The Government Primary School Mid-Day Meals Scheme



A Study of Best Practices in the implementation of Mid-Day Meal Programme in Maharashtra





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It is heartening to note that the scheme of mid day meal is being implemented with great zeal in Maharashtra with the cooperation and support of self help groups, community and parents. All the children of primary schools are being served cooked hot meal. The state has set up monitoring committees at state, district, block, village/ward level to supervise the implementation of mid day meal scheme. But the mid day meal programme implementation is the overall responsibility of Committees constituted at the school level.

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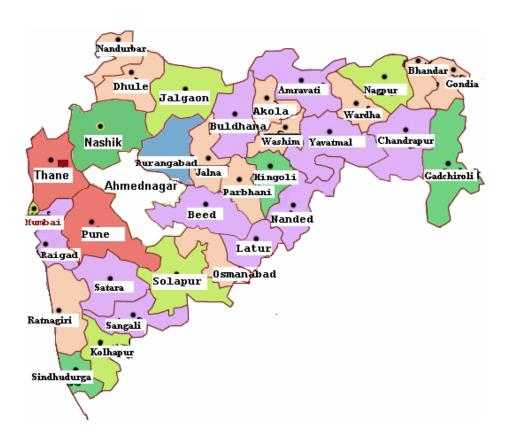
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Introduction

1.1 Physical Features of Maharashtra

Maharashtra is situated in the Western part of India. The State is spread over an area of 3.08 lakh square kilometres and ranks the second largest in area after Uttar Pradesh. It is divided into 35 districts and 358 tehsils and 43,711 villages. These districts fall under six administrative divisions of Maharashtra: Amravati Division, Auranghabad Division, Konkan Division, Nagpur Division, Nashik Division and Pune Division. Mumbai, the capital of the State, is also the Financial Capital of India. Other than Mumbai, Pune is another important city. It is called the Queen of the Deccan and the oxford of the east because of the number of educational institutions which are located here. Maharashtra is one of the richest states in India contributing to 15% of the country's industrial output.



1.2 Demographic Features of Maharashtra

1.2.1 Population of Maharashtra

Maharashtra is India's second largest populous state with a population of 9.69 crores (9.4% of country's population). The rural population comprises of 4.11 crores (42.41%) and the urban population constitutes 5.58 crores (57.59%) of the total population. Scheduled caste comprises of 9.88 million (28.85 % of the total state population) and Scheduled Tribe Population consists of 8.58 million. Around 13 % population belongs to 0-6 age group. The decadal population growth of Maharashtra is about 22.73% in 1991-2001.

Data indicates a decline in sex ratio from 934 in 1991 to 922 in 2001 census. This is a very alarming situation especially since the sex ratio of the country increased from 927 in 1991census to 933 in 2001. The sex ratio of 0 to 6 years age groups in Maharashtra has declined from 946 in 1991 census to 913 in 2001 census, indicating a gender bias and poor status of women.

Salient demographic features of the state of Maharashtra are presented in Table 1 & 2.

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Maharashtra State

S.No.	Particulars	Details
1	Area (2001 census)	307713 sq.km.
2	Population (2001 census)	9.69 crores
3	Decadal Growth(Census 2001)	22.73 %
4	Male	5.03 crores
5	Female	4.64 crores
6	Sex Ratio (Census 2001)	922
7	No.of Districts	35
8	No.of Tahasils	353
9	Municipal Corporations	22
10	No.of Municipal Councils	224
11	No.of villages	43711
12	Scheduled Caste Population (in million)	9.88
13	Scheduled Tribe Poulation (in million)	8.58
14	Urban Population	5.58 crores
15	Rural Population	4.11 crores

Table 2: Social and Economic Indicators in Maharashtra State: (Sample survey -2006)

S.No	Particulars	Details Sample survey-2006
1	Literacy rates	77 .3
2	Female Literacy Rate	67.0
3	Crude Birth Rate	18.5
4	Crude Death Rate	6.7
5	Total fertility rate	2.2
6	Infant Mortality rate	35
3	Maternal Mortality Ratio	149
4	Population below Poverty line (%)	25.02

2.0 Literacy Rate in Maharashtra

The Literacy rate of Maharashtra is 77% which is higher than the all India average of 64.84%. Large variation is observed in the literacy rates of various districts. Nandurbar district is having the lowest literacy rates (55.78%) and Mumbai district is having the highest literacy rates with 86.40%. District wise Literacy rates are given in *Annexure II*.

3.0 Status of Elementary Education in Maharashtra

The state has 106403 recognized government schools with primary and upper primary grades. The state is having total enrolment of 8845062 at the primary level of which the girls constitute 47.9 % of the total enrolment. At the upper primary level the total enrolment is 4312463 and girls constitute 47.9 % of the total enrolment. Total number of schools, enrollment and significant information on selected educational indicators for the state of Maharashtra is presented in Tables 3 and 4.

Table 3: Number of Schools and Students at Primary and Upper Primary Levels

S. No	Particulars(MDM)	Primary (I-V)		Upper Primary (VI- VIII)	
		Schools	Enrollment	Schools	Enrollment
1	No. of Govt.Schools	59020	5927624	21722	1597034
2	No. of Govt. aided Schools	13312	2618112	12349	2674270
3	No. of EGS.Schools	5777	131093	542	7927
4	No. of AIE Schools	5475	168233	1086	33232
5	Total	83584	8845062	35699	4312463

Table 3 a: Gender wise and Category wise Enrollment For Class I-V

S.No	Pa	rticulars	Details		
1	Gender wise	Primary Upper Primary	Boys- 4608287 Boys- 2246793	Girls-4236775 Girls-2065670	
2	Category Primary wise Upper Primary		SC-1296686 SC-632207	ST-1061407 ST-517496	

Table 4: Selected Educational Indicators of Maharashtra (2007-08)

% of Govt School s	% of private schools	Ratio of Prim.to upper primary	% of schools having pucca buildings	% of female teacher s	GER		NER	
					Primary	Upper primary	Primary	Upper primary
71.40	28.39	1.5	81.83	69.73				

4.0 History of Mid Day Meal Scheme in Maharashtra

National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (commonly known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme) was launched as a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme on 15th August, 1995. Its objective was to boost 'universalisation of primary education' in order to increase enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously impacting on nutrition of students in primary classes. Students studying in classes I to V and those who have minimum 80% attendance were given 3 kgs of rice per month. The Center provided free rice grains and Rs 25 per quintal for transportation. This scheme was introduced in Maharashtra in 1996-67 in 200 schools from 27 districts. During the years 1997-98 it was implemented in 300 schools in 29 districts. Some urban areas were also included in the scheme. In 1999-2000, parts of Mumbai were also covered.

