

REPORT

Madhya Pradesh visit of Shri P. P. Mathur, Special Rapporteur, NHRC

1. As approved by the Hon'ble Chairperson, I undertook a tour of tribal areas of Betul district of Madhya Pradesh state from September 24 to September 26, 2014. The purpose of this visit was to see the working of Mid-day meal (MDM) programme in schools and Supplementary Nutrition programme in Aaganwadi Centres in tribal areas.
2. At the beginning of my M.P. tour, I held a meeting at Bhopal on September 23, 2014 with the Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development Department (Chief Secretary was otherwise occupied). The meeting was attended, among others, by senior officers of Education, Women and Child Development, Panchayat and Rural Development, and Tribal Welfare Departments. The state Government officials gave an overview of the status and the various steps taken at the policy level to streamline and strengthen the arrangements for better implementation of these two programmes. Mid-day Meal programme is being implemented in more than one lakh sixteen thousand primary and upper primary (middle) schools covering more than 76 lakh children (2014-15). The programme is regularly monitored at State, District, Block, Sub-Block and School levels. Collector and C.E.O. of Zila Panchayat hold regular meetings to review and monitor the working of the MDM programme. There is a District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee comprising officials and non officials in every district. Panchayati Raj Institutions at District, Block and Village level are closely involved in the implementation of this programme. In all rural schools, MDM food is cooked and supplied by women's Self Help Groups (SHGs). It was also mentioned that from August 1, 2014, in one District (Vidisha), milk (milk powder) is being provided to targeted students for 2 months under MDM programme. 400 gas connections per district are being given as a part of phased programme to move away from use of firewood for cooking MDM.

3. Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development requested that NHRC may take up the matter with the concerned Ministry of GOI for sanction/approval of the following proposals sent to Government of India by the State Government of M. P. for better implementation of MDM programme:

- i) State Government's letter dated 21.08.2014 (copy enclosed) addressed to the Additional Secretary, GOI, Ministry of HRD, Department of School Education and Literacy requesting for grant of Rs. 630 crores as Central Assistance to supply milk in schools to fight mal nutrition prevalent amongst students of weaker sections and poorer families.
- ii) State Government's letter dated 12.09.2014 (copy enclosed) addressed to the Additional Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of HRD, Elementary Education Department requesting for revising the honorarium of Cook-cum-Helper in MDM Programme from Rs 1000 to Rs. 3000/-.
- iii) State Government has also written to the Additional Secretary, GOI, Ministry of HRD, Elementary Education Department (copy enclosed) requesting for increasing the number of subsidized LPG cylinders for efficient and safe cooking of food under MDM programme.
- iv) State Government of M.P. has also requested GOI to enhance the per student amount given towards cost of oil, pulses, spices and vegetables from the present amount of Rs. 3.59 (primary school) and Rs. 5.38 (middle school) per student respectively to Rs. 6.00 and Rs. 8.00 per student respectively. This is very necessary in view of the current market prices of these items.

4. There are 453 Integrated Child Development Projects in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Total number of Aanganwadi Centres under these projects are 80,160 and there are 12,070 mini Aanganwadi Centres. Total number of beneficiaries of Supplementary Nutrition Programme is about 80 lakhs. Cooked food is served to children in the age group of 3-6 years and Take Home Ration (THR) is supplied for pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescent girls and children between ages 6 months to 3 years. Monitoring of this programme is done at Village, Block and District levels and Panchayati Raj Institutions are involved in the implementation and regular monitoring of this programme. For more efficient and effective implementation of this programme, the State Government have

made the following requests to the NHRC for intervention by way of taking up the matter with the WCD Ministry of Government of India:

- i) State Government have requested the GoI for sanction of 79 new ICDS projects and 11,120 new Anganwadi Centres for full coverage of target beneficiaries.
 - ii) More than 50,000 Anganwadi Centres do not have buildings of their own. GOI has been requested to sanction funds (in a phased manner) for construction of buildings of Anganwadi Centres. As per the standard design of Anganwadi Centre, each building costs Rs. 7.80 lakh.
 - iii) The rate of Rs. 5/- per adolescent girl for nutrition component needs to be increased to bring it at par with Rs. 7/- per beneficiary fixed for pregnant and lactating mothers.
5. Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development has requested NHRC to request GOI for approval/sanction of the above mentioned proposals to improve the quality of delivery under the MDM and supplementary nutrition programme through Anganwadi Centres.

VISIT OF BETUL DISTRICT

Betul district has a total population of nearly 16 lakhs of which 42% is tribal population. The district has a literacy percentage of 70 with female literacy of 61.60%. There are 4 sub-divisions, 8 Tehsils and 10 Development Blocks of which 7 are Tribal Development Blocks.

Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Programme in Betul District

There are 2038 primary and 856 middle schools covered under MDM programme in the District. The number of students being provided mid-day meal in these schools is about 1, 10, 000 and 70, 900 respectively in primary and middle schools. MDM is prepared and supplied in the whole district by Self Help Groups (SHG) of women. There are nearly 2000 SHGs engaged in this activity. An amount of Rs. 3.59 and Rs. 5.38 per day per primary and middle school student respectively is given towards cost of food in addition to free supply of 100 grams and 150 grams respectively of food grain per student per day. The cash component is meant to cover cost of pulses, vegetables, oil, spices, fuel, etc. Hot food is cooked by cooks who are paid Rs. 1000/- per cook per month. There are more than 6000 cooks engaged in the MDM programme in Betul district. Cooking is done in kitchen sheds. There are more than 2000 and 800 kitchen sheds in primary and middle schools respectively. Menu of food to be supplied under MDM programme on all the six days of the week is pre decided and the same is displayed outside the school building wall as well as on the kitchen shed wall. Inspection and monitoring of the MDM programme is done at District, Sub-division, Block and Village/school level by concerned official of the Departments of School Education, Tribal Welfare and Panchayat and Rural Development. At the apex level, the District Collector and Zila Panchayat CEO monitor the programme. At the school level, School Management Committee (SMC) oversees the working of the MDM programme. It was informed that during the period from 2007 to 2014, on the basis of complaints received, 81 SHGs were removed, 23 cooks were disengaged, action was taken against 36 teachers and 480 SHGs were given warning. There were 6 cases of serious irregularities for which FIRs were lodged.

Supplementary Nutrition Programme in Anganwadi Centres in Betul District

Betul district has 10 Development Blocks and 12 Integrated Child Development Projects. There are nearly 2220 Anganwadi Centres (AWC) and 65 mini Anganwadi Centres in the district. Through these Centres, hot cooked lunch and breakfast is given to children between age of 3 and 6 years. For children between age of 6 months to 3 years, pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls, Take Home Ration (THR) is given. Every Tuesday, hot cooked breakfast and lunch is provided to pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls also. These Anganwadi Centers are located both in rural and urban areas. Self Help Groups providing cooked food to school children under MDM programme are also providing hot cooked food to Anganwadi Centres. THR material is procured from Agro Industries Corporation, a State Government PSU.

There is a fixed day-wise menu for breakfast and lunch to be given to children of age group 3 to 6 years. The objective is to give them 500 calories and 12-15 gms protein through this feeding programme. It is reported that more than 1.5 lakh children upto the age of 6 years, 95,000 adolescent girls and more than 26,000 pregnant and lactating mothers are being provided nutrition through the Anganwadi Centres. Nearly 50% beneficiary children belong to Scheduled Tribes.

Field Visits

With a view to seeing the situation on the ground, I undertook a tour of Betul district from September 24 to September 26 2014. The visits to Schools and Anganwadi Centres were made without any prior information to the Institutions. On the September 24, 2014, a meeting was held with the District Collector and the Chief Executive Officer of Zila Panchayat. The meeting was also attended by Officers of School Education, Tribal Development, Women and Child Development and Panchayat and Rural Development Departments. The concerned officers of these departments made presentations to give an overview of the status of implementation of MDM programme in schools and Supplementary Nutrition Programme in Anganwadi Centres of Betul district.

On September 25-26, 2014, I visited primary and middle schools and Anganwadi Centres in Chicholi, Bhimpur, Bhainsdehi and Betul Development Blocks. District Collector, Betul and C.E.O. of Betul Zila Panchayat, along with officers of concerned departments were present during the visit to Schools and Anganwadi Centres. The Institution wise position is indicated in the following paragraphs.

September 25, 2014

Anganwadi Centre Bori (Block Chicholi) Time - 0925 hrs.

Anganwadi worker and Helper were present in the centre. The number of children from 6 months to one year enrolled in the Centre is 14 boys and 14 girls and number of children between 3 years to 6 years age enrolled is 14 boys and 12 girls. Pregnant and lactating mothers enrolled are 6 and 7 respectively. There are 23 adolescent girls enrolled in the centre. At the time of inspection, only 8 children of 3-6 years age group (out of 26 enrolled) were present. The children were being given 'Halva' in breakfast. This was cooked by women SHG. I found sufficient stock of Take Home Ration (THR) for supply to children up to 3 years of age, pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls. The day-wise menu was not found written on the outer wall of the Centre. Toys and charts etc. were found in damaged/broken condition. There is arrangement of drinking water but the toilet is not clean. AW worker (new appointee) was not yet given training. Inspection Register not maintained properly. Senior officers of the WCD department are not visiting the centre regularly.

Anganwadi Centres Siplai (Block Chicholi) Time – 1000 hrs.

AW worker and Helper were present in the Centre. The enrollment in the Centre is 6 months to 3 years aged children 27 (13 boys and 14 girls), 3 years to 6 years aged children 27 (12 boys and 15 girls), pregnant and lactating mothers 18 (7+11) and 23 adolescent girls. During the inspection, 15 children out of 27 enrolled of 3-6 years age were found present at the Centre.

