

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI BREAKFAST SCHEME

Tmt. Sonia Gandhi, the then Leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha has inaugurated the scheme in a grand function on 14.08.2002. Initially bread and sweetened flavoured cold milk was supplied to the students under Shri Rajiv Gandhi Breakfast Scheme. However, as the supply of sweetened flavoured cold milk to the young children are not advisable during winter season and there are certain practical difficulties to handle huge volume of cold milk by keeping the temperature below 10° Celsius till its distribution to the students to ensure quality. 150 ml. of hot-milk with 35 grams of sweet biscuits (Britannia Glucose Biscuits) weekly five days have been distributed to the students studying from I to XII std. besides the children of Balwadies in the Government and Government Aided Private Schools under Shri Rajiv Gandhi Breakfast Scheme. Now the quantity of mil is reduced to 100 ml. as the children is not taking 150 ml. milk. Necessary Government sanction was accorded for the above diet scales vide G.O.Ms.No88, dated 31.08.2004 of the Chief Secretariat (Education), Puducherry after assessing the preference of the students by conducting a detailed survey among all the students and their prents in all the four regions of this Union Territory of Puducherry.

The introduction of Breakfast Scheme provides food security to the poor children. This may play a vital role in boosting school attendance, punctuality and attentiveness in the classrooms, eliminating dropouts, classroom hunger and also fostering social equity which otherwise could be a possibility. It is also a terrific way of enhancing nutrition among school going children.

The height and weight of the students have shown marked improvement after the introduction of the Breakfast Scheme. The scheme improves the enrolment and attendance of students especially enrolment of girl students thus contributing to gender equality. It breaks the fast of the sleep hours and prepares the child for problems solving and memory spans in the learning period. It enhanced the nutritional status and thereby reducing the status of malnutrition. The percentage of malnutrition has been drastically reduced after the introduction of the Breakfast Scheme in this Union Territory of Puducherry.

Detailed Guidelines / Procedures to be followed by all the Heads of Institutions for the implementation of Shri Rajiv Gandhi Breakfast Scheme are issued vide Circular No.6566/Edn./DE/PA/2002-03, dated 04.03.2003 of the Director of School Education, Puducherry for strict compliance. The nutritional value of the diet items under Shri Rajiv Gandhi Breakfast Scheme as follows:

Name of the Item	Quantity	Energy (Kcal)
Hot-milk	100 ml	79
Sweet Biscuits (Britannia)	35 grams	150

The Region-wise beneficiaries under this scheme are as follows:

Puducherry Region	57,000
Karaikal Region	15,350
Mahe Region	3,500

Yanam Region	6,500
Total	82,350

MIDDAY MEAL SCHEME

The Midday Meal Scheme is being implemented in this Union Territory since the days of French Administration i.e. from the year 1930. Nearly 1.26 lakhs students are covered under Midday Meal Scheme studying from I to XII standard in the Government/Government Aided Private Schools besides Pre-primary children. The Midday Meals Programme is being implemented under Central Assistance as well as under State Plan.

In the Union Territory of Puducherry, the Midday Meal is being supplied with adequate calories and protein as detailed below:

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

From the above, it may be observed that the calories and proteins provided to the students under Midday Meals in the Union Territory of Puducherry is fairly more than the quantity prescribed by the Supreme Court. Further, the midday meals are provided to the school children for a period of minimum 200 days approximately in a year. There are 12 Central Kitchens, 9 in Puducherry, 2 in Karaikal and 1 at Yanam. Besides, there are 86 School Canteen Centres functioning wherever Central Kitchens are not available i.e. 13 School Canteen Centres at Puducherry, 37 at Karaikal and 18 at Mahe region. The diet and non-diet articles in respect of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions are being supplied by M/s. PASIC, PAPSCO, Puducherry Central Co-operative Processing Supply and Marketing Society, Karaikal Central Co-operative Processing Supply and Marketing Society and Mahe Employees Cooperative Society and Yanam Co-operative Stores Ltd. respectively. In addition to the above, diet and non-diet articles are being supplied by 36 Self Help Groups in Puducherry region to the School Canteen Centres whose feeding strength is less than 500 students.