The Supreme Court of India passed a judgment on 28th November 2001, which declared that the State governments need to provide cooked mid day meal to children studying in primary classes (I-V) in all government schools. Under the Mid-Day Meals Scheme, the central government provides 100 grams of wheat or rice per child in attendance per school day, plus a transport subsidy for movement

of grains from the nearest storage depot to the schools. A well cooked hot meal containing a minimum level of 300 calories and 8-12 grams of protein each day of school for a minimum of 200 days should be supplied to the child. The central and state governments share the cost of converting the food grains into meals (cooks' salaries, additional food ingredients, dishes and utensils, etc.). Panchayats and other local governing bodies are responsible for organizing and monitoring the transportation of grains and regular provision of cooked meals in the government schools. Local governments may choose to have the cooked meals provided through NGOs, as long as coverage is limited to government, local body, and aided schools. The speed and success of implementation has varied greatly in different states of India.

The School Education Department of Maharashtra has implemented the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM) Since January 2003. The scheme is implemented for children in Std I to V in Government schools, schools run by local bodies, Government aided private schools and students enrolled in Education Guarantee Scheme Centre i.e, Vastishalas and Alternative and Innovative Education Centres i.e. Mahatma Phule Education Guarantee Scheme Centres.

The school education department has suggested a variety of cooked food derived from rice i.e. Khichdi, Dal Rice, Idali Sambar, Rice Kheer, tomato Rice, Vegetable Rice etc. It is also suggested that once in a week, biscuits, bananas or eggs should be given to students. A weekly timetable for menu is to be prepared by the school. This directive given by the education department is being implemented by all the schools of Maharashtra.

At present the following calorific/protein value food is provided to children:

Table 5: Nutritional Value of Food

S.No	F	Particulars			
1	Proteins	Primary	12 gms		
		Upper Primary	20 gms		
2	Calories	Primary	450 cal		
		Upper Primary	700 cal		

5.0 Beneficiaries of Mid Day Meal in Maharashtra

Table 6 and 7 provide district wise information on number of beneficiaries under mid day meal scheme for primary stage:

Table 6: District wise information on Number of Institutions under MDM Scheme for Primary Stage (Classes I-V)

(As on 30th Sep., 2007)

S.	Name of	No. of Institutions regularly serving MDM						
No	District	Classes I-V	Classes	EGS	AIE	Total		
		(Govt+LB)	I -V (GA)	Centres	Centres			
1	Ahmadnagar	3088	609	189	142	4028		
2	Akola	993	246	10	39	1288		
3	Amaravati	1697	464	23	42	2226		
4	Aurangabad	1580	434	54	667	2735		
5	Beed	1914	445	102	567	3028		
6	Bhandara	771	202	31	35	1039		
7	Buldhana	1446	231	0	108	1785		
8	Chandrapur	1699	63	100	27	1889		
9	Dhule	1020	451	200	40	1711		
10	Gadchiroli	1327	143	13	141	1624		
11	Gondia	870	170	162	26	1228		
12	Hingoli	780	89	83	121	1073		
13	Jalgaon	1819	580	210	45	2654		
14	Jalana	1209	202	510	147	2068		
15	Kolhapur	1951	507	161	35	2654		
16	Latur	1216	567	57	2	1842		
17	Mumbai**	1220	326	0	26	1572		
18	Nagpur	1821	850	3	73	2747		
19	Nanded	1867	585	22	289	2763		
20	Nandurbar	1191	199	828	9	2227		
21	Nashik	2752	412	327	230	3721		
22	Osmanbad	978	239	12	35	1264		
23	Parbhani	1011	258	65	35	1369		
24	Pune*	3845	785	116	97	4843		
25	Raigad*	2594	240	291	29	3154		
26	Ratnagiri	2701	196	91	5	2993		
27	Sangali	1638	509	106	10	2263		
28	Satara*	2536	435	33	172	3176		
29	Sindhudurgh	1449	148	28	1	1626		
30	Solapur	2716	676	195	178	3765		
31	Thane*	3339	670	321	445	4775		
32	Wardha	961	220	27	4	1212		
33	Washim	808	176	80	0	1064		
34	Yeotmal	1982	88	117	149	2336		
	Total	58789	12415	4567	3971	79742		

Source: Department of School Education, Maharashtra

Around 79742 schools are serving the mid day meal at the primary level. The number of beneficiaries availing the benefit of the scheme is given in Table 7.

Table 7: District-wise information on Enrolment and Children availing MDM for 2007-08 for Primary Stage (Classes I - V)

(As on 30th Sep., 2007)

S.No.	Name of	No. of children availing MDM*						
	District	Classes I -V	Classes I -V EGS AIE		Total			
		(Govt+LB+GA)	Centres	Centres	(col.7+8+9)			
1	Ahmadnagar	397855	7621	92	405568			
2	Akola	123532	68	1025	124625			
3	Amaravati	213091	273	1061	214425			
4	Aurangabad	309605	3100	14911	327616			
5	Beed	242764	232	13850	256846			
6	Bhandara	94404	2898	0	97302			
7	Buldhana	201544	0	1620	203164			
8	Chandrapur	162371	914	1526	164811			
9	Dhule	176970	355	5326	182651			
10	Gadchiroli	81586	288	2326	84200			
11	Gondia	95625	0	2768	98393			
12	Hingoli	103242	1496	1494	106232			
13	Jalgaon	370205	5064	0	375269			
14	Jalana	159488	2423	9055	170966			
15	Kolhapur	281911	237	2536	284684			
16	Latur	216368	100	1353	217821			
17	Mumbai	524350	0	0	524350			
18	Nagpur	266862	128	1400	268390			
19	Nanded	306038	475	6808	313321			
20	Nandurbar	124419	0	14690	139109			
21	Nashik	376104	0	40972	417076			
22	Osmanbad	151372	42	841	152255			
23	Parbhani	171060	597	1883	173540			
24	Pune*	566485	1476	1286	569247			
25	Raigad*	181960	863	6427	189250			
26	Ratnagiri	135639	1265	37	136941			
27	Sangali	217329	160	2362	219851			
28	Satara*	211305	928	1874	214107			
29	Sindhudurgh	70916	15	378	71309			
30	Solapur	399129	1671	10637	411437			
31	Thane*	549609	4936	11578	566123			
32	Wardha	90126	483	69	90678			
33	washim	111889	1261	0	113150			
34	Yeotmal	242389	1755	3630	247774			
	Total	7927542	41124	163815	8132481			

