

F. No. 12-1/2012 MDM 2-1
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of School Education & Literacy
MDM Division

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated 17th January, 2014

Subject: Minutes of the Meeting of the National Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) for Mid Day Meal Scheme held on 16th December, 2013 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (SE&L).

The Meeting of the National Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) for Mid Day Meal Scheme was held on 16th December, 2013 in Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of **Shri Rajarshi Bhattacharya, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy.**

2. A copy of the minutes of the 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) Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Food Corporation of India
- 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
 - g) Tribal Affairs
 - h) Social Justice & Empowerment
- vii) Director, National Institute of Nutrition, Tarnaka, Jamai-Osmania Post, Hyderabad – 500007.

- viii) Dr. Prema Ramachandran, Director, Nutritional Foundation of India, C-13 Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi – 110016.
- ix) Shri Dillip Kumar Samantaray, Additional Secretary & Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, FDA Bhavan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002.
- x) Shri Biraj Patnaik, Principal Advisor, Office of Supreme Court Commissioner, B-68, 2nd Floor, Sarvodaya Enclave, New Delhi – 110017.
- xi) Prof. Shobha A. Udipi, Head of Department, Food and Nutrition Unit, Department of Food Science and Nutrition, S.N.D.T. Women's University, Mumbai – 400049.
- xii) Dr. Uma Aiyar, Reader, Food and Nutrition Unit, The M.S. University of Baroda, Pratapgunj, Vadodara – 390002, Baroda, Gujarat.
- xiii) Representative of Akshaya Patra (Shri Chanchalapati Dasa, Vice President), Akshaya Patra Foundation, H K Hill, Chord Road, Bangalore-560 010.
- xiv) Shri Raj Kumar Khatri, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Karnataka, Primary Sec. Education Department, R.No. 641, 6th Floor, M.S. Building, Gate No. 2, Bangalore – 560001.
- xv) Shri K. Vidyasagar, Principal Secretary, Department of Human Resource Development, Govt. of Jharkhand, MDI Building, Telephone Bhavan, Dhurva, Ranchi – 834001.
- xvi) Shri Hridesh Kumar, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, School Education Department, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir, Civil Sectt., Srinagar – 190001.
- xvii) Shri P. K. Srivastava, Principal Secretary, Education Department, Govt. of Meghalaya, Shillong – 796001.
- xviii) Smt. Sangeeta Singh, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat, Education Department, New Sachivalaya, Block No. 5, 7th Floor, Gandhinagar -383010.
- xix) Ms. Paribraika Atmahridaya, Head Mistress, Shri Ram Krishna Sharada School, Jhargram, West Bengal.
- xx) Smt. D. Sujatha, Secondary Grade Teacher, Mandal Paridshad Primary School, T.M.V. Kandriga, Srikalahasti Mandal, Distt. – Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh – 517641.
- xxi) Dr. Nagesh Singh, Economic Advisor, MHRD
- xxii) Additional Secretary(EE.I), MHRD – Member Secretary

Copy to:

- i) Sr. PPS to Secretary(SE&L)
- ii) PPS to AS(EE.I)
- iii) Dir(SSP) / DS(BDS)/US(RK)/US(VKN)/US(KCM)

**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
16th December, 2013 at Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi**

The 7th meeting of the National Steering-Cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) on Mid Day Meal Scheme was held in New Delhi on 16th December, 2013 under the Chairmanship of Shri R. Bhattacharya, Secretary, School Education & Literacy (SE&L), Ministry of HRD to review the implementation of the Scheme and to suggest policy 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 & other participants and requested Dr. Amarjit Singh, AS(E.E.I) to take agenda items for the 7th meeting of NSMC for detailed deliberations.

3. The minutes of the 6th meeting of the NSMC were confirmed and approved by the Committee.

4. Additional Secretary (EE.I) presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions taken in the 6th meeting of NSMC held on 25th July, 2013.

Secretary (SE&L) enquired from the States about the status of testing of food samples by labs. Principal Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat informed that the State Govt. has started testing of food samples in urban areas by NABL accredited labs. Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir informed that the State has also started this initiative with the help of Municipal Health Department. Secretary (SE&L) advised to involve NABL accredited labs for testing of food as these labs have expertise in the area of testing of food samples.

