



**Government of India**

**Ministry of Human Resource Development**

**Department of School Education & Literacy**



**मध्याह्न भोजन योजना  
Mid Day Meal Scheme**

**Report of 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Review Mission on**

**Mid Day Meal Scheme Haryana**

**(17<sup>th</sup> March – 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2013)**



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### Composition of Review Mission

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3. Mr. Dhan Singh, BEO, Pehowa
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## **CHAPTER - I**

### **I. Introduction :**

Mid Day Meal (MDM) is one of the earliest supplementary nutrition programme in the country which has nutritional as well as educational objectives. It is a flagship programme of the Government of India aiming at addressing hunger in schools by serving hot cooked meal, helping children to concentrate on classroom activities, providing nutritional support, encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections of society to attend the school regularly, providing nutritional support to children to drought-affected areas during summer vacations, studying in Government, Local Body and Government-aided, the Centres run under Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS)/Alternative & Innovative Education (SSA), Madarsa and National Child Labour Project Schools across the country.

Mid-Day-Meal Scheme was launched on 15 August, 1995 in the 44 educationally backward Community Development blocks of 6 districts of the State at primary level. Free dry foodgrains @ 3.0 Kg. (1.5 kg wheat and 1.5 kg rice) per child per month was distributed. Foodgrains are provided by FCI, with transport subsidy on the transportation of these grains @ Rs. 25/- per quintal. In 1995-96 cooked food was provided in 17 blocks of these 6 districts- Bhiwani, Hisar, Mahendergarh, Rewari, Kaithal and Sirsa.



Children having Mid Day Meal school at district Kurukshetra

## **II. Review Mission**

A programme of scale and magnitude of Mid Day Meal requires close monitoring and evaluation at all levels. Govt. of India decided to review the implementation of the programme in all its aspects through a Review Mission as per part of monitoring and evaluation of the scheme in the Mid Day Meal Scheme.

This Joint Review Mission team visited Haryana from 17th March – 23th March, 2013 to review the implementation of Mid Day meal scheme in the State with the following objectives:

1. Review the system of fund flow from State Government to Schools/cooking agency and the time taken in this process.
2. Review the management and monitoring of the scheme from State to School level.
3. Review the implementation of the scheme with reference to availability of food grains, quality of MDM, regularity in serving MDM as per approved norms and mode of cooking.

- 4. Role of Teachers.**
- 5. Convergence with School Health Programme (SHP) for supplementation of micronutrients and health checkups and supply of spectacles to children suffering from refractive errors.**
- 6. Creation of capital assets through kitchen-cum-store/kitchen devices.**
- 7. Appointment of Cook-cum-Helpers for preparation and serving of meal to the children**
- 8. Availability of dedicated staff for MDM at various levels**
- 9. Review the maintenance of records at the level of school/cooking agency**
- 10. Review the availability of infrastructure, its adequacy and source of funding.**
- 11. Review of payment of cost of food grains to FCI by the districts.**
- 12. Review the involvement of NGOs/Trust Centralized kitchens by States/UTs Government in implementation of the Scheme.**
- 13. Management Information System (MIS) from school to block, district and State Level to collect the information and disseminate it to other stakeholders.**
- 14. Assess the involvement of Community' in implementation of MDM scheme.**
- 15. Review of status of MIS integration with IVRS for monitoring of the Scheme.**

### **III. Brief about Haryana**

Haryana is a landlocked state in northern India. An area of 1,553 km is covered by forest. Haryana has four main geographical features; the Yamuna-Ghaggar plain forming the largest part of the state, the Shivalik Hills to the northeast, Semi-desert sandy plain to the southwest and the aravalli Range in the south.

It is bordered by Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to the north and by Rajasthan to the west and south. The river Yamuna defines its eastern border with Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Haryana also surrounds the country's capital Delhi on three sides, forming the northern, western and southern borders of Delhi. Consequently, a large area of south Haryana is included in the National Capital Region for purposes of planning for development. The state has an area of 44,212 km<sup>2</sup> (17,070 sq mi). The capital city is Chandigarh.

The climate of Haryana is similar to other states of India lying in the northern plains. It is very hot in summer (up to a high of 50 deg Celsius) and cold in winters (down to a low of 1 deg Celsius). About 80% of the rainfall occurs in the monsoon season (July–September) and sometimes causes local flooding.

The state is divided into four divisions for administrative purposes: Ambala, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Hisar. Within these there are 21 districts, 47 subdivisions, 74 tehsils, 44 sub-tehsils and 119 blocks. Haryana has a total of 81 cities and towns and 6,759 villages.

No. of Districts	:	21
No. of Blocks	:	119
No. of Villages	:	6,759



Total Population (Census 2011)	:	25353000
Sex Ratio	:	877
Density of population	:	573/km (1,480/sq mi)
Literacy Rate	:	76.64 %
Male	:	85.38%
Female	:	66.77%

## **Educational Institutions in the State:**

### **School Education:**

Primary School : 4488 as per 3<sup>rd</sup> QPR submitted by the State

Upper Primary : 11303

Coverage status of institutions, children and working days for the financial year 2010-11, 2011-12 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2012-13 is shown in the following tables:-

### **1. Coverage of Schools**

S.no	Stage	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13 upto 3rd qtr	
		Appro ved	Cover ed	Appro ved	Covered	Approved	Covered
1	Primary	4417	4417	4417	4579	4579	4488
2	Upper Primary	11017	11017	11017	11017	11017	11303
<b>Total</b>		<b>15434</b>	<b>15434</b>	<b>15434</b>	<b>15434</b>	<b>15596</b>	<b>15791</b>



## 1. Coverage of Children & Working days

S.no	Stage	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13	
		Approved	Beneficia ries	Approved	Beneficia ries	Approv ed	Beneficiaries up to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2012
<b>1</b>	No. of Children (In Lakh)						
1.1	PAB approval vs Coverage						
	Primary	13.86	13.72	13.72	14.57	14.57	13.81
	Upper Primary (including NCLP)	6.70	6.34	6.33	6.86	6.86	7.17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20.56</b>	<b>20.06</b>	<b>20.05</b>	<b>21.43</b>	<b>21.43</b>	<b>20.98</b>
1.2	<b>Enrolment* vs Beneficiaries of Children</b> (In Lakh)						
	Primary	14.20	13.72	14.86	14.57	14.09	13.81
	Upper Primary	7.85	6.34	7.04	6.86	7.31	7.17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22.05</b>	<b>20.06</b>	<b>21.90</b>	<b>21.43</b>	21.4	<b>20.98</b>
1.3	<b>No. of Working Days</b>						
		Approved	Covered	Approved	Covered	Approv ed	Covered
	Primary	173	190	171	<b>181</b>	181	179
	Upper Primary	173	190	171	<b>181</b>	181	179

## IV. District Profile of Kurukshetra District

Kurukshetra, district occupies an area of 1682.53 km. The town of Kurukshetra, a sacred place for the Hindus, is the administrative headquarter of this district. The district had a population of 825,454 (2001 census). It is part of Ambala division. Kurukshetra district comprises two sub-division: Thanesar and Pehowa. Thanesar sub-division comprises two tehsils, Thanesar and Shahabad and two sub-tehsils, Ladwa and Babain. Pehowa sub-division consists of Pehowa tehsil and

Ismailabad sub-tehsil. The significant towns in this district are Kurukushetra, Thanesar and Pehowa.



<b>Population of the District</b>	- 964231 as per Census 2011
<b>Males</b>	- 510,370
<b>Females</b>	- 453,861
<b>Average Literacy Rate</b>	- 76.70%
<b>Sex Ratio</b>	- 889 females to 1000 males
<b>Density/km2</b>	- 630

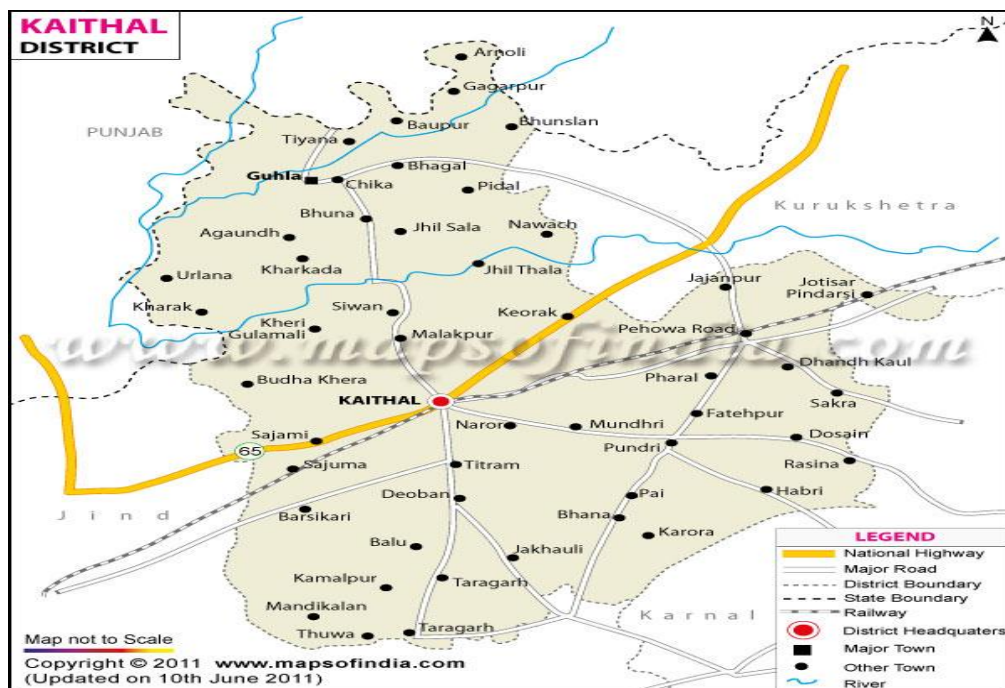
Summary of the status report on MDMs'2012-13 has been given below