Around 8.1 million children in Maharashtra are the beneficiaries of mid day scheme. As the scheme is being extended to upper primary stage for all the children, the information on the number of upper primary schools eligible for mid day meal is given in Table 8

Table 8: District wise information on number of Institutions under MDM Scheme for Upper Primary Stage (Classes VI-VIII)

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Institutions having upper primary classes WITHOUT primary classes (classes I-V) attached to them (2)	No. of Institutions having upp. pri. classes WITH primary classes (classes I-V) attached to them (3)	Total Upper Primary Classes (2+3)
1	Ahmadnagar	0	1112	1112
2	Akola	133	662	795
3	Amaravati	132	2238	2370
4	Aurangabad	0	464	464
5	Beed	77	2552	2629
6	Bhandara	1	1100	1101
7	Buldhana	0	768	768
8	Chandrapur	825	759	1584
9	Dhule	0	1707	1707
10	Gadchiroli	190	1404	1594
11	Gondia	213	1079	1292
12	Hingoli	3	987	990
13	Jalgaon	0	902	902
14	Jalana	74	695	769
15	Kolhapur	284	1461	1745
16	Latur	88	1924	2012
17	Mumbai	0	2143	2143
18	Nagpur	110	2747	2857
19	Nanded	67	1270	1337
20	Nandurbar	0	871	871
21	Nashik	0	1138	1138
22	Osmanbad	55	640	695
23	Parbhani	55	824	879
24	Pune	185	1228	1413
25	Raigad	58	1244	1302
26	Ratnagiri	57	1187	1244
27	Sangali	98	1220	1318
28	Satara	0	1241	1241
29	Sindhudurgh	7	696	703
30	Solapur	183	1464	1647
31	Thane	466	1913	2379
32	Wardha	34	1219	1253
33	Washim	222	1286	1508
34	Yeotmal	177	2438	2615
	Total	3794	44583	48377

The benefit of MDM will be extended to all schools and the information on enrolment and children likely to avail MDM is presented in Table 9

Table 9: District-wise information on Enrolment and Children availing MDM for 2008-09 for Upper Primary Stage (Classes VI-VIII)

S. No	Name of District			ent as on 3		No. of children likely to avail MDM i 2008-09			
		Classes	EGS	AIE	Total	Classe	EGS	AIE	Total
		VI -VIII	Centr	Centre	(col	S	Centr	Centre	(col.7+8+
		(Govt+LB +GA)	es	s	3+4+5)	VI -VIII (Govt+L	es	S	9)
		+GA)				B+GA)			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Ahmadnagar	218410	0	0	218410	200806	0	0	200806
2	Akola	81419	0	0	81419	74857	0	0	74857
3	Amaravati	132927	32	0	132959	122213	29	0	122243
4	Aurangabad	171551	0	0	171551	157724	0	0	157724
5	Beed	133080	56	0	133136	122354	51	0	122405
6	Bhandara	55202	0	0	55202	50753	0	0	50753
7	Buldhana	127054	0	1448	128502	116813	0	1331	118145
8	Chandrapur	103481	0	0	103481	95140	0	0	95140
9	Dhule	134247	0	951	135198	123427	0	874	124301
10	Gadchiroli	49671	664	2250	52585	45668	610	2069	48347
11	Gondia	49443	1639	518	51600	45458	1507	476	47441
12	Hingoli	47615	171	887	48673	43777	157	816	44750
13	Jalgaon	163964	414	233	164611	150749	381	214	151343
14	Jalana	87136	0	270	87406	80113	0	248	80361
15	Kolhapur	185450	0	0	185450	170503	0	0	170503
16	Latur	140942	0	33	140975	129582	0	30	129612
17	Mumbai	213792	0	0	213792	196560	0	0	196560
18	Nagpur	155932	0	0	155932	143364	0	0	143364
19	Nanded	156935	0	0	156935	144286	0	0	144286
20	Nandurbar	50289	0	7959	58248	46236	0	7318	53553
21	Nashik	145430	1175	0	146605	133708	1080	0	134789
22	Osmanbad	76349	710	340	77399	70195	653	313	71161
23	Parbhani	85873	1028	6828	93729	78952	945	6278	86174
24	Pune	311236	148	0	311384	286150	136	0	286286
25	Raigad	100745	0	0	100745	92625	0	0	92625
26	Ratnagiri	89266	0	0	89266	82071	0	0	82071
27	Sangali	137790	0	0	137790	126684	0	0	126684
28	Satara	147563	36	0	147599	135669	33	0	135703
29	Sindhudurgh	41310	0	0	41310	37980	0	0	37980
30	Solapur	210150	6	9011	219167	193212	6	8285	201502
31	Thane	229755	0	0	229755	211237	0	0	211237
32	Wardha	50071	230	35	50336	46035	211	32	46279
33	washim	55480	215	0	55695	51008	198	0	51206
34	Yeotmal	131746	1403	2469	135618	121127	1290	2270	124687
	Total	4271304	7927	33232	4312463	392703	7288	30554	3964878

Mid-day Meal Scheme has already been extended by Govt. of Maharashtra to cover children in upper primary classes (VI-VIII) in 43 educationally backward blocks in 10 districts of Maharashtra state with effect from 1st January 2008. Table 10 reveals that around 3195 institutions at upper primary stage in ten educationally backward districts are providing the mid day meal to all its children.

Table 10: District wise information on number of Institutions under MDM Scheme for Upper Primary Stage (Classes VI-VIII)

(As on 31st Jan. 2008)

S.No.	Name of	No. of Institutions (in EBBs)								
	District	(Govt+LB)	(GA)	EGS	AIE	Total				
				Centres	Centres					
1	Nandurbar	163	161	0	0	324				
2	Gagchorili	163	36	0	0	199				
3	Nanded	285	82	0	0	367				
4	Hingoli	68	24	0	0	92				
5	Parbhani	457	205	0	0	662				
6	Jalna	498	185	0	0	683				
7	Nashik	175	65	0	0	240				
8	Thane	257	110	0	0	367				
9	Beed	139	63	0	0	202				
10	Kolhapur	51	8	0	0	59				
	Total	2256	939	0	0	3195				

6.0 MDM: Implementation Strategies in Maharashtra

MDM is implemented through the panchayati raj system in Maharashtra. In rural areas the scheme is implemented by village education committees and ward committees are responsible for this task in urban areas. The management committees in private aided schools handle this scheme in their respective schools. The quota of rice is released by the Centre to the District Supply Officer from the Food Council of India at the rate of 100 gram per student per day. The rice is allotted to each school on the basis of enrollment as on 30th September of the previous year. Every school has an institutional ration card. Rice is lifted form fair price ration shops designated for each school. At the beginning of every month schools set a margin for the next month. This helps in the timely supply of food grains to each school.