There is sufficient stock of THR stored in the Centre. Day-wise menu of food to be supplied is not displayed on the outer wall of the Centre building. The building of this centre is in a bad condition and needs immediate repair. Preschool kit (toys, charts, etc.) not in good condition and need replacement. Children were found eating 'Halva' ('Sweet Lapsi') at the time of inspection.

It was found to be of satisfactory quality. Inspection Register not maintained properly. In the recent past none of the Senior Departmental officers inspected this Centre. Only supervisor and Gau sevak visited.

Anganwadi Centres Prabhudhana (Block Chicholi) Time – 1020 hrs.

AW worker and Helper were present in the Centre. Enrollment of children from age 6 months to 3 years is 50 (30 boys and 20 girls), children 3 to 6 years age 36 (21 boys and 15 girls), pregnant and lactating mothers 13 (3+10) and adolescent girls 30. Out of 36 children of 3 to 6 years age enrolled in the Centre, only 11 children were present in the Centre at the time of inspection. Breakfast time for 3-6 years children is between 9:30 am and 10 am but the SHG provided breakfast after 11 am. It is reported that the SHG was given a notice 3 days back by Project Officer for delays in supplying breakfast and lunch to children at this Centre. Pre school kit (toys and charts) were found in damaged and broken condition. Day wise menu of food to be supplied not displayed on the outside wall of the AW Centre building. There is sufficient stock of THR packets for pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls.

Anganwadi Centres, Khairi (Block Chicholi) Time – 1200 hrs.

AW worker and Helper were present at the time of inspection. 16 children (8 boys and 8 girls) of age 6 months to 3 years, 23 children (13 boys and 10 girls) of 3 to 6 years age, 18 pregnant and lactating mothers (6+12) and 23 adolescent girls are enrolled in this Centre. 19 out of 23 enrolled children of 3 to 6 years age group were present in the Centre at the time of inspection. These children were given breakfast as per the fixed menu around 10 am today. The toilet available in the compound is usable. Water is available for drinking and other purpose. Sufficient stock of THR is available at the Centre. Day-wise menu is not displayed on the outside wall of the Centre. Pre school kit (toys and charts) was not in usable condition.

Anganwadi Centre Kundbakajan (Block Chicholi) Time: 1245 hrs.

AW worker and Helper were present at the time of inspection. Number of 6 months to 3 years age children enrolled is 22 (12 boys and 10 girls), 3-6 years age group children enrolled are 29 (9 boys and 20 girls), pregnant and lactating mothers enrolled are 11 (3+8) and adolescent girls

enrolled are 25. 17 out of 22 enrolled children of 3 to 6 years age were present at the time of inspection. It was found that the SHG providing cooked breakfast and lunch to children is not supplying the food at the time fixed for the purpose. The Officers concerned were asked to serve a Notice on Sharada Self Help Group for this lapse and to ensure that children get breakfast between 9:30 am and 10 am and lunch between 12:30 pm and 1 pm pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls are provided Take Home Ration (THR) every Tuesday and Saturday respectively. Pre school kit (Toys and charts) was found damaged and broken and not usable. Day wise menu of breakfast and lunch was not displayed outside the Centre building wall. There is arrangement of drinking water.

Anganwadi Centre Lakkadjam (Block Bhimpur) Time: 1330 hrs.

The Anganwadi Centre was found closed and none was present. On inquiring, The Supervisor told that the Centre functions from 9 am to 1 pm only. The explanation given by the Supervisor is not satisfactory because it was observed that the lunch provided by SHGs to the AW Centres reaches the children only by about 1 pm in most of the AW Centres and this Centre cannot be an exception. I also found that after our arrival in the Village lakkadjam and visit to the primary and middle schools, this AW Centre was also opened and a few children were seen standing outside.

Primary School Siplai (Block Chicholi) Time: 1030 hrs.

Out of 65 children enrolled in the school, 41 were present during inspection. The time for supply of hot food under MDM programme is between 1 pm and 2 pm. The Day-wise menu under MDM is displayed outside the kitchen shed but not outside the school building wall. Thalys and other utensils are available for serving food to children. On inquiry, the children confirmed that they are getting MDM food regularly. There is arrangement of drinking water and separate toilets for boys and girls. Sample of food supplied under MDM is kept in the school. One school teacher eats the MDM food before the same is distributed to the students.

Upper Primary (Middle) School Siplai (Block Chicholi) Time – 1115 hrs.

Against 73 enrolled students, 47 were present at the time of inspection. The teachers told that due to the festival of Navaratri, the attendance is poor. The Day-wise menu of MDM is not displayed outside the school building wall. There are sufficient number of thalis available in the school. On being asked by me, the children told that they get MDM food regularly. This school has a separate usable toilet for girls. The teacher keeps a sample of the food supplied till the next day morning. It is seen that parents and members of School Management Committee (SMC) do not take much interest in the MDM programme.

Primary School Prabhudhana (Block Chicholi) Time: 1040 hrs.

