

### Summary of recommendations

- ❖ The Ministry should set realistic and specific objectives and goals for the scheme. It should prescribe outcome indicators to measure and report on improvements in education, health and nutrition. It should use/analyse the data received from the states for such an evaluation.
- ❖ The Ministry should vigorously coordinate with the state governments to ensure that the data on enrolment, attendance and retention flows from the school level to state level in a transparent manner with records of compilation maintained at each level i.e. school level, district level and state level. Periodical checks should be arranged to crosscheck the data for accuracy. It should provide for analysis of feed back received and take remedial action, when required.
- ❖ The analysis of outcome indicators and reporting should be brought into an online periodic MIS as far as possible, so that the evaluation flows easily from the data available in real time.
- ❖ The Ministry needs to establish a system to ascertain the improvement in nutritional levels of the children. The Ministry should coordinate with the state governments and ensure maintenance of health cards in all the schools to monitor the health status of the children.
- ❖ The Ministry/States should ensure that adequate infrastructure viz. provisions of kitchen sheds, kitchen devices and facility of drinking water are available in all schools. It should put in place a system to ensure that the teaching time of the teachers is not lost in connection with the midday meal and there is no adverse impact of the scheme on the primary objective of education.
- ❖ The Ministry/State governments need to strengthen the internal controls as well as the inspection and monitoring mechanism at all levels. Accountability for maintenance of records at various levels should be prescribed and monitored.