**No. of Institutions covered as on 31st Dec' 12**

Sl/No.	Stage	Institution		Children	
		Approved	Covered	PAB Approval	Average no of children availed MDM
1	Primary	522	519	47065	40787
2	Upper Primary	311	310	29820	26139
Total		833	829	77425	66926

## V. District Profile of Kaithal

Historically, it was known as Kapisthal, meaning "Abode of Kapi" shares common boundary with Patiala (Punjab), Kurukshetra, Jind and Karnal. It is located at 29.8°N 76.38°E.[2] It has an average elevation of 220 metres. (721 feet).



Population of the	-	9,46,131 (as per Census, 2011)
Males	-	5,10,513
Females	-	4,35,618
Literacy Rate	-	70.6%.
Sex Ratio	-	853
Density	-	408 Person per sq km

Summary of the status report on MDMS 2012-13 has been given below

**1. No. of Institutions covered as on 31st Dec' 12**

Sl/No.	Stage	Institution		Children	
		Approved	Covered	Enrolment	Average no of children availed MDM
1	Primary	396	396	60792	<b>60792</b>
2	Upper Primary	221	221	34330	<b>34330</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>617</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>95122</b>	<b>95122</b>

**Enrolment & No. of Beneficiaries under MDM Scheme in PS and UPS during 2009-10,2010-11 & 2011-12 of Kaithal & Kurukshetra District**

Year	District/Region	No. of Children Enrolled			No. of children opted for MDM (No. of Beneficiaries)		
		PS	UPS	Total	PS	UPS	Total
2009-10	Kurukshetra	45363	29086	<b>74449</b>	44265	28954	<b>73219</b>
	Kaithal	70850	37648	<b>108498</b>	70850	37648	<b>108498</b>
2010-11	Kurukshetra	58361	33697	<b>92058</b>	50504	30545	<b>81049</b>
	Kaithal	66167	37387	<b>103554</b>	66167	37387	<b>103554</b>
2011-12	Kurukshetra	57378	31589	<b>88967</b>	54988	28764	<b>83752</b>
	Kaithal	60792	34330	<b>95122</b>	60792	34330	<b>95122</b>

**VI. Methodology**

The Mission comprising of the above mentioned members visited 02 districts namely Kurukshetra and Kaithal. District Kaithal was selected by the Central Government based on mismatch between Cooking cost, allocation and utilization. State Government suggested selection of Kurukshetra District based on accessibility. The Team also visited District Panipat to inspect NCLP schools. The team also met various stake holders at school like students, teachers, parents and members of School Management Committee (SMC) and cook cum helpers for drawing conclusions.

## **VII. IMPLEMENTATION OF MDM IN THE STATE**

### **VII. (i) Implementing agencies in the State**

**Education Department is the implementing agencies in the State.**

#### **Management Structure**

Principal Secretary School Education Department



Directorate Elementary Education



District Elementary Education Officer



Block Education Officer



School

## **FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE TEAM**

The Review Mission has appreciated some of the good practices followed by the state government in the implementation of the scheme like regularity in serving good quality of meals, maintenance of buffer stock of food grains, proper maintenance of records in most of the schools barring a few, timely payment of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers, availability of storage bins for storing food grains, involvement of weaker sections in cooking mid day meal.

### **VIII. MAJOR ISSUES OF CONCERN:**

(i) **No clarity about heads of funds**

The functionaries at schools are not clear about funds received under various heads. For example, the schools had no clue about Rs. 6000/- received by them in February, 2013 until a telephonic confirmation was obtained by a team member from the state government that the same was meant for replacement of kitchen devices.

(ii) **Irregularity in supply of food grains by HAFED**

In several of the visited schools in Kaithal due to non-supply of foodgrains, there was disruption in MDM between 15- 30 days. One of the reasons was lack of communication among District, Block and the School authorities.

(iii) **No mechanism for information on Utilisation of funds and foodgrains**

The mission observed that at present there is no mechanism for getting information on the utilisation of vital components like food grains and cooking cost. This is resulting in piling of funds and foodgrains in some schools and on the other hand MDM could not be served in some schools due to shortage of funds and food grains.



(iv) **Less quantity of meal provided by Centralized kitchen**

Cooking agencies like IISCON who are running a centralized kitchen in District Kurukshetra are not providing meal as per actual number of children are supplying less quantity of meal.

v) **Lack of communication between various levels**

DEEO,BEO and school H.Ms especially in Kaithal do not exchange any communication leading to half hearted haphazard implementation.

(vi) **Faulty design of Kitchen cum stores in SSA schools**

In district Kaithal, SSA has recently constructed kitchen cum stores with provision for smokeless chulhas but in that place patila with stove cannot be placed. As a result cooking is done outside the kitchen. In district Kurukshetra, where kitchens are there food is being supplied by IISCON, as a result there is no utility for kitchens.

(vii) **Menu:**

The Mission members were of the view that in the menu circulated by the State Government containing vegetables and pulses are not provided on a daily basis as per food norms of the scheme especially on the days when rice and dal, karhi rice, atta halwa, chana halwa and meetha dalia, sweet sevian etc. The recipes are being provided by the ISKON does not have vegetables at all.

