

DR. N. C. SAXENA COMMISSIONER AND HARSH MANDER
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF THE SUPREME COURT
IN THE CASE: PUCL Vs UOI & ORS. WRIT PETITION (Civil) NO. 196 of 2001

16 January 2006
MDMmedrep/367/UP

To
Shri R. Ramani
Chief Secretary
Government of Uttar Pradesh
Lucknow

Subject: Child deaths in Midday Meal in Meerut

Dear Shri R. Ramani

This is to bring to your attention the dissatisfactory state of Midday Meals in your state. There was recently a very disturbing report in Jansatta about two child deaths after consuming the midday meal given in the school. In Kharkhoda, Meerut after eating the midday meal on Saturday last week, many children got ill and started vomiting. They were immediately rushed to a hospital in Meerut, where two children died.

Such distressing incidents are totally deplorable and unacceptable. It should now be an overriding concern for the Government of Uttar Pradesh to put enough safeguards into place to avoid any such incident.

We would like to reiterate here that Midday Meal is a crucial programme and the government initiative is imperative to make this a success. It is essential that the State Government owns the programme and takes adequate responsibility for its proper implementation. It is quite a disappointment that the Government of Uttar Pradesh is making no financial contribution towards the conversion cost and continues to operate with a Re. 1 per child per day pittance that the Central Government allocates. We strongly recommend that the State Government should make budgetary allocations towards the conversion cost in the midday meal and ensure a safe, efficient and effective implementation.

We hope you will be able to appreciate the urgency of the matter and send us the action taken report latest by 30th January 2006.

With regards

Dr. N.C. Saxena

Harsh Mander

CC. Ms. Anuradha Gupta, Joint Secretary, Department of Elementary Education and Literacy; Ms. Arundhati Dhuru, Mr. I.C. Dwivedi, Advisors UP