

School Meals in India – Tracking State Government Responses to Coronavirus

Background

The Mid-Day Meal (MDM) is a flagship programme of the Government of India wherein hot cooked meals are provided to school children in classes I to VIII (aged 6 – 14 years) across all government schools and aims at enhancing enrolment, retention, attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among school children.

Under the scheme, each child enrolled in Primary School (Class I – V) is entitled to a hot cooked meal containing 100 grams of food grains per school day and each child enrolled the Upper Primary school (Class VI-VIII) is entitled to a hot cooked meal containing 150 grams of food grains per school day.

As per the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, if MDM is not provided in any school on any school day for any reason, the State Government shall pay a food security allowance (in-kind or cash or both) by 15th of the succeeding month for:

- *Quantity of food grains as per entitlement of the child; and*
- *Cooking cost prevailing in the State.*

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In the photograph: Children from a school in Rampur block, Varanasi consume fortified school meals. WFP in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh has an ongoing project on ‘fortification of school meals’ which covers the entire Varanasi district.

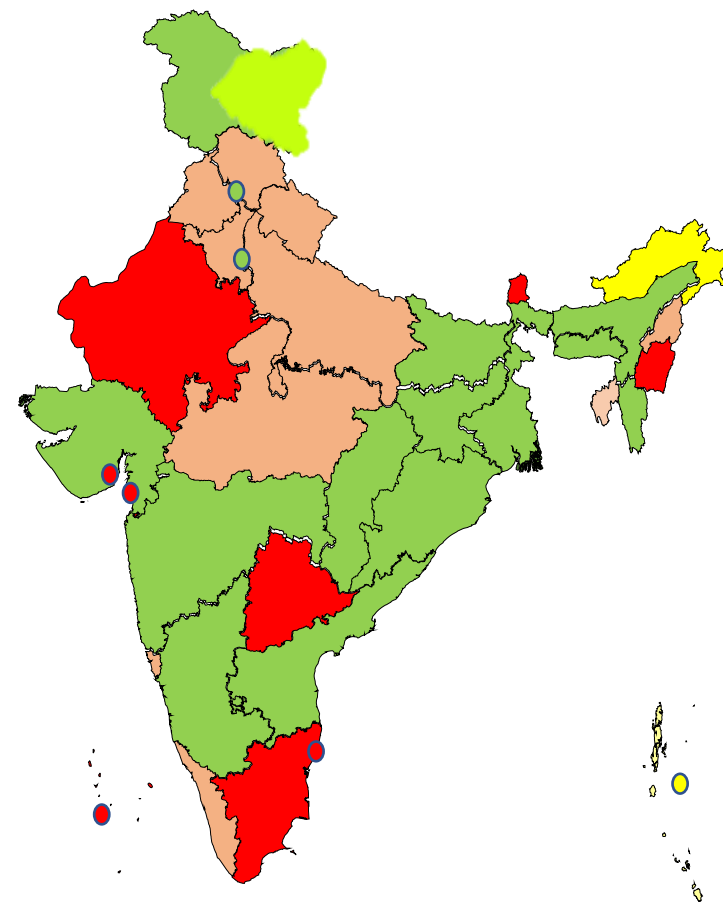
Summary:

In its letter dated 20th March 2020, the Ministry of Human Resource Development issued a guidance to all States and Union Territories of India, that requested them to provide mid-day meals in schools or dry rations in lieu of cooked meals, or provide a food security allowance in lieu of mid-day meals to school children, wherein the cost of food grains and cooking cost should be transferred to the beneficiary accounts.

As of 29th April 2020, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has issued another guidance to all states and UTs of India, requesting them to continue provision of mid-day meals or Food Security Allowance comprising of food grains and its cooking cost (or its equivalent pulses, oil etc) in order to fulfil nutritional requirements of eligible children under MDM scheme to safeguard their immunity during the COVID-19 outbreak. (A copy of the guidance may be downloaded at the following link: http://mdm.nic.in/mdm_website/Files/OrderCirculars/2020/JS_DO-Letters/D.O%20Letter-29-04-2020.pdf)