The consolidated indent for each block is made by the Block Education Officer, which is then sent to the Tashildar who hands it over to the District Supply Officer. Food grains are directly taken by School Headmaster from nearby ration shop. Register is maintained at the school level showing details about the quantity of rice used every day. The storage of food grains is made at schools only.

Ordinarily, VECs appoint the cooking agencies. It is expected that preference will be given to self-help groups of women, women's groups or needy women. In urban areas, municipal corporations have appointed contractors or women's groups for cooking. In some places, NGOs have shown their interest in participation in this process.

In addition to provision of rice at the rate of 100 grams per day per student, the central government grant for other cooking material such as vegetable, dal, pulses, and for cooking expense depends on the number of student who have enrolled in school.

Food & Civil Supplies Department

Municipal Corporations (Mumbai, Thane, Meera- Bhaindar, New- Mumbai, Bhivandi –Nijampur, Ulhasnagar)

District Supply Officers

Agency or Contractor responsible for cooking

Fair price shops

Schools

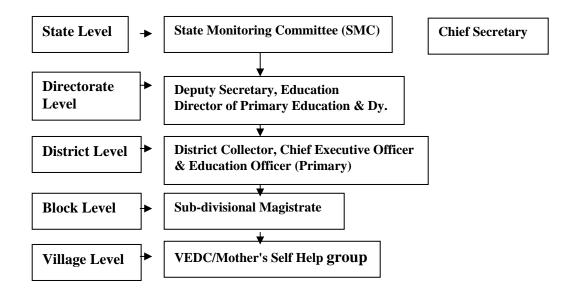
Fig. 1 Arrangements for Foodgrains Transportation
Food grain Flow Chart

7.0 Quality Control and Monitoring of MDM

Maharashtra has well established system of quality control and monitoring of mid day meal scheme. Schools have to send regular reports to cluster level committees. The reports are then forwarded to the central government in four stages. First, the cluster level committee hands over the report to the block level committee, which then sends it to district level committee. The district level committee submits to the state level committee and finally it reaches the central government. The various reports forwarded are quarterly progress reports, progress of provision of infrastructure for the programme, arrangement for cooking, etc. This task is done manually.

The government of Maharashtra has constituted various monitoring committees to implement the MDM scheme efficiently at various levels. The School Education Department is the nodal department. The state level committee includes the Chief Secretary and Deputy Secretary of School Education Department. The Director of Primary Education, Deputy Director of Primary Education forms the committee at the directorate level. The district level committee comprises of the district collector, the Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad and Education Officer (Primary). The Sub Divisional Officer and Block Education Officer form the Block Level committee. At the municipal corporation level, the committees include the Commissioner and Education Officer. The Sarpanch / Chairman, VEC and the school head master are members of the committee at the village level. Representatives from the Food and Civil Supply Department and experts in nutrition also are members of this committee.

Figure 2: Management Structure for Implementation of Mid-day Meal



8.0 Flow of Funds for Mid Day Meal Scheme

The State Government releases the cooking costs (Central and State) to the Chief Executive Officer, Zila Parishad/Regional Dy. Director of Education, Mumbai. Thereafter, the funds flow to Block Development Officerss/ Municipal Corporations, who distribute the money to VEC/ Mahila Mandal/ Self Help Groups, as the case may be, at the school level. In 2007-08, the state government started releasing funds to the schools electronically. However, the system is yet to stabilize. To avoid the delay in release of funds it was proposed that a separate cell may be created for the management of MDM. It was also suggested that the funds may directly be given to the Block Education Officer. The management structure for implementation is described schematically below

Figure below presents the flow of funds for mid day meal from center to state to the school.

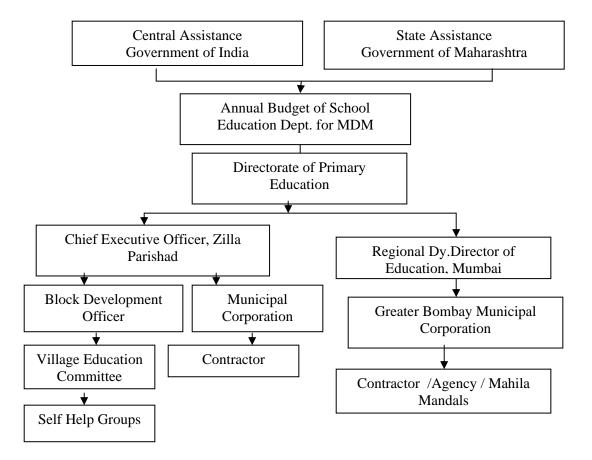


Figure.3 Flow of funds for Mid day Meal in Maharashtra

In 2008-09, funds for first quarter were released in April 2008 itself so that cash flow to school is relatively more efficient. The work of construction of kitchen cum stores has been assigned to the Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad (MPSP), a statutory body and total amount has been handed over to them.

9.0 System for procuring cooking ingredients (fuel, condiments, oil, etc.), Commodities

The cooking ingredients like fuel, condiments, oil etc. are procured by cooking agency of school under supervision of village Education Committee (VEC)

10.0 Statement of Budget Allocation towards the Mid-Day Meal

The provision towards the mid day meal in state budget at the primary level and upper primary level are presented in Table 11

Table 11: Provision towards MDM in the State Budget 2008-09

1) Cooking	1) Cooking Cost : Primary - I -V							
	Allocations in State/UT Budget							
Year Central State Total Expenditure (Reimbursement)								
2005-06	7919.95	9142.74	17062.7	21938.75*				
2006-07	20032.34	9764.19	29796.5	28285.36				
2007-08 25328.3 8771.32 34099.6 45546								
2008-09	26837.19	9708.28	36545.5	Not Applicable				

^{*}Excess of expenditure was incurred from last years unspent balance

2) Cooking Cost : Upper Primary							
	Allocatio	ns in State/UT	Budget				
Year Central State Total Expenditure (Reimbursement)							
2007-08	1068.91	267.23	1336.14	0			
2008-09	17445.47	4361.37	21806.84	Not Applicable			

11.0 Cost of meal per child per day as per state expenditure norm including Central Assistance and state Contribution (Excluding cost of food grains). The cost has been increasing over the years which can be seen from the Table 12

Table 12 Cost of Meal Per Child Per Day

Year	Cost at Primary Level (in Rs)
2005-06	1.30
2006-07	1.60
2007-08	2.23
2008-09	2.39

12.0 System for Cooking, Serving and Supervising mid day meals in the school:

Cooking Agencies for e.g. Mahila Self-Groups, Needy Mahilas or NGOs are engaged in cooking & serving of MDM. These needy women get employment and are able to contribute to the family income. Members of Village Education Committee are given the responsibility of supervising the quality of food. Mother parents have also been asked to supervise the quality of food everyday. The meal is served to students in presence of teacher, member of village Education Committee. Ingredients are not centrally purchased in the state but by each individual school as the grants are given to them.





