

**DR. N. C. SAXENA, COMMISSIONER AND
HARSH MANDER, SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF THE SUPREME COURT
IN THE CASE: PUCL v. UOI & Ors. WRIT PETITION (Civil) No. 196 of 2001**

March 8th, 2010.
MDM/839/MoHRD.

Ms. Rita Chatterjee,
Director,
Department of School education and Literacy,
Ministry of Human resource Development,
Government of India.

Subject: Regarding the performance of MDM.

Dear Ms. Chatterjee ,

You will be aware that the Office of the Commissioners of the Supreme Court is designated to monitor the implementation of food related welfare schemes of the Government and the implementation of the orders of the Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) 196/2001, PUCL v. Union of India and others.

We are analysing the performance of all the food and employment schemes of Government of India which come under our purview over the last eight years, since the beginning of the Supreme Court case in 2001. We are surprised to see that in spite of universalisation of MDMS during this period and its expansion to upper primary classes, there is a decline in allocation of foodgrains and coverage of children under the MDMS (as seen in the table below). We would request you to confirm whether these figures are accurate and if so, what could be the possible explanation for such a decline.

Food Grain Utilization:

Year	Allocation of food grains			Offtake		
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
2001-02	18.67	9.96	28.63	13.48	7.28	20.76
2008-09	21.47	4.77	26.24	15.82	4.36	20.18
Percentage change, 2008 over 2001	15.00	-52.11	-8.35	17.36	-40.11	-2.79

Source: Monthly Foodgrain Bulletin, Ministry of Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs

Coverage of Children:

Year	Coverage of Students in primary schools	
2001-02	103452587	
2008-09	82390147	117433134 (including upper primary)
Percentage Increase	-20.36	

Source: www.indiastat.com

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We also request you to kindly send us the above data for all the years from 2001-02 to 2009-10. We would be grateful if could please give it a priority.

Regards,



Harsh Mander