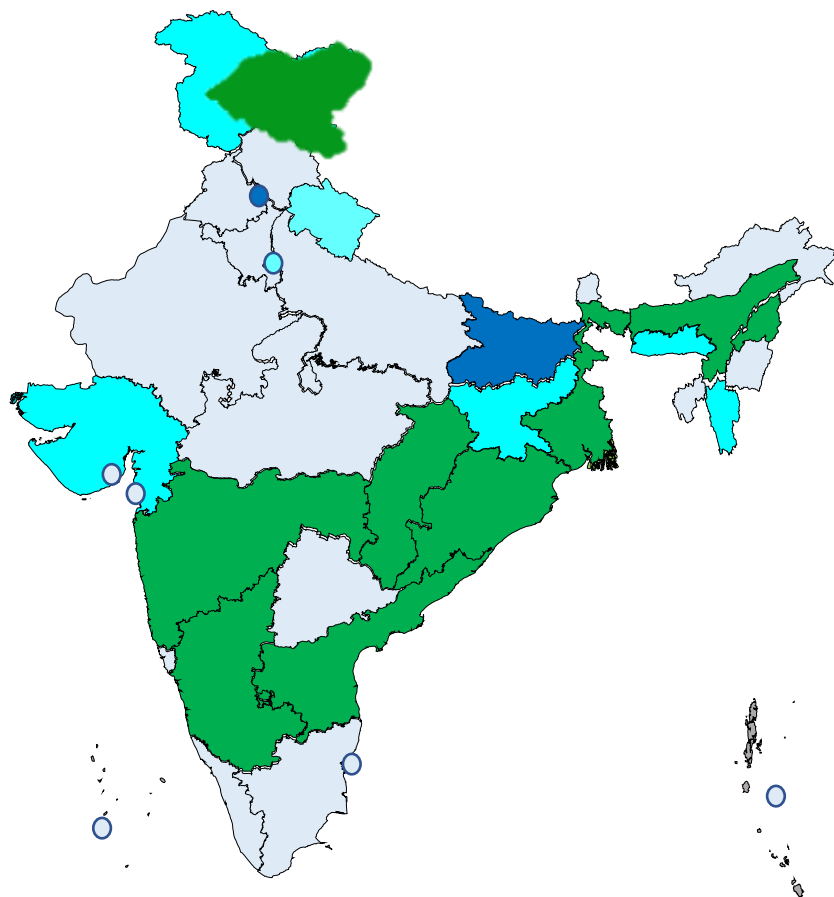
Status of the mid-day meal scheme implementation as of 1st May 2020 (Updates from Lockdown-2, 15th April 2020)¹:

Category of states	Colour on Map	No. of states/ UTs	Names of states
Mid-Day Meal Scheme is "Functional" in the state, state level guidance was issued, and ground level action has been initiated	Green	18	UT of Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Bihar, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, UT of Chandigarh, UT of Ladakh
State level guidance has been issued, but ground level action has NOT BEEN CONFIRMED YET / LIMITED ACTION	Orange	8	Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Tripura
Mid-Day Meal Scheme was "Non-Functional" in the state	Red	7	UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, UT of Lakshadweep, Manipur, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana,
No information available on status of mid-day meal scheme in the state	Yellow	3	UT of Andaman and Nicobar, UT of Puducherry, Arunachal Pradesh



¹ Disclaimer: The report has been generated based on published newspaper articles, official media reports and phone calls to respective state government officials, UNICEF colleagues and other development partners

States where Mid-Day Meal Scheme was Functional:



Category of states	Colour on Map	No. of states/UTs	Names of states
Guidance to distribute DRY RATIONS (FOOD GRAINS) ONLY	Green	9	Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha, Nagaland, UT of Ladakh
Guidance to distribute both DRY RATIONS (FOOD GRAINS) AND CASH / DIRECT BENEFICIARY TRANSFER	Cyan	7	UT of Delhi, Gujarat, UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttarakhand
Guidance to distribute FOOD SECURITY ALLOWANCE ONLY	Blue	2	Bihar, UT of Chandigarh
States with Mid-Day Meal Scheme NOT FUNCTIONAL or NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE	Light Blue	21	UT of Andaman and Nicobar, UT of Chandigarh, UT of Ladakh, UT of Puducherry, Arunachal Pradesh, UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, UT of Lakshadweep, Manipur, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa

**the states listed with MDM as "Functional" in the previous map are highlighted here as "states with dry rations or food allowance or both" based on the state level orders issued*

Status of mid-day meal scheme implementation during the COVID-19 crisis in states and UTs across the country