13.0 Kitchen Devices

Kitchen utensils, gas connection or stove/Chullah has been provided to all the cooking agencies for cooking the food. If the food is cooked in the schools these facilities are provided to the cooks in the school.



- 14.0 Systems to ensure transparency and openness in all aspects of programme implementation, including inter-alia, foodgrains management, ingredients procurement, cooking and serving, appointment of cooking staff, construction of kitchen sheds, procurement of cooking devices
 - i) Superintendent (Mid-day Meal Scheme) is appointed at block level
 & Municipal corporation level to supervise the MDM programme
 - ii) Regular weekly menu is displayed on notice board.
 - iii) Regular meetings of Mid-day meal are taken by the VEC at school level. Minutes are regularly prepares and suggestive measures are carried out.
 - iv) Mothers, parents are involved in, supervision of cooked meal & supervision of adequate pulses & vegetables.
 - v) Stock register & expenditure register are maintained by school and are kept open for inspection.

It was suggested by various personnel involved in the implementation of scheme that since MDM is a large scale programme with huge amount involved, a separate department may be created for the timely delivery of funds and foodgrains.

15.0 Field Level Observations

Visit to 12 schools in 9 blocks and 4 districts of the state were made to look at the implementation of Mid Day Meal practices. Three blocks that were selected were having large proportion of tribal population. The characteristics of the sampled schools are presented in Table 13.

Table 13: Characteristics of the Sampled Schools

S.N o	Name of School	Block	District	Primary/ Upper primary	Management	Rural/urba n
1	Nagar Parishad Shikshan Mandal Talegaon Dabhade Sant Dayaneshwar Primary School No. 6	Maval	Pune	Upper primary	Local Body- NP	(su) Ward
2	Z.P Primary School Malvali	Velha	Pune	Primary	Local Body- ZP	Rural
3	Z.P Primary School Jambli	Bhor	Pune	Upper primary	Local Body- ZP	Rural
4	NP School No. 5 Wai	Wai	Satara	Primary	Local Body- ZP	Semi Urban
5	Abha Puri	Wai	Satara	Upper Primary	Local Body- ZP	Rural
6.	Mahila Snehwardhan Samaj, Primary Private School	Wai	Satara	Primary	Private aided	Semi Urban
7.	N.P Shikshan Mandal (Boys)	Mahabal eshwar	Satara	Primary	Local Body- NP	Semi Urban (hilly)
8.	Z.P School Parle	Poladpu r	Raigad	Upper Primary	Local Body- ZP	Rural
9.	Z.P Kashele	Karjat (Tribal)	Raigad	Upper Primary	Local Body	Rural (Tribal)
10	Z.P.School Dharachi Wadi	Karjat (Tribal)	Raigad	Upper Primary	Local Body	Rural (Tribal)
11	Kokan Education Society Jagdish Shah Vidyalaya, Alibagh	Alibagh	Raigad	Primary	Private aided	Urban
12	Thane Muncipal School No.119 (Hindi)	MNC Thane	Thane	1 to 7th Upper Primary	MNC	Urban

Planned and unannounced visits to the schools were made to observe meal preparation and distribution. Out of twelve schools visited, the teachers of nine schools had prior information and in three schools the head teachers were not informed.

Detailed semi-structured questionnaires were administered to the school teachers, cooks, VEC members, Block Education Officer., primary school children and their parents. Questions were repeated and explained as often as necessary to avoid misunderstanding.

15.1 Details of the Sampled Schools

Twelve schools from 4 districts and nine blocks were selected for the study. Schools were identified in consultation with the state departments on the basis of good practices followed in the implementation of mid day meal scheme. One out of the twelve schools was for boys only and the remaining were co educational. Out of 12 schools seven were upto upper primary level whereas five schools were upto primary level only.

Table 14: Description of the Sampled Schools

S.N o.	Name of School	Total Enro	lment	Atter ce	ndan	Kitchen Sheds	Cooking Agency	Cookin g Medium	No. o Teac rs	
		Bo ys	Girls	boy s	Girl s	Y/N	(SHG/Ngo/I nSchool)		М	F
1	Nagar Parishad Shikshan Mandal Talegaon Dabhade Sant Dayaneshwar Primary School No. 6 (392)	196	196	181	174	N	NGO (Iskon)	Gas	4	8
2	Z.P Primary School Malvali (31)	17	14	16	14	Υ	SHG	Stove	1	1
3	Z.P Primary School Jambli (96)	56	40	56	40	N	In School	Fire Wood	0	7
4	NP School No. 5 Wai (375)	198	177	183	168	N	Caterer (Annapurna)	Gas	2	5
5	Abha Puri (170)	84	86	76	82	N	In School	Chula	2	5
6.	Mahila snehwardhan samaj, primary private school (426)	265	161	260	154	N	Contractor	Gas	0	8
7.	N.P shikshanMandal (Boys) (259)	259		240		N	Contractor	Gas	6	2

8.	Z.P School Parle (83)	49	34	44	33	N	In School	Fire Wood	1	3
9.	Z.P Kashele (243)	114	129	85	101	N	SHG	Fire Wood	5	2
10.	Z.P.School Dharachi wadi (52)	29	23	28	20	N	Individual Lady	Fire Wood	2	0
11.	Kokan Education Society Jagdish Shah Vidyalaya Alibagh (817)	434	383	422	374	N	SHG (In School)	Gas		
12.	Thane Muncipal School No.119 (Hindi) (324)	174	150	150	130	N	Adimaya Mahila Mandal, Thane	Gas	1	8

