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EDUCATION & PUBLIC HEALTH **(1947) Department.**

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SERIES.

G.O. NO. 2133 Education.

Dated 3-10-47.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Standing Advisory Committee on Nutrition Recommendations - Papers Recorded.

C No ~~20806/~~ 37531

TELEGRAM: RECOM
TELEPHONE) 86837
(Office)) 8151

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD
Office of the Regional Food Commissioner,
'Beverley', 9, Harrington Road,
Chetput, Madras.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
9 - JUL 1947
FOOD DEPARTMENT

From The Regional Food Commissioner, Madras Region,
To The Secretary to the Government of Madras, Food Department, Madras.

Chief Sect
Food [illegible]
7/7/47

Letter No.16931/47-B2 dated 3-

Sir,

SCHOOL FEEDING - Midday meals to Children in Elementary Schools in Madras.

B

I invite reference to the recommendation of the Nutrition Sub-Committee of the Regional Rationing Advisory Panel made at its 10th meeting held on 23-4-47 on the subject of midday meals to elementary school~~s~~ children, - vide item 6 of the proceedings sent with my letter No.5237/47/B2-12 dated 27-6-47.

The committee has recommended that the scheme for the supply of mid-day meals to children in elementary schools in Madras should not be abandoned in its entirety and that the Government might consider its operation on the lines similar to those suggested in respect of milk distribution ~~the~~ schemes. In this connection I invite reference to the recommendations made by the committee under the head "Milk Distribution Schemes" - vide items 1(5), 1(12) and 7 of the proceedings. I therefore suggest that the Madras Government may please reconsider the question in the light of the above recommendations and request you to intimate to me the action proposed to be taken by them in the matter.

6 JUL 1947
CHIEF SECRETARIAT

B.S.Rao
For REGIONAL FOOD COMMISSIONER.

M/B Sect
To Secy. Food Dept.

PH.

37531

Food Dept.

E.P.H. U.O.

9/7/47

9.7.47

10/7/47

E.P.H.

57010

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.
19 JUN 1947
ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

Food U.O. 37531/B/47-1
11.7.47.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE NUTRITION SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONAL RATIONING ADVISORY PANEL, MADRAS, HELD ON 22-4-47.

PRESENT.

1. Mr. R. A. Gopalaswami, OBE., I.C.S., Regional Food Commissioner, Madras Region. — Chairman.
2. Mrs. P. Parijatham Naidu, Commandant, I.W.C.C., Madras. — Member.
3. Dr.P.V.George, Nutrition Officer, Madras — "
4. Dr.B.G.Krishnan, Nutrition Officer, Food Department, Madras. — "
5. Mr.R. Narasimhalu Naidu, Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Madras. — "
6. Dr.P.Parthasarathi, Director of Public Health, Mysore. — "
7. Dr.V.N.Patwardhan, Director, Nutrition Laboratory, Coonoor. — "
8. Mr.V.Venkatachalam, Analyst, Madras Corporation. — "

&

9. Mr.U. Kumarayya, Deputy Regional Food Commissioner, Madras Region. — Secretary.

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Mr.V.Hoon, Under Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Food, New Delhi, Mr.B.S. Rao, Assistant Director of Rationing and Mr. Thedatri, Food Executive Officer, Government of India, Food Department, also attended the meeting. Rajyasevanirata Dr.C.O.Karunakaran, member for Travancore was represented by Mr.Mukundan, Nutition Assistant, Public Health, Laboratory, Trivandrum.

The State Medical Officer for Epidemics, Cochin State and the Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, Madras - Members- were absent.

The Chairman in opening the proceedings drew the attention of the members to the notes already circulated which reviewed in detail the work done at the nine meetins of the Committee previously held. He wanted the Committee to take stock of the position and decide in the light of the present circumstances on what points it should concentrate its attention to achieve practical results and which subjects should be put aside for the present. The Committee agreed to this and proceeded to consider the items on the agenda accordingly:

Item 1 of the agenda. Notes on the action taken on the proceedings of the previous meetings.

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(1) Nutrition and diet surveys:

The progress made so far was reviewed. The Committee took note of the Mysore Government's report that they were considering the question of conducting surveys on the lines of the questionnaire recommended by the Committee and also Cochin Government's report that they intended to appoint an officer trained in Nutrition and propaganda work and a scheme for improving the nutritional standards of the population was being considered as a post-war development scheme.

