

F. No. 1-3/2020-EE-6 (MDM-3-1)
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of School Education & Literacy
[Mid-Day Meal Division]

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi,
Dated the 18th August, 2020

To

The Principal Accounts Officer,
Ministry of Human Resource Development,
Principal Accounts Office,
Shastri Bhavan,
New Delhi.

Subject: Release of balance of 1st instalment of Recurring Central Assistance to Govt. of Himachal Pradesh for National Programme of Mid Day Meal in schools for the year 2020-21


Sir,

I am directed to say that recurring central assistance under Mid Day Meal Scheme is released in two installments in the ratio of 60:40 on the basis of State Government's Annual Work Plan & Budget 2020-21 duly approved by the Programme Approval Board-Mid Day Meal (PAB-MDM) headed by Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy. The meetings of PAB-MDM were convened from March to June, 2020 to appraise/approve the State Governments AWP&B 2020-21. In order to enable the States/UTs to implement the scheme uninterrupted, the first installment is released in two parts i.e. ad-hoc release of recurring Central Assistance @ 25% and balance 35% on receipt of information on the unspent balance from previous year's releases as well as food grain.

However, in the current Financial Year due to the restriction imposed by M/o Finance to release only 30% of BE of the Deptt. in first 6 months i.e., upto 30.9.2020 (5% in each month only) and other instructions of M/o Finance issued on 4.5.2020, the first installment may be restricted to 50%. The second installment (50%) may be considered in the third and fourth quarter of FY 2020-21 on the basis of progress of expenditure and release of State Share by the State Government.

2. Accordingly, ad-hoc recurring Central Assistance of release **Rs. 2107.38 Lakh (Rupees Twenty One Crore Seven Lakh and Thirty Eight Thousand Only)** was released vide letter of even number dated 22nd April, 2020. In the meanwhile, the State's AWP&B 2020-21 has also been approved by PAB-MDM, the quantification of Central Assistance (both recurring as well as non-recurring) for 2020-21 has also been approved in the minutes of PAB-MDM which have since been circulated.

3. Now the Govt. of **Himachal Pradesh** has informed vide letter No. EDN-C-C(10)1/2020 dated 13.07.2020 that it had unspent balance of **Rs. 585.41 lakh** available with them as on 01.04.2020. The balance **25%** of recurring Central Assistance from the first installment after adjusting the unspent balance i.e. **Rs. 1676.82 lakh (Rupees Sixteen Crore Seventy Six Lakh and Eighty Two Thousand Only)** has become due for release as recurring Central Assistance to Govt. of **Himachal Pradesh** under MDM Scheme. The component wise details of release are given below:-


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(Rs. in Lakh)			
Sl. No.	Component/norm	Central Share	Minimum Mandatory State Share
1	2	3	4
Primary + Upper Primary			
1	Cost of Food grains	38.02	
2	Cooking Cost	1191.89	132.43
3	Honorarium to Cooks-cum-Helpers	457.34	50.82
4	Transportation Assistance	-14.83	
5	Management Monitoring & Evaluation (MME)	4.40	
TOTAL		1676.82	183.25

4.(i) *The State Finance Department must release Central Assistance along with the minimum matching contribution of State share to the Education Department or the nodal department for implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) immediately.*

(ii) *The Education Department or the nodal department for MDMS must release the Central Assistance as well as State Government's matching contribution to the schools/implementing agencies within a week.*

5. The expenditure of **Rs. 1676.82 lakh (Rupees Sixteen Crore Seventy Six Lakh and Eighty Two Thousand Only)** will be debited to Demand No. 58- Department of School Education & Literacy, 3601 (Major Head) – Grant-in-Aid to State Governments This amount is to be trifurcated into following heads:

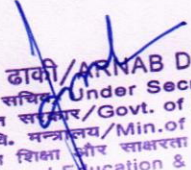
(i) **Rs. 1124.14 Lakh (Rupees Eleven Crore Twenty Four Lakh and Fourteen Thousand Only)** will be debited to Demand No. 58 - Department of School Education & Literacy, 3601 (Major Head) – Grant-in-Aid to State Governments, 06 – Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Sub-Major Head), **101 – Central Assistance (Minor Head)**, 10 – **National Programme of Mid Day Meals in Schools** (Sub Head), 10.02 – Assistance to States Amount to be met from Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (Detailed Head), 10.02.31 – Grants-in-aid General for 2020-21(Plan).

(ii) **Rs. 460.29 Lakh (Rupees Four Crore Sixty Lakh and Twenty Nine Thousand Only)** will be debited to Demand No. 58 - Department of School Education & Literacy, 3601 (Major Head) – Grant-in-Aid to State Governments, 06 – Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Sub-Major Head), **789 – Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes (Minor-Head)**, 10– **National Programme of Mid Day Meals in Schools** (Sub Head), 10.02 – Assistance to States Amount to be met from Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (Detailed Head), 10.02.31 – Grants-in-aid General for 2020-21 (Plan).