Additional Secretary (EE.I) informed that some States viz. Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand etc. have already taken initiative for emergency preparedness. Principal Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat informed that State Disaster Management Authority has also prepared a School Disaster Management Plan in Gujarat. She suggested that the school contingency plan for MDMS may be used in convergence with School Disaster Management Plan.

Representative of Ministry of Women & Child Development suggested to make it mandatory to keep first aid box containing emergency medicines in all the schools in the country.

AS(EE.I) informed that the 5th Joint Review Mission(JRM) has completed visits in 18 States and in every State anthropometric measurements i.e. height and weight records of 500 to 800 children have been collected. He further informed that this Department is under process of compilation of this anthropometric data. He also informed about the pilot study started in district Faizabad of Uttar Pradesh by Swami Sivananda Memorial Institute (SSMI), Delhi and mentioned that the final report is expected by the end of 2014. Secretary (SE&L) requested for the report earlier if possible.

5. After ATR on the other decisions of 6th meeting of NSMC had been presented, the agenda items for the 7th meeting of NSMC were taken up for discussion:

5.1 Follow up action taken on the Chhapra Incident – steps taken to improve quality, safety and hygiene

Additional Secretary (EE.I) informed that the Government of India has set up an Empowered Committee vide notification dated 22nd August 2013 under the Chairmanship of Minister of Human Resource Development to review, monitor and enhance the effectiveness of the MDM Scheme. He added that experts from various disciplines and representatives of Ministries and States are members of the Committee. He further informed about the major initiatives taken by the Government to bring improvement in MDMS like

- Requested all States/UTs for setting up / strengthening of Management Structures by State at various levels viz. State, District, Block etc. with clear roles and responsibilities for strengthening of the Scheme.
- Procurement of pulses and ingredients of branded and Agmark quality and supply to schools.
- District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meetings under the Chairpersonship of Senior most Member of Parliament from the district.
- Operationalization of the web enabled MIS portal for MDM and that States / UTs have fed annual data for more than 90% schools.

- Capacity building of cook-cum-helpers as master trainers with the help of Ministry of Tourism and NGOs.
- Inclusion of CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) as member of NSMC
- 18 States/UTs covered under visits of 5th JRM.
- Review of the scheme has been carried out through 5 regional workshops at Silvasa, Kohima, Chennai, Ranchi and Lucknow during November-December, 2013.
- Social audit has been carried out in two districts of Andhra Pradesh viz. Khammam and Chhittoor on pilot basis. The process to conduct Social Audit in 2 districts each in 9 States is going on and will be completed in the current year.

The representative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs raised the issue of inclusion of local foods in MDMS in tribal areas. Adding on to this issue Shri Biraj Patnaik suggested to encourage use of millets under MDMS in the areas where these are produced locally. Shri Gaya Prasad, Director (MDM) informed that this Department has received request from Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation for use of nutri rich cereals. He added that a joint meeting of Secretary (SE&L) and Secretary Department of Agriculture & Cooperation was held with four States viz. UP, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Accordingly these States were requested to assess the acceptance of nutri rich cereals and if need be submit the requirement of the same for MDMS. He further informed that 3 States have already submitted requirement of nutri rich cereals and the same has been forwarded to Ministry of Agriculture. Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) will procure nutri rich cereals and provide to these States.

Secretary (SE&L) advised to form an Expert Committee to suggest modalities and to address other issues relating to introduction of millets/ nutri rich cereals in MDMS. Shri Biraj Patnaik suggested that representative of millets network of India may be included in the Expert Committee. NSMC recommended to set up the Expert Committee.

5.2 Status of Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS)

AS(EE.I) stated that the web based MDM-MIS is fully functional now and all the States/UTs are feeding data into the portal. He pointed out that Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Assam and Tamil Nadu may need more efforts to complete the annual data entry into the portal and Govt. of Meghalaya, Nagaland, J&K, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu need to pay more attention on monthly data entry. He further informed that RFP for empanelment of Service Providers for IVRS project was floated and five bids were received. The Technical Evaluation Committee and Financial Evaluation Committee have been constituted for technical and financial review of the bids received.