As regards Madras, Dr. George said that the questionnaire had been circulated among the District Health Officers for their guidance but he expressed doubt whether any practical results would be achieved in the immediate future. He remarked that the filling of the questionnaire form could best be done by medical men or persons specially trained for this purpose.

Mr. Mukundan said that in Travancore they were following a similar questionnaire for conducting surveys.

P.T.O

Dr. Parthasarathi suggested the formation of a Nutrition branch in the Public Health Department under a Nutrition Officer and said that at present Mysore had no Nutrition Officer. He ~~eqau~~ enquired whether trained men could be obtained in case the Mysore Government proposed to create the post of a Nutrition Officer.

To an enquiry from the Chairman whether trained personnel were available immediately, Dr. Patwardhan replied in the negative and suggested that if the Governments wanted their officers to be trained on nutrition work, he could give them the required training in that Coonoor Institute. He also added that each year before the course was stated, the Institute used to send a circular to all Provinces and States asking them whether they had any candidates to be trained and prescribing the qualifications for such candidates. He said that at present one officer from the Cochin Government was undergoing training in the Institute.

Dr. Parthasarathi pointed out that the present course at the Institute was for only three months and he doubted whether the training for such a short period would equip the officer who was to be put in charge of the nutrition work with enough knowledge to man the organisation. In fact, the Mysore Government had thought that the officer to be appointed should also be a bio-chemist.

Dr. Patwardhan replied that the period of training could be extended provided the Governments concerned dould spare their -- officers for such a period.

Mr. Venkatachalam observed that each administration should have a fully equipped research laboratory, a propaganda organisation and a field organisation.

Dr. George stated that the Nutrition Officer to be appointed should be attached to the Public Health Department and should undertake both field and laboratory work in relation to all aspects of Public health nutrition work, such as collection of scientific data relating to existing dietary and nutritional conditions and the utilisation of available knowledge for educative and ameliorative campaigns.

The Chairman suggested that the collection of data regarded as a special enquiry by special staff at a particular place or time might not serve the purposes intended fully, and enquired whether the possibility of securing data on a continuous basis, as part of the work of existing organisations had been considered.

Dr. Deorge added that only in the Corporation schools in Madras City, statistics of mal-nutrition among school children were being collected by the Health Staff periodically during medical inspection of schools.

Dr. Parthasarathi agreed that it would be useful if existing Government agency could be charged with the responsibility of collecting nutritional data. This would however represent a definite addition to work, and would not be satisfactorily attended to unless an allowance was given for the purpose. If an allowance could be given, he thought there would be steady and continuous flow of useful statistics. He stressed the necessity for establishing a system of regular medical inspection in schools so that collection of data could be done -- systematically.

Mr.Narasimhalu Naidu said that medical inspection was now being done only in colleges and it was desirable to introduce the same in schools also.

Mrs.Naidu observed that the correct data could be got only from children attending elementary schools.

Dr.Krishnan said that any organisation to be set up must be one which would be useful and capable of doing the proper work and he was in favour of a strong, fully developed specialist organisation. The Chairman observed that this depended on the availability of trained

trained staff in requisite numbers, and the funds which Governments can be expected to allot for this purpose having regard to all the purposes for which the trained staff and funds were required. In the circumstances there were two possible approaches. One was that the Nutrition Officer of the administration should be asked to choose the men whom he could find, and send them out as scouts here and there to collect information. The other was to make responsible an existing agency like Sub-Assistant surgeons to collect these particulars. The latter though not specialists in nutrition were medical men and might be able to collect the required statistics. He was inclined to think that specially trained nutrition staff would be better utilised in collecting and making use of such data and suggest ways and means of improving nutrition. It appeared, however, in the discussions that progress in getting information was dependent on arrangements which are still to be made by Governments for medical inspection of schools. He suggested that the Committee might draw the attention of Governments to this aspect of the problem of medical inspection of schools and recommend the introduction of such inspections as early as possible.

The discussion then centred round the question of opening Nutrition Bureaus and the members were generally in agreement with the suggestion that a Nutrition Bureau, should be established in each administration and that it should be in charge of an expert.

Dr.George observed that the Madras Government has already got a Nutrition Bureau, and its objectives had been laid down as follows:

(1) Detailed surveys of the dietaries of different communities and the food materials chiefly available in the respective areas with a view to plan a better dietary for them with the minimum possible interference with their habits and customs.