There are 74 students enrolled in the school out of which 47 were present at the time of inspection. There is a kitchen shed attached to the school where MDM food is cooked and

supplied through Self Help Group of women. Thalys and other utensils are available in the school. There is arrangement of water. The toilet needs repair and is not usable in its present condition. MDM menu is displayed outside the kitchen shed but not outside the school building wall. One teacher of the school eats the MDM food before it is given to children. A sample of food is also kept for 24 hour. The students confirmed that they are getting MDM food regularly and they find the food to be sufficient in quantity and that it tastes good.

Primary School Khairi (Block Chicholi) Time: 1205 hrs.

Only 37 students out of 80 enrolled were present at the time of inspection. Day wise menu of MDM is displayed outside the kitchen shed and inside the class room. This should be displayed on the outside wall of the school building. Thalys and other utensils are not sufficient in quantity and because of this shortage, more time is spent in distribution of MDM as children get food in batches. A large number of students were not found to be wearing uniform. The I/C Teacher told that money for uniform has already been deposited in the bank account of about 80% students. The parents and guardians have been asked to buy uniform for their children/wards. The school has separate toilet for boys and girls. On inquiry, the students confirmed that they are getting MDM food regularly. One teacher eats the food before it is given to children. A sample of the food is also kept in the school.

Middle School Khairi (Block Chicholi) Time: 1230 hrs.

Out of 49 enrolled students 27 were present at the time of inspection. The students told that they get MDM food regularly. Day wise menu of MDM is displayed outside kitchen shed and in the class room but not outside the school building wall. The teachers keep a sample of MDM food till 11am next day. Drinking water is available through hand pump. There are separate toilets for boys and girls. The I/C Head Master was advised to try and improve attendance of students in the school.

Primary School Kundbakajan (Block Bhimpur) Time: 1300 hrs.

45 students out of 68 enrolled were present. MDM is supplied through Self Help Group (SHG) of women. It was found that the food is not supplied as per the time fixed for the purpose i.e. 1 pm to 1:30 pm. Today also there was delay in supply of MDM food. The cook-cum-helper and the teachers told that due to paucity of cooking utensils and thalis etc. it takes longer to cook the food and distribute amongst students. This SHG provides MDM to two schools and also food to one Anganwadi Centre. The Departmental Officers should look into this matter and take necessary action to ensure supply of MDM and Anganwadi food on time. The school has arrangement of drinking water and separate toilets for boys and girls. MDM menu is displayed outside the school building wall.



Middle School Kundbakajan (Block Bhimpur) Time: 1315 hrs.

Only 67 out of 134 enrolled students present at the time of inspection. Students were not found eating MDM as there was delay in supply of MDM food by the SHG. Students on inquiry told that they are getting MDM food regularly. It is found that the MDM food is not being supplied on time fixed for this purpose. There is difficulty in availability of drinking water as there is fluoride in the ground water and due to lack of funds, the school does not have piped water supply connection. CEO Zila Panchayat agreed to get this done from Panchayat Nidhi Funds.

Primary School Lakkadjam (Block Bhimpur) Time: 1345 hrs.

Against 63 enrolled only 30 students were present. Some students were seen to be eating the MDM food. On inspection of the kitchen it was noticed that the dough made for making chapattis was not in the right proportion for that number of students. The cook clarified that the dough is made twice as the size of the thali given for this purpose is small. The school keeps a sample of MDM food. Day wise menu is displayed properly. One toilet is under construction. This work should be completed early. The students told that the MDM food tastes good.

Middle School Lakkadjam (Block Bhimpur) Time: 1405 hrs.

There are 118 students enrolled out of which 76 were present at the time of inspection. The Head Master was not present. MDM food sample is kept only till the opening of the school in the morning. Day wise menu of MDM is displayed outside kitchen shed and in the class room. This should also be displayed outside school building wall. There is arrangement for water. There are separate toilets for boys and girls. One toilet was in bad shape and not usable.

September 26, 2014

Anganwadi Centre Theska (Block Bhainsdehi) Time 0910 hrs.

Anganwadi worker and Helper were present at the time of inspection. Enrolment of 6 month to 3 years age children 22 (13 boys and 9 girls), 3 to 6 years age children 28 (18 boys and 10 girls), pregnant and lactating mothers 6 (3+3) and adolescent girls 24. At the time of inspection, only 7 out of 28 children enrolled in age group 3 to 6 years were present. Supplementary Nutrition food is provided by SHG of women. We saw that preparation for breakfast was in process. It was gathered that breakfast and lunch are being given by the Centre as per the menu fixed by the Department. Take Home Ration (THR) for 6 months – 3year old children and pregnant and lactating mother is given on every Tuesday and THR is given to adolescent girls on every Saturday. Day – wise menu of hot cooked food given to children of 3 to 6 years age is displayed inside the Anganwadi room only and not outside. The AW worker explained the low attendance of 3-6 years age children was due to Durga Pura Arti time and expected more children to arrive after the Puja Aarti. Preschool kit (Toys and Charts etc.) found in damaged/broken condition.