Table 15: Enrolment and Attendance of the Sampled Schools on the day of Visit

S.n	School	Enro	lment		Attend	lance		% Atte	% Attending School	
0		Bo ys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Tota I
1	Nagar Parishad Shikshan Mandal Talegaon Dabhade Sant Dayaneshwar Primary School No. 6 (392)	196	196	392	181	174	355	92.34	88.7	90.6
2	Z.P Primary School Malvali (31)	17	14	31	16	14	30	94.1	100	96.8
3	Z.P Primary School Jambli (96)	56	40	96	56	40	96	100	100	100. 0
4	NP School No. 5 Wai (375)	198	177	375	183	168	351	92.4	94.9	93.6
5	Abha Puri (170)	84	86	170	76	82	158	90.5	95.3	92.9
6.	Mahila snehwardhan samaj, primary private school (426)	265	161	426	260	154	414	98.1	95.6	97.2
7.	N.P shikshanMandal (Boys) (259)	259		259	240		240	92.7		92.7
8.	Z.P School Parle (83)	49	34	83	44	33	77	89.8	97.1	92.8
9.	Z.P Kashele (243)	114	129	243	85	101	186	74.6	78.3	76.5
10.	Z.P.School Dharachi wadi (52)	29	23	52	28	20	48	96.5	87.0	92.3
11.	Kokan Education Society Jagdish Shah Vidyalaya Alibagh (817)	434	383	817	422	374	796	97.2	97.6	97.4
12.	Thane Muncipal School No.119 (Hindi) (324)	174	150	324	150	130	280	86.2	86.7	86.4

The schools visited were having varying enrolment ranging from 31 to 426 in the primary sections. The attendance was short of actual enrolment in all the sampled schools except for one. In most of the schools attendance was around 90 percent except for two. The school attendance has an impact on the mid day meal as the food is to be cooked for those children who attend school on that particular day. The improvement in attendance also implies that mid day meal is one of the significant incentives for children to attend the school regularly.

In each school cooks and teachers appreciated the relevance of the mid day meal scheme and also freely admitted the shortcomings of the meal programme, at least those resulted from inadequate funding and facilities. Since the visits were made while the cook was preparing meal or the food was being served, the possibilities of its quantity or quality were limited.

16. Highlights on the Implementation of MDM Programme in Maharashtra

In each of the schools visited, interviews with a variety of people (teachers, parents and students) as well as personal observation confirmed that the school normally provided cooked mid-day meals on a daily basis (six days per week). Based on the field observations, highpoints of the best practices in the implementation of MDM programme in the state is presented below:

16.1 Benefit of MDM to all the children

All the children in eligible schools for MDM are served cooked meal and a total of 79742 primary level institutions and 3195 upper primary level institutions in the educationally backward districts are serving food to the children. Around 8.1 million children in Maharashtra are being served the cooked meal regularly in the working days of the session.

16.2 All Children Treated Equal

All the children are made to sit together and served food without the discrimination of caste, religion, gender or disability. The effort is made to bring the spirit of togetherness and cohesiveness among the children.



16.3 Teachers Contribution in MDM

Active participation and cooperation of teachers has been a significant factor in the successful implementation of the scheme. Teachers help in the purchase of food items, supervise the quality of ingredients and also the cook. They help in the distribution of midday meal. Teachers give special attention to those children who are from poor socio-economic background and to girls as well. Teachers maintains the record and displays information related to mid day meal.

In all the schools, the teachers said that the provision of meals was never interrupted though there are few occasions when the funds do not reach on time. Teachers were able to keep the meal programme going either by spending out of their pockets or borrowing from the store and vegetable vendors on loan basis.

16.4 Record Keeping and Display of information

For monitoring the implementation of any scheme, the records need to be maintained properly. Most of the schools visited were having well maintained records in terms of food grain received, funds received and expenditure incurred, daily attendance of children, items of grocery bought. Most of the schools have also maintained separate register for recording the health related information of each child like growth in weight and height.

The most encouraging fact observed in Maharshtra is that all the schools have used the allowance towards the teaching learning aids. All the classrooms were having the charts and other relevant flash material. The classrooms and toilets were found to be neat. Information related to the attendance, mid day meal menu was displayed on the notice board. Record of the meetings was well maintained. Names of the members of School Management Committee, Village Education Committee and Parent Teacher Association were also displayed clearly.

Few schools have also displayed basic significant facts about the country and state like the name of Chief Minister, Prime Minister, President etc.. Few schools have also displayed year planner giving details about the coverage of curriculum month wise.

16.5 MDM in Schools of Tribal Areas

The schools which were located in tribal areas and were having predominantly tribal children were found to be implementing the MDM with great efficiency and precision. Though the schools were located in remote areas, the self help groups were actively involved in the cooking of meal in well maintained kitchen and neat utensils. VEC and the parents were found to be actively participating in the supervision of the quality of food.

16.6 Contribution of Self Help group/NGO in the provision of Mid day Meal

Self help Groups/ NGOs in Maharashtra are actively involved in ensuring hygienic, balanced and tasty food to the children. The food was prepared either by Self Help Groups/ NGO/Cook In seven schools self help group were cooking the food in their own kitchen outside the school premises. It is a good practice as the disturbance due to cooking in school is avoided. The cooking takes place near to the school premises and the children get cooked hot meal. In one of the schools visited, Iskon is providing the food and they claim that they contribute additional funds to improve the quality and nutritional value of the food.

In three schools the food was being cooked in the school by the cook. The food was served by the cooks under the supervision of the teacher responsible for mid day meal and also by the parents of the children.

16.7 Measure for quality control of grains and cooked meal

The sample of rice supplied to each school is kept for every month. Sample of coked food is also kept for one day to ensure that the food given to children is fresh. In case the children fall sick, the quality can be checked through the preserved sampled food.

16.8 Storage of Food grains

Bags of wheat/rice were generally stored in the kitchen of the self help group or in a corner of one of the kitchen or store room of the school. Most of the cooks had steel bins for storing the grains.



Computer Lab in School



Mid Day Meal



A Class in Progress

16.9 Cooking Devices

The gas connection has not been provided in all the schools in Maharashtra. In five schools the meals were prepared over wood fire and in six schools the meal was prepared on the gas chullah. In one of the schools the food was prepared on the stove.

Although an amount of Rs 60,000 has been sanctioned for building the kitchen shed only one of the sampled schools had built the shed as in large number of schools the food is not prepared in the school building. The self help Group women prepare at their own place and cooked food is brought to the school.

