

F.No. 12-1/2012 MDM 2-1
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
MDM Division

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated 24th September, 2012

Subject: Minutes of the meeting of National Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) for Mid Day Meal Scheme held on 24th August, 2012 – reg.

The meeting of National Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee for Mid Day Meal Scheme was held on 24th August, 2012 in Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Secretary(SE&L), Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

2. A copy of the minutes of the above meeting is enclosed herewith.


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Distribution:

- i) Financial Advisor, MHRD
- ii) Principal Advisor / Advisor, Planning Commission
- iii) Director, NCERT
- iv) Vice Chancellor, NUEPA
- v) Managing Director, FCI
- vi) Secretaries of the following Department with a request to nominate a representative not below the rank of Joint Secretaries:
 - a) Health & Family Welfare
 - b) Food & Public Distribution
 - c) Women & Child Development
 - d) Rural Development
 - e) Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation
 - f) Youth Affairs & Sports

- vii) Director, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.
- viii) Director, Nutrition Foundation of India, New Delhi.
- ix) Shri K. Ashok Rao, General Secretary, Swami Sivananda Memorial Institute, J-152, Saket New Delhi – 110017.
- x) Prof. V.K. Srivastava, Dept. of Community Medicine, Chatrapati Shahuji Maharaj University, Lucknow.
- xi) Smt. Rashmi Sinha, Programme Director, Apne Aap Foundation, D-56, Anand Niketan, New Delhi.
- xii) Prof. Venita Kaul, Visiting Professor, Centre for Early Childhood Education & Development, Dr. Ambedkar University, Delhi.
- xiii) Shri Rajeshwar Tiwari, Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Secretariat Building, 'J' Block, III Floor, Hyderabad – 500 022
- xiv) Shri Anjani Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, Pry. & Adult Education Department, Govt. of Bihar, New Secretariat, Patna – 800015
- xv) Shri K.R. Pisda, Secretary, School Education Department, Govt. of Chhattisgarh, Mantralaya, Dau Kalyan Singh Bhawan, Raipur – 492001
- xvi) Shri Imkonglemba, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, School Education Department, Govt. of Nagaland, Civil Secretariat, Kohima – 797 001
- xvii) Shri C.S. Rajan, Principal Secretary, Rural Development Department, Govt. of Rajasthan, Sachivalaya, Jaipur.
- xviii) Smt. Asia Begum, Headmistress, Uswathaun Hasana Oriental, Arabic Primary School, Pallapatti, District-karur, Tamil Nadu
- xix) Shri Satya Prakash Sharma, Assistant Teacher, Govt. Middle School, Vikaskhand, Kanker, District – Uttar Baster Kanker, Chhattisgarh.

Copy to:

1. Sr. PPS to Secretary(SE&L).
2. PPS to JS(EE.I).
3. JS(RC) / Dir(SSP) / DS(BBS).
4. US(BDS) / US(VKA) / US(VJ).
5. Chief Consultants / All Consultants in NSG, MDM.

**Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of School Education and Literacy
Mid Day Meal Division**

**Minutes of the meeting of National Steering-Cum-Monitoring Committee held on
24th August, 2012 at Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi**

The 4th meeting of the National Steering-Cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) on Mid Day Meal Scheme was held in New Delhi on 24th August, 2012 under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (SE&L), Ministry of HRD to review the implementation of the Scheme and to suggest measures for improving the implementation of the scheme. The list of participants is enclosed as Annexure-I.

2. Secretary (SE&L) welcomed the members of NSMC and other participants. Thereafter, agenda items for the 4th meeting of NSMC were taken up for discussion.

3. The minutes of the 3rd NSMC meeting held on 1st August 2011 were confirmed by the Committee as there was no objection by any NSMC member. Joint Secretary (EE-I) presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions taken in the previous meeting of NSMC. The issue pertaining to linkage of cooking cost to MDM Price Index was discussed in detail. The Committee was informed that the Working Group on Elementary Education for 12th Plan had recommended the linkage of cooking cost with MDM Price Index to mitigate the effect of inflation on items of MDM basket. The Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) approved enhancement in the cooking cost @ 7.5% during the last two years of 11th Plan as well as for the first year of the 12th Plan. The members of the Committee, however, noted that the flat rate increase @7.5% may not be adequate to neutralise the effect of inflation and that the children are likely to be deprived of getting nutritious and quality meal. Secretary (SE&L) desired that proposal for linking the revision of cooking cost with the price index of MDM basket should be taken up again at the time of proposing revision of the scheme in the 12th Plan.

