

Mid Day Meal Programme

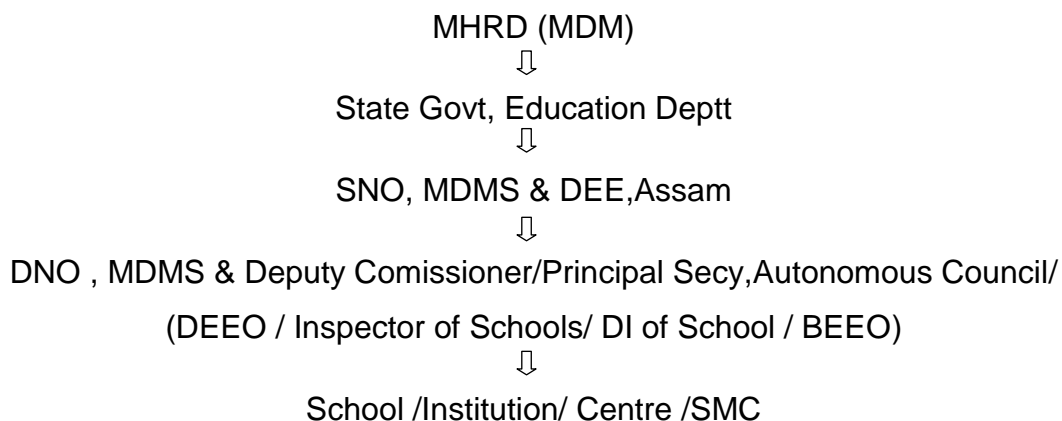
Annual Work Plan and Budget 2013-14

1. Introduction :

1.1 Brief history.

- National programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Known as the Mid-Day –Meal in School) was launched as a CSS on 15th August 1995. Cooked Mid –Day Meal programme has been started in Assam with effect from January/2005. The Programme is expected to boost and sustain the pace of achieving the objectives under UPE (Universal Primary Education) like Universal enrolment, Universal retention and quality improvement. The Programme of Mid-Day Meal covered all the school going children reading in class –I to VIII in Govt. and provincialised LP, UP, High and Higher Secondary Schools, Govt aided LP, UP, High & Higher Secondary Schools, NRST centres & Madrassa Maqtab centres running under SSA and NCLP Schools under Labour Department.

1.2 Management structure :



1.3 Process of plan Formulation.

- The Annual Work Plan and Budget 2013-14 is formulated on the basis of data / Information reflected in the district level plan submitted by the district level officers and MIS Portal under Mid-Day Meal. A work shop was organized by the Directorate of Elementary education for all field level functionaries to facilitate for formulating the Annual Work Plan & Budget 2012-13. DISE data and data under MIS Portal have been mainly used in preparation of Annual Work Plan & Budget.

2. Description and assessment of the programme implemented in the current year (2012-13) and proposal for next year (2013-14) with reference to:

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

- The State Govt. has taken all possible cares for running cooked Mid-Day - Meal regularly. VEC and SMC have been associated in implementation of Mid -Day-Meal Programme. Mother groups are also given an important role in implementation of Cooked Mid-Day -Meal in Assam. Moreover, the

implementation of MDM at district level is being reviewed time to time at State Level. Though some interruptions have been noticed in some districts in implementation of MDMs in some places due to local disturbances, yet the State Govt. has instructed the District Nodal Officers to take step to increase the number of days for serving Mid-day Meal, to compensate the loss of MDM days due to Local disturbance.

2.2 Coverage of children of NCLP schools as per upper primary norm. NCLP schools are primary schools but eligible for benefit as per upper primary norm.

- 254 NCLP Schools have been provided with Mid-Day Meals. 55 NCLP Schools are running in Kamrup (M) and 199 NCLP Schools are running in Nagaon District. Altogether 13880 children have been covered in 254 NCLP Schools. These schools are running as Lower Primary Schools as because the syllabus and curriculum of these schools are same as Lower Primary Schools. But considering the age group of the children reading in NCLP Schools Mid-Day Meal has been provided as per Upper Primary norms.