(2) Investigation of morbidity arising out of nutritional deficiencies with special reference to vulnerable groups such as infants, expectant and nursing mothers, school children factory workers, agricultural labourers, etc.

(3) Studies of the composition of foodstuffs of local importance.

(4) Intensive education of the public in all aspects of food and nutrition by means of mobile food canteens, exhibitions, lectures, radio talks, cinema shows etc.

(5) Provision of mid-day meals to school children to ensure atleast one all-round good meal a day during their growing age, and

(6) Studied in the nutrition of factory and agricultural labour groups and devising suitable remedial measures such as the establishment of food canteens in industries and the promotion of the Grow More Food Campaign.

After further discussion, the committee reached the following conclusions:

(1) The Mysore and Cochin Governments should be requested to appoint Nutrition Officers in their Public Health Departments who should work with the objectives engisaged in the Madras Government Scheme cited above.

(2) The Governments in the region should be requested to examine the possibility of utilising the services of trained medical staff for collecting nutritional data and the collection and utilisation of data thus collected by nutritional experts;

(3) A system of medical inspection of schools is likely to provide an important source of valuable nutritional data; and, from that point of view, early progress in the establishment of such systems is desirable.

The Committee decided to bring these conclusions to the notice of Governments.

Item 1(2). Canteens - Utilisation of Forces' Canteens for civilian purposes etc. (Item 1 (ii)(a) of the last meeting and item 3 of the first meeting).

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The Committee was of the view that this matter need not be pursued further.

Item 1(3)(a) Opening of model restaurants.

It was decided to remind the Governments for their reply on this subject.

(b) Model Restaurants on a co-operative basis.

The Madras Government's further report regarding their inability to pursuade the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society to open a model restaurant as an adjunct to one or more of their branches, was taken note of by the Committee. The other Governments would be reminded for an early reply.

Item 1(4)(a) Starting of women's organisations in the States similar to the I.W.C.C.

No further action was called for.

(b) Using of existing health centres as nutrition centres for imparting knowledge on nutrition matters and to conduct nutrition demonstrations.

In Madras and Cochin, child welfare centres or health centres existed for imparting education to women in food and nutrition matters. The Mysore and Travancore Government would be reminded for their reply.

Dr.George said that Madras had one health unit at Poonamallee. Nutrition propaganda is being done in various child welfare centres in the Province as also in the Health Unit at Poonamalle in the different Maternity and Child Welfare Centres attached to it.

The Chairman enquired whether there were arrangements for imparting instructions on nutrition in the curriculam for school children.

Dr.George said that there is some provision in the curriculum, as part of elementary science, but he thought this was not enough.

In reply to an enquiry whether there really was much teach to villagers with reference to resources available to them, Dr. Krishnan, pointed out that there was great need for imparting education to the village people on how best to make use of things growing around them and which were available cheaply. For instance, vegetables like goosebery, keerai, coriander etc., provided good food value, and could be grown easily. But people preferred oranges, cabbage etc., which, from the point of food value, were no better than the former. He emphasised the need for nutrition propaganda in the villages so that people could be taught to make use of things which were locally available and within their means, to the best advantage.

Item 1(5) Milk Distribution Scheme.
Item 1(12) The Bombay Blended and Toned Milk Scheme.
Item 7 of the agenda - Improvement in the output and supply of reconstituted milk in the Madras City.

Dr.Parthasarathi stated that in Mysore the distribution of milk was being restricted to selected children who needed it and the quantity given was 4 ozs. of milk made out of milk powder. In Travancore, Mr.Mukundan said that 8 ozs. of milk was being given and the milk centres were organised by the local people.

The discussion then centred round the production and availability of milk. The Bombay Blended and Toned Milk Scheme was then considered as also steps to be taken for the improvement in the output and supply of reconstituted milk in the Madras City.

Commending the Bombay scheme, Mr.Hoon said that it was worthy of being emulated so as to release the fresh milk to the vulnerable classes. The ~~XXX~~ Blended milk was quite as good as fresh milk, and though the Bombay Government had subsidised the sale in the initial stages the subsidy had now been withdrawn. He also added that the Bombay Government had taken up the schme on a large scale.

Dr.George thought that before adopting the Bombay Scheme it would be necessary to examine the conformity of the product to the requirements of the Food Adulteration Act.

Dr.Parthasarati stated that in Mysore, the hotels and coffee clubs consumed the bulk of fresh milk and suggested that some sort of control or restriction in the use of fresh milk by hotels and coffee clubs was necessary, as in his opinion, the fresh milk was required for consumption of the vulnerable classes. He also complained that in certain parts of India like Gujarat, milk was being converted into casein and exported.