There are 12 Central Kitchens functioning at present. One Mega kitchen at Lawspet, Puducherry is under construction and likely to be activated in February 2011. There is a proposal to construct 2 more Kitchens at Kalitheerthalkuppam and Kuruvinatham with a feeding strength of 20,000 / 10,000 students respectively. There is also a proposal to construct 2 central kitchens at Karaikal and 1 central kitchen at Mahe region. The 12 Central Kitchens functioning at present are located at Kurusukuppam, Shanmugapuram, Villianur, Ariankuppam, Embalam, Thondamanatham, Kalmandapam, Kirumampakkam and Pillaichavady all in Puducherry region, Thalatheru and T.R. Pattinam in Karaikal region and 1 Central Kitchen at Yanam region. The Central Kitchen

at Shanmugapuram is the first L.P. Gas based modernized Central Kitchen in this Union Territory of Puducherry and the newly opened Central Kitchen at Pillaichavady is the second L.P. Gas based modernized Central Kitchen. All other Central Kitchens are Diesel based. The Indian Oil Corporation has allotted 200 Gas Cylinders to the Central Kitchen, Shanmugapuram and 100 Gas Cylinders to the Central Kitchen, Pillaichavady. All the proposed future Central Kitchens are Gas based. At present 1.26 lakhs students studying in standard I to XII in Government/Government Aided Private Schools besides the Pre-primary children are benefited under Midday Meal Scheme.

The percapita expenditure per student under Midday Meal Scheme excluding free rice are as follows:

Sl. No.	Class	Cost (excluding free rice)		
		Under CSS	State	Total
1.	I-V (Non Egg day)	2.02	3.13	5.15
2	I-V (Egg day)	2.02	5.63	7.65
3.	VI-VIII (Non Egg day)	3.02	2.03	5.05
4.	VI-VIII (Egg day)	3.02	4.53	5.44
3.	IX-XII (Non Egg day)	Nil	8.00	8.00
4.	IX-XII (Egg day)	Nil	10.50	10.50

The Cooked meals from the Central Kitchen to all the schools attached to the Central Kitchen are supplied through vehicles provided by M/s. PASIC, Puducherry. There are 224 Part-time Cooks/Asst. Cooks are engaged for the preparation of midday meals in this Union Territory of Puducherry besides 54 Daily Rated Staff.

Detailed Guidelines/Procedures to be followed by all the Heads of Institutions for the implementation of the Midday Meal Scheme are issued vide Circular No.6566/Edn./ DE/PA/2002-03, dated 04.03.2003 of the Director of School Education, Puducherry for strict compliance. The revised diet scales are as follows:

Sl. No.	Item	Class	Quantity
1	Rice	I to IV Std	Not exceeding 130 grams per student/day
2	Rice	V to XII Std	Not exceeding 160 grams per student/day
3	Oil	I to XII Std	3 grams per student/day

			4 grams per student/day on Karakuzhambu day	
4	Masala Chilly Powder	I to XII Std.	2.5 grams per student/day	
5	Toor Dhall	I to XII Std.	10 grams per student/day	
6	Egg	I to XII Std.	2 Eggs per week (weighing 50 grams each)	
7	Tamarind	I to XII Std.	2 grams per student/day 3 grams per student/day on Karakuzhambu day	
8	Dry Chilly	I to XII Std.	0.5 grams per student/day	
9	White Gram Dhall	I to XII Std.	0.25 grams per student/day	
10	Mustard	I to XII Std.	0.25 grams per student/day	
11	Turmeric Powder	I to XII Std.	0.10 grams per student/day	
12	Garlic	I to XII Std.	3 grams per student/day on Karakuzhambu day	
13	Onion Vadagam	I to XII Std.	0.25 grams per student/day on Karakuzhambu day	
14	Salt	I to XII Std.	5 grams per student/day	
15	Vegetables	I to XII Std.	75 grams per student/day	
16	Firewood		Wet	Dry
	Feeding strength 200 and below		22 Kgs. for 100 students	20 Kgs. for 100 students
	Between 201 and 300		20 Kgs. for 100 students	18 Kgs. for 100 students
	301 and above		18 Kgs. for 100 students	16 Kgs. for 100 students
17	Cleaning powder	I to XII Std.	1/2 grams per student	
18	Chenna / Mochai	I to XII Std.	12 grams per students for 3 days	

The Chief Educational Officer, Puducherry/Karaikal/Mahe, the Deputy Director (Women), Puducherry and the Delegate to the Director of School Education, Yanam are the Nodal Officers for the implementation of the Midday Meal Scheme in the respective regions and all the Deputy Inspector of schools are the Inspecting Officers for the implementation of the Midday Meal Scheme. Wherever the Central Kitchen is functioning in a Higher Secondary School, the Principal shall also be the Head of Institution for the Central Kitchen.

The Midday Meals apart from providing nutrition, teach children the way of living together without any discrimination of caste, community etc. The implementation of Midday Meal Scheme in this Union Territory of Puducherry provide food security to the poor children and this may play a vital role in boosting school attendance, punctuality and attentiveness in the classrooms, eliminating dropouts, classroom hunger and also fostering social equity.