4. After ATR on the other decisions of 3rd meeting of NSMC had been presented, the agenda items for the 4th meeting NSMC were taken up for discussion:

4.1 Enhancement of existing rate of MME from 2% to 3%

Secretary (SE&L) observed that the budget allocation of MDMS increased consistently during 11th Plan from Rs. 6678.00 crores during 2007-08 to Rs. 10,380.00 crore in 2011-12. The allocation for the first year of 12th Plan has further been increased to 11,937.00 crores. The Working Group on Elementary Education has already submitted 12th Plan requirement of Rs.1,14,628.00 crore (88,792.00 crore for existing components and remaining for the new components such as inclusion of classes 9 and 10 under the scheme, extension of the scheme to private unaided schools in SC/ST dominated districts etc.). She felt that with the increase of allocation during 12th Plan, the allocation for MME would also increase correspondingly during 12th Plan. Therefore, the States will have more MME funds

at their disposal. She pointed out that at present most of the States are not able to utilise the MME funds allocated to them. However, in view of the enhanced expenditure on the IVRS based monitoring and the need to strengthen the monitoring mechanisms, it was suggested that the proposal for enhancement of MME may be submitted to the Executive Committee of SSA-MDM. It can thereafter be included in the revision proposal.

Shri K. Ashok Rao, Member, NSMC suggested that a fixed percentage of MME funds may be earmarked for capacity building of the various stakeholders.

4.2 Coverage of pre-primary children under MDM:

Shri. K. Ashok Rao, Member, NSMC said that since children up to the age 6 years are covered under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, it needs to be clarified whether children in the age group of 3-6 years in pre-primary schools are to be covered under MDMS or ICDS.

Secretary (SE&L) clarified that ICDS Scheme covers children enrolled in Anganwadis. The proposal here is to provide MDM to children in pre-primary classes located in the premises of primary/elementary schools, and not covered under the ICDS programme. Commissioner & Secretary, Govt. of Nagaland informed that almost all schools in the North Eastern Region have pre-primary section attached to the primary section. The Working Group on Elementary Education for 12th Plan has recommended coverage of such pre-primary children under Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

The NSMC endorsed the proposal for EFC approval.

4.3 Repair and Maintenance of Kitchen-cum-stores

The Committee was apprised that non-recurring central assistance for construction of Kitchen-cum-stores was started in 2006-07. The Kitchen-cum-stores constructed by the States, particularly the hill area States, need repair. But MDM guidelines do not provide central assistance for repair/maintenance of Kitchen-cum-stores.

Secretary (SE&L) mentioned that Kitchen-cum-store, after construction, becomes a part of the school building. SSA releases grant-in-aid to the Schools for repair/maintenance of school buildings. Therefore, the repair/maintenance of Kitchen-cum-store should be undertaken through the SSA grant for this component. She advised that this issue may be submitted as an agenda item for consideration in the next meeting of Executive Council of SSA.

4.4 Enhancement of Kitchen Devices grant on sharing basis

Many States / UTs have been requesting for the enhancement non-recurring central assistance from Rs.5000 to 15000 per school for procurement of kitchen devices due to considerable increase in their market rates. Secretary (SE&L) advised that this issue be taken up as part of the Scheme's revision proposal.

4.5 Replacement of Kitchen Devices after every five years

The Committee was apprised that central assistance for procurement of Kitchen Devices was started w.e.f 2006-07. The kitchen devices procured since then have

become obsolete/worn out due to normal wear and tear. They need to be replaced immediately for which fresh central assistance would be needed.

It was noted that MDM guidelines do provide for repair and replacement of kitchen devices. Procurement of LPG connections is also possible through MME funds. Secretary (SE&L), however, suggested that this item may be submitted for formal approval in the next meeting of Executive Council of SSA.

4.6 Model kitchen-cum-training centres

The Working Group on Elementary Education for 12th Plan has recommended setting up of two area specific model kitchen-cum-training centres in each State.

Shri K. Ashok Rao suggested that to begin with, two model kitchen-cum-training centres in 10 different zones may be established on pilot basis. Funding for these model kitchen-cum-training centres may be explored from Corporate Houses under Corporate Social Responsibility for the setting up of such model kitchen-cum-training centres. Secretary (SE&L) advised to prepare a blue print in this regard. Shri Rao agreed to prepare and provide the blue print for this purpose.

4.7 Enhancement of transportation assistance for States other than special category States

The transportation rate for the 11 Special Category States (8 NER States and 3 Hill Area States) were revised from Rs.125/Qtlw.e.f 1-12-2009 and made at par with the PDS rate prevalent in these States. JS(EE-1) mentioned that States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are persistently requesting for enhancement of the transportation cost. Due to the increase in the prices of petrol and diesel, it is not possible to deliver food grains up to schools with the existing transport assistance @ Rs.125/Qtl.

Secretary (SE&L) suggested that the principle of PDS rates should be proposed for application across all States/UTs when the scheme is taken up for revision in the context of the 12th Plan.