2.3 Food grains management, including adequacy of allocation, timeliness of lifting, transportation and distribution, and suitability of storage at different levels. Challenges faced and plan to overcome them.

- During 2010-11 the Central Govt. has issued new guidelines for making payment of cost of food grains at district level. According to the new system the district authority of FCI will submit bills of lifting food grains to the DNO, MDM for payment of cost of food grains. The DNOs will submit the requirement of cost of food grains to the SNO, MDM who will release the amount according to availability of fund. In the present system it has been observed that the SNO, MDM has released the fund for cost of food grains to the DNOs. But at DNO level the payment of cost of food grains to FCI is not prompt. During the current year the SNO, MDM has already released the cost of food grains up to September/2012. But the released of cost of food grains to FCI by DNO MDM is not very encouraging.

The Central Govt. has released the allocation of rice on the basis of average attendance of students in the schools. Rice allocation has been made district wise by the SNO, MDM at state level and break up of district wise allocation of rice has been communicated to the DNOs, MDM and FCI authority. In the current year the Govt. of India has released rice and cost of cooking cost on the basis of enrolment 4890326 in the state. Most of the school authority have stored the rice in the store rooms of kitchen-cum –store. The concept of district level storage for keeping rice as buffer stock may be considered by the Govt. Transportation cost has been released upto September/2012. The District authorities have seen the overall implementation of the scheme so that no interruption has been found at any level.

2.4 System for payment of cost of food grains to FCI. Status of pending bills of FCI of the previous year.

- The FCI at district level have submitted the bills in the office of the Deputy Commissioner and DNO, MDM and in case of Autonomous Council in the office of the Principal Secretary, Autonomous Council on monthly basis/ quarterly basis. As per guidelines DNO, MDM are to make payment to FCI after receiving the bills for the month. But it has been observed that the process of payment of cost of foodgrains to FCI is not encouraging. Several

reminders have been issued from SNO office to the DNOs for regular payment of cost of foodgrains to FCI, but position of payment of cost of foodgrains to FCI is yet to be improved.

Status of pending bill is shown below:

- I. For 2011-12 - Rs.5.92 crores
- II. For 2012-13 - Rs.28.39 crores

The above total amount of Rs.24.31 crores is still pending at different district for payment to FCI upto December, 2012.

2.5 System for release of funds provided under MDM (Central and State). Please indicate the dates when the fund was released to State Authority / Directorate / District / Block / Gram Panchayat and finally to the Cooking Agency / School.

- The State Govt. releases the fund to SNO, MDM & Director of Elementary Education, Assam after receiving the concurrence from State Finance Deptt. The Director of Elementary Education, Assam presents the bill of the sanctioned amount to the Treasury office and the SNO, MDM after receiving the fund from Treasury releases the same to the DNO, MDM. The DNO, MDM release the fund to the SMC (School Managing Committee). The process takes about 3 to 4 months for receiving the fund by the SMCs.

During the current financial year the Govt. of India has released the fund as mentioned below:-

I.	20% Adhoc grant	-	Rs.13364.87 lakh
II.	Balance of 1 st Instalment	-	Rs.12563.70 lakh
	Total	-	Rs.25928.57 lakh

Against the Central Share of 1st installment the State Govt. releases mandatory Matching Contribution (State Share) an amount of Rs.2458.86 lakh. The Central Govt. has not yet released the 2nd installment.