The Chairman agreed that supply of milk to school children and to other vulnerable classes of people was very essential, but he did not think the committee would gain its object further recommending the continuance of schemes which depended entirely on subsidisation by Governments. Governments, he thought, would be more willing to subsidise increase of production rather than increase of consumption of milk.

After some further discussion, the committee reached the conclusion that there was no immediate propsect of increasing the supply of milk available from local production on a sufficiently large scale rapidly and as supply of milk to children and other vulnerable groups was very essential, local production should be supplemented by imported milk powder, and steps should be taken for their distribution after simple reconstitution with water as in Travancore and Cochin or mechanical reconstitution with vegetable oil as in Madras, or blending as in Bombay. For this purpose, the Committee finally resolved to make the following recommendations to the Governments concerned:

(1) That the Governments should take steps to make available concentrated cattle feeds to milk producers at fair prices, treating the difference between actual costs and such prices as a subsidy, where necessary;

(2) That Schemes for the supply of milk for priority consumers (viz. expectant and nursing mothers and infants and school children) should not be closed down entirely, but may be kept in force in those local areas where a local, municipal, or school authority or any local charitable organisation is prepared to undertake responsibility for working such scheme under supervision of Government authorities and also to meet a proportion, say one-third of the net expenditure involved;

and(3) The Central Government may give assistance in procuring supplies of milk powder to the Government which undertakes such schemes and also financial assistance to Provincial Governments.

It was suggested at the meeting that funds may be available at the Centre from such sources as the Viceroy's Famine Relief Fund. If so the possibility of earmarking any such funds for this purpose was also recommended for examination.

Item 1(_6) Formation of local Nutrition Committees.

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It was decided to remind the Madras Government for their reply.

Item 1(7) Canteens for industrial labour.

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The Committee perused the Madras Government's report and decided to wait for the outcome of the bill introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly in this regard.

(a) Co-optation of a representative of the Labour Department to help the Committee in regard to matters relating to canteen feeding.

The Madras Government having nominated the Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, Madras, to be a member of the Sub-Committee, the committee co-opted him as a member.

Item 1(8)Holding of classes for training in schientific Nutrition of persons responsible for looking after institutions where inmates are maintained at public expense.

Dr.George said that the Madras Government were considering the question. Dr.Parthasarathi stated that the Mysore Government were contacting the Madras Government for getting their students trained at Madras and added that no definite reply had yet been received from the Madras Government. The Cochin Government's report that the classes would be opened after the appointment of a ~~Nutirition Officer~~ Nutrition Officer was taken note of. It was decided to pursue this matter and remind the Government of Madras and Travancore for -- their replies.

Item 1(9) Marking of food values, calories etc. on foodstuffs manufactured in India.

The Committee thought the matter need not be pursued. It was not clear how the proposal started. One member's recollection was that this started because of theCommittee being asked to popularise the sale of certain biscuits, about which it had doubts.

Item 1(1) The Grow More Vegetable Campaign in respect of vacant lands adjoining Public institutions with special reference to schools.

The Committee reviewed the progress so far made. Dr.Parthasarathi stated that the Grow More Vegetable Campaign in school compounds was dependent on the supply of water available in and around the school.

Dr.George said that this may be linked with the midday meal scheme and this could be worked out as part of the local efforts wherever facilities existed. The original idea was that the Food Department should work this scheme with the help of the Agricultural Department in the matter of the supply of seeds, implements and advice.

The Committee decided that the progress of efforts in this direction should be watched and that Governments should be requested to keep the Committee informed of progress.

Item 1(11) Groundnut as a food supplement.

The Committee perused the reports of the various governments in this regard. Dr.George said that groundnut will make the diet richer in protein at low cost. It was agreed that this question need not be further pursued.

Item 1(12). The Bombay Blended and Toned Milk Scheme.

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Please see item 1(5) above.

Item 1(13) Co-optation of the Analyst of the Madras Government as a member of the Nutrition Sub.-Committee.

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The Committee thought that the Government Analyst need not be troubled to attend all the meetings. If and when the need arose, he may be invited.

Item 1(14) consideration of the schedules giving specifications of standards of quality for foodgrains such as rice, wheat and other millets from the nutrition and health point of view.