5.3 Development of method of ranking of States based on the performance of the scheme

AS(EE.I) informed that a preliminary draft ranking of the States/UTs based on the performance of the indicators of the MDMS during 1st quarter of 2013-14 has been attempted and shared with the States/UTs for their suggestions. Representative of Ministry of Women & Child Development mentioned that aspects of quality, hygiene and cleanness are totally missing in the proposed ranking method and suggested to include these while finalizing the ranking method. Dr. Prema Ramchandran suggested to include use of pulses, vegetables and double fortified salt in ranking method. Principal Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat suggested that less weightage may be given to coverage of children against enrolment in the ranking method. Shri Biraj Patnaik suggested that it has to be fine-tuned and quality parameters are to be taken into account for ranking. Secretary (SE&L) mentioned that preliminary ranking method is a pre-draft exercise and requested members to provide valuable suggestions for finalization of the same. The preliminary draft paper on ranking method circulated to the State is not an approved decision as yet but circulated for consultation . It was felt that an Expert Committee under the co-convenership of Shri Biraj Patnaik and Shri Gaya Prasad may be considered with comprising of following members:

- (a) Shri Gaya Prasad, Dir (MDM), MHRD and Shri Biraj Patnaik, Principal Advisor, Office of SC Commissioner, Co-Conveners.
- (b) Director, Nutrition Foundation of India
- (c) Representative of Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

- (d) Representative of Ministry of Women & Child Development
- (e) Representative of NUEPA
- (f) Representative of NCERT
- (g) Representative of 5 States (one from each zone) viz. Gujarat, J&K, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Jharkhand.
- (h) An Economist as special invitee.

Secretary (SE&L) suggested that the draft version of the ranking method be again shared with the States during the forthcoming conference of Education Secretaries. NSMC recommended to constitute Expert Committee and to discuss with all States/UTs by sharing the draft version.

5.4 Capacity building under the MDMS

AS(EE.I) informed that this department has initiated a major effort for capacity building of cook-cum-helpers as master trainers with the help of the Ministry of Tourism, which is imparting ten day full time training through the Institutes of Hotel Management (IHMs) and the Food Craft Institutes (FCIs) and NGOs. He further informed that 2453 cook-cum-helpers have been trained by IHMs/FCI and 500 through NGOs. The representative of Food and Nutrition Board informed that they have 43 units across the country. These field units are imparting training to head teachers of schools on nutrition education for last 10 years. The practical training is also given to them. AS(EE.I) requested her to provide the details of the training module and State wise number of teachers trained so far.

5.5 Action taken on provisions of National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA)

AS(EE.I) apprised the members that the provisions of NFSA and FSSA have been shared with the States/UTs through 5 regional workshops held at Silvasa, Kohima, Chennai, Ranchi and Lucknow during November- December, 2013. The revision of guidelines for incorporating the provisions related to MDMS of the said Acts is in process. He further added that CEO, FSSAI has been included as member of the NSMC to get their valuable suggestions for improvement of the scheme. Ms. Vinod Kotwal, Director, FSSAI informed that Govt. of Goa has prepared draft guidelines in the light of the FSS Act and circulated to

all State Food Commissioners for their comments. She also added that there is a court case in High Court of Delhi and FSSAI is framing guidelines related to FSS Act for MDMS.

5.6 Engagement of CSIR NABL labs for testing of food samples

AS(EE.I) apprised that it is proposed to engage the services of National Accreditation Board of Laboratories accredited labs to carry out scientific testing of food samples in different parts of the country to ensure quality food to the children. The preparation of the RFP for engagement of reputed labs is under process and approval of the competent authority would be obtained in the due course of time.