Fund flow:

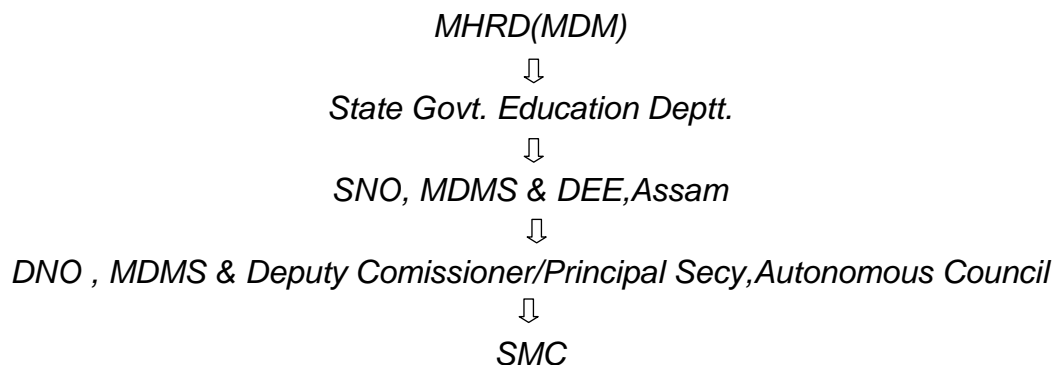


Table of receiving and release of fund under MDMs during 2012-13

(Rs. in lakh)

Instalment	Date of receive of central share by state	Date of receiving of fund by SNO,MDMS & DEE, Assam	Date of realease of fund to the districts by SNO,MDMS
1	2	3	4
Opening balance as on 1/4/2012	1/4/2012	-	-
Adhoc grant	29/5/2012	29/8/2012	26/10/2012
Balance of 1 st instalment	16/8/2012	28/2/2013	19/1/2013
2 nd instalment	Not yet received		

2.6 Submission of Information in Mandatory Table (AT-24).

Fund release date has been shown in Table (AT-24)

2.7 System and mode of payment of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers and implementing agencies viz. NGOs / SHGs / trust / centralized kitchens etc.

- The State Govt. Finance Deptt. release the amount to Education Department. The SNO, MDMS & DEE, Assam draws the amount for honorarium to cook-cum-helpers and releases the same to the DNOs,. The DNOs release the honorarium of cook-cum-helpers to the SMC .The SMC finally makes the payment to cook-cum-helpers. As regards the only NGO viz. The Akhay Patra Foundation receives the fund from DNO, Kamrup (M) & Kamrup for the same and the same releases in two ways by The Akhay Patra Foundation i.e. The Akhay Patra Foundation release the Honorarium to the cook-cum-helper engaged by them and also release the fund to the SMC for making payment honorarium to the cook-cum-helper engaged by SMC.

2.8 System for procuring cooking ingredients (pulses, vegetables including leafy ones, salt, condiments, oil and fuel etc.), Commodities, which are centrally purchased and supplied to schools or locally purchased at school level.

- The SNO (State Nodal Officer) releases the fund of cooking cost to the DNOs and DNOs release the fund to the SMC for purchase of above ingredients locally so that season wise available vegetable can be provided in the meals. However in 569 schools located within Guwahati city and nearby areas of Guwahati city has been provided MDM through Akshay Patra.

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

- The School Managing Committee (SMC) engages cook-cum-helpers mainly from mother group. Further Mother group also help in serving cooked food to the Children. SMC/VEC members supervise the implementation of the scheme. The Deputy Commissioners (DNO) takes measures to avoid

untoward happening in the implementation of MDM in schools. The State Govt. has already provided Fire Extinguishers in all the schools and issued instruction to keep away toxic and inflammable materials from the class rooms & kitchen sheds.

2.10 Procedure and status of construction of kitchen-cum-store.

- The State Govt. has engaged two construction agencies namely HOUSEFED and Assam State Housing Board for construction of Kitchen cum stores under MDM programme. Accordingly SNO, MDM has placed work order for construction of 44729 Kitchen – cum store in 44729 schools. Further construction of Kitchen Shed to 6361 schools the necessary fund has been released to the SMC through SSA, Assam. Guidelines and plan estimate has also been sent to the SMC. The up to date progress for construction of kitchen-cum-store is shown below :

Fund released by Govt. of India to 56795 schools for construction of kitchen shed.