16.10 Serving Dishes for children

It was also observed that nine schools had dishes for all the primary school children which were donated by the NGO or the community members had contributed and in three schools the children brought their own dishes from home.

16.11 Delivery of Foodgrains and Funds

Teachers and cooks in all the schools said that wheat and rice was delivered on time but funding was sometimes late. All the schools reported that they were always supplied with adequate amount of rice. It was mentioned by the head teachers that the amount paid to the cooks need to be increased.

16.12 Discussion with Cooks

Cooks were interviewed separately from teachers and generally endorsed the information teachers had provided about the management of the meal program at their school. Cooks reported that it took them about three to four hours to prepare the school meals depending on the number of children enrolled in primary sections. They were also expected to provide their own cooking fuel if the food is cooked with firewood. The cooks reported that the remunerations may be increased considering the time they spend for cooking and washing utensils.

16.13 Discussion with the Teachers

Teachers in all the sampled schools reported that the school meal scheme had increased their workload considerably. The teachers are expected to keep meticulous and detailed account of the receipt of food grains and fund, daily attendance and amount of meal prepared. They were also responsible to monitor the purchase of all the ingredients necessary for the preparation of meal. However teachers expressed satisfaction over the quality of food and were of the opinion that the scheme has proved to be beneficial for the poor children. MDM has also been able to achieve its objective of increasing enrolment, attendance and retention.

16.14 Beneficiaries of MDM

Personal observation and interviews with teachers, cooks, and school children indicated that the bulk of the food prepared was given to the intended beneficiaries: children in primary classes (I-V) who were attending class at the government school. However two schools were having ECCE Center and those children were also given meals. Sometimes a few of the younger (three- to five-year-old) siblings of these students accompanied them to school, sat in the classrooms all day and were given meals along with the others. Teachers said that they too ate small amount of meal half an hour before it is served to the children. It was also observed that a small amount of leftover food was put away in one of the schoolrooms or taken home by the cook to be eaten by her family. The children of all the schools reported food being served regularly. They found food to be tasty, sufficient and delicious. Meal breaks takes place between 1030-1100 hrs and lasted for half an hour. Children sit on the tatpatties or mats and are served food.

17.0 Concluding Observation

Maharashtra has been successfully implementing the MDM scheme with the involvement and active participation of Village education Committee/ Ward Committees, Parents, Community. Self Help Group and NGOs are contributing

positively in the successful execution of the mid day meal scheme. Each child in primary school/ EGS Center is provided nutritious cooked meal. Since January 2008, the scheme has been extended to 30 educationally backward blocks of 10 districts and it is going to be further expanded for all the children of upper primary classes.

At the system level initiatives have been taken for the regular and timely supply of the food grains. Food grains are provided timely and the utilization by the school is also done efficiently. Funds are most often released on time in order to have uninterrupted implementation of the scheme.

In Maharashtra, involvement of the self help groups in the cooking and supply of cooked meal is worth praising. They have kept the kitchens neat and stored the food grains in neat bins. It is heartening to observe that these self help groups work with a spirit of social welfare and profit is not the main motive. Cooking is generally carried out at the place of self help group which are located in the close vicinity. This has dual advantage as it does not create disturbance in the school and children get hot meal due to closeness to the school premises. It also reduces the burden of teachers because they do not have to be physically present while the food is being cooked.

Another significant feature observed in Maharashtra is that the community, parents and teachers monitor the quality of food grains and cooked meal regularly with keen interest. Numbers of NGOs are also contributing in the implementation of scheme by donating utensils, and also helping in the cooking and delivery of cooked food in few schools. The main objective of the scheme is being accomplished as it has been able to improve the enrolment and retention.

Gender wise Population in the Districts of Maharashtra

Annexure I

S.No	State/District	Pop	ulation 2001	
		Persons	Males	Females
	Maharashtra			
1	Ahmadnagar	4 ,040,642	2 ,083,053	1 ,957,589
2	Akola	1 ,630,239	8 41,253	7 88,986
3	Amravati	2 ,607,160	1 ,345,614	1 ,261,546
4	Aurangabad	2 ,897,013	1 ,505,363	1 ,391,650
5	Bhandara	1 ,136,146	5 73,445	5 62,701
6	Bid	2 ,161,250	1 ,116,356	1 ,044,894
7	Buldana	2 ,232,480	1 ,147,403	1 ,085,077
8	Chandrapur	2 ,071,101	1 ,062,993	1 ,008,108
9	Dhule	1 ,707,947	8 78,372	8 29,575
10	Gadchiroli	9 70,294	4 91,101	4 79,193
11	Gondiya	1 ,200,707	5 98,834	6 01,873
12	Hingoli	9 87,160	5 05,373	4 81,787
13	Jalgaon	3 ,682,690	1 ,905,493	1 ,777,197
14	Jalna	1 ,612,980	8 26,903	7 86,077
15	Kolhapur	3 ,523,162	1 ,807,470	1 ,715,692
16	Latur	2 ,080,285	1 ,075,257	1 ,005,028
17	Mumbai	3 ,338,031	1 ,878,246	1 ,459,785
18	Mumbai			
	(Suburban)	8 ,640,419	4 ,741,720	3 ,898,699
19	Nagpur	4 ,067,637	2 ,105,314	1 ,962,323
20	Nanded	2 ,876,259	1 ,481,358	1 ,394,901
21	Nandurbar	1 ,311,709	6 63,511	6 48,198
22	Nashik	4 ,993,796	2 ,590,912	2 ,402,884
23	Osmanabad	1 ,486,586	7 69,368	7 17,218
24	Parbhani	1 ,527,715	7 80,191	7 47,524
25	Pune	7 ,232,555	3 ,769,128	3 ,463,427
26	Raigarh	2 ,207,929	1 ,117,628	1 ,090,301
27	Ratnagiri	1 ,696,777	7 94,498	9 02,279
28	Sangli	2 ,583,524	1 ,320,088	1 ,263,436
29	Satara	2 ,808,994	1 ,408,326	1 ,400,668
30	Sindhudurg	8 68,825	4 17,890	4 50,935
31	Solapur	3 ,849,543	1 ,989,623	1 ,859,920
32	Thane	8 ,131,849	4 ,377,747	3 ,754,102
33	Wardha	1 ,236,736	6 38,990	5 97,746
34	Washim	1 ,020,216	5 26,094	4 94,122
35	Yavatmal	2 ,458,271	1 ,265,681	1 ,192,590