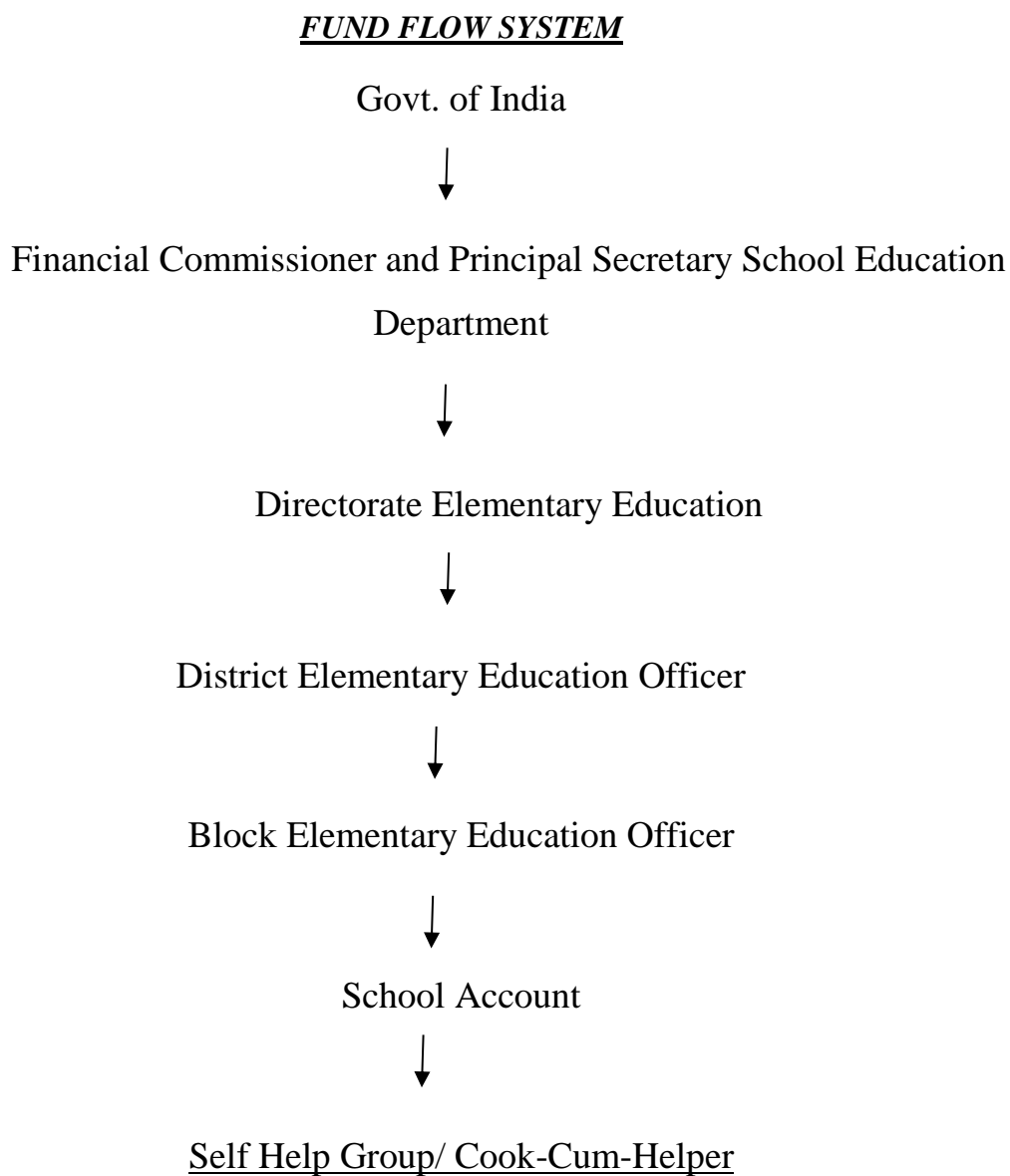
## **CHAPTER – II**

### **MAJOR FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS (AS PER TOR)**

#### **II (i) Fund Flow Mechanism**

The Govt of India releases funds in three instalments to the states/ UTs. The first is Ad hoc instalment (25%) which is issued without taking into consideration unspent balance of the previous year. The first instalment of 35% is released after obtaining the unutilized balance from the States and UTs. The 2nd instalment of 40% is released after taking into consideration the expenditure position of first two instalments. The State Government after seeking credit confirmation from State Finance Department releases funds to Department of Elementary Education Haryana. The Department of Elementary Education after getting the approval of Finance Department deposits the money in the account at Headquarter level and at the same time transferred the funds to the accounts of District Elementary Education officer at district level. A separate account for Mid-Day-Meal has been opened at school level also. The District Elementary Education officer transferred the funds to Block Elementary Education Officer who in turn releases the funds to school and the amount is withdrawn under the joint signature of Chairman of Self Help Group and Head of the School for the purchase of cooking ingredients. In case of Functioning of centralised kitchen the funds are reimbursed to the NGO by the District Elementary Education Officer.

The following flow chart indicates movement of funds from Central Govt. to the implementing agencies:



The details of the funds (Centre's Share) available with the state and releases to districts during 2012-13 is tabulated below:

<b>Category (in Lakh)</b>	<b>Date of Funds received by the State from the GOI</b>	<b>Date of the funds received by the State</b>	<b>Date of Funds released by State to Commission rate</b>	<b>Gap (No of days) between funds receiving and releasing</b>	<b>Reason for Delay if any</b>
<b>Adhoc Central Assistance</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2012.	18 <sup>th</sup> July, 2012	14 <sup>th</sup> August, 2012	71 days	Due to administrative procedure
<b>Balance of Ist installment</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2012	21 <sup>st</sup> November, 2012	30 <sup>th</sup> November, 2012	110 days	Due to administrative procedure
<b>IInd installment</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> January, 2013	28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2013	Not received yet		

**Details of fund flow and expenditure up to Dec. 2012 of Kaithal**

**Fund flow**

<b>Components</b>	<b>Dat of fund received by the district from state</b>	<b>Date of fund release by District to block</b>	<b>Gap (No, of days ) between funds receiving and releasing</b>	<b>Reason for delay if any</b>
Cooking cost	16-08-2012 & 03-12-2012	17-08-2012, 29-9-2012 & 08-01-2013	No gap	
Cooking cost	16-08-2012 & 03-12-2012	17-08-2012, 29-9-2012 & 08-01-2013	No gap	
Honorarium to CCH	16-08-2012 & 03-12-2012	17-08-2012, 29-9-2012 & 08-01-2013	No gap	
MME	Not received			
Transportation Assistance	16-08-2012 & 03-12-2012	17-08-2012, 29-9-2012 & 08-01-2013	No gap	

**Outlay and expenditure Date 1 Apr 2012 to 31 Dec 2012**

**(Rs. In Lakh)**

Components	Fund allocation	Fund received by the district	Expenditure as on December 2012 against fund received	% Expenditure
Cost of food grains	161.99	75.4	104.62	65%
Cooking cost	885.66	406.8	659.14	74%
Honorarium to CCH	140.3	93.6	99.53	71%
MME	0	0	0	
Transportation	22.51	6.9	5.54	25%

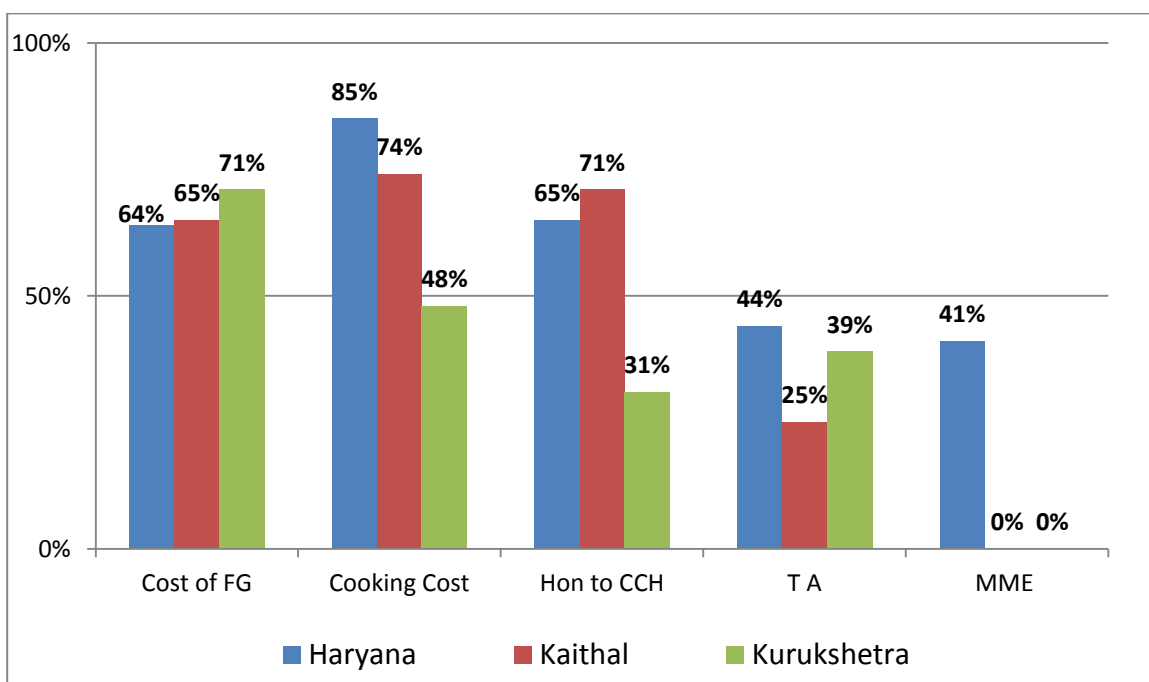
**Details of fund flow and expenditure up to Dec. 2012 of Kurukshetra**

**Fund flow**

Components	Date of fund received by the district from state	Date of fund release by District to block	Gap (No, of days ) between funds receiving and releasing	Reason for delay if any
Cooking cost	16-8-2012 & 3-12-2012	21-08-2012, 29-9-2012 & 18-01-2013	No gap	
Cooking cost	16-08-2012 & 03-12-2012	21-08-2012, 29-9-2012 & 18-01-2013	No gap	
Honorarium to CCH	16-08-2012 & 03-12-2012	21-08-2012, 29-9-2012 & 18-01-2013	No gap	
MME	Not received			
Transportation Assistance	16-08-2012 & 03-12-2012	21-08-2012, 29-9-2012 & 18-01-2013	No gap	

Components	Fund allocation	Fund received by the district	Expenditure as on December 2012 against fund received	% Expenditure
Cost of food grains	146.87	53.39	104.62	71%
Cooking cost	1061.37	311.99	509.26	48%
Honorarium to CCH	169.71	33.94	53.24	31%
MME	0	0	0	
Tarnsportastion	21.52	9.86	8.36	39%

**Graph: % utilisation of funds vis-à-vis allocation**



The figures and dates in the above table clearly reveal that there is a significant delay in releasing of funds from the State finance to the Education department. Thus it is seen from the above table that Govt. of India released an Ad hoc recurring assistance on 10.05.2012. It finally reached the Districts on 16.08.12 after a delay of more than 3 months. Similarly the Government of India released the 1<sup>st</sup> installment on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2012 which finally reached the Districts on

3.12.12. Hence there was again a delay of about 4 months. The MHRD provides funds in advance to States/UTs. The considerable delay in release of funds affects the quality of meals as the teachers or self help groups have to manage it from their own resources or on credit basis.

While releasing the second installment to the State Government, Finance wing of MHRD, GOI made adverse remarks on the functioning of Finance Department of State Govt. for not releasing the State share in time. A letter was written to Finance Secretary of the Govt. of Haryana, seeking clarification for the delay. Only after obtaining the necessary clarification from the finance department of the State Govt. funds for second installment were released to State Govt. on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2013. However, the same funds could not be released to the nodal department till date by State Finance department.