- ✓ Construction completed in **38711** schools
- ✓ Progress **7648** schools
- ✓ Yet to start **10436** schools. State Govt.

2.11 Procedure of procurement of kitchen devices from (i) funds released under the Mid-Day Meal Programme (ii) other sources.

- The State Govt. have engaged Assam Govt. Marketing Corporation and Assam Small Industries Development Corporation for procurement of kitchen devices and to deliver the same at Block Level Offices .The SMC collect the same from the Block Offices. 17666 Schools have been provided with kitchen devices. Another 13277 schools will be provided with kitchen devices soon. Further Govt. of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs.1566.20 lakh for providing Kitchen Devices to 31324 Schools. The State Govt. has also provided Rs. 20.00 crores from State share for providing kitchen devices. The Kitchen Devices sanctioned during 2006-07 is required to replace by new Kitchen Devices. Accordingly proposal was submitted to the Govt. for sanction of fund for kitchen devices in order to replace the kitchen devices sanction during 2006-07.

2.12 Capacity building and training conducted for different categories of persons involved in the Mid Day Meal Programme.

- NUEPA organized a three day orientation programme w.e.f. August, 24-26, 2009 of best practices in implementation of Mid Day Meal at NEHU Campus Shillong for the Officers of North Eastern States who are involved in implementation of Mid Day Meals Scheme in schools.

SSA, Assam as well DIETs have also conducted training programmes for teachers to orient them as regards best practices in the schools for implementation of Mid Day Meals. Moreover State Govt. have organized time to time orientation programme for field level functionaries involved in implementation of MDMs.

Moreover MHRD have also organized a two days orientation training programme for the Officers engaged in Mid Day Meals programme in North Eastern States on 17th & 18th January, 2013 at Gangtok, Sikkim for learning the technique to prepare of AWP & B 2013-14.

Further, one day training for cook-cum-helper has also been organized in the conference hall of Director Elementary Education, Assam wherein 41 cook-cum-helpers have participated in the training programme. Further all the cook-cum-helpers engaged for cooking Mid-Day Meal have oriented by the District Level Officers organizing One Day Training Programme for cook-cum-helpers. The training module & materials have been prepared at State Level and send to the Districts for that purpose.

2.13 Management Information System at School, Village / Gram Panchayat, Block, District and State level and its details.

- ❑ The Director of Elementary Education, Assam and SNO, MDM takes the help of MIS of SSA, Assam for collection of school information. The Directorate of Elementary Education, Assam has no separate MIS till date. It is very much essential to have a full flagged MIS to look after the school information of elementary education as well as implementation of MDM programme. In the mean time the Central Govt. has introduced MDM MIS system for collection of Data through MIS Portal. The SNO have engaged Data Entry Operator at State Level and instructed to engage Data Entry Operators at District & Block Level also in order to complete Annual Data Entry & Monthly Data Entry in the Annual School Data Capture Format & Monthly School Data Capture Format.

2.14 Systems to ensure transparency, accountability and openness in all aspects of programme implementation, including inter alia, foodgrains management, ingredients procurement, cooking and serving, appointment of cooking staff, construction of kitchen-cum-store, and procurement of cooking devices.

- ❑ The State Govt. Education Department maintains transparency and openness in all aspects of programme of implementation of Mid Day Meals Programme. The DNOs, MDM allocate food grains to the GPSS as per allocation of food grains made by the SNO, MDM. Accordingly the GPSS lift the food grains from FCI godown and deliver the same to the school through FPS. The others ingredients like pulses, vegetables, oil, condiments, fuel etc are purchased by the SMC of schools locally. The SMC engages cook-cum-helpers for cooking hot cooked meals. Further the State Govt. have entrusted HOUSEFED and Assam State Housing Board for construction of Kitchen cum store and AGMC, ASIDC have been engaged for supply of cooking devices.