The details of Central Kitchens and School Canteen Centres with feeding strength in all the four regions are as follows:

Sl. No.	Region	Name of the Central Kitchen/ No. of School Canteen Centres	Feeding strength
1	Puducherry	C.K., Kurusukuppam	14000
		C.K., Ariankuppam	9050
		C.K., Thondamanatham	5283
		C.K., Villianur	6600
		C.K., Embalam	5200
		C.K., Kalmandapam	5100
		C.K., Kirumampakkam	7800
		C.K., Shanmugapuram	16500
		C.K., Pillaichavady	5750
		20 School Canteen Centres	17517
		Total (a)	92800
2	Karaikal	C.K., Thalatheru	4,500
		C.K., T.R. Pattinam	4,000
		48 School Canteen Centres	13,500
		Total (b)	22,000
3	Mahe	18 School Canteen Centres	5,500
		Total (c)	5,500

4	Yanam	C.K., Yanam	5,700
		Total (d)	5,700
		Grand Total a+b+c+d	1,26,000

The per capita expenditure for the implementation of Midday Meal Scheme in this Union Territory of Puducherry is the highest in the whole of India.

The proposed construction of 2 central kitchens at Puducherry and 2 central kitchens at Karaikal required a sum of Rs.900.00 lakhs which will be provided through a NABARD loan sanctioned for the development of infrastructure facilities in the Department of School Education, Puducherry. After the construction and activation of the proposed Central Kitchens at Lawspet, K.T.Kuppam and Kuruvinatham all in Puducherry region and the Central Kitchens at Sethur and Anna Nagar in Karaikal region all the students will take midday meals prepared in the Central Kitchens only and there will not be any school canteen centres.

Due to the implementation of Midday Meal Scheme / Shri Rajiv Gandhi Breakfast Scheme and Shri Rajiv Gandhi Evening Milk Scheme in this Union Territory of Puducherry, the school attendance and enrolment of students in the schools have been improved and also enhanced the student's nutritional status and thereby reducing the status of malnutrition. It contributes to gender equality by reducing the gender gap in Education by boosting female attendance in schools. It also contributes all round development of the entire school system. The height and weight of the students have also shown marked improvement. The dropout ratio has been drastically reduced to Nil in Primary level and 5.13% in the upper primary level due to the implementation of the above said welfare schemes. The per-capita expenditure on Midday Meal Scheme is the highest in the whole of India. It is also appropriated to point out at this juncture that the Parliamentary Standing Committee attached to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi have visited Puducherry in January 2008 and the Committee have appreciated the innovative methods in the implementation of Midday Meal Scheme in Puducherry and observed as follows:

“The Committee welcomes these innovative schemes and wishes U.T the very best in its endeavour to provide nutritional support to all school going children in the UT. The Committee would appreciate with the methodology of implementation of MDM scheme initiated by the UT Administration along with various UT level additions is brought before all the States / UTs as a case study by the Department. The Committee firmly believes that quite a few States / UTs to come forward for adoption of innovative measures of UT of Puducherry in their set-ups.”

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI EVENING MILK SCHEME

The Government of Puducherry have also introduced Shri Rajiv Gandhi Evening Milk Scheme for the students studying from Pre-primary to X Std. in the Govt./Govt. Aided Private Schools. It is only an extension of the existing scheme viz. Shri Rajiv Gandhi Breakfast Scheme. Nearly 1,05,000 students are covered under the scheme in all the four regions as detailed below:

Puducherry	45,000
Karaikal	14,000

Mahe	3,500
Yanam	6,000
Total	68,500

As per the Shri Rajiv Gandhi Evening Milk Scheme, hot-milk 150 ml. per student is being supplied in the evening to make them more energetic and to eliminate malnutrition among the school going children. It is an incentive to the students to increase enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously impacting of nutrition on students of Pre-primary to X Std. thereby improving their attentiveness in the classrooms which ultimately mould them worthy/healthy citizens of a new and modern India as education is a vital factor to mould once character. Shri Rajiv Gandhi Evening Milk Scheme has been introduced with effect from 02.10.2005 and initially students from Pre-Primary to VIII Std. are covered under the scheme. The same was extended to the students of IX and X std. studying in the Govt./Govt. aided private schools with effect from 19.01.2006.

The Nutritional value as follows:

Name of the item	Quantity	Energy (Kcal)
Hot-milk	100 ml.	79

It is only an extension of the Shri Rajiv Gandhi Breakfast Scheme. It is an unique and novel scheme, the first of its kind in the whole of India.