Rural-Urban Population in the Districts of Maharashtra

S.No	India and State/	P	opulation 200)1
	Union territory*/District	Persons	Rural	Urban
	Maharashtra			
1	Ahmadnagar	4 ,040,642	3 ,236,945	8 03,697
2	Akola	1 ,630,239	1 ,002,742	6 27,497
3	Amravati	2 ,607,160	1 ,707,581	8 99,579
4	Aurangabad	2 ,897,013	1 ,809,863	1 ,087,150
5	Bhandara	1 ,136,146	9 60,418	1 75,728
6	Bid	2 ,161,250	1 ,774,180	3 87,070
7	Buldana	2 ,232,480	1 ,759,097	4 73,383
8	Chandrapur	2 ,071,101	1 ,406,034	6 65,067
9	Dhule	1 ,707,947	1 ,262,062	4 45,885
10	Gadchiroli	9 70,294	9 03,033	6 7,261
11	Gondiya	1 ,200,707	1 ,057,276	1 43,431
12	Hingoli	9 87,160	8 33,130	1 54,030
13	Jalgaon	3 ,682,690	2 ,629,896	1 ,052,794
14	Jalna	1 ,612,980	1 ,305,115	3 07,865
15	Kolhapur	3 ,523,162	2 ,472,809	1 ,050,353
16	Latur	2 ,080,285	1 ,590,024	4 90,261
17	Mumbai	3 ,338,031	nil	3 ,338,031
18	Mumbai (Suburban)	8 ,640,419	nil	8 ,640,419
19	Nagpur	4 ,067,637	1 ,453,886	2 ,613,751
20	Nanded	2 ,876,259	2 ,187,195	6 89,064
21	Nandurbar	1 ,311,709	1 ,109,036	2 02,673
22	Nashik	4 ,993,796	3 ,056,240	1 ,937,556
23	Osmanabad	1 ,486,586	1 ,253,330	2 33,256
24	Parbhani	1 ,527,715	1 ,042,529	4 85,186
25	Pune	7 ,232,555	3 ,031,718	4 ,200,837
26	Raigarh	2 ,207,929	1 ,673,094	5 34,835
27	Ratnagiri	1 ,696,777	1 ,504,568	1 92,209
28	Sangli	2 ,583,524	1 ,950,306	6 33,218
29	Satara	2 ,808,994	2 ,410,873	3 98,121
30	Sindhudurg	8 68,825	7 86,506	8 2,319
31	Solapur	3 ,849,543	2 ,624,259	1 ,225,284
32	Thane	8 ,131,849	2 ,229,376	5 ,902,473
33	Wardha	1 ,236,736	9 11,695	3 25,041
34	Washim	1 ,020,216	8 41,771	1 78,445
35	Yavatmal	2 ,458,271	2 ,001,060	4 57,211

Break-up of nutrition content and cost of meal per child per day as per State Nutrition/Expenditure Norm including Central Assistance & State contribution (unit cost).

A. Primary

SI. No.	Food item	Quantity (in gms)	Cost of Qty Recommended (in Rs.)	Calories	Protein content (in gms)
(1)	(2)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Foodgrains				
	(Rice)	100	Supplied free	340	8
2	Pulses	20		70	5
3	Vegetables (in				
	leafy)	50	1.05	25	0
4	Oil & fat	5	0.4	45	0
5	Salt &				
	Condiments	0	0.1	0	0
6	Fuel	0	0.26	0	0
7	Labour & other administrative charge	0	0.19	0	0
8	any other items	0	0	0	0
	Total		2.00	480	13

B. Upper Primary

SI. No.	Food item	Quantity (in gms)	Cost of Qty Recommended (in Rs.)	Calories	Protein content (in gms)
(1)	(2)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Foodgrains (Rice)	150	Supplied free	510	12
2	Pulses	30		105	8
3	Vegetables (in leafy)	80	1.65	40	0
4	Oil & fat	5	0.4	45	0
5	Salt & Condiments	0	0.1	0	0
6	Fuel	0	0.26	0	0
7	Labour & other administrative charge	0	0.09	0	0
8	any other items	0		0	0
	Total		2.5	700	20

Annexure II

Literacy Rate

	India and State/	T	Literacy Ra	ite
S.No	Union territory*/District	Persons	% Male	% Female
	Maharashtra			
1.	Ahmadnagar	75.3	85.7	64.35
2.	Akola	8 1.41	8 8.91	7 3.43
3.	Amravati	8 2.54	8 8.91	7 5.73
4.	Aurangabad	7 2.94	8 4.89	6 0.09
5.	Bhandara	7 8.47	8 8.97	67.82
6.	Bid	6 7.99	8 0.70	5 4.52
7.	Buldana	7 5.78	8 6.93	6 4.07
8.	Chandrapur	7 3.17	8 2.94	6 2.89
9.	Dhule	7 1.65	8 1.40	6 1.39
10.	Gadchiroli	6 0.10	7 1.86	4 8.07
11.	Gondiya	7 8.52	8 9.61	6 7.58
12.	Hingoli	6 6.25	8 0.71	5 1.17
13.	Jalgaon	7 5.43	8 5.91	6 4.30
14.	Jalna	6 4.40	7 9.14	4 9.04
15.	Kolhapur	7 6.93	8 7.47	6 6.02
16.	Latur	7 1.54	8 2.94	5 9.40
17.	Mumbai	8 6.40	9 0.23	8 1.38
18.	Mumbai (Suburban)	8 6.89	9 1.56	8 1.12
19.	Nagpur	8 4.03	9 0.18	7 7.42
20.	Nanded	6 7.77	8 0.44	5 4.35
21.	Nandurbar	5 5.78	6 6.16	4 5.18
22.	Nashik	7 4.36	8 3.65	6 4.35
23.	Osmanabad	6 9.02	8 0.42	5 6.89
24.	Parbhani	6 6.07	7 9.63	5 2.02
25.	Pune	8 0.45	8 8.34	7 1.89
26.	Raigarh	7 7.03	8 6.15	6 7.75
27.	Ratnagiri	7 5.05	8 5.89	6 5.77
28.	Sangli	7 6.62	8 6.26	6 6.73
29.	Satara	7 8.22	8 8.20	6 8.38
30.	Sindhudurg	8 0.30	9 0.26	7 1.23
31.	Solapur	7 1.25	8 1.99	5 9.84
32.	Thane	8 0.66	8 7.06	7 3.10
33.	Wardha	8 0.06	8 7.18	7 2.45
34.	Washim	7 3.37	8 5.44	6 0.57
35.	Yavatmal	7 3.62	8 4.09	6 2.52