Measures taken to rectify:

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

The state Govt. have issued instructions to the DNOs, MDM and Field level Officers of Education Department to increase the number of days for serving regular cooking Mid-Day-Meal and also look into the position of availability of

food grains as well as cooking cost so that both rice & cooking cost remain available in the school through out the year in order to run the MDM scheme without interruption.

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

In order to reduce the Intra-district mismatch in utilization of food grains and cooking cost the state Govt. reviews the position of field level by holding time to time review meeting on MDMS. The field level Officers of different district exchanges their views in the meeting. However due to some local problems intra district mismatch could not be rectified fully.

c) Delay in delivering cooking cost at school level

The DNOs have been asked for timely release of the cooking cost to the SMC and timely issue allocation of rice to the GPSS so that continuity of serving MDMS does not suffer. However it takes about 3-4 months time for receiving cooking cost by the Schools in the present system.

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

- ❑ The State Govt. engaged Mahila Samata Society to conduct external evaluation on MDMS in 9 districts and ACE Institute to conduct external evaluation on the implementation of cooked Mid-Day Meal in the remaining 18 districts respectively. Both the organisations have submitted their Evaluation report and the same have been forwarded. A summary finding of ACE Institute is given below.

The External Evaluation Study on MDMS in schools of Assam, conducted in 2009, provides information on overall functioning of the scheme and its impact on increase of enrolment, attendance and retention of students in the primary and upper primary schools. The Ace Institute, Guwahati was entrusted to conduct the study and provide the results of the same. The Ace Institute conducted the survey in 2009 with coverage of 4601 primary and upper primary schools in the 18 selected districts of Assam.

Objectives of the study:

The overall objective of the study is to assess the impact of the MDMS on increase of enrolment, attendance and retention rate of the children- particularly the disadvantaged children in the primary and upper primary schools of Assam. The other objectives are (i) to examine the status and availability of infrastructure of the schools undertaking the Mid-day Meal, (ii) to evaluate overall the functioning of the MDMS in selected schools.

Operation and logistic of MDMS:

The study reveals that about 28 per cent schools have served mid-day meals for less than 100 days, 24 per cent have served for 100- 124 days, 20 per cent for 125- 149 days, 13 per cent for 150 - 174 days, about 11 per cent schools have served MDM for 175-224 days. Only less than 1 per cent (19 schools) have served mid-day meal for 225- 254 days. There is a scope to ask question why most of the schools have served mid-day meals on even less than 150 days and the same has been taken care of for future improvement.

Though clear guidelines were given to the schools to display of weekly menu, the study finds that only about 24 per cent schools observed the guidelines, others did not.

The investigators of the survey find in about 30 per cent schools where Dal+vegetable+rice combined meals were prepared and served in 25 per cent schools prepared khichri. Payas, pulao, biriyani etc. had not been found favourable item in many schools. Moreover, it is to be mentioned that about 34 per cent schools could not manage to show their menu on the day of investigators' visit as they did not prepare their meals at that time. Variation in menu is comparatively less- it is about 22 per cent only.

Regarding patterns of gender, castes of the cooks and helpers it is observed that about 89 per cent cooks are female. The caste composition of the cooks consists of SC (13 per cent), ST (18 per cent), OBC (27 per cent), Tea Tribe (4 per cent), General (19 per cent) and Muslim about 17 per cent. It is observed that the cooks are appointed from the localities of the schools for which the caste of cooks mostly reflects the caste of the local population.

In case of helpers mostly females, 58 per cent helpers are appointed against only 4 per cent of male helpers. The caste and community of helpers are also similar to the caste and community of the cooks.

About 82 per cent cooks received payment regularly against about 15 who received partly. On the other hand only 50 per cent helpers received payment regularly as well as partly. About 38 per cent schools have no helpers appointed.

About 85 per cent schools have utensils for cooking MDM and 47 per cent schools have storage facility in kitchen sheds. However 14 per cent use teacher's house, 4 per cent use fair price shops and 23 per cent use class rooms as store for keeping food grains.

