

Mid Day Meal Scheme

In Kerala, free mid- day meals to poor pupils in Lower Primary Schools was introduced with the material assistance of CARE (Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere) during 1961-62. They had withdrawn the assistance from 1984 and Government of Kerala was constrained to take over the responsibility of noon feeding in Primary Schools. The programme was extended to all L.P. Schools of Government and Aided in the state from 31-12-1985 as it includes 222 fisherman villages and tribal belts. Later the programme was extended to all Upper Primary Schools and Upper Primary sections in High Schools from 1987-88 as per G.O. (P) No. 160/87/Gl.Edn. dated 28-7-1987 with effect from 15-8-1987.

The Mid-Day Meal Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) in 15th August, 1995 for the benefit of students in primary schools under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)/earlier Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) blocks (2368). The Scheme presently covers students of Class I-VIII in the Government Primary Schools / Upper Primary Schools/ Schools aided by Govt. and the Schools run by local bodies. The noon feeding scheme of the State was also brought under the NP-NSPE.

Government of India allows 100 gram of rice/pupil, but we in the state supply only 60 gram/pupil. But in order to compensate this, 30 grams of any one pulse items such as Green gram, Bengal gram, Turdhal or Lobia is also supplied per pupil, as side dish, since the rice is supplied as cooked food to pupils. The entire cost of purchase of these pulse items is met by the State Government.

Moreover the Central Government is also financing partly the transportation cost of the rice lifted from the FCI godowns to Maveli Stores. The transportation cost paid to Maveli Stores by the State Government i.e. Rs. 140/Qtl. Out of this Rs. 140, Rs. 50/Qtl. is reimbursed by Government of India and the balance of Rs. 90/Qtl. is met by the State Government from the state budgetary provisions. In addition to the above transportation cost and cost of purchase of pulse items, the State Government also meet the contingent charges of transportation of all these materials from Maveli Stores to schools as well as the fuel charges, cooking charges etc. In addition to noon feeding, a special rice 5. Kg. per pupil, who is in the feeding list, is supplied during Onam, X'mas and Ramzan.