(iii) **Rs. 92.39 Lakh (Rupees Ninety Two Lakh and Thirty Nine Thousand Only)** will be debited to Demand No. 58 - Department of School Education & Literacy, 3601 (Major Head) – Grant-in-Aid to State Governments, 06 – Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Sub-Major Head), **796 – Tribal Area Sub Plan (Minor-Head)**, 10 - **National Programme of Mid Day Meals in Schools** (Sub Head), 10.02 – Assistance to States Amount to be met from Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (Detailed Head), 10.02.31 – Grants-in-aid General for 2020-21(Plan).

6. Accordingly, I am directed to convey the sanction of the President of India to release of **Rs. 460.29 Lakh (Rupees Four Crore Sixty Lakh and Twenty Nine Thousand Only)** to Govt. of Himachal Pradesh as an recurring Central assistance under National Programme of Mid Day Meal in Schools for the year 2020-21.

7. The expenditure of **Rs. 460.29 Lakh (Rupees Four Crore Sixty Lakh and Twenty Nine Thousand Only)** will be debited to Demand No. 58 - Department of School Education & Literacy, 3601 (Major Head) – Grant-in-Aid to State Governments, 06 – Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Sub-Major Head), **789 – Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes**


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(Minor-Head), 10- National Programme of Mid Day Meals in Schools (Sub Head), 10.02 – Assistance to States Amount to be met from Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (Detailed Head), 10.02.31 – Grants-in-aid General for 2020-21 (Plan).

8. The above grant is subject to the following conditions: -

[A] **COST OF FOODGRAINS:**

- (i) District administration will ensure that every consuming unit maintains a buffer stock of food grains required for a month to avoid disruption due to unforeseen exigencies.
- (ii) The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has decided that the food grain would be supplied under Mid Day Meal Scheme at the National Food Security Act (NFSA) rates viz. Rs.2.00 per kg for wheat and Rs.3.00 per kg for rice instead of Below Poverty Line rates (Rs.4.15 per kg for wheat and Rs.5.65 per Kg for rice) during the 1st quarter of the year 2020-21. It is, therefore, advised that the payment of food grains to Food Corporation of India may be made at NFSA rates in respect of the food grains lifted by the State. District administration will ensure the payment of the bills raised by FCI within 20 days of the submission of bills as per the guidelines issued by this Department vide letter No. **1-15/2009-Desk(MDM) dated 10.2.2011**. The taxes if any levied by the State/UT would be borne by the Govt. of India.
- (iii) State Government will nominate an officer who will be responsible for receiving the bills submitted by FCI and ensuring payment to it in time. FCI will intimate its account number and mode of receiving of payment to the nodal officer, who should be made responsible for transferring money/depositing cheque in that account. State Govt. will ensure timely payment to FCI by district authority.
- (iv) All other provisions made in the above guidelines issued should be strictly complied.
- (v) The States/UTs may evolve a system for on-line payment to FCI to avoid delay.
- (vi) The information on month-wise payment to FCI may be made available to this Department on regular basis.

[B] **COOKING COST:**

- (i) State/UT's norm of expenditure towards cooking cost shall under no circumstances be fixed at a level less than **Rs.4.97** per child per school day for primary stage and **Rs.7.45** per child per school day for upper primary stage and Special Training Centres (STC) schools.
- (ii) State Government should release 10% minimum mandatory State Share of cooking cost simultaneously.
- (iii) States/UTs will not reduce its own budgetary allocation for cooked Mid-Day Meal Programme below the level of BE: 2005-06.
- (iv) As stipulated in the MDM Guidelines, 2006 [para 3.3(iv)], States/UTs shall ensure that a minimum of one-month's requirement of cooking cost is available in each school as advance through-out 2020-21.
- (v) The States/UTs may evolve online transfer of funds to schools/implementing agencies.

[C] **TRANSPORTATION COST:**

- (i) The admissibility of transportation assistance for 12 Special Category States has been revised to the rate prevalent under the public Distribution System (PDS) in these States/UTs viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand in place of the earlier assistance at a flat rate of **Rs. 125/-** per quintal vide order No. 1-1/2009-Desk(MDM) dated 24.11.2009 effective from 1.12.2009. The utilisation of this grant should be commensurate with the actual quantity of food grains lifted and transported under the Scheme. Requirement of

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Transportation cost may vary from district to district within State/UT depending upon the topography and distance to be transported. States/UTs may therefore, reallocate this grant amongst the districts as per the requirement and as per State/UT norms.