Most of the schools (94 per cent) use firewood as fuel for cooking MDM against 5 per cent schools that use LPG and 1 per cent use kerosene and other fuel.

About 71 per cent schools are found to have source of drinking water in the premises of the school. About 69 per cent use hand pump water, 4 per cent tap water, 9 per cent ring well water, 3 per cent pond water. Other schools use other source of water. It is also observed that about 57 per cent schools have water filter to filter drinking water for the students.

In regard to involvement of teachers in cooking process the study finds that 68 per cent teachers participated in cooking process of MDM.

Regarding nutritional aspects, hygienic and good practices and management of hazard and wastage the study finds some interesting results. Masur dal (48 per cent) and mixed dal (43 per cent) are two types of dal which are used mostly in MDM. About 77 per cent school use leafy vegetable in the MDM served in the schools. Utensils and plates used for MDM have relation with the hygienic state of the food. For taking mid-day meals in about 79 per cent schools stainless steel plates are used in about 8 per cent aluminium plates, in about 6 per cent plastic plates and in about 6 per cent disposable plates are used. However for cooking foods mostly 60 per cent schools use aluminium pots and 37 per cent schools use iron pots respectively.

Nutritional aspect, hygiene, good practice and management of hazards and wastage:

With mid-day meal the maintenance of nutrition in foods is also attached. So imparting education on nutrition is one of the most important interventions. This study finds that in about 52 per cent schools nutrition education was imparted.

About 89 per cent schools adhered to hygienic practices to be maintained to have MDM and out of this in about 8 per cent schools the cooks and helpers use caps, masks and gloves etc. In about 82 per cent schools vegetables are thoroughly washed before cutting. Also in about 86 per cent schools training on hygienic and cleanliness issues were provided

Along with mid-day meal scheme the government also stressed on maintenance of certain good practices. It is found that about 88 per cent schools maintained cleanliness in dress, dish, hands and mouth. In about 86 per cent schools inspection of students' nails has been conducted, in about 49 per cent schools prayer was set before meal. It is also observed that in 81 per cent schools team spirit and sharing situation exists and in 90 per cent schools discipline was maintained.

Precautionary measures against hazards and wastages were directed by the government along with the MDMS. The study, in course of the study, observes that 50 per cent schools took measures against fire, another 50 per cent took measures against food poisoning, about 54 per cent schools took measures against food spoilage and about 56 per cent schools took measures against food wastage. In case of dirtiness 62 per cent schools took measures against it.

Monitoring and transparency of the Scheme

The success of any continuous developmental programme depends on regular and effective monitoring. As per guidelines of the Directorate of Elementary Education the concerned officials from district down to circle level officials have to conduct monitoring of the MDMS from time to time. As per norms every month 15 schools have to be inspected by DEEO, 20 schools by DI, 25 schools by BEEO and 40 schools by SI. This study finds that in the whole year of 2008 only 144 schools were monitored by DEEO, 81 schools by DI, 337 schools by BEEO and 545 schools by SI in all 18 selected districts. As the numbers of officials in each category are more it is significantly observed that the norms of monitoring suggested by the government have not been maintained.

This scheme has scope for the community to participate in its better functioning. In this regard mother groups and School Managing Committees' (SMC) participation are significant. These two groups participated in 75 per cent and 87 per cent respectively. The percentage of schools participated by Self Help Group and other members of the communities is found very less- only 28 per cent in total.

Four parameters were used to ascertain the transparency in execution of the scheme. They were (i) presence of SMC members at the time of distribution of the meals, (ii) weighing of rice in presence of SMC members, (iii) quality checking by mother groups and (iv) awareness of villagers. The study results state that about 74 per cent SMC members were present at the meal time;

about 64 per cent schools weigh rice in presence of SMC members, in about 69 per cent schools quality checking was conducted by the mothers' groups. The villagers of the locality of about 68 per cent schools were aware of purchasing food grains, quality and quantity of the food served.

