted, in principle, the following parameters for grant of Central assistance:

(i)	No. of children availing MDM	= 81,086
(ii)	No. of school working days	= 220

The actual quantum of assistance to be provided for Upper-primary schools will be decided after formal approvals for extension of the programme to Upper-primary stage.

TRIPURA

51. Shri. Amulya Kumar, Additional State Project Director, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Tripura highlighted the status of the implementation of the programme in Tripura. The salient features of his presentation are given as under:-

52. The Government of Tripura first implemented the mid day meal programme in March 1980 for children in classes I – V in government and government-aided schools. Under this scheme children were provided biscuits, chira, muri and locally available seasonal fruits for 200 days in a year. When GoI introduced the NP-NSPE in 1995, each child with 80% attendance was provided 3 kgs rice per month. The hot cooked meal programme was started from 1st April 2003. At present, the programme covers all the eligible children i.e. 5,44,185 children studying in 5621 schools in the State.

53. The total cost of meal is Rs. 2.30 per child per day, out of which Government of India provides Rs. 1.80 and the State contributes Re 0.50 out of its own State Budget. With effect from 1.9.2006 the menu includes egg. The weekly menu includes:

Khichudi	- 2 days in a week
Rice, dal and Vegetables	- 2 days in a week
Rice and egg curry	- 2 days in a week

54. The total Calorific value of the above menu is 496 Kcal, Calcium is 56 mg and Protein content is 16 gms. The menu has been prepared by an Expert Committee comprising a Dietician, a Nutritionist and the Joint Director of School Education
55. The State has vibrant Panchayat Raj institutions, which are actively involved in monitoring and supervision at school and village level. Mother Teacher Associations and Village Education Committees play a major role at the grass root level. The State has mobilized mothers in a large scale and made arrangements for mothers to be present in the school at the time of cooking and serving meal. MDM Visit Books are also maintained in schools for the visiting mothers to record their views and suggestions. Each school has one Organizer, engaged by the VEC/Panchayat/Work Committee. The Organizer is responsible for lifting food grains from the Fair Price Shop, and ensuring uninterrupted and timely supply of food grains. He/she is also responsible for buying vegetables, eggs, pulses, spices etc, from the local market.
56. The mid day meal programme has contributed to (a) reduction in drop out rate at the primary stage from 50.13% in 2003 to 11.60 % in 2007, (b) narrowing of gender gap in enrollment and attendance, (c) improving enrollment at primary level.
57. In 2006-07 the State of Tripura received central assistance towards cooking cost, construction of kitchen sheds, and procurement of kitchen devices as per the following details:

Sl No	Item	Amount recd	Amount spent
1	Cooking cost	Rs 741.00 lakhs	Rs 763.38 lakhs
2	Construction of kitchen sheds	Rs 177.05 lakhs	Rs 00.00
3	Procurement of kitchen devices	Rs 98.91 lakhs	Rs 98.91 lakhs
4	Unspent balances of the previous year	Rs 22.38 lakhs	Rs 12.37 lakhs (MME)
5	Total	Rs 1039.34 lakhs	874.66 lakhs

58. The expenditure on the programme from the State's own budgetary resources are Rs 404.87 lakhs towards cooking cost and Rs 56 lakhs towards construction of kitchen sheds (including Rs 10 lakhs from SGRY).
59. For the year 2007-08 the State of Tripura has sought Rs 20.81 crores towards cooking costs, Rs 1.83 crores towards construction of kitchen sheds and Rs 47.04 lakhs towards MME, making a total of Rs 23.11 crores. It has also sought 11,564.867 MTs of foodgrains.

60. Shri. Champak Chatterji invited members for their comments on the presentation made by the State representative from Tripura.

- a) JS (EE-I) invited attention of the State Representative to the pattern of utilization of food grains and cooking cost in Tripura during 2006-07 as given in the AWP& B of the State. The analysis shows that the percentage of foodgrains lifting in Tripura West, which accounts for 45% of the enrolment/children availing MDM, is only 30%, out of which food grains utilisation is a mere 1%. On the other hand, the cooking cost utilisation for Tripura West is as high as 107%. This is indeed a serious anomaly and could be a pointer to misutilisation of funds allocated towards cooking costs.
- b) Referring to Table 2 of the AWPB submitted by the State Government, she pointed out that the utilization of foodgrains in the districts of Tripura South, North and Dhalai is higher than the quantity shown as lifted during the year + opening stock as on 1.4.2006.
- c) JS(EE-I) emphasized that it is important for the State Government to make a thorough review of the lifting and utilization of the foodgrains and cooking cost in the state immediately and furnish the relevant information in the prescribed format to the Central Government at the earliest since release of assistance for 2007-08 will be contingent upon State Government providing correct and verified information on utilization of food grains and central assistance during 2006-07 (till December 2006) and providing satisfactory explanation in case of mismatch between utilization of food grains and cooking cost.
- d) JS(EE-I) also observed that State Government's claim of 259 school working days for working out quantum of central assistance for 2007-08 is very high and proposed to restrict to 220 days. She pointed out that this issue was also raised in the PAB for Tripura for the year 2006-07 and the PAB had approved foodgrains allocation and cooking costs at the rate of 220 days; subsequently however, on the request of the State Government the number of days had been raised. Given the fact that there exists such a high degree of mismatch between foodgrains utilisation and cooking cost utilisation, the PAB decided to approve only 220 days as the basis for calculation of cooking costs and foodgrains allocation to the State.

61 To the above observations made by JS (EE-I), the state representative admitted that there are certain inaccuracies in the information compiled in the AWP&B 2006-07 and stated that the State government will look into these aspects and furnish the correct and verified information regarding utilization of food grains and cooking cost during 2006-07.

- 62 After a detailed discussion, Central assistance for Tripura for the Mid Day Meal Programme for 2007-08 at the existing norms of (a) foodgrain allocation of 100 gms per child per day and (b) cooking cost of Rs 1.80 per child/ school day for primary classes I to V is worked out as under:-

Anticipated number of Children availing MDM in class I – V

Primary Schools	:	3,90,530	
EGS	:	40,103	
AIE	:	<u>4,715</u>	4,35,348

Anticipated number of children availing
MDM in EBB in class VI – VIII : **To be furnished by the State Government**

Expected no. of school working days : **220 days**

i) Food Grains allocation:

Classes I - V

= No. of children availing MDM x No. of working days x 100 gms.
= 4,35,348 x 220 x 0.0001 MTs
= **9,577.66 MTs** (at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,41,13,779 @ Rs. 5650 per MT)

ii) Cooking Assistance:

Classes I - V

= No. of children availing MDM x No. of working days x Rs.1.50
= 4,35,348 x 220 x Rs. 1.80
= **Rs 17,23,97,808/-**

District wise break up of allocation of food grain and central assistance will be made separately based on the above working.

iii) Management, Monitoring & Evaluation

Class I - V

= 1.8% of (Cost of food grains + cooking assistance)
= 0.018 x (Rs. 5,41,13,779 + Rs 17,23,97,808)
= 0.018 x (Rs. 22,65,11,587)
= **Rs. 40,77,209/-**

The PAB considered the proposal of the State Government for extension of the programme to Upper-primary schools located in EBB and accepted, in principle, the following parameters for grant of Central assistance:

- i) No. of children availing MDM = **To be furnished by the State Government**
- ii) No. of school working days = **220**

The actual quantum of assistance to be provided for Upper-primary schools will be decided after formal approvals for extension of the programme to Upper-primary stage.

The meeting ended with a word of thanks to the Chair.

These minutes are issued with the approval of Secretary, SE&L

Ravi Ramachandran
Deputy Secretary