

Mid-day Meal Scheme

National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (commonly known as Mid-day Meal Scheme) today is the largest school nutritional programme covering nearly 12 crore children in more than 9.5 lakh primary schools / Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) / Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) centres. The Scheme provides a hot cooked meal of a minimum 300 calories and 8-12 gms of protein.

This scheme was revised with effect from September, 2004. Dry rations were replaced with a cooked nourishing school meal, funded mainly by the Central Government. Central assistance is provided to States/ Uts for the following components:

- i) Free food grains of 100 gms. (Rice/ wheat) per child per school
- ii) Cooking Assistance @ Re.1/- per child, per school day
- iii) Reimbursement of transportation cost @ Rs.75 per quintal.
- iv) Assistance for Management, Monitoring and Evaluation @ 1.8% of (i) to (iii)

Due to its implementation, the dropout ratio in Primary Education is reduced to Nil in 2005-06 from 1.97% in 2000-01. Similarly the dropout in secondary education is reduced to 13.80% in 2005-06 from 33.73% in 2000-01 as against the all India dropout ratio of 52.79%.

Salient Features

- Implemented both by **Central and State Governments.**
- Students of **Pre-Primary to XII Std.** covered.
- All Government/Government aided schools.
- **1.26 lakh students** covered.
- Midday meal prepared in **12 Central Kitchens and 92 School Canteen Centres.**
- Daily Menu - 130/160 grams of cooked Rice, Sambar with Vegetable Poriyal.
- **75 grams of vegetables** per day per student.
- Double fortified salt used in the meals.
- **Boiled Egg** weekly twice.
- Curd weekly twice proposed shortly.
- Rs.4.00 per student per day on vegetable day from I to V std. excluding free rice.
- Rs.5.75 per student per day on egg day from I to V std. excluding free rice.

- Rs.3.69 per student per day on vegetable day from VI to VIII std. excluding free rice.
- Rs.5.44 per student per day on egg day from VI to VIII std. excluding free rice.
- Rs.6.00 per student per day on Non-egg day from IX to XII Std. and Rs.7.75 on egg day.
- Per capita expenditure - Highest in the whole of India.
- Nutritional value – Highest in the whole of India.

Group	Calories	Protein
Standard I – IV on Vegetable day	553	17 grams
Standard I – IV on Egg day	631	23 grams
Standard V – XII on Vegetable day	657	19 grams
Standard V – XII on Egg day	735	25 grams

Achievement in 2008-09 and 2009-10

Achievement during 2008-09			
	Total	Achievement	Shortfall
Children at primary stage	60485	54630	5855
Children at Upper primary stage	47729	41326	6403
Achievement during 2009-10			
	Total	Achievement	Shortfall
Children at primary stage	61200	55737	5463
Children at upper primary stage.	48300	42375	5925

Central Assistance

(Rs. in lakhs)

Expenditure during 2008-09	Borne by the Central Government	Borne by the U.T. Government	Total Expenditure
Cost of food grains (Free Rice / Open market Rice)	128.58*	56.88**	185.46
Transportation cost	17.06	1.95	19.01
For kitchen-cum-store	55.20***	0	0

For Kitchen devices	0	3.05	3.05
Total	200.84	61.88	207.52

Note :

* In the year 2008-09, a total quantity of 2275.805 MTs of free Rice was lifted and the cost of the same as per the records are Rs.128.58 lakhs (i.e. Rs.5650/MTs x 2275.805 MTs)

** A total quantity of 360MTs of Rice was procured in the co-operative institutions at the rate of Rs.15.30 / Kg. and the total cost of 360 MTs of Rice was Rs.56.88 lakhs.

*** The concept of the cooking the Midday Meal in the modernized Central Kitchens is being followed in Puducherry. The amount of Rs.55.20 lakhs provided for the construction of kitchen-cum-store is proposed to be utilized for the construction of a Central Kitchen at Kuruvinatham in Puducherry at a cost of Rs.200.00 lakhs (i.e. Central share – Rs.55.20 lakhs and State Share – Rs.144.80 lakhs).

Norms for Central Assistance

Center State Sharing Pattern			
	Total cost per meal	Centre	State
Primary	Rs.4.00 (Non-egg day)	Rs.1.58	Rs.2.42 (Non egg day)
	Rs.5.75 (Egg day)	Rs.1.58	Rs.4.17 (Egg day)
Upper Primary	Rs.3.69 (Non-egg day)	Rs.2.10	Rs.1.59 (Non egg day)
	Rs.5.44 (Egg day)	Rs.2.10	Rs.3.34 (Egg day)

Cooking cost includes the cost of pulses, vegetables, oil, condiments, fuel and labour and administrative charges.

Responsibility for supply of meal

The Department of School Education is directly implementing the scheme in Puducherry. There are 12 Central Kitchens functioning at present besides 92 School Canteen Centres. The Chief Educational Officer, Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and the Delegate to the Director of School Education, Yanam are the Nodal officers for the implementation of the scheme in Puducherry.