No	State	MDM Status – Functional (Yes / No)	Modality	Timeline	Mode of distribution	Other remarks	Source of Information
1	Andhra Pradesh	Yes	Dry rations / Food Grains Primary School Children - 1 kg rice, 8 eggs, four packets of chikkis per child; Upper Primary School Children: 1 ½ kg rice, 8 eggs and four packets of chikkis per child	Up to 11th June 2020	Home Delivery (Door-to-door)	State Govt. Andhra Pradesh has received allocation of rice (INR 66 Cr.) from Govt. of India to be distributed among students during summer vacations. Distribution of rice is currently ongoing, financial allocation (INR 132 Cr.) for eggs and chikki will be sanctioned soon by the state govt. A total of 30 Lakh school children are benefitting from the distribution of rice. State Govt. has decided on 3 rd August 2020 as Official date for re-opening schools	Telephonic discussion with Director, MDM – Shri. Divan Mydeen
2	Arunachal Pradesh		No information available				
3	Assam	Yes	Dry rations / Food grains Rice and Pulses	Up to 14 th April 2020	Home Delivery (Door-to-door)	No distribution of food grains was initiated during the first week, however, by 3 rd week of lockdown, distribution of food grains in Assam has been completed Nearly 40 lakh students have been provided MDM as dry rations at home	Telephonic discussion with Ms. Krishna Barua (OSD) SSA and Social Media posts: https://twitter.com/AnitaDe86560705 Newspaper: http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=384156 http://theguwahatitimes.info/2020/03/26/40-lakh-students-in-assam-to-be-provided-mid-day-meal-at-home/
4	Bihar	Yes	Food Security Allowance For Students in Primary School: INR 114 and INR 171 for upper primary School children, initially for a period of 15 days. Money was transferred	Up to 14 th April 2020	Bank Transfer	The scheme has further been extended upto 3 rd May 2020 until period of national lockdown. The govt. has plans to further provide MDM during summer holidays	Letter from the Education Dept Newspaper: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/rs-511-crore-for-students-to-buy-books-minister/articleshow/75434309.cms

			directly to children's bank accounts.				
5	Chhattisgarh	Yes	Dry rations / Food grains Each child of primary school will be given 4 kgs of rice and 800 gms of dal, and upper primary school child to receive 6 kgs of rice and 1.2 kgs of dal, equivalent to 40 days ration.	Up to 14 th April 2020	Schools		<i>Copy of the state govt. order, Information from State UNICEF Colleagues</i> <i>Further information regarding provision of MDM during summer holidays is not available</i>
6	Goa	Yes	Food Security Allowance		DBT for fund transfer	In Mar and Apr 2020, the state govt has issued orders to collect information of children's bank accounts, (86327 primary school children and 55137 upper primary school children) across 1466 schools in the state, in order to enable DBT for food security allowance.	Newspaper: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/midday-meal-paymentsnow-in-parents-a/cs/articleshow/74868529.cms
7	Gujarat	Yes	Both Dry rations and Cash / DBT fund transfer •The Govt. of Gujarat has issued a circular to provide food security allowance & grains/ ration for all govt. elementary school students for the period of 16.03.2020 to 29.03.2020. further extended till 14 April 2020. •As per the MDM guidance of Gol, For students of Std from grade 1 to V, 100 gram grain and Rupees 4.96 food allowance (expenditure on cooking) per student per day and for class VI to VIII, 150 gram grain and Rs.6.96 as food allowance	Up to 14 th April 2020	Schools and / or FPS shops for dry rations; DBT for fund transfer	•The mid-day meal sanchalak of school is responsible for distribution. HM and concerned class teacher are nodal and Asst. Nodal officer respectively for cash payment & providing coupon for grain.	<i>Copy of state govt. orders and information from State UNICEF colleagues</i>

