

## CHAPTER-7

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Scheme guidelines envisaged that kitchen sheds should be constructed in each school to facilitate cooking in schools itself so that fresh and hot cooked meal is served to children. Kitchens were to have a platform for cooking with adequate light, ventilation and arrangement for drainage/ waste disposal and should always be kept clean. All ingredients used for cooking were to be free from adulteration and insects. Cooking devices such as chulha, container for storage of food grains and other ingredients and utensils for cooking and serving were to be made available to all schools. All persons engaged in handling of the ingredients and cooking were to be trained in hygienic habits.

#### 7.1 Kitchen sheds

As per the QPR ending March 2007, kitchen sheds were constructed in 59,968 (62 per cent) of 96,457 schools by the District Urban Development Agency (DUDA), District Rural Development Agency and under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

The GOI released Rs. 137.52 crore (November 2006: Rs.79.86 crore and February 2007: Rs. 57.66 crore) for construction of kitchen sheds in 22,920 of the remaining 36,489 uncovered schools. However, the State Government released Rs 79.86 crore only to MDM authority as of March 2007. In the test checked districts, Rs. 22.15 crore released for construction of kitchens were kept in PLA and remained unutilized (September 2007). The Government also did not make any provision of funds for repair and maintenance of kitchens.

Out of 253 kitchen sheds in 16 test checked districts, 23 were in a dilapidated condition and not functional. In seven districts<sup>21</sup> 146 sheds were not in use as MDM was supplied by NGOs from their centralized kitchens.

23 kitchen sheds were in dilapidated condition and 146 were not in use



Kitchens in dilapidated condition at Rae Bareli and MDM cooked outside

The kitchen sheds were constructed by District Urban Development Agency and Gram Pradhans in urban and rural areas respectively. The kitchens constructed were of smaller size and provision for proper ventilation, drainage, waste disposal was not made therein though design of these kitchens were standardised and approved by the Competent Authority.

A few interesting cases noticed in the joint inspection of sample schools in rural areas were as under:

- In 23 schools in four<sup>22</sup> districts, despite availability of kitchen sheds MDM

<sup>21</sup> Agra, Ballia, Bareilly, Etah, Kannauj, Kanpur Nagar and Lucknow.

<sup>22</sup> Etah-9, Kanpur Nagar-6, Jhansi-3 and Kannauj-5.

was cooked under the management of Gram Pradhans at their residences. The quality and quantity of food grains and other ingredients of MDM used could not therefore, be checked by school teachers or parents as required in the scheme guidelines. Besides, the hygienic condition of the cooking place also could not be verified. In PS, Khusipura, Jhansi district, Khichadi was brought by the cook from her house.

- MDM for three<sup>23</sup> schools at Jhansi, PS Vishweswar ganj, Ghazipur, PS, Malik Mau-Aima (Rae Bareli) and two<sup>24</sup> schools in Ballia was cooked in the open, under a tree due to unsuitable kitchen sheds.



**Kitchen at Gram Pradhan's residence  
in District Jhansi**



**Cooking MDM under a tree in PS at Gazipur**

- In PS, Sheopur Nauranga and PS Harijan Chitbargaon (Ballia district), MDM was cooked in classrooms due to lack of ventilation in the kitchens.



**Cooking of MDM in classroom of PS  
Sheopur at Ballia**



**Cooking of MDM in classroom of PS  
Harijan chit baragaon at Ballia**

- In two cases, lizard and pests were found in MDM which caused food poisoning and hospitalization of children.

The Government replied (January 2008) that due to lack of training and social practices, some cooks could not take easily to these kitchens and continued with their old ways. It further stated that quality of construction had been found poor at some places. The Government had developed a new improved design costing Rs 60,000 per unit. Funds were being released in a phased manner to cover all the schools with improved kitchen. The cooks were being trained to adopt improved method of cooking.

The reply confirmed that adequate attention was not paid in planning and construction of the kitchens according to the requirements. This resulted in unfruitful expenditure costing Rs 59.15 lakh<sup>25</sup> incurred by State Urban Development Agency on construction of 169 kitchens in urban areas.

<sup>23</sup> PS Railway Station Mau Dehat Mauranipur, PS Kharkasani Mauranipur and PS Kuchanpura Mauranipur.

<sup>24</sup> PS Dharahra and PS Chilkahar-1

<sup>25</sup> 169 = (23+146) kitchen sheds x Rs.35000 each = Rs 59.15 crore.

Rs 16.67 crore for replacement of old kitchen devices were not released though 18 per cent of test checked schools had not required utensils

## 7.2 Kitchen Devices

The GOI released Rs. 31.40 crore (November 2006: Rs. 14.73 crore and March 2007: Rs. 16.67 crore) for replacement of old kitchen devices in schools. The State Government however, released only Rs. 14.73 crore as of March 2007.

In 16 test checked districts Rs. 3.70 crore, out of Rs. 14.73 crore released by the Government in November 2006, was lying unutilized (September 2007) in PLA of district BSAs. The schools also did not utilize their School Development Fund<sup>26</sup> (Rs.2000 per annum) up to 2006-07 for purchase of kitchen devices as a result of which 56 (18 per cent) of the 320 schools did not have sufficient serving utensils, containers for storage of food grains and gas chulhas. In PS, Lohari, Jhansi district, empty paint containers were being used for serving sweet rice (rice cooked with jaggery).



Empty paint container is being used for distributing MDM in P S Lohari school, Jhansi

The Government stated (January 2008) that due to model code of conduct imposed at the time of Assembly elections, money for kitchen devices could not be utilized in time.

The reply was not tenable as kitchen devices could have been purchased from the School Development Fund under SSA.

## 7.3 Hand Pumps

According to records of the Directorate, hand pumps were installed in all the 96,457 schools as of March 2007. It was observed during the joint inspection of 320 schools that 28 schools had no hand pumps and in 33 schools water was not being used as it was not potable.

Potable water was not available in 61 out of 320 test checked schools



Hand pumps in schools at Shahjahanpur



Hand pumps in schools at Rae Bareilly

## 7.4 Conclusion

Kitchen sheds had not been provided in all schools and large number of shades constructed were not in use. The sheds constructed were also of small size and

<sup>26</sup> Fund made available to schools as annual school grant under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

lacked ventilation and drainage facilities. No provision for repair and maintenance of sheds had been made. Despite availability of funds, school did not have sufficient kitchen devices. In some schools either hand pumps were not there or were not used as water was not potable.

### **7.5 Recommendations**

- Construction of kitchen sheds as per prescribed norms having provision for ventilation and drainage system should be ensured. Provisions for the maintenance of the sheds should also be made.
- In rural areas cooking of MDM should be ensured in the school campus only.
- Availability of potable water should be ensured.
- Adequate kitchen devices for cooking and serving of MDM should be ensured.