Role of teachers

- Ensuring regularity and wholesomeness of the meal
- Promoting social and gender equity
- The Head of Institutions appoint teachers for the supervision of meals on rotation basis without affecting their teaching and learning process.
- Before distribution the teaching staff on supervisory duty shall taste the meal to ascertain the quality.
- They should ensure that the students should consume the meals only in the school premises and they should not be allowed to take the meals outside the school premises.
- After distribution they should ensure the cleanliness of the place to avoid infestation of flies and other health hazards.

Management & supervision: School level

- Regularity / wholesomeness of meal; cleanliness in distribution/cooking
- Timeliness in purchase of good quality ingredients, fuel
- Foster social and gender equity.
- The Head of Institution is also bearing the responsibility of manning the kitchens located in the schools as part of their Administrative works as they have to handle classes only for 10 periods per week.
- Guidelines have been issued to implement the scheme in an error free manner.

Sl. No.	Details	
1	Nodal Department for the Scheme	Department of School Education
2	Implementing Agency at the local level	Department of School Education and its officials
3.	State level Nodal Transport Agency for Foodgrains	Puducherry State Co-operative Processing Supply and Marketing Society, Puducherry. In other regions Co-operative Institutions.
4.	Is the State Govt. providing MDM beyond Class-V, with its own resources?	In Puducherry, the Midday Meal Scheme is being implemented from Pre-Primary to XII Std. as detailed below. State / Central Share – I –VIII Std. Only State Share – Pre-Primary & IX-XII Std.

5.	Year since when cooked meal Universalized	In Puducherry, the scheme is being implemented from the year.															
6.	No. of children to be covered in 2008-09	1.26 lakhs students studying from Pre-Primary to XII Std.															
7.	No. of institutions covered 2007-08	463 – Govt./Govt. Aided Private Schools															
8.	No. of School Day to be covered 2008-09	210 Days															
9.	Central assistance released for 2008-09 (Primary and Upper Primary) Foodgrains Allocated Cooking cost released (As on 17.12.2008) Assistance for kitchen sheds @ Rs.60,000 per unit released.	Allotted – 2398.96 MTs. Rs.342.38 lakhs Rs.55.20 lakhs															
10.	State's contribution towards cooking cost in 2007-08 per child per school day contribution. Provision made in State's own budget.	Primary – Rs.3.65 (Non egg day) Rs.3.15(Egg day) Upper Primary – Rs.5.25 (Non egg day) (only State share)- Rs.6.75 (Egg day) Outlay - Rs.749.69 lakhs															
11.	Calorific Value	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Group</th> <th>Calories</th> <th>Protein</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Standard I – IV on Vegetable day</td> <td>553</td> <td>17 grams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Standard I – IV on Egg day</td> <td>631</td> <td>23 grams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Standard V – XII on Vegetable day</td> <td>657</td> <td>19 grams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Standard V – XII on Egg day</td> <td>735</td> <td>25 grams</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Group	Calories	Protein	Standard I – IV on Vegetable day	553	17 grams	Standard I – IV on Egg day	631	23 grams	Standard V – XII on Vegetable day	657	19 grams	Standard V – XII on Egg day	735	25 grams
Group	Calories	Protein															
Standard I – IV on Vegetable day	553	17 grams															
Standard I – IV on Egg day	631	23 grams															
Standard V – XII on Vegetable day	657	19 grams															
Standard V – XII on Egg day	735	25 grams															
12.	Weekly Menus	Rice -130 / 160 grams Sambar – As per diet scale Veg. Poriyal – 75 gms. of Vegetables Boiled egg - Weekly two days															
13.	Constitution of Steering Cum Monitoring Committees for the Scheme at a) State level b) District level c) Block level	The proposal for the constitution of the Steering cum Monitoring Committee is sent to Government and likely to be constituted shortly.															

14.	Positive features of implementation of the programme in the State.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The enrolment is gradually increasing. • The dropout ratio in Primary level is reduced. • The dropout ratio in Upper primary level is reduced to 3% in the year 2007-08 from 7.16% in the year 2004-05 • The Union Territory of Puducherry is ranking first in the composite Educational Development Index (EDI) for both Primary and Upper Primary for the year 2007-08 • Gender Parity Index in Enrolment is 0.98 in the year 2007-08 and whereas it is 0.93 in the National level • Gender Parity Index in Enrolment for Upper Primary is 0.96 in the year 2007-08 and whereas it is 0.89 in the National level • Delegates from other States like Kerala and Goa and the neighbouring countries like Nepal have visited Puducherry to observe the implementation of the scheme (since only in Puducherry the scheme is being implemented with a high degree of quality by cooking the meals in the modernized central kitchens)
-----	--	---

Suggestions to improve the implementation of the programme

Government of India may also provide Assistance for the extension of the Scheme to the students of IX to XII Std. besides the children of Pre-Primary Classes. The quality of Rice supplied under Midday Meal Scheme may be improved and it is also suggested that Grade 'A' Rice should be made available instead BPL Rice under Midday Meal Scheme. The scheme may be implemented in SSA pattern by a separate Society to make accountability in a more effective manner.