			per child per day is being distributed.				
8	Haryana	Yes	Dry rations / Food grains •Primary school children receive home delivery of 450 gms of wheat, 550 gms of rice and INR 44.8. and Upper primary school children: 825 gms wheat and 625 gms rice along plus INR 67.1.	Up to 23 rd April 2020	Home Delivery (Door-to-door)	For 21 working days of the month of April, the Education Department had issued orders on March 30 for disbursing 945 gm wheat, 1.155 kg rice and Rs 94.08 as cooking cost for each primary student. For an upper primary student, 1.418 kg wheat, 1.732 kg rice and Rs 140.91 as cooking cost was fixed. Further guidance on provision of MDM during school holidays yet to be received	Source: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/haryana-teacher-calls-mid-day-meal-order-tughlaqs-edict-sacked/articleshow/74904671.cms
9	Himachal Pradesh	Yes	Both Dry rations and Cash / DBT fund transfer	Up to 14 th April 2020	Schools	The State Govt. has issued directives to schools to further distribute the grains allotted and procured by schools upto end of Mar-2020, to be distributed among school children as per entitlement, further schools which have not procured required quantity of grains shall lift the grains at the earliest from FPS shops, Cooking cost transferred to the school accounts shall be distributed to guardians of school children as per entitlements	Copy of State Govt. orders dated 20 th Mar 2020, https://himachal.nic.in/WriteReadData/1892s/16_1892s/U2003a-62576970.pdf
10	Jharkhand	Yes	Both Dry rations and Cash / DBT fund transfer *The State will provide nearly 2 kg of rice to school children delivered at homes by schoolteachers. *INR 114 per student to be transferred to their bank account as a replacement for cooking cost of MDM.	Up to 30 th April 2020	Home Delivery (Door-to-door) and Direct Beneficiary Transfer	Nearly 100% of children (approx. 31 lakh school students) have been provided dry rations as per the guidance issued. Summer holidays extend upto 15 th June 2020, official confirmation regarding provision of MDM during summer holidays is yet to be received	Copy of state govt. orders and information from State UNICEF colleagues https://newsd.in/jharkhand-students-will-get-mid-day-meal-even-in-summer-vacations/
11	Karnataka	Yes	Dry rations / Food grains As per the order issued by the state govt., children upto 5th std are given 100	Up to 14 th April 2020	Home Delivery (Door-to-door)	Schools have distributed rations as per orders, home-delivered especially facilitated by task force group formed at the level of gram panchayats. Decision on	State Govt. orders and telephonic discussion with Director, MDM and UNICEF colleagues

			gms of rice and 50 Gms of Toor Dal and children from 6th to 10th std are given 150 gms of Rice and 75 gms of toor dal as a daily entitlement			extending MDM during summer holidays will be issued soon, guidance is currently not available	
12	Kerala	Yes	Dry rations / Food grains The department has issued a guideline to provide children with 15 days MDM rice to be collected by parents, from the school.	Up to 31 st April 2020	Schools	-Few schools in the state have provided the rice as THR to children , while others have provided the left over rice to the community kitchens in some area. No further guidance for the month of April-2020 recieved	<i>Copy of state govt. orders and information from State WFP Colleagues</i>
13	Madhya Pradesh	Yes	Both Dry rations and Cash / DBT fund transfer	Up to 13 th June 2020	FPS shops for Dry rations and DBT for cash	INR 347 crore has been transferred to bank accounts of children through DBT as food security allowance, 26109.7 Mts of grains have been delivered at doorstep by local panchayat members or school teachers or AWW workers to nearly 66.27 lakhs school children *Food entitlements / dry rations for children covered under the MDM scheme can be collected from the FPS shops in the locality. Cooking cost at the rate of Rs 155 per Primary School Child and Rs. 232 per Upper Primary School student.	Newspaper: https://indiaeducationdiary.in/madhya-pradesh-cm-shivraj-singh-chouhan-deposits-rs-146-crore-for-66-lakh-students-by-single-click/
14	Maharashtra	Yes	Dry rations / Food grains Distribution of dry rations of rice, pulses, spices and oil, in lieu of hot cooked MDM has been initiated in the state	Up to 31 st Mar 2020	Schools	No further action initiated / noted after 1 st April 2020 https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/aurangabad/despote-centres-directive-no-food-security-allowance-under-mid-day-meal-in-state/articleshow/75130586.cms	Source: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nashik/nashik-schools-begin-mid-day-meal-ration-distribution/articleshow/74920268.cms?utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=TOICitiesNews https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/midday-meal-grains-in-rural-schools-to-be-given-away-to-students/articleshow/74868483.cms <i>And telephonic discussion with partner agencies</i>