Maintenance of accounts & registers

In regard to maintenance of accounts and registers and submission of utilisation certificates regularly this study finds that about 94 per cent schools maintained the accounts and registers and about 88 per cent submitted the utilization certificates regularly.

The schools offering mid-day meals have to send information with regard to lifting of rice and receipt of fund for cooking separately to the District Nodal Officer (DNO) and DEEO. The estimates of the study do not find better correspondence in this regard. Only 58 per cent schools observed this norm.

About 92 per cent schools maintained schools inspection registers and 72 per cent schools recorded the observation of the inspection in proper registers which is revealed by the results of the study.

Impact of the MDMS:

The study also investigated to find the impact of the mid-day meal scheme on increase of enrolment, attendance and retention of students at the schools. The results reveal that the respondents of about 68 per cent schools admitted increased in attendance, of 42 per cent schools respondents agreed increase in enrolment after introduction of mid-day meal at the schools.

During current year the State Govt. has engaged ACE Institute to conduct a survey on Govt. aided Lower Primary Schools in order to find out infrastructure facilities and actual enrolment position in those schools. Final report not yet submitted by ACE Institute.

2.17 Brief write up on best practices followed in the State.

NUEPA has conducted study on best practices during 2008 in 4 districts of Assam namely Golaghat, Jorhat, Dibrugarh & Nagaon.

The best practices adopted in implementation of MDMS are given below:

- (1) Cleaning of dish, mouth and hands before eating food and washing hand after taking food.
- (2) Awareness about the hygienic and cleanliness teaching.
- (3) Discipline and Eco-friendliness.
- (4) Prayer before meal
- (5) Inspection of finger nail.
- (6) Inspection of wastage / spillage / spoilage.
- (7) Precaution against fire & food poisoning.
- (8) Team spirit & sharing.
- (9) Food & Nutrition teaching

2.18 Instances of unhygienic food served, children falling ill, sub-standard supplies, diversion/misuse of resources, social discrimination and safety measures adopted to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

- ❑ No instance/ information for unhygienic food served, Children falling ill, sub-standard supplies, diversion/mis-use of resource, social; discrimination received from field level office.

2.19 Extent of involvement of NGOs and Civic Body Organizations (CBOs)/PRIs in the implementation and monitoring of the Scheme.

- ❑ Akshay Pattra a reputed NGO taking the responsibility of serving hot cooked Mid Day Meal to 569 LP and Middle Schools of Guwahati urban areas with effect from November, 2009.

No. of Schools covered:- 569 of Kamrup(M) & Kamrup district.

No. of Children covered:- 49123

Mechanism:-

The NGO has one central kitchen and hot cooked Mid -Day meal has been packed in big Tiffin carriers school wise/number wise and Tiffin carriers have been delivered to schools by 30 delivery vans and completed distribution of Tiffin carrier to all the schools before 12 noon.

The State Govt. has not encouraged the involvement of NGO at rural areas. PRI /civic body not yet involved in implementation of Cooked Mid Day Meals. Only SMC, VEC and mother group have been in involved in implementation of the process.

2.20 Status of School Health Programme with special focus on provision of micronutrients, Vitamin-A, de-worming medicine, Iron and Folic acid, Zinc, distribution of spectacles to children with refractive error and recording of height, weight etc.

- ❑ NB. As reported by NRHM, Assam any school has not been covered under School Health Programme during 2012-13. The programme is being implemented from March/2013. They have completed the training of Multipurpose Worker (MPW) and Lady Health Visitor (LHV) for the purpose. Recruitment of dedicated Medical officer, Dental Surgeon and Block Health Programme officer have been made for implementation of the programme.

The weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation Programme among the adolescent students of Class VI to VIII is also being implemented from the March/ 2013. The training programme for District trainers of all the districts have been completed in Dec./12.

2.21 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.