P.T.O

The Cochin Analyst's report and the Special Committee's report were perused.

Dr.George stated that the Madras Government Analyst was not in favour of prescribing standards for all food articles. This subject was postponed for consideration at the next meeting.

Item 2 of the agenda.

Consideration of the Special Committee's report submitting list of articles for whch standards of purity etc. are to be fixed.

This subject was also postponed for consideration at the next meeting.

Item 3 of the agenda.

Review of the work done by the Nutrition Committes functioning in the different units of the region.

This subject was postponed for consideration at the next meeting.

Item 4 of the agenda.

[illegible]

Names of foods contemplated for marking food value and reasons therefor.

Please see the decision under item 1(9) above.

Item 5 of the agenda:

Nutrition publicity through Nutrition Exhibitions.

Mr.Hoon said that the Food Department conducted a Nutrition Exhibition for a week in March at Delhi and posters showing plans, models etc. were exhibited. The posters were also printed in the local languages. If the local Governments could also conduct similar exhibitions, it would be an impetus and he said that the Central Government would be circularising an official report of the estimated expenditure etc., to give the administrations a practical idea of how an exhibition could be staged. In the Delhi exhibition, he said that lady students of the Lady Irwin College gave cooking demonstrations and there were some other side activities also like that of the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board doing propaganda.

Dr.George suggested that copies of the literature printed in this connection might be supplied to the administrations.

Mr.Hoon also said that the Government of India were thinking of this and they were also considering the setting up of a Nutrition Museum and also a Mobile Section which would be sent to provinces and States who required it for their rural exhibitions.

Item 6 of the agenda.

Consideration of the alternative schemes in place of the present midday meal scheme for elementary school children in Madras.

Dr.George who had suggested the subject said that now he had been nformed that the Madras Government had stopped the mid-day meal scheme with effect from 1-4-1947 and the suggestions put forward by m were on the assumption that the scheme was working.

P.T.O

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Mr. Narasimhalu Naidu said that the Madras Government introduced the mid-day meal scheme as part of the compulsory education scheme and the working of it cost the Government Rs.32,00,000 in 1945-56. The running of the scheme was entrusted to local bodies and they we also supplied with the necessary utensils and facilities for purcha ing the required food articles. With all this help, the local bodies found it impossible to run the scheme satisfactorily and accou for the money placed at their disposal and the Government had to st the scheme mainly on account of lack of proper supervision and mana ment.

After further discussion the committee decided to recommend to the Madras Government not to abandon the scheme in its entirety but to consider operating the scheme on some basis of local contributio similar to the one suggested in respect of milk distribution scheme

Item 7 of the agenda.

Improvement in the output and supply of reconstituted milk in th Madras City.

Please see item ~~X~~ 1 (5) above.

SD/- B.S. RAO.
FOR SECRETARY:

(TRUE COPY)

Superintendent.

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Edn + P.H. (B2) Dept

No. 57010-B2/47 Edn dt 3.9.47

B.62
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Despd 3/9

P INF

To
The Regional Food Commissioner
Madras Region, Chetput Madras

Sir,

Sub: Midday meals to school children.
Ref: your letter No. 16931/47-B2 dt 3.7.47

I am directed to ~~say~~ state that due to financial considerations it will not be possible to revive the scheme of supply of midday meals to school children even on a limited scale.

26/8
27.8.47
28/8/47
29/8/47
yes

8 ⓐ B2 13/ E&P.H Dept (B2)

The Food Dept. may be requested u.o. to send a copy of ~~the~~ proceedings referred to in para 1 of the letter from the Regional Food Commissioner at p. 1 ante.

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
20 JUL 1947
6119
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

16/7 16.7.47

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
17 JUL 1947
FOOD DEPARTMENT

17/7/47 Food Dept
u.o.

E&PH u.o. 57010 B2/47
17.7.47

38844g/47. To A.S. please see notes of EPH above. Food G.

A copy of the ~~10th meeting~~ Proceedings of the 10th meeting of the Nutrition Sub-Committee of the Regional Rationing Advisory Panel, Madras held on 22-4-47. ~~is furnished as requested to the E P H Dept.~~ put up at ⓐ below. The Case may now be returned to E&PH u.o.