15	Manipur	No	Mid-day meal scheme is not functional in the state			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Total lockdown, no movement, schools are closed and children have left for their homes in interior villages and teachers are also scattered and there is no direction from the State Govt despite directive from Manipur Human Rights Commission 	Source: http://epao.net/GP.asp?src=9..310320.mar20 and Telephonic discussion with department officials
16	Meghalaya	Yes	Both Dry rations and Cash / DBT fund transfer Parents were called to the school for collection of dry rations along with the distribution of cooking cost by the school authorities.	Up to 30 th June 2020	Schools for Dry rations and Cash to parents for cooking cost	100 % coverage has been done, Distribution for the month of April, May & June completed in all the districts successfully.	Source: telephonic discussion with Mr. Ambrush Marak, Director-School Education
17	Mizoram	Yes	Both Dry rations and Cash / DBT fund transfer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Dry ration (rice & pulse) was distributed through PDS and local school authorities. 	Upto 14 th April 2020	FPS shops / Home Delivery (House-to-House) for Dry rations and DBT for fund transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •100% coverage for distribution of dry rations completed but the bank transfer of conversion costs is in process. •Wherever possible, eggs are also being distributed. •SMC & teachers are distributing the rations to the households. 	Source: Telephonic discussion with Mr. James, Director.
18	Nagaland	Yes	Dry rations / Food grains <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Schools will be closed till 12th April and MDM will be distributed as dry rations through school authorities 	Upto 12 th April 2020	Home Delivery (House-to-house)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The State Govt. has started distribution of food grains in lieu of hot cooked meals to eligible school children up to Class VIII. In certain cases, the school children or their parents, while adhering to social distancing norms have collected rations as per entitlements. 	Source: Telephonic discussion with Mr. Temsu Jamir, Assistant Director, F & C supplies, Mobile No. – 09436003725 https://nenow.in/north-east-news/nagaland/nagaland-govt-calls-for-voluntary-observation-of-ianata-curfew.html http://morungexpress.com/nagaland-news-pictures-152
19	Odisha	Yes	Dry rations / Food grains Students were distributed dry ration for 3 months in advance through PDS	Upto June 2020	FPS shops	All 30 districts have completed distribution of rations as per the order issued	State Govt orders, Discussion with State Nodal Officer and State WFP Colleagues

			outlets. Coupon with unique UDISE ID were assigned to the students. The students or their parents would draw rations (rice + other commodities) from FPS on production of coupons. The coupons to be later reconciled to settle the accounts with the FPS owners.				
20	Punjab	Yes	Both Dry rations and Cash / DBT fund transfer The Punjab Govt. has issued guidance to distribute food grains to students at their homes while the cooking cost for MDM to be transferred by DBT in the student bank accounts	Upto 14 th April 2020	Home Delivery (Door-to-door) and Direct Beneficiary Transfer	The Punjab State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (Punsup) started delivery of rice and wheat to 12,942 primary and 6,753 schools' upper primary schools across the state after the education department decided to give dry ration for 24 days (9 days in March and 15 days in April). Each primary class student is to be supplied 2.4 kg of dry ration (100 gm per day) and those in upper primary classes will be given 3.6 kg (150 gm per day) for 24 days. Further updates awaited	Newspaper: https://www.cityairnews.com/content/punjab-government-to-provide-mid-day-meal-food-grains-and-cooking-cost-to-students-at-their-homes-education-minister https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/3-weeks-on-most-students-still-to-get-mid-day-meal-ration/story-CsvYJtHluFUYNHffK77iL.html
21	Rajasthan	No	Mid-day meal scheme is not functional in the state			•The mid-day meal scheme is closed	Information from State UNICEF Colleagues and Newspaper: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/no-midday-meals-for-62-lakh-kids/articleshow/74700185.cms
22	Sikkim	No	Mid-day meal scheme is not functional in the state			No decision made for MDM scheme	Source: Telephonic discussion with Mr. P.T. Bhutia, Assistant Director
23	Tamil Nadu	No	Mid-day meal scheme is not functional in the state	Upto 1 st May 2020		In light of COVID-19 pandemic Schools have been shut down since Mar 2020. The state govt. has not yet taken a decision on providing rations / food allowance to school children, decision of MDM during summer holidays has not been taken. Govt. of TN is providing free rations and other essential commodities under other social safety net programmes in the state.	Discussion with State NMP officer