The children were looking dirty and the AW worker was advised to teach them hygiene and cleanness. There is no toilet provided in the centre. The building needs immediate repair.

Anganwadi Centre Gondidhana (Block Bhainsdehi) Time 0945 hrs.

Anganwadi worker and Helper were found present. The enrollment in the Centre is 6 month to 3 years age children 14 (8 boys and 6 girls), 3 year to 6 year age children 7 (5 boys and 2 girls), pregnant and lactating mothers 4 (2+2) and adolescent girls 27. The enrollment seems to be on the lower side. At the time of inspection, 5 children (3-6 years) were present at the Centre. It was noticed that the SHG has already prepared the breakfast in the kitchen shed for these children. It was gathered from inquiry that breakfast and lunch is being provided as per the fixed menu regularly. Day - wise menu of food provided to 3-6 year age group children is displayed inside the Anganwadi Centre. Take Home Ration (THR) is provided for 6 month- 3 year age children and pregnant and lactating mothers on every Tuesday and to adolescent girls every Saturday. Toys and charts etc. available in the centre were found to be damaged and broken. There is no toilet arrangement. Enrollment of children and mothers is very low in this centre.

Anganwadi Centre Borgaon (Block Bhainsdehi) Time 1025 hrs.

Anganwadi worker and helper present during inspection. Enrollment at the centre is children between 6 month to 3 year age 33 (20 boys and 13 girls), children aged 3 to 6 years 33 (16 boys and 17 girls), pregnant and lactating mothers 13 (7+6) and adolescent girls 40. At the time of visit, 15 children of 3-6 years age out of 33 enrolled found present. These children did not get breakfast till 10:30 am although the time fixed for breakfast is between 9:30 am and 10 am. Take Home Ration (THR) supplied by MP Agro Industries Corporation is given every Tuesday for 6 month - 3 year children and pregnant and lactating mothers and every Saturday for adolescent girls. Sufficient stock of THR packets is available at the centre. Day - wise menu is displayed inside the centre but not displayed outside. Toys and charts etc. found torn and worn out. No arrangement for toilets at the centre.

Anganwadi Centre Chicholadhana (Block Bhainsdehi) Time 1115 hrs.

This Centre is working in a rented accommodation. Anganwadi worker and helper were present at the time of inspection. The enrollment of 6 month to 3 year age children is 24 (15 boys and 9 girls), 3 to 6 year age children 25 (12 boys and 13 girls), pregnant and lactating mothers 9 (5+4) and adolescent girls 26. At the time of inspection, 21 children of 3-6 years age group were present. These children got breakfast as per the fixed menu. Hot cooked meal is provided by SHG of women to children of 3-6 years age group. Day - wise fixed menu is displayed inside the centre. There is sufficient stock of THR to be supplied to children 6 month to 3 year age, pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls. There is one severely mal nourished child in the centre who has been sent to NRC Bhainsdehi for treatment and special care. Health check up and vaccination of all children was done on 23.09.2014. Pre school kit (toys, charts etc.) not in usable condition and needs replacement. No toilet is provided at the centre.

Anganwadi Centre-Dadudhana (Block-Bhainsdehi)-Time-1210-hrs.

Anganwadi worker and helper were present at the time of inspection. The enrollment of children between age 6 month to 3 year is 21 (11 boys and 10 girls), children between age 3 years to 6 year 15 (8 boys and 7 girls), pregnant and lactating mother 6 (5+1) and adolescent girls 26. At the time of inspection, 7 children of 3 to 6 years age group were present out of total enrolled 15 children. These children were given breakfast but not at the time fixed for breakfast but later. It was gathered from inquiry that the SHG assigned to provide cooked food to these children is not supplying cooked food at the appointed time. Day wise menu of food to be provided is displayed inside the Anganwadi, THR is provided every Tuesday to 6 month - 3 year old children and pregnant and lactating mothers and every Saturday to adolescent girls. There is no provision of toilet. Toys, charts etc. were found in damaged/broken condition.

Primary School Borgaon (Block Bhainsdehi) Time 1035 hrs.

There are 164 students enrolled out of which 104 were present at the time of inspection. Utensils provided for MDM programme are not sufficient compared to the number of students presently enrolled in the school. The students told us that they are getting MDM as per the fixed menu regularly. Teachers were advised to eat the food before it is served to the students and to keep the food sample for 24 hours. There does not appear to be any committee involvement in the MDM programme. SMC is also not active. Day wise MDM menu is displayed inside the class room. It should be displayed on the outer wall of the building as well. Toilets are not provided in the school.

Middle School Borgaon (Block Bhainsdehi) Time 1050 hrs.