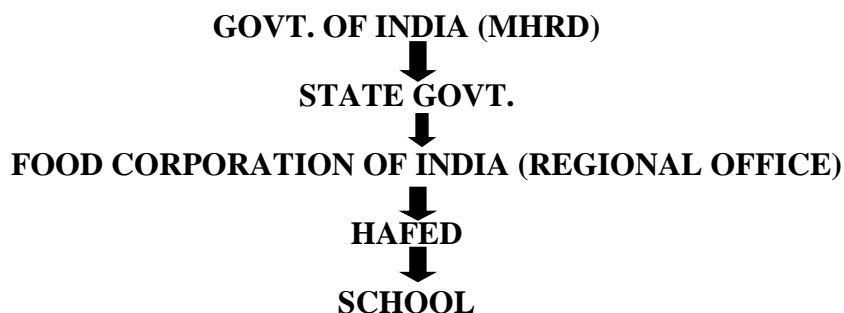
The mission also observed differences in actual and expected utilization of cooking cost vis-à-vis number of meals served in two schools in district Kaithal.

## **II (ii) FOOD GRAINS MANAGEMENT**

Immediately after receiving the allocation from Government of India , districts are informed about their entitlement of food grains. Earlier allocation of foodgrains to schools were allocated by district level authorities. But since August 2011 school wise allocation of Foodgrains is being done at the State level. In some schools Foodgrains are stored in the containers provided by the state Govt. In schools where containers are not available school manage on their own to store their foodgrains in the healthy manner. HAFED, has been designated as the nodal agency for lifting of food grains since 1st April, 2012. It lifts the food grains from FCI godowns and supply to the schools on quarterly basis. Food grains are lifted on quarterly basis by the HAFED from FCI depots according to the requirement communicated by the District.



### **Food grain flow chart**



#### **Food Grain Flow at State Level**

Components	Date of Allocation released by the Centre to the State	Date of food grains released by the state to District	Gap(No of days) between food grains receiving and releasing	Reason for delay if any
Food grains	16.02.2012 29.08.2012	13.03.2012 05.09.2012	27 days	Foodgrains were already available.

#### **Food Grain Flow at District Level (Kaithal District)**

Components	Date of Allocation released by the State to the District	Date of food grains released by the District to blocks	Gap(No of days) between food grains receiving and releasing	Reason for delay if any
Food grains	13.03.2012	10.04.2012	27 days	Food grains were already
	05.09.2012	10.10.2012	35 days	Food grains were already

#### **Food Grain Flow at District Level (Kurukshetra District)**

Components	Date of Allocation released by the State to the District	Date of food grains released by the District to blocks	Gap(No of days) between food grains receiving and releasing	Reason for delay if any
Food grains	13.03.2012	12.04.2012	30 days	Food grains were already
	05.09.2012	03.10.2012	28 days	Food grains were already

### **Food grains utilization**

Components	Allocation from GOI	Food grains lifted till Dec. 2012	Food grains Utilized till Dec. 2012	(Qty in MTs)	
				Percentage Utilization against lifting	Reasons for low utilization if any
Haryana	59664.96	33559.89	32445.42	96%	
Kaithal	3000.75	1346.85	1346.54	100%	
Kurukshetra	3220.96	1815.68	1602.37	88%	

The Team observed that sufficient buffer stock of food grains was available in all the visited schools except in two schools namely GSSS Pabnaba, Pundri block of Kaithal and at GGSSS Jakholi of Rajaund Block of Kaithal where there was no stock of rice for 1 month in 2012-2013. As a result, there was disruption of mid day meal for one month.

It was also brought to the notice of the team that food grains are not supplied regularly by the transporters to the schools as per their requirement. As a result the schools have to borrow food grains from the nearby schools.

### **II (iii) Management of Programme at School Level**

For proper monitoring and overseeing implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme the following Committees are also constituted and monitoring needs to be emphasized:

- i. At State level the Steering cum Monitoring Committees headed by Chief Secretary.
- ii. At District level the Steering cum Monitoring Committees headed by DC concerned.
- iii. At Block level Steering Committee headed by SDM
- iv. School Management Committee at School level.

## **C: Cooking agencies:**

Three systems are in operation: School Management Committee, Self Help Groups and Centralized Kitchen.

**i Centralized Kitchen-** Centralized kitchen in Kurukshetra is operated by ISCKON covering Thanesar, Pehowa and Ladwa blocks. Total number of beneficiaries are 55,000 children. They are supplying as per their own menu from Monday to Saturday to the schools. The menu selected by ISCKON does not confirm to the food norms laid down in MDM guidelines. The day of visit was Monday and according to their menu “Kheer” was prepared. During the visit, the place of cooking, equipment’s, storage of grains, chopping of vegetables, quantity measurement for daily use and waste disposal was reviewed. Following are the highlights of review and observation.

- As cooking begins very early in the morning - 4am as told to the Team by ISCKON - food tends to go bad by the time children eat it, especially in the summer. Food arrives at around 9 am when the children are often not hungry as they eat breakfast before coming to school. The school therefore serves the meal at around 11:30 am, by which time it is no longer a hot meal. The Team felt that the food was being supplied in accordance with ISCKON convenience, rather than the convenience of the children and the prescriptions of the scheme and SC orders.
- The Team also found that the food, while well-cooked, was not meeting the nutritional requirements prescribed by the SC. Vegetables did not form a part of the food served on any day. Only, tomatoes and onions were being used in lieu of vegetables in kitchdi.
- The calculation of daily food was based on the demand collection from each school. .

- The calculation of food grain for cooking was not based on the standardised food allocation for each child. The rough calculation is being made by the Manager in the unit which was unrealistic and look to be unbelievable.
- The Team went to 02 schools namely Arya Sr. Secondary School (Govt Aided) and GPS No.1 in Thanesar block . It was observed that the food supplied was not fulfilling the quantity and requirement for 123 and 227 children respectively. Kitchdi was served in both the schools was much less than 100 and 150 gm of rice respectively. However, one thing is worth mentioning, that the quality of food supplied by ISCKON was relished by the children. Food was also tasted by the team for its quality and found to be very good.
- As per the MDM guidelines, Centralised kitchens can be set up for supplying MDM only to those urban school where there is no place for construction of Kitchen cum Store. During the visit, the team found that ISCKON is supplying MDM also to the schools in rural areas in the three above mentioned blocks of Kururkshetra district. Team also found that the Kitchen cum stores in all the visited school in above three blocks which were lying unused.
- On 26th September, 2011 an incident of lizard having been found in the cooked food in one school of Pehowa block was reported. A report was sent to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education on the incident . After examining the matter, the Ministry observed that there has been violation of MDM guidelines by allowing Centralised Kitchen to cook and supply MDM to the schools in the rural areas. The Ministry categorically directed the state government to entrust the cooking of MDM to the respective schools. The above directions of Ministry are being not followed.

### (i) School based kitchens:

In rest of the schools in Kurukshetra and Kaithal, the mid-day meal is cooked in the schools on the basis of the government norms for primary and upper primary schools with the support of cook-cum-helper and under the overall leadership of School Management Committee and Head Masters.

For each school, Cook cum helpers has been engaged at an Honorarium of Rs. 1150/- per month for cooking and serving Mid-Day Meal to the students. Recently Haryana Government is contributing Rs. 400 from state share for the Honorarium which is more than 25%.

### II (iv) Infrastructural Facilities

#### **Construction of Kitchen Sheds and Mode of cooking:**

From the year 2006 funds were released for the construction of kitchen sheds for cooking MDM at a unit cost of Rs. 60000/-, later on from the year 2009-2010 the guidelines on construction of kitchen shed was revised by Government of India and it was made on the basis of plinth area norm and State schedule of rates. The table given below indicates the progress of construction of kitchen sheds in the state as well as in the two districts which the Review Mission visited.

	<b>Non-Recurring Assistance- Kitchen shed</b>					
	No. of units sanctioned and funds released during 2006-07 to 2012-13					
	Physical progress				Financial Progress (in lakh)	
	No. of units sanctioned	Constructed	In Progress	Yet to start	Amount received	Expenditure
Haryana	11483	5656	1198	4678	13225.36	8021.07
Kurukshetra	436	381	26	26		
Kaithal	538	262	52	224		

Separate kitchen or kitchen sheds were found in most of the schools visited. As may be seen from above out of 11483 units of kitchen sheds allocated 5656 have been constructed. In Kurukshetra out of 436 units allocated, 381 have been constructed and in Kaithal, out of 538, 262 have been constructed. In Kurukshetra, IISCON supplies mid day meal to schools in 3 out of 5 Blocks. As such kitchen sheds constructed in these 3 Blocks are lying unused. In Kaithal school based cooking is done. Whenever cooking is done on gas it is done inside kitchen sheds. However, when gas is not being purchased as it too expensive, cooking is done on temporary chulhas with firewood outside kitchen shed. As a result, dogs and monkeys were trying to prowl upon meal. In some newly constructed kitchen sheds reportedly prepared out of SSA funds provision for smokeless chulhas has been made but due to faulty design big cooking vessels cannot be kept under chulhas. Cooking is done outside kitchen. The problem was discussed with District Collector, Kaithal. He assured to look into the above problems.