P. 1-8 below

MM 22.7.47

Food u.o No 38844g/47 -1 dt 26.7.47

25.7.47

26.7.47 E&PH

To A.S. — Please see [illegible]

A copy of the ~~[illegible]~~ Proceedings of the 10th meeting of the Nutrition Sub-Committee of the Regional Rationing Advisory Board, Madras held on [illegible] 4.47 is forwarded as requested to the E.P.H. Dept. [illegible] may now be returned to [illegible]

E [illegible]

26.7.47

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9 (0) B2 15

No. D.3352/47-E.II.
Government of India.
Department of Education.
New Delhi 3, Dated the 1.9. ~~August~~, 1947.

From

Sir John Sargent, C.I.E., M.A., D.Litt.,
Secretary to the Government of India.

To

All Provincial Governments (Madras)
and Local Administrations.

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
5 SEP 1947
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

75805

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith for information and such action as may be considered necessary extracts of Part III-"School Feeding", and Part V-"Nutrition Education" of the report of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on Nutrition of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations held in Copenhagen from the 23rd to the 31st August 1946. A copy of the note of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India on the subject is also enclosed.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

for Secretary.

ARS/26/8. .....

The Committee is co   rovision of additional fo
to children during   ne of the most effective
methods of improvin   from its good effects in
health and well-bei   en who are fed, it is a means
whereby people can be   in life to adopt good
dietary habits; moreove   children, parents can be
influenced to their advan   important that programs should
be developed to extend sim   nefits to adolescents, e.g.
pupils in technical school   apprentices in industry.

School feeding programs very considerably from country to country Supplementary food may be supplied in the form of a breakfast which the children eat on arrival at school, a midday meal, a glass of milk provided free or at low cost, or a midmorning or midafternoon supplement. The food provided should be as good as or better than, the child obtains at home and should supply nutrients in which the home diet may be short.

In many poor countries the regular provision of the foods needed for school feeding may present difficulties which can be solved only by increasing the toal food supplies of the country, or by the application to food of technological procedures which reduce waste and help to ensure the availability of locally produced food throughout the year.

Milk is of great value to growing children; wherever possible it should be whole milk, Measures have been taken in some countries to ensure an adequate supply of whole milk for children. This policy should be continued and extended wherever possible.

In many countries, supplies of fresh whole milk are insufficient to permit distribution to school children on an effective scale. The value of skim milk is not always appreciated. Skim milk, though lacking fat and fat soluble vitamins, is rich in nutrient. Such as animal proteins, B Vitamins, and calcium, which in many poor countries the diets of children lack. At the present time, much skim milk is fed to animals or wasted. The committee feels that every effort should be made to conserve and distribute for human consumption available supplies of skim milk, particularly for use in the feeding of school children. The committee understands that FAO is undertaking a study of this problem, which has numerous technological and economic aspects.

The Committee recommends:

FAO should make a study of school feeding programs in different countries covering all ages from the preschool to the adolescent group, with reference to the type of food supplies, Organization, cost, and effects on health. Infommation about successful methods of school feeding may assist Governments to initiate and develop satisfactory programs, particularly where little or nothing has as yet been done to organize school feedin

HKL.

V. NUTRITION EDUCATION.

This subject, referred to at some length in the Report of the Hot Springs conference, has three main aspects; (a) the training of specialized nutrition workers; (b) the instruction of those who are in a position to help in the campaign for improving nutrition; and (c) the education of the people with the object of improving their dietary habits.

(a) The lead in the study and attack on nutrition problems in differenct parts of the world must be taken by a "corse" of specialized nutrition experts trained in universities or other scientific institutions.

(b) To accelerate progress, a systematic instruction in the theoretical and practical aspects of food and nutrition must also be given to administrators, agricultural experts, food technologists, teachers, nurses, and social workers.

The committee was unanimous in its opinion that the teaching of nutrition in various curricula, especially in medicine, is unsatisfactory. It considered that university authorities and other concerned with higher education should accord nutrition a place in their curricula in keeping with its importance. The position of the Doctor is unique; his opportunities of teaching and applying the priciples of nutrition are unequalled by these of any other member of the community. For this reason, it is of great importance that his training in nutrition should be thorough. It is unlikely that any progress will be made in this matter until nutrition holds a conspicuous place in the medical curriculum as approved by the statutory bodies which have this under their control.

(c)The education of the public should begin with the child in whom the principles of nutrition should be inculcated both at home and at school (see Section III). School feeding is useful as one of the means of teaching children sound dietary habits. The same principle holds with regard to adults, as in the organised feeding of workers.