I/C Head Master was present in the school. 154 students are enrolled out of which 101 students were present today. It is seen that many students who have been paid money for purchase of bicycles have either not purchased the same or the bicycle is not being used by the students. It was ascertained from the students that they are getting MDM regularly as per the day wise menu fixed by the department. The school is keeping sample of MDM food for 24 hours. Hot food is cooked in the kitchen shed adjacent to the school building. Kitchen was found clean and food grains etc. are stored properly in one portion of the shed. Day wise menu of MDM is displayed in the class room. This should also be displayed outside the school building. Sufficient quantity of thalis and other utensils are provided to the school for MDM programme. Food is cooked on fire wood. There are separate toilets for boys and girls. These should be cleaned regularly. Drinking water is available through hand pump.

Primary School Chicholadhana (Block Bhainsdehi Time 1130 hrs.)

38 out of 65 children enrolled in the school were present. On inquiry, the children told that they are getting good food in sufficient quantity under MDM programme. Day wise MDM menu is displayed in the school. The teachers are keeping a sample of the food supplied under MDM programme. There is no arrangement of separate toilet for girls.

Middle School Chicholadhana (Block Bhainsdehi) Time 1140 hrs.

98 students out of 153 enrolled were present today. Day wise menu of MDM is displayed outside the kitchen shed and in the class room. This should also be displayed outside the school building wall. There is arrangement of toilet and drinking water for students. MDM food is prepared and supplied by SHG of women. The teachers were advised to eat the food before serving the same to students. It is seen that sample of MDM food is kept in the school for 24 hours.

Middle School Dadudhana (Block Bhainsdehi) Time 1215 hrs.

There are only 30 students enrolled out of which 21 were present. There are three teachers in the school. There is a kitchen shed for cooking of food. SHG of women provides MDM to the school. It is seen that the group is not preparing and serving food to the students at the time fixed by the department and there is delay. The SH Group was advised to follow the time fixed for supply of MDM. Excess quantity of fluoride was found in the hand pump water. Water is brought from other sources. There is no arrangement of toilets even for girls. When asked, the students confirmed that they are getting sufficient quantity of good MDM food as per the fixed menu.

Girls Middle School Rondha (Block Betul) Time 1300 hrs.

Out of 58 students enrolled in the school, 47 students were present. Day wise menu was displayed in the kitchen shed and class room. The teachers keep a sample of MDM food for 24 hours. There is toilet for students which was found in a usable condition. There is sufficient number of utensils available in the school. Drinking water is available through hand pump. There was no trace of cooked food as yet although it was past 1 pm. There seems to be delay in supply of MDM food in this school. The time of MDM supply is between 1 pm and 2 pm. SHG of women is assigned the work of preparing and serving MDM food to the students.

Boys Middle School Rondha (Block Betul) Time 1320 hrs.

24 out of 27 enrolled students were present. There is hand pump for drinking water supply. There is a toilet which is found in usable condition. Sufficient quantities of utensils are available for MDM cooking and eating. There is delay in supply of MDM today. The SHG women who are engaged in cooking informed that the delay was caused due to a death in the village. Day wise MDM menu is displayed outside the kitchen shed and in the class room.

Primary School Chicholadhana (Block Bhainsdehi) Time 1130 hrs.

38 out of 65 children enrolled in the school were present. On inquiry, the children told that they are getting good food in sufficient quantity under MDM programme. Day wise MDM menu is displayed in the school. The teachers are keeping a sample of the food supplied under MDM programme. There is no arrangement of separate toilet for girls.

Middle School Chicholadhana (Block Bhainsdehi) Time 1140 hrs.

98 students out of 153 enrolled were present today. Day wise menu of MDM is displayed outside the kitchen shed and in the class room. This should also be displayed outside the school building wall. There is arrangement of toilet and drinking water for students. MDM food is prepared and supplied by SHG of women. The teachers were advised to eat the food before serving the same to students. It is seen that sample of MDM food is kept in the school for 24 hours.

Middle School Dadudhana (Block Bhainsdehi) Time 1215 hrs.

There are only 30 students enrolled out of which 21 were present. There are three teachers in the school. There is a kitchen shed for cooking of food. SHG of women provides MDM to the school. It is seen that the group is not preparing and serving food to the students at the time fixed by the department and there is delay. The SH Group was advised to follow the time fixed for supply of MDM. Excess quantity of fluoride was found in the hand pump water. Water is brought from other sources. There is no arrangement of toilets even for girls. When asked, the students confirmed that they are getting sufficient quantity of good MDM food as per the fixed menu.

Girls Middle School Rondha (Block Betul) Time 1300 hrs.

Out of 58 students enrolled in the school, 47 students were present. Day wise menu was displayed in the kitchen shed and class room. The teachers keep a sample of MDM food for 24 hours. There is toilet for students which was found in a usable condition. There is sufficient number of utensils available in the school. Drinking water is available through hand pump. There was no trace of cooked food as yet although it was past 1 pm. There seems to be delay in supply of MDM food in this school. The time of MDM supply is between 1 pm and 2 pm. SHG of women is assigned the work of preparing and serving MDM food to the students.

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Girls Primary School Rondha (Block Betul) Time 1330 hrs.