Incomplete kitchen cum store at Primary school Teek at Kaithal

The State Government should carry out an exercise about functionality of constructed kitchen sheds and take appropriate steps to make kitchen sheds functional.

### **Use of LPG for cooking:**

The State has done very well on using of LPG based cooking under MDMS. As per the State data LPG is used for cooking in 15305 schools. The Mission also observed usage of LPG in most of the schools visited. The teachers expressed about the problem with using of LPG based cooking due to withdrawl of subsidy on LPG cylinders. They were informed that the matter has been taken care of and the additional funds consumed due to withdrawl of subsidy will be reimbursed by GOI after receiving the proposal from the State.

### **II (v) Procurement of Kitchen Devices:**

In the year 2006-07 the concept of kitchen devices was introduced under the scheme for serving hot cooked Mid Day Meal. An amount of Rs. 5,000 is being provided to each school for purchase of kitchen devices which primarily include cooking devices, containers & gas conection. An amount of Rs. 765.25 lakhs have been released by Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India for procurement of Kitchen devices in 15305 schools from 2006-07 to 2012-13 which includes the figures of two districts visited by the team as per following details:-

	Non-Recurring Assistance- Kitchen Devices					
	No. of units sanctioned and funds released during 2006-07 to 2012-13					
	Physical progress				Financial Progress	
	No. of units sanctioned	Procured	In Progress	Yet to start 2012-13	Amount received	Expenditure
Haryana	15305	15305			76525000	76525000
Kurukshetra	820	820			4100000	4100000
Kaithal	618	618			3090000	3090000



Plates and spoons have been made available in all schools. However the Team was surprised to find in some schools of Kaithal that the plates were lying locked up in the store and children were eating out of small boxes or other devices procured from their homes. The explanation provided by the teachers/ head teachers was not satisfactory. In fact it revealed that supervision of the MDM is very poor, as it was claimed that children took the plates home and did not bring them back! It is clear that if the supervision was being done effectively the plates, after each meal, would be collected, cleaned and stored away for use the next day without this problem occurring.



#### Kitchen devices at school in Kaithal

The problem of un-used plates was found in several schools. They were pulled out for use for the first time on the day of the Team's visit.

Cooking utensils, stoves and storage facilities seemed in adequate supply. In some schools the Team was happy to notice clean, well-maintained store room and supplies.

The State has already provided the funds of Rs.511.20 Lac for the procurement of 8520 cooking utensils during 2011-12 from State funds. State has also provided the funds Rs.107.50Lac for the purchase of Thalies and Spoons from State funds.

## Details of Infrastructure facilities:

The details of the availability of infrastructure facilities like cooking gas, toilet facilities, drinking water and fire extinguisher in the visited schools is shown in the following table:-

### School wise availability of infrastructure

District	Block	Name of the School	Kitchen-cum-store	Kitchen Devices	Drinking Water	Toilet	Fire Extinguisher	Fuel
Kurukshetra	Shahabad	GPS Ratangarh	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Wood
		GUPS Ratangarh	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Wood
	Pehowa	GPS Sandhoula	No	Y	Y	Y	N	Centralised Kitchen
		GPS Chunia Farm	No	Y	Y	Y	N	Centralised Kitchen
		GPS BhourSainyda	No	Y	Y	Y	N	Centralised Kitchen
		Govt. Sec. School BhourSainyda	No	Y	Y	Y	N	Centralised Kitchen
	Thanesar	GPS Thanesar no.1	No	Y	Y	Y	Y	Centralised Kitchen
		Arya Sr. Secondary School, Thanesar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Centralised Kitchen
		GPS, Mirzapur	No	Y	Y	Y	Y	Centralised Kitchen
		GPS, Bohli	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Centralized Kitchen
	Babain	GSS, Kasithal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	LPG/Firewood
	Babain	GPS Sunarian	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	LPG/Firewood
Kaithal	Pundri	Govt Primary School Solumajra	No	Y	Y	Y	Y	Wood
		GovtSr Secondary	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Wood

District	Block	Name of the School	Kitchen-cum-store	Kitchen Devices	Drinking Water	Toilet	Fire Extinguisher	Fuel
		School Pabnava						
		GovtSr Secondary Girl School Pabnava	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	LPG/Fire Wood
		GGHS, Bhana	No	Y	Y	Y	Y	Wood
		GPS, Bhana	No	Y	Y	Y	N	LPG/Firewood
	Kaithal	GovtSr Secondary, Teek	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	LPG/Firewood
		GPS Teek	No	Y	Y	Y	N	LPG/Firewood
		Govt Sr. Secondary Gyong	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	LPG/Firewood
	Gulha	Govt Sr. SecondarBhagal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	LPG/ Firewood
	Gulha	GPS Khavaudi	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	LPG/Firewood
	Rajond	GSS Girl School Jakholi	No	Y	Y	Y	Y	Wood

## **II (vi) Menu and Quality of Meals**

### **1. Lack of Public Displays**

No display of menus or entitlements were to be found anywhere. Not only is this a requirement under the MDM Scheme, it is a legal requirement under Section 4 [suo-moto disclosure] of the RTI Act. The display must be done in a prominent place where parents, children and community members can easily see it. It must include not just the weekly menus but also the nutritional norms that the MDM is meant to meet. This is not just for information, but also for improving the knowledge and understanding of nutrition for the children and their parents as well.

In Haryana, the members of the Review Mission found that school children are provided hot cooked mid-day meal regularly. A total number of 16 Meals

are being served to the students. 8 Meals are rice based i.e. Pulav with vegetables, Paushtik Khichri, Rice with Dal, Rice with Karhi, Rice with Rajma & Aaloo, Rice with Kala Chana & Aaloo, Kheer, Rice with Chana & Aaloo and 8 wheat based i.e. Roti with Seasonal Vegetables, Halwa and Black Chana, Roti with Dal, Aaloo Prantha, Meetha Daliya, Atta Savain, Roti with Aaloo Matar, Bharva Prantha with Seasonal Vegetables.

The Review Mission members found that the State Government has issued a GO that out of these 16 recipes one has to be selected. However the food norm as per MDM Guidelines envisages that the per day per child meal should contain:-

- a) 450 calories and 12 grams of protein which is derived from 100 gms of food grains (rice/wheat), 20 gms of pulses, 50 gms of vegetables and 5 gms of oil for children studying in Primary classes and
- b) 700 calories and 20 grams of protein, which is derived from 150 gms of food grains (rice/wheat), 30 gms of pulses, 75 gms of vegetables and 7.5 gms of oil in Upper Primary classes

### **ISSUE:-**

1. The Mission members were of the view that in the menu circulated by the State Government vegetables and pulses are not provided on a **Daily Basis** especially on the days when karhi rice and halwa, chana halwa and meetha dalia and kheer are served.
2. It was found that the recipes are being provided by the ISKCON does not have vegetables at all.
3. The pulses are good source of Protein and if the schools have selected meetha dalia and sevian, the pulse protein is missing. There is no variation found in the menu provided by the ISKON. Dalia is being provided alternatively as reported by the children and teachers.
4. It was also felt by the Team that schools should be given the flexibility of devising their own menus as long as they are within the prescribed norms. A knowledge and some understanding of the norms must be provided and then schools can be given the freedom to choose menus that are not just suitable to the palate, but also reflect the produce of the area. Seasonal

vegetables, combination of vegetables and pulses or grains can be options the school could have. Communities could also play a role in providing local recipes.

5. The state Government needs to review the menu so as the children should receive the prescribed nutritive value through the meal and that is only possible when the meal contains the ingredients in prescribed quantities.
6. Care has to be taken that quality of the food is not compromised. Parent groups, PRIs may be involved. Regular monitoring has to be done, the samples may be sent to accredited laboratories for analysis. Appropriate measures should be taken in case of violation of norms.
7. Local nutritious foods should be incorporated in the menu with emphasis on green vegetables. This can help establish good food habits as children are more likely to eat or try new foods amongst peers than at home. There should be variety in the menu, and should be made appealing to the children.

## **II (vii) Engagement of cooks:**

The MDM guidelines were revised in 2009 by which a new element of fixed honorarium of Rs. 1000/- was introduced for each cook cum and helper. Norm for engagement of cooks have also been prescribed. For 1 to 25 children one cook will be employed, for 26 to 100 children second cook is to be employed. For every addition of 100 children an additional cook is to be employed.

The Mission observed that regular payment of honorarium is being made by the district authorities barring in a few schools like Govt. Senior Secondary school Teek, ok Kaithal block of Kaithal district where teachers have paid the honorarium from their own pocket due to non release of funds in this head.

The honorarium of the CCH now increased to Rs 1150/- are being transferred directly into accounts only some areas. For instance in Kurukshetra accounts have been opened for the CCH but not in Kaithal. Since delays have been experienced, it is suggested that bank accounts be opened elsewhere as well and salaries transferred directly.

