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Dish B. Agnihotri, IAS
Secretary to Government
in & Child Devt. Department
Government of Orissa

Dear

File - VI-1405-III 51/04

Sub: Introduction of cooked meal in all eligible schools/institutions under M.D.M programme from September, 2004

You must be aware of directive of Hon'ble Supreme Court passed in WP(7)196/2001 on 20.4.2004 on the above subject. The Hon'ble Apex Court has directed that cooked meal should be provided in all the eligible schools/institutions under MDM scheme through out the State w.e.f. 1st September, 2004. I would request you to take necessary step in this regard. In particular, you may ensure:

(i) Engagement of Cooks and Helpers

Please ensure that Cooks and Helpers are engaged for each school concerned as per existing guidelines. While doing so, kindly also keep in mind the directive of Hon'ble Apex Court quoted below:

"In appointment of Cooks and Helpers preference shall be given to Dalits, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes"

Funds towards remuneration of Cooks and Helpers are being released separately.

(ii) Purchase of Utensils

Necessary utensils etc for starting the cooked meal programme should be purchased using the Empty Container funds as per the existing guidelines.

(iii) Construction of Kitchen sheds

The Ministry of H.R.D. vide their D.O. letter No. 11-1/2004-MDM, dated 5th August, 2004 addressed to Chief Secretary have clarified that SGRY funds for rural areas, NSDP for urban slums and SSA funds for new Schools in non-slum urban areas can be utilized for construction of kitchen sheds. I may point out that you should also think in terms of construction of elevated platform (Chabutara) with sheds using above funds, where children can be served the mid-day meals. This will address the complaints regarding lack of hygiene in the school when children are served cooked meal in the school verandah.

(iv) Drinking water facility in schools

The Ministry of HRD vide their letter quoted above has also clarified that funds under SSA, ARWSP and Swajaldhara schemes can be utilized for use of drinking water facilities in schools.

Kindly associate officials of School & Mass Education actively in implementation of MDM scheme so as to ensure proper recording of attendance and supervision of MDM programme.

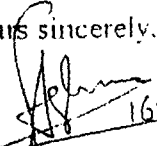
The Hon'ble Apex Court has also desired that a compliance report about universalisation of cooked meal programme should be made by individual State on or before 15th September, 2004. Kindly therefore send a status report to this office latest by 9th September, 2004 through special messenger. The report should be addressed to Director, Social Welfare by name and must be handed over in her office.

Allocation of funds in respect of districts where cooked meal schemes will be started newly will be made shortly.

A compendium of guidelines/instructions issued on Mid-day Meal is being sent separately to all districts where cooked meal schemes were not in operation at present. Please feel free to revert back to this Department in case of any doubt or difficulty.

Kindly treat this matter as extremely Urgent.

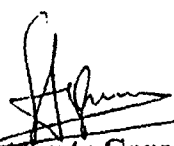
Yours sincerely,


16-8-04
o/c (S.B. Agnihotri)

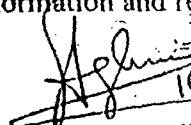
All Collectors (By name)
(List attached)

Memo No. 153 /SWCD, dated. 16.8.04

Copy to Commr.-Cum-Secretary to Government, S.& M.E. Deptt./ Commr.-Cum-Secretary to Government, P.R. Department/ Commr.-Cum-Secretary to Government, R.D. Department with a copy of letter from Secretary, Deptt. of Elementary Education & Literacy for information and follow up action.


o/c Commissioner -Cum-Secretary to Government
Memo No. 154 /SWCD, dated. 16.8.04

Copy to Private Secretary to Chief Secretary for information and record.


16-8-04
o/c Commissioner -Cum-Secretary to Government