37 girls are enrolled out of which 25 were present today. Drinking water is available through hand pump. There are separate toilets for girls and boys. Day wise MDM menu is displayed outside the kitchen shed and inside the class room. MDM sample is kept in the school for 24 hours. One teacher eats the MDM food before it is given to the students. Today there was delay in supply of MDM to students. The reason given by the SHG members was a death in the village. The SHG should ensure timely supply of MDM food to students.

RECOMMENDATIONS

All 17 primary and middle schools and 10 Anganwadi Centres were visited during 2 days of field visits in Betul district. The picture that emerges from these visits is a mixed one. While it was found that in all these schools MDM is being provided regularly, there are some deficiencies in some of the schools which need to be remedied to improve the outcomes. Similarly, the Anganwadi Centres are also providing supplementary nutrition to children and mothers but there are certain areas that need intervention and remedial action.


Mid – Day Meal Programme

- i. Involvement of local community and Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) is minimal. Members of School Management Committee (SMC) are not taking sufficient interest in the running of MDM programme. This needs to be looked into urgently.
- ii. In spite of the attraction that MDM offers, attendance in some schools is not good. More efforts are required in this regard.
- iii. In some schools, teachers are not tasting/eating the MDM food before distribution amongst students. Some schools are not keeping the food samples for full 24 hours. Mothers and Antyodaya Card holders are not eating the MDM food in some schools. This should be ensured.
- iv. MDM is being cooked on firewood and there is no use of gas stoves and pressure cookers for cooking thus making the whole activity unhygienic, and inefficient and unclean. Gas stoves and pressure cookers should be supplied with arrangement for regular supply of gas cylinders.
- v. Some schools do not have sufficient number of thalis and other utensils which results in too much time spent in cooking and distribution of MDM food. This should be looked into.
- vi. MDM food is being cooked and supplied through Self Help Groups (SHG) of women. Some of these SHGs are not supplying the food on time and there are delays that cause disruption in the teaching activity in the school. SHGs should be made to provide food on time.

- vii. There are no separate toilets for girls. Where the toilets are provided, they are not clean and hence not usable. Some toilets need repair to make them usable. This is urgent.
- viii. Cooks engaged for cooking the MDM food are paid only Rs 1000/- per month which is very meager and needs enlacement.
- ix. Senior officers of the department at the district and sub-district level should carryout frequent surprise checks to ensure that the programme is implemented properly at the school level.

Anganwadi Centres

- i. There is low enrollment of children and pregnant and lactating mothers in the Anganwadi Centres. The attendance of 3-6 years age children in the Anganwadi Centre in low. Anganwadi worker, Helper and Asha worker should go into the village and make efforts to improve enrollment and attendance of children.
- ii. Newly recruited Anganwadi workers need to be trained and the other workers need to be given orientation training.
- iii. Supplementary nutrition to children of 3 to 6 years age in the form of hot cooked food is not provided on time fixed for this purpose. There are delays in distribution of breakfast and lunch. The reason possibly is that the same SHG which provides MDM to the nearby school is engaged for supply breakfast and lunch to Anganwadi children. While MDM in schools is to be given between 1 pm to 2 pm, breakfast and lunch to Anganwadi children are to be given around 10 am and 12:30 pm respectively. Supervisory officers should take steps to remedy the situation.
- iv. Community involvement is almost missing. Concerted efforts are needed to involve local people.
- v. Some of the Anganwadi Centre buildings need repair.
- vi. In most of the Anganwadi Centres there are no toilets. In some centres, the toilets are not usable and need repair and regular cleaning for use.
- vii. The children are not taught hygiene and cleanliness. Most of the children were found not clean. This is very important and needs immediate attention.
- viii. Pre school kits (toys, charts etc.) are either not provided or are damaged or broken and hence not usable. These need replacement.
- ix. Quality of Take Home Ration (THR) provided by a state government PSU should be checked randomly by an independent 3rd party.
- x. Senior officers of the Department at district and sub-district level should carry out frequent inspections of the Anganwadi Centres and record their detailed inspection notes in the inspection register so as to improve the delivery of this service.


(P. P. Mathur)

Special Rapporteur, NHRC

ARUNA SHARMA I.A.S
Additional Chief Secretary
& Development Commissioner



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Government of Madhya Pradesh
Department of Panchayat & Rural Development
Department of Social Justice

Bhopal, Dated 12/09/2014

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Cook cum Helpers are an important component for smooth running of Mid Day Meal Scheme in schools. They are currently being paid monthly honorarium of Rs. One Thousand only which is shared in the ratio of 75:25 between Central and State. Since long there is a demand from field for enhancing honorarium of Cook cum Helper. Cook cum Helper almost spend their whole day in various assigned tasks like cleaning of utensils, preparation of meals, serving it to students, then cleaning of kitchen & the place where meal was served. In Mid Day Meal even after spending whole day Cook cum Helper gets monthly honorarium of Rs. One Thousand only. After doing work in schools, they are not in a position to do other works. Hence, this is the only earning for them and this is not sufficient for their day to day needs.