The issue of low honorarium for CCH was raised everywhere. In particular the issue of washing plates was brought up as an extra job they were unwilling to do,

given their low honorarium. As a result children have to wash their eating plates, leading to delays in the time spent on the MDM.

### **Status of engagement of Cook cum Helpers**

Cook cum helper	<i>No. of cook cum helpers sanctioned by GOI</i>	<i>No. of cooks engaged by the state/District.</i>
Haryana	37708	30366
Kurukshetra	1697	686
Kaithal	1403	1580

### **Status of payment of honorarium to Cook-cum-helpers**

State level		payment of honorarium ( up to December 2012)		
	Numbers	Central share	State Share	Total
Primary	30366	566.46	188.82	755.28
Upper Primary		1018.01	339.34	1357.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>30366</b>	<b>1584.47</b>	<b>528.16</b>	<b>2112.63</b>

Among the visited schools 26 cook cum helpers belonged to SC category, 12 in OBC Category and 08 in others. This shows that the majority of cook cum helpers belong to deprived sections of the society and there is no feeling of caste discrimination in the minds of the parents of the children who belongs to upper castes.

### **Hygiene**

This appears to be a weak aspect in the functioning of the scheme. The Team did not find hand-washing a regular part of the MDM process. Only on being prompted did teachers ask the children to wash their hands. Some even said that only those whose hands were dirty were asked to wash them. Instructions need to

be given that all children must as a matter of habit wash their hands before eating the meal.

## **II (viii) Role of Teachers**

Since the appointment of CCH the role of teachers in organizing MDM has gone down considerably. However, the Team found that at random one of the teachers is made “in-charge” of the MDM. This implies that he/she maintains the various registers pertaining to the MDM. However, she is inadequately prepared for the task. In all cases we found that records were badly maintained, especially the cashbooks. On probing it appears that a major reason for this is that the teachers are not trained to maintain these records. BEO are also unable to provide support and guidance in this matter. They have little or no knowledge of accounting. As a result the cash books show arbitrary recording systems. The Team strongly recommends training of persons who are required to maintain accounts, in the absence of a trained accountant. This will go a long way in reducing the stress of the teachers who are struggling to maintain accounts as well as make it transparent and easier to monitor.

It was also noted that separate from the maintenance of records all teachers need to play a more proactive role in terms of supervising the meals. Ensuring that children come in line, wash their hands, are seated on the mats, served adequately, wash up and return to class must be the responsibility of teachers. A roster can be set up for the teachers to take charge of the whole process on each day. At present, such a system was not seen in most places.

While this was not strictly a part of the TORs of the Team, conversations with the management and teachers of the one aided school revealed that the government is being budgeted Rs 1, 28,000 per month as teachers salaries in aid to the school. This is for 4 of the 6 teachers in the primary section and amounts to roughly Rs 30, 000 per month. However, the actual amount being paid to the teachers is only Rs 4000/-. This huge discrepancy bears further enquiry.

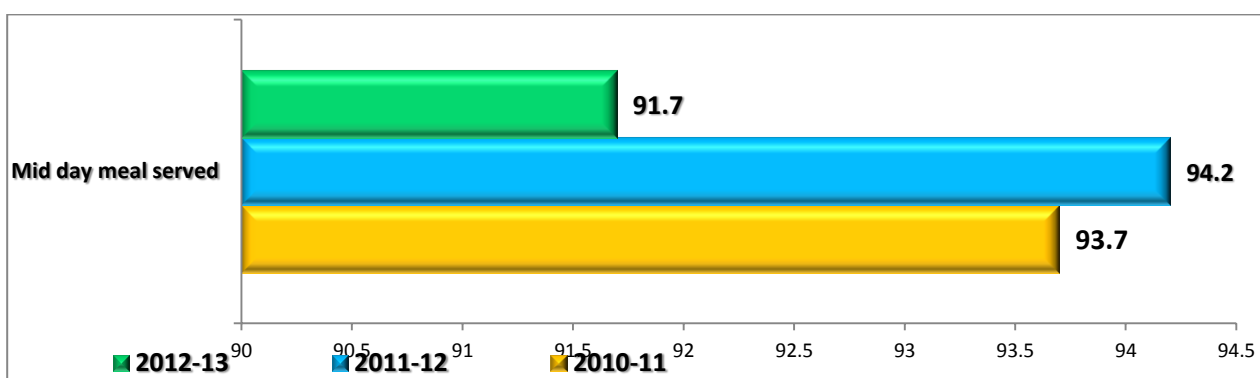


## II (ix) School Health programme:

The success of the mid-day meal programme revolves around the manner in which it is implemented at the school. Safety and hygiene standards must be set and practiced with rigour. Processes should also be set in place to ensure vibrant community involvement so that the mid- day meal programme becomes a peoples' programme, which addresses classroom hunger and also contributes to the overall improvement in teaching learning transaction.

As per ASER three consecutive Year data 93.4% 94.2% and 91.7% in 2010-11,2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively.

ASER : Mid day Meal served on the day of Visit



There is also evidence to suggest that apart from enhancing school Attendance and child nutrition, mid- day meals have an important social value and foster equality. As children learn to sit together and share a common meal, one can expect some erosion of caste prejudices and class inequality. Moreover, cultural traditions and social structures often mean that girls are much more affected by hunger than boys.

The level of Any Anemia is on a higher side as can be seen in the below mentioned table:

State	Severe Anemia	Any Anaemia	Underweight	Wasted	Stunted
Haryana	4.3	72.3	42	17	26

Source NFHS-2005-06 (Children of 0-59 months of age)

District level situation of Anemia in the visited districts are also on a higher side:

District	Severe Anemia Children	Severe Anemia among Adolescent Girls
Kaithal	5.2	36.9
Kurukshetra	1.7	44.3

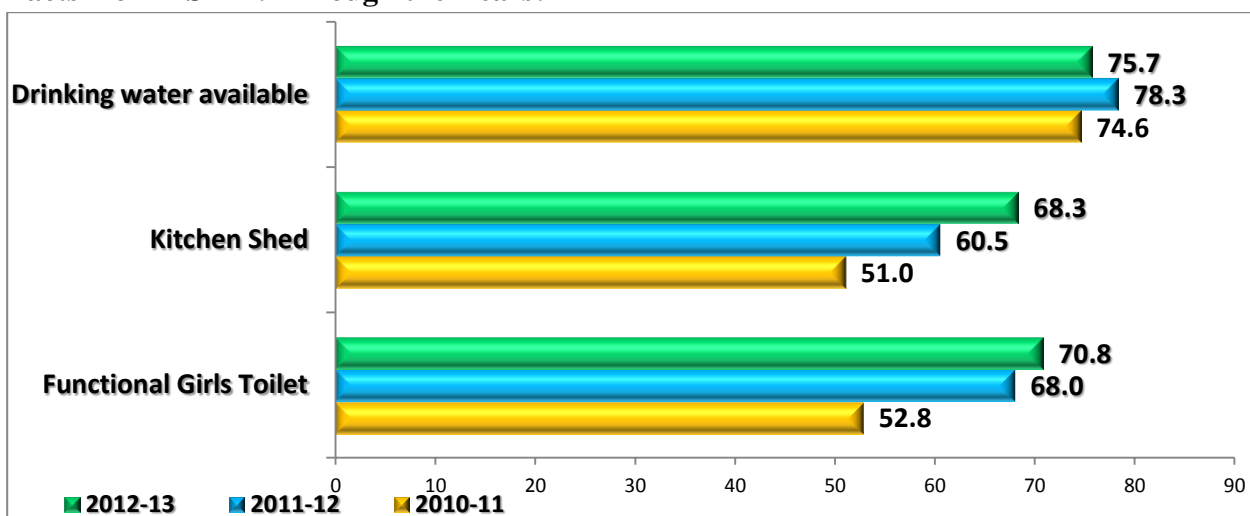
It responds to an increased need, it increases the efficacy of other investments in child development. Continuing good health at school age is essential if children are to sustain the advantages of a healthy early childhood and take full advantage of what may be their only opportunity for formal learning. School health activities contribute to prevention of health problems, early detection and management of health problems as well as encourage healthy lifestyles and behaviors that ensure future health.

The State has a programme named Indira Bal Swasthya yojna, Health cards were found available under school health program in most of the visited schools.

In Kurukshetra District 82176 children were tested for Hb, 325 children were detected with severe anemia, 22146 children detected with moderate anemia and 51821 children detected with mild anemia 6089 cases of dental cases detected.

Review mission members observed that the Health card are there in the school however the entries made in the cards were haphazardly made and there is a need to train the person who is in-charge at school level for making the entries.