Shri Sudhir Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports suggested that there is no need to prepare RFP for hiring services of the NABL accredited labs and FSSAI labs in the country. He suggested that the State Government may be advised to take services of the labs located in their State for testing of food samples. It is relevant to mention that Govt. of Gujrat has already started testing of food samples from NABL accredited labs. |

NSMC recommended that State Governments may consider to engage the Government Labs/CSIR/NABL/FSSAI/Food & Nutrition Board Units for testing of the meals served under Mid Day Meal Scheme.

5.7 Release of funds and foodgrains

AS(EE.I) apprised the members that 72% of the budgeted amount have been released to the States/UTs so far for smooth implementation of the scheme, which is higher than the corresponding releases in the previous year.

5.8 Enhancement of honorarium for cook-cum-helpers to Rs.2000 p.m

NSMC recommended the enhancement of honorarium to Rs.2000/- per cook-cum-helper per month for taking the approval of competent authority.

5.9 Slabs for kitchen devices on the basis of enrolment

NSMC recommended following slabs for release of Central Assistance for procurement of kitchen devices on sharing basis at existing ratios for taking the approval of competent authority.

Sl. No.	Enrolment range	No. of schools	Unit cost (in Rs)
1	Up to 50	410170	10000
2	51-150	518983	15000
3	151-250	162883	20000
4	251 & above	120736	25000

5.10 Review of the performance of the scheme in the first 2 quarters of the year 2013-14.

AS(EE.I) shared the performance of the Scheme during first 2 quarters of the year 2013-14 and NSMC recommended that this may be shared with the respective States/UTs for taking corrective measures to improve the performance.

5.11 Any other item with the permission of the Chair

(a) Documentation of Best Practices

Shri Biraj Patnaik suggested that best practices for MDMS may be compiled, documented and circulated to all the States/UTs. Secretary (SE&L) advised that an updated version of best practices '**Compendium of Best Practices**' may be prepared and after validation from Expert Group and the same may be circulated after taking the approval of competent authority. He further advised to constitute an Expert Group comprising of Shri Biraj Patnaik, Dr. Prema Ramchandran and few experts from 2-3 States. NSMC recommended for preparation of compendium of best practices being followed in the States.

(b) Visit of Central Team to Jharkhand

Shri Biraj Patnaik informed that representative of the office of Supreme Court Commissioner from Jharkhand has reported that there is again a problem of supply of foodgrains in district Khunti and has resulted in disruption of mid day meals in few schools. Secretary (SE&L) expressed serious concern and directed to send two members Central Team comprising of Shri Biraj Patnaik, Principal Advisor to Supreme Court Commissioner and Shri Gaya

Prasad, Director (MDM) immediately to Jharkhand to resolve the issues and suggest long term solutions to avoid such disruption in future.

(c) Payment to FCI

Secretary (SE&L) desired to know about the current pendency status of payment to FCI. Director (MDM) informed that Rs.496 crore is an outstanding dues of FCI with States/UTs as on 31st October, 2013. He further stated that payment of cost of foodgrains to FCI was reviewed with all States/UTs through 5 regional workshops in the month of November & December, 2013 and found that there is a mismatch in pendency statement provided by FCI and provided by the State Governments. He further added that there is a delay in submitting the bills to district authorities. He also stated that regional offices of FCI may also not be informing the FCI headquarter on timely basis about the payment status. Secretary (SE&L) instructed that payment to FCI should be reviewed with all States and get written statement from each State/UT. He instructed that Shri Gaya Prasad and Smt. Suparna S. Pachauri will do this exercise and discuss with FCI to avoid such pendency in future. NSMC recommended that payment to FCI should be monitored closely on regular basis and timely payment to FCI may be ensured.

(d) Revision of Guidelines

AS(EE.I) informed that draft guidelines was shared with States/UTs with request to provide their suggestions. Shri Biraj Patnaik suggested that the issue of distance and time to transport the meals in case of centralized kitchen has not clearly mentioned in the MDM guidelines, 2006 and in the draft guidelines also. He suggested to include these in MDM guidelines. Secretary (SE&L) advised to constitute a Committee to fix the distance & time norms for food transportation besides other aspects of the centralized kitchens. NSMC recommended inclusion of time and distance norms for centralized kitchen in the MDM Guidelines.

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