

The Times of India 03.01.2014

Coporation to serve free food for Class 10 and 12 students

COIMBATORE: Special coaching classes for 10th and 12th standard students of all 26 corporation schools will now commence on a nutritious note as the civic body has started serving free food items to these children daily. It is to encourage students attending special revision and remedial sessions conducted after regular school hours ahead of the public examination. The civic body will serve a variety of puttu items accompanied with sundal and soup to the students before they hit their text books.

"The corporation school students have been performing extremely well in the public examinations and we are trying to encourage them to perform better in the coming exams," said SM Velusamy, mayor, Coimbatore municipal corporation.

The refreshment serving program for students was included in the corporation budget presented in February and the civic body had allocated Rs 1 crore for the purpose. The menu has soya sundal, karuppu kondai kadalai (dark chickpeas) sundal, rahgi puttu, corn puttu, rice puttu, vallarai soup and thuthuvalai soup on offer. They will be served one item from the sundal variety and one each from the puttu and soup variety on a daily basis. The city corporation has entered into an agreement with a local eatery from where the food will be supplied to the

schools every evening. The total cost estimated for a student is around Rs 25 and it will be paid by the corporation.

"Each day we will serve a new item from the fixed menu to the students. This is the first time a municipal corporation is serving green and healthy food to 10 and 12th standard students," said H Vasantha, chief education officer, Coimbatore municipal corporaion.

City mayor SM Velusamy launched the program in the presence of senior corporation officials at Anupparapalayam school on Thursday evening. As of now there are 2,507 10{+t}{+h} standard students from corporation schools are gearing up for the examination. About 2,427 students are taking up their Class 12 examination. Corporation officials also added that they will monitor the quality of food provided to the students.