4.8 Coverage of children admitted under Section 12(1)(c) under RTE Act, 2009 in private schools

The RTE Act, 2009 mandates that 25% children from disadvantaged group will be admitted in private schools. The Planning Commission has also mentioned in its report that these children should not be deprived of the mid-day meal. Secretary (SE&L) said that the Working Group on Elementary Education for 12th Plan has recommended provision of uniform, text books and MDM for such children. The modalities should be worked out after the 12th Plan is approved.

4.9 Method of Analysis for testing of Mid-Day Meal

The Committee was apprised of the request of the Delhi Government regarding advice on testing of cooked Mid-Day Meal.

Dr. Prema Ramachandran observed that there was no specific method of analysis for testing the Mid-Day Meal. She however, mentioned that it must be ensured that hot Mid-Day Meal should be served in schools and it should be consumed by children while it is hot because the bacterial activity is negligible in the hot-cooked mid-day meal. She emphasised that local nutritious food should be included in the menu with lot of green vegetables. Children should get variety food to keep their interest in MDM. Kitchen gardens should be promoted in the schools for growing vegetables/ fruits.

She further observed that it will not be worthwhile to check the cooked food for nutrition value. A few research projects, could, however, be taken to get a flavour of the field situation in this regard. The NSMC recommended that on the basis of menu the weight of the food items should be determined, which may be used as a criterion for assessing the quantity of food supplied to the children against the norms. This could be piloted on the centralised kitchens providing MDMS in the urban areas. In the rural areas the community oversight should be strengthened to ensure quantity and quality of the MDMS.

Dr. Prema Ramachandran further mentioned that the pre- primary children are generally underweight and 16% primary children are underweight as per WHO (2007). In order to monitor their health on regular basis, she suggested maintenance of health card for each child under School Health Program. Their BMI should be recorded regularly. She mentioned that although weighing machine and Height Recorders are to be provided under SHP of NRHM yet many schools do not have such equipment.

4.10 **Review of Performance of the Scheme during 2011-12**

Joint Secretary (EE.I) made a detailed presentation on the implementation of the scheme by highlighting the achievements of MDM Scheme during 2011-12. A copy the presentation is at [Annexure-II](#).

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants

1. Ms. Anshu Vaish, Secretary (SE&L), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
2. Dr. Amarjit Singh, Joint Secretary (EE.I), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
3. Shri Nagesh Singh, Economic Adviser, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
4. Shri Rajeshwar Tiwari, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, School Education Department, Secretariat Building, 'J' Block, III Floor, Hyderabad.
5. Shri T. Imkonglemba, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Govt. of Nagaland, School Education Department, Civil Secretariat, Kohima – 797001.
6. Shri Brij Kumar Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation.
7. Dr. Prema Ramachandran, Nutrition Foundation of India, New Delhi.
8. Shri K. Ashok Rao, General Secretary, Swami Sivananda Memorial Institute, J-152, Saket, New Delhi – 110017.
9. Smt. Rashmi Sinha, Programme Director, Apne Aap Foundation, D-56, Anand Niketan, New Delhi.
10. Shri Satya Prakash Sharma, Assistant Teacher, Govt. of Middle School, Vikashkhand, Kanker, District – Uttar Bastar Kanker, Chhattisgarh.
11. Shri Gaya Prasad, Director (MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
12. Dr. Suparna S. Pachouri, Director (MDM & EFA), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
13. Shri L.S. Marawi, Director & DPI, School Education Department, Govt. of Chhattisgarh, Mantralaya, Dau Kalyan Singh Bhawan, Raipur.
14. Shri B.B. Sharma, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
15. Shri B.D. Shivani, Under Secretary (EE-5), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
16. Shri V.K. Aggarwal, Under Secretary (MDM 1-1), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

17. Shri G.S. Patial, Under Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Krishi Bhavan.
18. Dr. Meshram I.I, Scientist 'C', National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.
19. Shri M.K. Gogoi, General Manager (Sales), Head Quarters, FCI (8th Floor), 16-20, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi – 110001.
20. Shri Pankaj Kumar, Manager (Sales), Head Quarters, FCI (8th Floor), 16-20, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi – 110001.
21. Shri Rajeev Kumar, Section Officer (Desk-MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
22. Shri Rajat Gupta, Senior Consultant (MIS), NSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
23. Shri Tanmoy Ghatak, Senior Consultant (Plan Monitoring), NSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
24. Shri Rishi Sirohi, Senior Consultant, NSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
25. Shri K.K. Sharma, Consultant (Finance), NSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
26. Dr. Mridula Sircar, Consultant, Plan Monitoring, NSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
27. Dr. Anindita Shukla, Consultant (Food & Nutrition), NSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.
28. Shri Bhupender Kumar, Consultant, NSG-MDM, ED.CIL.
29. Shri Dinesh Pradhan, Consultant (MIS), NSG-MDM, ED.CIL.