The education of housewives is of great importance. One of the means of providing such education is through domestic science courses which include instruction about nutrition in relations to feeding the family; the teaching of domestic science should be introduced and developed in countries where it does not at present exist.

Voluntary groups, properly guided, can do a good deal to spread knowledge of nutrition among the general public. Becasue of its importance in educating the public, advertisement of the nutritive value of food products and their place in the diet should be controlled.

Education in nutrition is needed as much in countries which are experiencing difficulties arising out of the present food situation as in more fortunate countries in which food is available in abundance. The exphasis in the former group is on the best means of utilizing availabe food supplies; in the latter, on the need for consuming diets of the highest standards.

The Committee recommends:

FAO should make a study of the provisions in various countries for the training in nutrition of specialzed nutrition workers and of the groups in a position to influence the public, e. g., administrators, agricultural experts, food technologists, teachers, nurses, and social workers.

Pending the establishment of a nutriton division by WHO, the committee recommends that:

FAO should study the place given to the teaching of nutrition in the medical curricula in various countries.

20/

12 (12) 7/ 2/

III. SCHOOL FEEDING.

This primarily is the responsibility of the Education Department, Reference is made to the value of skim milk. This is realised by the Government of India who have permitted the import of skim milk duty free in order to make it available as cheapxly fas possible for school children.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

V. NUTRITION EDUCATION.

The Health Department are concerned here in that xthe teaching of nutrition in the medical curricula is strongly emphasised. There is not doubt that in India the subject is sadly neglected in the training of our doctors; one reasons is the teachers have little specialised knowledge of the subject. The Medical Council of India should take up this questions actively. The education of the child is also referred to and in this connection the Education Department has had many commendations on the desirability of including nutrition as part of health education in the training of teachers.

HKL. X X X X

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Edn + P. H. Dept. (132)

57010. From the Regional Food Commissioner, Govt of India, Chetput, Madras letter No 16931/47-B2 dated 3.7.47 – Regarding supply of midday meals to school children.

The fact that the supply of midday meals to the school children was discontinued with effect from 1.4.47 was brought to the notice of the Nutrition Sub-committee at its meeting held in April 47. The circumstances which led to the discontinuance of the scheme ~~were~~ explained to the committee as indicated at A on p. 8 of ⓗ. The position as stated therein is not correct. The scheme was discontinued mainly on financial consideration.

2. The Nutrition Sub committee have suggested the desirability ~~of~~ reviving the scheme of midday meals, as ~~atleast~~ in the case of supply of milk to children; ~~and~~ their intention appears to be that the scheme of midday meals should atleast be revived in the deficit districts. The recommendation ~~it~~ is mainly ~~is~~ based on the facts not correctly placed before them. Submitted that the question of reducing the cost of Post war plan under Education is under consideration. The Finance Dept. have pointed out that the cost of all the schemes under Education should not exceed Rs 11 crores. In that connection they have suggested that the size of the scheme of compulsory elementary education should be curtailed so as to ~~to~~ bring only ~~to~~ 75,000 children to schools every year as against 1.30 lakhs of children originally proposed. (In these calculations the scheme of supply of midday meals have been completely left out). Secretary has recorded the view that the size of the scheme of compulsory elementary education should not be reduced. In the circumstances the revival of the scheme of midday meals will considerably add to the cost of Post war plan. The suggestion of the Nutrition Sub-

Even is justified in the [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible]

carrying more (apart from the question whether [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]). [illegible]

16

Committee does ~~not~~ not therefore seem acceptable.

2. Food, Public (P&D) and Finance Depts may see the case before circulation.

30/7 30.7.47

31/7/47 S

1/8/47

Pub. (P&D)

~~Finance~~

Food Dept

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
2 - AUG 1947
FOOD DEPARTMENT

E&PH U.O. 5010-B2/47-1
1-8-47

To A.S.

The notes from p. 5 ante may be perused and the file passed on to Pub (P&D).

2/8/47 2-8-47 4/8

Draft 5/8/47

S 7.8.47

Thro. 2/8/47
2-8-47
4/8/47

41376

B.

Pub. (P&D.)

Public Devt Dept

Please see pp 1-2 ante and the notes at pp 5-6 ante. Submitted that this dept may agree that in view of financial considerations it will not be possible to revive midday meals to school children. The file may be passed on to Fin.