						Collecting bank account details of school children / allowing parents or children to come to schools to collect rations / home delivery modes are challenging given the wide spread of infection in the state. Summer holidays are due from 1 st May 2020	
24	Telangana	No	Mid-day meal scheme is not functional in the state	Upto 14 th April 2020		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No decision on distribution of rations in lieu of hot cooked meals has been taken by the state government. *The Govt. of Telangana has not issued any order / guidance regarding continuation of mid-day meal scheme in schools / household delivery of rations / food security allowance, however additional dry rations are being provided through the Public Distribution System Scheme to affected families. 	<i>Discussion with State MDM Officer and information from State UNICEF colleagues</i>
25	Tripura	Yes	Food Security Allowance	Upto 31 st May 2020		In a letter issued by Director, Elementary Education, Tripura – Mr. Saju Vaheed dated 6 th April and 22 nd May 2020, the state govt. has allocated a total fund of INR 7,47,99,030 and INR 11,21,98.545/- respectively to provide ‘Food Security Allowance’ INR 5/- per primary level students and INR 7 per upper primary level student per day,	<i>Source: Letter issued by the state govt.</i>
26	Uttar Pradesh	No	Both Dry rations and Cash / DBT fund transfer	Upto 30 th jun 2020		<p>The Govt. of Uttar Pradesh has decided to provide both food grains as well as cooking cost reimbursement to both primary and upper primary school children for a period of 76 days during lockdown as follows:</p> <p>Primary School Children – 7.6 kg rations and INR 374 per child @ INR 4.97 per child per day</p> <p>Upper Primary School Children – 11.4 kg rations and INR 561 per upper primary child @ INR 6.71 per child per day</p> <p>Cooking cost to be transferred by NEFT / DBT to parents bank accounts and food grains to be provided by local FPS shops based on vouchers issued by school teachers.</p>	<i>Source: Newspaper</i> <i>Link:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/may/30/up-govt-to-disburse-ration-food-security-allowance-to-school-children-2150069.html 2. https://www.amarujala.com/uttar-pradesh/moradabad/one-lakh-sixty-thousand-children-will-eat-mdm-at-home-city-news-mbd3509133147
27	Uttarakhand	Yes	Both Dry rations and Cash / DBT fund transfer	Upto 30 th June 2020	DBT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cash transfers in lieu of food grains in the amount of INR 4.48 per primary school child per day and INR 6.71 per upper primary school child per day for the number of days. 	<i>Discussion with Joint Director, MDM</i>

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Govt. continues to distribute rice and cash allowance to beneficiaries. Till 27th May entitlement has been distributed, after this school will close till 30th June and the entitlement shall continue 	
28	West Bengal	Yes	Dry rations / Food grains Each student availing the mid-day meals was provided with 2 kilograms of rice and potatoes per month which will be handed over to the guardians.	Upto 15 th April 2020	Schools	The local authorities in charge of it should buy the potatoes from the local market at a price of Rs. 18 per kilogram. Further updates not available	Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/coronavirus-bengal-cm-announces-kolkata-lockdown-free-ration-for-6-months-120032201263_1.html

No	Union territory	MDM Status – Functional (Yes / No)	Modality	Timeline	Mode of distribution	Other remarks	Source of Information
1	Andaman and Nicobar		No information available				
2	Chandigarh	Yes	Cash / DBT fund transfer			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chandigarh is distributing cash allowance to the principal of every school for further distribution to the children on monthly basis Till date entitlement till May month has been given Discussions for the entitlement distribution during summer vacations are underway 	Telephonic discussion with the education office
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	No	Mid-day meal scheme is not functional in the state			Schools have been shut down, MDM scheme is not functional	Telephonic discussion with officials
4	Delhi	Yes	Both Dry rations and Cash / DBT fund transfer	Up to 14 th April 2020	Home Delivery (House-to-house) and DBT for fund transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The state govt has announced that mid-day meals will be delivered at homes to school children and Payments will be transferred to the accounts of children/parents. 	Source: https://theprint.in/health/how-states-are-delivering-mid-day-meals-to-students-during-covid-19-school-closure/389076/ and

							<i>Telephonic discussion with Director MDM</i>
5	Jammu and Kashmir	Yes	Both Dry rations and Cash / DBT fund transfer		FPS shops for dry rations and DBT for fund transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Dry ration (only rice) will be distributed through PDS FP shops and cooking costs (which includes cost of other ingredients and conversion cost) will be transferred to the parents' accounts. •A separate counter with the beneficiary list will be set up at FP shops for the distribution •Rations sufficient for 1 month has been distributed to the beneficiaries •81% schools have been covered for distribution of dry rations and DBT for conversion costs for 2 months. 	<i>Source:</i> https://indiaeducationdiary.in/in-jammu-and-kashmir-during-lock-down-around-8-lakh-students-receive-mid-day-meal-benefits-at-their-homes/
6	Ladakh	Yes	Dry Rations	30 th June 2020	Home Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Dry ration continues to be distributed in the UT to beneficiaries •There are No summer vacations, only 15 days vacations in the month of July 	Telephonic Discussion with education officer
7	Lakshadweep	No	Mid-day meal scheme is not functional in the UT	31 st May 2020		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Directorate has declared school vacations from April 1- May 31 with no provision of MDM during the vacation. The schools are slated to reopen in June. 	<i>Source: Telephonic discussion with Mr. Mohd. Bashir, Office Superintendent, Directorate of Education (04896-262237)</i>
8	Puducherry		No information available				

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