[D] HONORARIUM TO COOKS-CUM-HELPERS

- (i) State Govt. must also release minimum matching contribution of Rs. 100/- per cook-cum-helper as State's share without any delay so that minimum amount of honorarium of Rs.1000/- per month per cook-cum-helper is paid through e-transfer in to their bank account. The States may top up their share for releasing more than Rs. 1000/- per month per cook-cum-helper.
- (ii) State Govt. may give priority to weaker section of the society like women, SC/ST, OBC, Minorities in engaging the cook-cum-helpers.
- (iii) The cook-cum-helper should be engaged purely on part time basis. Central Govt. will not bear any past service liability in respect of cook-cum-helper.
- (iv) Separate account will be maintained by the State Government for the Central assistance being released under each category (Primary and Upper Primary) separately to meet the payment of cook-cum-helpers under the Scheme.

[E] MME:

- (i) Central assistance will be utilized for Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME) i.e. 2.7% of total recurring Central Assistance i.e. (a) Cost of food grains, (b) cooking cost, (c) transport assistance & (d) honorarium to cook-cum-helpers as per the guidelines issued by this Ministry's letter No. 1-15/2009-Desk (MDM), dated 14.03.2019.

[F] GENERAL

The grant shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (i) It shall be utilized only for undertaking activities proposed in the Annual Work Plan & Budget for the year **2020-21** and subject to the approval of the Programme Approval Board, and by the Government of India on the basic norms of expenditure.
- (ii) The assets, if any, acquired wholly or substantially out of this grant, should not, without the prior sanction of the Government of India, be disposed off, encumbered or utilized for purposes other than those for which the grant has been sanctioned.
- (iii) The grantee shall maintain a separate and proper account of the expenditure incurred out of the grant and the accounts so maintained shall be open to audit by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India or any authority deputed by him for the purpose as per rules.
- (iv) The State Government shall contribute and release their minimum mandatory share simultaneously to implementing agencies.
- (v) The grantee shall furnish this Department with item-wise statement of expenditure on a quarterly basis and other reports on physical and financial progress in the prescribed formats. The grantee will also submit annual progress within one month from the close of the financial year. The unspent balance, if any shall be taken into account before funds of subsequent years are released.
- (vi) The grantee shall follow strictly all the instructions issued by the Govt. of India from time to time with regard to the implementation of the Scheme and the funds earmarked for Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Sub Plan. Therefore, the funds are required to be further bifurcated into these minor budget heads i.e. for SCs and STs.

9. It is certified that the pattern of assistance under the Scheme has the prior approval of Ministry of Finance. It is also certified that the grant is being released in conformity with rules and principles of the Scheme.

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10. The utilization certificate of this grant may be submitted to Govt. of India within three months of the next financial year.

11. The accounts of the grantee shall be open to inspection by the sanctioning authority and audit, both by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India under the provision of CAG (DPC) Act 1971 and Internal Audit by the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education and Literacy, whenever the grantee is called upon to do so.

12. The amount of grant-in-aid is finally adjustable in the books of Principal Accounts Officer, Ministry of HRD, Department of School Education & Literacy, D-Wing, Ground Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 115. On receipt of sanction letter, the Principal Accounts Officer may issue an advice to the Reserve Bank of India (Central Accounts Section), Nagpur for affording credit to the balance of the State Government. The Principal Accounts Officer may forward a copy of the advice to the Accountant General and Finance Department of the State Government along with a copy to undersigned in the Department of School Education & Literacy. State Government shall send intimation regarding receipt of grant-in-aid to Principal Accounts Officer, Ministry of HRD, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110115.

13. Grantee is located in **Himachal Pradesh** circle of account.

14. This issues with the concurrence of **Integrated Finance Division vide their Dy. No. 89/IFD/SE&L/2020 dated 07.08.2020** and funds certified by **IF.2 vide Dy. No.189/2020-IF.II dated 17.08.2020**.

15. The **Sanction ID and E-bill** pertaining to above release has already been generated.

Yours faithfully,

(Arnab Dhaki)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Tel. 011-2338 7771

Copy to:

1. Sh. Kamlesh Kumar Pant, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Education Department, H. P. Secretariat, Armsdale Building, Shimla-171 002.
2. The Director, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Education Department, H. P. Secretariat, Armsdale Building, Shimla-171 002
3. Secretary, Finance Department, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla. It is requested that funds released through this sanction letter may be transferred to the Education Department immediately.
4. Director General of Audit, Central Revenues, AGCR Building, New Delhi-110 001.
5. Desk (MDM)
6. Consultant (MDM) for website uploading.
7. Guard File

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