11/8/47

12/8/47

~~A.S.~~

12/8/47

Food U.O. 41376 B/47-1
7.8.47

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
6860
9 AUG 1947
1055
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT)

Pub (P&D VI) Dept
U.O 1055/47-1
12-8-47

Fin (Exp. B)

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
48896
13 AUG 1947
Exp.
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Please see the notes at pp 5-6 above. This dept also may agree with the view of the E&P.H. Dept at A at pp 5-6 above especially in view of the pressing financial stringency.

14.8.47 14.8.47

16.8.47

Edn H.

Fin U.O. 48896 Exp.

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVT.
19 AUG 1947
66650
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

17

14 (14)

Edn. H. Dept
B2.

The file may now be circulated to H.M. (Edn) for orders on 'A' at pp 5-6 ante.

21/8/47 21/8/47

22/8/47 S

24/8/47

H.M. (Edn.)

I.S.A.
26.8.47

27/8

SECRETARY, EDN. AND P. H. DEPT.
26 AUG 1947
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

A draft letter to the Regional Food Commr is put up for approval. After issue the papers may be filed with the orig. G.O. (A).

27/8 27.8.47

28/8/47 S 28/8/47

15 (15)

Edn. H. Dept
B2

Sub:- School Feeding and Nutrition Education

—x—

From the Secy, Govt of India, Dept of Edn New Delhi, no. D 3352/47 E II Dt 1.9.47

—x—

The Govt of India have forwarded to this Govt for such action as may be considered necessary, ~~the~~ an extract ~~of~~ from the report of the Standing Advisory Committee on Nutrition. The recommendations under the heading "School Feeding" emphasises the need for the supply of food and milk to school children. In connection with the scheme of compulsory ele education introduced in 1945-46, the Govt sanctioned a scheme for the supply of midday meals to children brought to schools in compulsory areas. On financial considerations the Govt ~~decided to~~ discontinued the scheme with effect from 1-4-1947. The question whether the scheme of the supply of midday meals should be revived at least on a smaller scale was examined again at the instance of the Regional Madras Regional Food Commissioner. The decision arrived at was, that it ~~may~~ might not be possible to revive the scheme. In the circumstances no action seems called for ~~on the recommendations~~ on the observations under the heading "School Feeding".

GoNo 386 FL (R1)
3-3-47

(A)

Please see also GoNo 498 PH 18-2-47 (V)

vn
26/9/47

2. As regards "Nutrition Education" the question for consideration is whether any action should be taken on the suggestion of including nutrition as a part of "Health Education", in the training of

teachers. If necessary an extract of the recommendation may be forwarded to the D.P.I for ~~necessary~~ further action

for orders.

No action seems necessary in view of item (c) below.

15/9/47

17.9.47

XX

The Bhore Committee have made recommendations which cover almost all the points contained in the F.A.O's Recommendations. The points dealt with in connection with these Recommendations relate to

(a) the importance of developing School Feeding Schemes for the promotion of the Nutrition of the School Children
(This has been accepted in principle by Govt. - please see G.O.Ms. 498 P.H. Dt 18.2.47)

(b) instruction in Nutrition for the Doctors and health Officers
(This has also been accepted in G.O.Ms. 1948 P.H. Dt 6.6.47 & the question of revising the M.B.B.S, B.Sc etc syllabuses is engaging attention.) —

and

(c) education of the Child in Nutrition —

In connection with ~~the [illegible]~~ item (c) the ~~D.P.I~~ Commr. for Govt. Examinations has stated that "Food & diet" figure in the Syllabuses for Higher elementary Schools & that text books based upon the departmental syllabuses have been published by book sellers in several languages. The Govt. have ordered that the D.P.H should take steps for the preparation by the Nutritional Research Bureau, in due course, of readable and illustrated pamphlets containing simple facts concerning food and diet, written in English and other languages and that the D.P.I should see that in order to scrutinize the private educational publications dealing with food & diet, the Officer in Charge of the Provincial Nutrition Bureau is coopted as a member of the Text Book Committee as and when the services of the Officer are needed for the purpose —

in G.O.Ms. 477 P.H. 14.2.47 (not printed)

Third Sr.
section

The papers may be recorded.

23.9.47

26.9.47

27/9

S

H.M. may see.

27/9/47

H.M. (Ed.)

T.S.A.
28.9.47

SECRETARIAT, EDN. AND P. H. DEPT.
1 - OCT 1947
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

G.O. 2133 Ed. d. 3.10.47

Ed.
Standing Advisory Committee on Nutrition — Recommendations — Papers recorded

3/10