- ❑ The state Govt. have notified the formation of State level, District Level & Block level Steering cum Monitoring Committee for over all monitoring the implementation of Mid day Meal programme. The School Managing Committee have already been formed in every school. The SMC look after the implementation of Mid Day Meal programme and also given proper guidance to improve the academic environment of the schools. Regarding the Development of Management Information System (MIS) with integration of interactive voice response system (IVRS), the Central Govt. has already prepared guidelines for introduction of the IVRS system in the state.

2.22 Steps taken to strengthen the monitoring mechanism in the Block, District and State level and status of constitution of SMCs at these levels. Status of formation on School Management Committee at village / school / cooking agency level in the light of Right to Education Act, 2009.

- ❑ In order to monitor the implementation of Mid-Day Meal Schemes in real sense the Govt. of India has introduced MIS web Portal through which all the information of the schools to be routed to the Central Govt. & State Govt. Moreover, IVRS is going to be implemented within a short time. Hence, the SNO MDMS has instructed District Level Officers to engage Data Entry Operator in Districts and Blocks for this purpose. However, due to disturbance of internet facilities and power facilities the Data entry into MIS Portal at Block & District level is not encouraging.

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

- ❑ The Director of Elementary Education, Assam and SNO, MDMS have issued instruction to the district level, Sub-divisional level and Block level officers to inspect at least 25% schools/ centres in every quarter. Most of the district level officers have inspected schools regularly. Target for school inspection have been fixed for DEEO, D.I. of schools, BEEO, S.I. of schools in the following manner.
 - DEEO will have to visit 15 schools in a month.
 - D.I of schools will have to visit 20 schools in a month.
 - BEEO will have to visit 25 schools in a month
 - SI of schools will have to visit 40 schools in a month.

Most of the officers have submitted the finding of the inspection report in the review meeting of the MDMS and accordingly officers have been asked to take remedial measures on the poor performance school immediately. Further officers from State Offices have also visited the schools time to time and submit reports regarding cooked Mid-Day Meal.

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

- ❑ The Monitoring Institute has so far submitted their reports in respect of visiting Golaghat, Jorhat & Lakhimpur districts. The officers of Monitoring Institute have visited 40 schools in each district. Based on the observation of Monitoring Institute report the District Administration have been asked to take remedial measures on the weak point on implementation of the scheme and request to submit the action taken report in this regards.

2.25 Grievance Redressal Mechanism if any, used by the States / UTs. Details of complaints received, nature of complaints and time schedule for disposal of complaints.

- ❑ A Grievance Redressal Mechanism cell has been formed vide letter No. EPM/14/2011/5 dtd. 8/4/2011 in the Directorate of Elementary Education, Assam in order to dispose off the complaints received in respect of implementation of Mid Day Meal scheme. Altogether 6 complaints have been received by this Directorate. The field level officers have been asked

for making enquiry on the complain so for 1 complains has been disposed off by taking action against the wrongdoer and to submit action taken report.

2.26 Media campaign, if any.

- Hoardings have been installed in front of all Education Deptt. Offices and Deputy Commissioner's Offices regarding implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Arrangement has also been made for fixing / fitting MDM logo in all schools. MDM logo has already been fitted in 70 % schools. The state Govt. has decided to provide MDM calendar in all Elementary Schools and Offices of Education Department for financial year 2013-14 in order to increases the number of MDM servicing days.

2.27 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.

- The impact of Cooked Mid Day Meal Scheme has been considerably notice on enrolment and retention of children while meeting the hunger of children. Hunger to be driven out from the class rooms. The food provided in the class room under MDMs has given physical and mental strength to the children for class room study and creation of a joyful atmosphere in class rooms.

As regards strength and weakness the following are stated.

Strength:- a)Community participation.

b) Awareness of parents/ guardians.

c) Adequate budget provision.

d) Absence of social and caste prejudice.

Weakness:- a) Shortage of Field staff for monitoring and supervision.

b) Lack of knowledge of Accounts on the part of SMC.

c) Computerization of data to monitors all aspect of MDM Scheme.

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