Therefore it will be appropriate to revise honorarium of Cook cum Helper engaged in Mid Day Meal from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 3000 per month. So that, those who are working as Cook cum Helper since many years and are experienced and skilled in the task are retained in Mid Day Meal Scheme. It will be beneficial for efficient implementation of the scheme.

(Dr. Aruna Sharma)
Additional Chief Secretary
Govt. Of Madhya Pradesh
Panchayat & Rural Development
& Social Justice Department

To,

Vrinda Sarup
Additional Secretary
Govt. of India
Ministry Of HRD
Elementary Education

ARUNA SHARMA I.A.S.
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Government of Madhya Pradesh
Department of Panchayat & Rural Development
Department of Social Justice

Bhopal, dated 21/08/2014

Sub: Request for grant to Supply Milk (Milk Powder) as an extra nutrient for targeted students under Mid-Day Meal Scheme in MP.

Dear Dr. Amarjit Singh

It has come to our notice that Department Of School Education and Literacy, Government Of India has a proposal under consideration to provide 'Fresh milk' to targeted students under MDM as an additional nutrient.

We are pleased to bring to your notice that we have launched a pilot in district Vidisha of the state where in we are providing Milk (as Milk Powder) to targeted students under MDM for two month beginning 1st Aug 2014. Milk (as Milk Powder) is being supplied to the district administration by MP Milk Co-operative Federation limited, Bhopal (MP).

Results of the above pilot are encouraging, there is enthusiasm amongst students, parents and teacher community. Milk is being provided to schools in the form of packaged containers of powder provided by MP Milk Co-operative Federation limited, Bhopal at the block/ school level. Milk powder is mixed in the warm water and is provided to students @ 100ml (10gm) to primary students and 150ml (15gm) to Upper Primary Students. Milk (as Milk Powder) is more preferable and suitable over fresh milk as transportation and safe storage of fresh milk in remote village areas may pose practical problems and will-be-prone-to-contamination-and-spoilage-also. There is reported trend of increase in attendance in Vidisha district. District administration Vidisha is also conducting a health check up cum survey of students being benefitted under this pilot whose results will be shared with you after the pilot project is over.

Cont...2...

So it is sincerely requested that grant in the form of central assistance be provided to state @ Rs. 3.50 per student per day. Approximate finance required for this will be :-

No. of Students (Approx.)	Rate Per Student Per Day (Rs.)	One Day Cost (Rs.)	Total Cost for 240 Days
1	2	3	4
75 Lakhs	3.50	262.50 (Lakhs)	63000 (Lakhs)

If above grant of Rs. 630 Crore is released to state it will be a significant contribution towards fighting malnutrition prevalent amongst students of weaker sections and poorer families. This will also contribute in achieving cent percent attendance as per enrolment in schools ultimately leading to achievement of MDM's objective that number of students benefitting under MDM should equal the number of enrolled Students.

Regards,

Yours Sincerely

Aruna Sharma
21/8/14
(Dr. Aruna Sharma)

Dr. Amarjit Singh,
Additional Secretary,
Government of India,
Ministry of Human Resource Development,
Department of School Education and Literacy



Government of Madhya Pradesh
Department of Panchayat & Rural Development
Department of Social Justice

Bhopal, Dated / /

Currently Government of India is subsidizing @ one LPG cylinder per month, under Mid Day Meal scheme to concerned agencies engaged in implementation of the scheme. LPG cylinders are also subsidized at the rate of one cylinder per family per month in domestic category to households. A common family consists of 4-5 members in the country, it is a debatable point that at one end a family of 5 is getting one subsidized cylinder and at the other end an agency (SHG's, SMC's etc.) engaged in conduct of Mid Day Meal at school level is also getting one subsidized cylinder per month. Whereas, a typical school has 100 to 400 and even more students. Therefore, it is requested that in Mid Day Meal number of subsidized cylinders be increased in accordance with the number of students in a school as follows:

S.No.	No. of Students	No. of cylinders
1.	50	10
2.	100	20
3.	200	40
4.	300	60

and so on so forth

But, here it may be inferred that in Mid Day Meal cooking is done once in a day whereas in a house hold cooking is resorted to atleast 3-4 times for preparation of breakfast, meals, etc. Hence number of subsidized cylinders as proposed above may be proportionately reduced as per the task of one time cooking in school as follows:

S.No.	No. of Students	No. of cylinders
1.	50	03
2.	100	07
3.	200	14
4.	300	21

and so on so forth

If Government of India provides more number of subsidized LPG cylinders as proposed above it will go a long way in efficient and safe implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme in a pollution free environment.

(Dr. Aruna Sharma)
Additional Chief Secretary
Govt. Of Madhya Pradesh
Panchayat & Rural Development & Social Justice
Department

To,
Vrinda Sarup
Additional Secretary
Govt. of India
Ministry of hrd
Elementary Education