### Facts from ASER : Through the Years:



District	Block	Name of the School	Health checkup carried (Yes/No)	Health register maintained (Yes/No)
Kurukshetra	Shahabad	GPS Ratangarh	Y	Y
		GUPS Ratangarh	Y	Y
	Pehowa	GPS Sandhoula	Y	Y
		GPS Chunia Farm	Y	Y
		GPS BhourSainyda	Y	Y
		Govt. Sec. School BhourSainyda	Y	Y
	Thanesar	GPS Thanesar no.1	Y	Y
		Arya Sr. Secondary School, Thanesar	N	N
		GPS, Mirzapur	Y	Y
		GPS, Bohli	Y	Y
	Babain	GSS, Kasithal	Y	Y
	Babain	GPS Sunarian	Y	Y

District	Block	Name of the School	Health checkup carried (Yes/No)	Health register maintained (Yes/No)
Kaithal	Pundri	Govt Primary School Solumajra	Y	Y
		GovtSr Secondary School Pabnava		
		GovtSr Secondary Girl School Pabnava	Y	Y
		GGHS, Bhana	Y	Y
		GPS, Bhana	Y	Y
	Kaithal	GovtSr Secondary, Teek	Y	Y
		GPS Teek	Y	Y
		Govt Sr. Secondary Gyong	Y	Y
	Gulha	Govt Sr. SecondarBhagal	Y	Y
	Gulha	GPS Khavaudi	Y	Y
	Rajond	GSS Girl School Jakholi	Y	Y

## II (x) Monitoring and Inspection Mechanism:

Perhaps the most serious lacuna the Team found was in terms of the monitoring structures and systems. In fact it appears that these do not exist at all. Or, if they do they are not in the knowledge of the District, Block or School officials. Different answers were given to the Team at different places. The most common was that random checks are made by BEEO, but their findings were not recorded in school registers. One of the BEEOs however informed us that they were required to make 10 visits in a month to check the MDMs. The inspection reports from these visits were submitted to the DEO's office along with their TA Bills and could be found there. The Team has been

unable to obtain these or verify the veracity of this procedure. On the whole, the Team was not able to get answers to several basic questions on the monitoring mechanism:

1. What are the monitoring structures? Who in the department is supposed to monitor what?
2. What are the Terms of Reference, if any?
3. How frequently is monitoring to be done?
4. Are reports prepared after each visit? What is the format of the reports? Who maintains the reports?
5. Is there a record maintained at the school? Are there Inspection registers?
6. What funds have been allocated for Monitoring?
7. Is there a follow-up procedure after the inspections/monitoring? What is the procedure? Are records of follow-up maintained?
8. What is the accountability structure within the Department?
9. Has the accountability structure been conveyed to all concerned?
10. How are the State, District and Block Monitoring Committees functioning? Are records available for these?

At present, there is total lack of communication between the different levels of administration. This was apparent in 2 schools of Kaithal, where the schools had reported exhaustion of food grains but the same was not supplied by HAFED as Block authorities had not pursued the matter. As a result there was disruption in supply of MDM.

Without putting a proper structure with delineated roles and responsibilities, for monitoring the real implementation of the programmes cannot be assessed. This includes not just the constraints and challenges faced but the best practices as well. A robust monitoring system will highlight the issues of concern to the children but also those of the management. All of these issues must be brought to the notice of the appropriate authority for follow up and action. The best practices can form a template for replication in other areas and the challenges faced can be addressed. In the absence of a system of monitoring the programme will continue to function at in-optimal levels to the detriment of all concerned.

In this regard it must also be pointed out that the School Management Committees have been given an important role in monitoring MDMs. The Team found that this also remains an under-developed area. While SMC

meetings appear to be held the role of the SMC in monitoring is not mentioned anywhere. Even the minutes make no mention of it. Capacity building exercises of SMC must include a module on monitoring so that the members are made aware and trained to monitor the MDMs properly. A record of their findings must be added to the minutes of SMC meetings.

## **II (xii) Grievance Redressal Mechanism**

Government of India issued guidelines in June 2010 for redressing grievances relating to Mid Day Meal scheme. As per these guidelines a call centre can be set-up, a grievance cell can also be set-up.

Closely associated with monitoring is the issue of grievance redress. The Team was informed during the briefing meeting that the State has set up monitoring cells at State, District and Block levels. Complaint number has been assigned and advertised in leading newspapers as well as through the radio. However, the Team did not find any evidence of any of these mechanisms in the field.

In fact in Kaithal the DEO and BEO were not able to provide any answers to critical question related to monitoring and grievance redress.

A well-defined grievance redress mechanism must have a system of registering, investigating and redressing the grievance, within a well-appointed time frame. This requires at the outset a fixing of responsibilities according to the elements in the programme. For instance, who is responsible for supply of food grains; how can a grievance related to delay in supplies be addressed? Where can it be registered? Who will investigate the complaint? How long will it take to be addressed? What is the appeal system? What, if any, penalties can be imposed for gross neglect or violations?

A complaint number does not address most of the issues listed above. How is a complaint registered on the phone? How is a dated receipt given? What is the follow up mechanism to the phone complaint? What is the time frame

within which it is to be redressed? All this information must be made publically available so that the complainants are kept informed about the procedures and the delays that occur. Without these elements a grievance redress system cannot said to be in place.

The Team was not satisfied with the presentation by the State on this matter and more disappointed to find that in the field even the stated systems are not in place. A well-defined system must be put into place so that complaints can be captured and dealt with in time and do not give occasion for sensational disclosures of faults by the media.

## **2 (xiii) Community Participation**

Community participation is a cherished goal of all government programmes, including the MDM. However, in Haryana, the team found that community participation left a lot to be desired. From the field visits the following points emerged regarding the lack of community participation:

- i) There was a perception in some areas that the “community” considered the government school to be a “school for the poor”, and hence a) did not send their children to it and was therefore not involved or b) did not consider it a “community school”.
- ii) The social distance between the school teachers and the parent community was such that they did not reach out to them for support or other participation.
- iii) Only SMC members were considered as being part of the community. Other important elements of the community such as elders, youth, non-parent members who could play a positive role were not being considered for engagement. There appears to be an over obsession with SMCs to the neglect of community participation as a whole.
- iv) School considered the role of “mothers” in place of helpers in the MDM. Since CCH are now appointed, they did not see any “need” for involving mothers any more.
- v) Role of SHGs: is limited to providing CCH. Do not provide a wider link with community.

It is a well-established fact that community support and participation can have a positive impact on the functioning of programmes, especially school-related programmes. Several steps need to be taken for this purpose:

- i) Partnering with the community: True community participation requires an engagement with the community that goes beyond seeing them as “providers” of particular resources when needed or “un-informed outsiders” that have to be accommodated in School Committees. Instead they must be seen as “partners” in the education and care of children.
- ii) Reaching out to key elements within the community: In addition to the parents whose children study in school, other key elements within the larger community must also be encouraged to participate in the school. For instance, retired persons who have time and are keen to play a role in the activities of the school; the elders who have influence over community persons and be constructively engaged in bringing about improvements in practices related to schooling.
- iii) Creative engagement: Innovative thinking about participation of parents especially mothers could go a long way in helping the school. For instance, mothers could be involved in supervising the MDMs. A roster could be prepared for the mothers to come to school and ensure that children wash their hand, are seated in orderly fashion, fed adequately, plates are cleaned and the children return to their classes without too much disruption. This way they would be providing help to the school management as well as monitoring the meal. In addition recipes could be collected for them for variations in the MDMs.
- iv) Dissemination of Information: Another important aspect of community participation is dissemination of information. In the case of MDM, the school is a source of information on nutrition, health and hygiene for the community as a whole. Active participation of the community would ensure that this information spreads throughout the community and establishes a continuum between the school and home for the children. This way practices and learnings would be sustained and carry beyond into the lives of the children even after their schooling years.
- v) Finding local solutions: The community can be a wealthy resource for finding local solutions to problems. These are not always in the form of financial resources but other solutions that may be beyond the awareness or abilities of the school management.

## **II (xiv) NCLP Schools, Panipat**

- (i) At present there are 134 NCLP schools in Haryana where Mid Day Meal served 312 days. Therefore, the team decided to visit Panipat district, which has 62 NCLP schools with a total population of 3100 children enrolled in them. The team visited one of the schools at Kaccha Camp Centre 2, Kaccha Camp



- (ii) At this centre, the children come from families of factory workers and are not themselves child labour. It is not clear why they are enrolled in NCLP schools and not in the regular government school located a short distance away. This fact needs further probing. However, they appear to belong to a relatively lower socio-economic strata and the mid-day meal would be an important part of their nutritional needs.
- (iii) MDMs to NCLP schools appear to be provided by government schools closest to them. Helpers collect the meals from the schools everyday and serve them to the NCLP children. On Saturdays however no MDM is provided to the children as regular schools do not function on Saturdays. This is a violation of the norms. On the day of the visit kitchdi with soya beans was served.
- (iv) Each centre is provided food for a maximum of 50 children. In some centres where the number exceeded 50 the teachers have to apportion less to each child in order to provide some food to all the children. This is also against the norms of the MDM scheme.
- (v) No salaries have been paid to the functionaries of Camp 2 for the last 14 months, as told to the Team by field officer responsible for the NCLP schools.
- (vi) Recommendation for NCLP Schools:
- (vii) The Team was of the opinion that a serious review of NCLP Schools is required jointly by the Labour and Education Department. Since the enactment of the RTE Act, the legal validity of these schools has been in question. All children must study in regular schools that meet the RTE norms. Since the NCLP Schools are not full-fledged school they need to be integrated with regular schools. The staff of the NCLP schools can be utilized to provide “special training” for the older children that come in through the NCLP schools. Not only would this provide the children a better environment for schooling than they are presently getting, their mid day meals needs would also be better served. Further, parents will have an incentive to retain their children in a school that is offering a real possibility of mobility through the system. At present, they are neither here nor there. The premises are woefully inadequate. The staff are undertrained and under-paid. Even their MDMs are not being supplied on all days.

Under the new paradigm of rights based education, this is a serious violation of the rights of these children. The Team strongly recommends a thorough review of all NCLP schools in the State that must include a strategy for how they plan to integrate these children into regular schools at the earliest.

## **II (xv) Capacity building and Training for MDM officials and SMC members.**

The team was not provided with any data regarding capacity building and training for MDM officials/In-charge. However team during the visit to Ladpura block school were informed that some of the teachers and SMC members are trained at the block centres.

The team observed that there is an acute need for training of SMC members and MDM incharge about various requirements and features for smooth and effective implementation of MDMS.

## **II (xvi) MIS SYSTEM**

Ministry of HRD, MDM Division has developed web based monitoring system i.e. Web based MIS in collaboration with NIC and same has been successfully launched in which most of the States/UTs have completed annual data entry for the year 2012-13.

### **(A) Annual Data Entry:**

Haryana has completed entry of annual data for almost all the schools in the district. District wise annual data entry status is given below:

District	Total School	Completed	Pending	% Completed
AMBALA	830	830	0	100%
BHIWANI	1163	1161	2	100%

District	Total School	Completed	Pending	% Completed
FARIDABAD	385	385	0	100%
FATEHABAD	622	622	0	100%
GURGAON	606	606	0	100%
HISAR	908	904	4	100%
JHAJJAR	567	567	0	100%
JIND	783	783	0	100%
KAITHAL	614	614	0	100%
KARNAL	789	789	0	100%
KURUKSHETRA	825	825	0	100%
MAHENDRAGARH	795	795	0	100%
MEWAT	879	879	0	100%
PALWAL	631	631	0	99%
PANCHKULA	433	433	0	100%
PANIPAT	430	429	1	100%
REWARI	699	699	0	100%
ROHTAK	465	465	0	99%
SIRSA	860	860	0	100%
SONIPAT	765	765	0	100%
YAMUNANAGAR	999	998	1	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15048</b>	<b>15040</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>

### (B) Monthly data entry

The figures given in the below table clearly indicates that the State needs to speed up the process of data entry for Monthly information. Even for the month of May the monthly data entry is less than 90%. The progress in this regard is required urgent attention in the districts of Panipat, Jind, Kaithal etc.

**Status of completion of Monthly data entry (as on 22-03-2013)**

<b>District</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>
AMBALA	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	72%
BHIWANI	99%	99%	94%	91%	90%	90%	90%	90%	83%	30%
FARIDABAD	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	4%
FATEHABAD	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	0%
GURGAON	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	18%
HISAR	99%	99%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	69%	59%
JHAJJAR	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	67%
JIND	100%	51%	51%	51%	50%	50%	50%	50%	3%	1%
KAITHAL	100%	68%	67%	67%	67%	67%	66%	66%	31%	27%
KARNAL	100%	84%	83%	83%	83%	83%	82%	82%	81%	24%
KURUKSHETRA	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	98%	98%	97%	90%	84%
MAHENDRAGARH	100%	81%	72%	72%	62%	47%	47%	42%	30%	9%
MEWAT	100%	12%	12%	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%	3%	0%
PALWAL	100%	96%	96%	96%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	20%
PANCHKULA	100%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	95%	39%
PANIPAT	100%	53%	50%	42%	40%	40%	40%	40%	21%	15%
REWARI	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
ROHTAK	98%	97%	90%	90%	85%	82%	78%	76%	73%	61%
SIRSA	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	0%
SONIPAT	100%	99%	98%	90%	89%	89%	89%	89%	79%	53%
YAMUNANAGAR	100%	98%	98%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	91%	90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>38%</b>

## **CHAPTER -III**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

1. When Government of India is paying recurring assistance in three instalments to the State Governments the State Govt. should also pay the cooking cost to the schools and cooks in advance. The teachers should not be expected to pay the conversion cost out of their pocket or any other school grant. The state should develop a mechanism in this regard either by transferring the funds directly from the district to the schools by E-Transfer on a pilot basis or any other reliable method.
2. It is imperative to mention here that prepositioning of resources like Food grains and cooking cost is essential for avoiding any interruption in the serving of MDM. MDM guidelines also envisage the maintenance of buffer stock of food grains and availability of cooking cost in advance at implementing agency level. It is however, observed by the Mission that there is no mechanism in the districts of Kaithal and Kurukshetra for collecting information on utilisation of food grains and cooking cost from schools on monthly basis. Due to this the allocations are made on the basis of number of children only and without taking in to consideration of availability of food grains and cooking cost at the school level.
3. It was also noted that separate from the maintenance of records all teachers need to play a more proactive role in terms of supervising the meals. Ensuring that children come in line, wash their hands, are seated on the mats, served adequately, wash up and return to class must be the responsibility of teachers. A roster can be set up for the teachers to take charge of the whole process on each day. At present, such a system was not seen in most places.
4. The calculation of food grain at Centralized Kitchen at Kurukshetra, should be on the basis of number of children going to eat food next day on the realistic

demand of the schools on daily basis. The helper has to facilitate the food distribution in all the schools where food is distributed. Kitchen gardens or green squares can be introduced using the waste water from kitchen and hand washing of children. This can become innovative and creative school based activity for the participation of children and teachers. The nutrition education then can be one of the major activities for children and use of vegetables in MDM can also be ensured.

5. As a large number of kitchen sheds are utilized the State Government should carry out an exercise about functionality of constructed kitchen sheds and take appropriate steps to make kitchen sheds functional.
6. Hand washing with soap before eating food needs to be further promoted and children should be given soap for the same.
7. Since the state is blessed with bright sunshine for major part of the year, a pilot scheme on installation of solar cookers can be launched in cooperation with Government of India and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and their Autonomous Organization in the State for manufacturing, installing and maintaining solar cookers.
8. It is important that all schools are instructed to display menu and MDM logo outside walls of kitchen premises as well on any other prominent place in school so that general public is aware of the MDM scheme being implemented in the school. Further, the menu prepared in both the districts does not provide a variety of dishes and sufficient quantity of vegetables as prescribed in the scheme for the children. It is recommended that Menu should have minimum vegetables as per the MDM Guidelines.
9. RTE Act has strengthened Community participation through SMCs. School Management Committees have been given an important role in monitoring MDMs. While SMC meetings appear to be held the role of the SMC in

monitoring is not mentioned anywhere. Even the minutes make no mention of it. Capacity building exercises of SMC must include a module on monitoring so that the members are made aware and trained to monitor the MDMs properly. A record of their findings must be added to the minutes of SMC meetings.

10. It is recommended that an Inspection Register should be maintained properly exclusively for MDM so that Inspecting Officers can record their observations on the implementation of the Scheme. The PRIs or SMC member or any government official can write their remarks/comments about their observations of MDM in school. Further, provisions of Social Audits should be made by the government to evaluate the implementation of programme and to identify gaps, with the involvement of PRIs and S.M.C members. The SMC should discuss MDM, review the cooked team by eating on sample basis and record the discussion in the minutes of SMC meetings. The monitoring of the scheme should be carried out by districts & block level officials as per the norms fixed in the guideline.
11. Orientation trainings should be organised for all MDM in-charge teachers to make them understand the vision and outlook of MDM programme; standard heights and weights and how to identify malnourished children; and on preparing records.
12. Providing of Mid Day Meal to NCLP schools should not be linked with school kitchens. An exclusive cooking agencies or centralized kitchen can be engaged for providing Mid Day Meal for all 312 days.
13. Setting up of State Project Management Unit (SPMU): There is shortage of staff for implementing the scheme at all levels. It is recommended that

designated staff strictly for the scheme should be engaged to relieve the teacher from the burden of running of scheme. These could be MBAs, Nutritionists at the appropriate levels from the MME funds.

- 14.State Review Mission: The State Govt. should also constitute Review Mission at the State level and send them to various districts of the State every six months to review the implementation of the programme.
- 15.As Management Information System integrated with IVRS will become operational very soon the districts have to speed up the process of data feeding. To handle huge data and updating the data into the web portal regularly, data entry operators have to be engaged on regular basis in every district.
- 16.The best practice of water harvesting system should be promoted in all the schools.
- 17.Evaluation studies of the scheme should be conducted by the state government through an external agency.

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**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2013**

**Place: Chandigarh, Haryana**