

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 7th August, 2014

Subject: Minutes of the 8th Meeting of the National Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) for Mid Day Meal Scheme held on 28th July, 2014 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 28th July, 2014 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.


(Gaya Prasad)
Director (MDM)
Tel. 011-23384253
Fax: 011-23382394

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) Smt. Nirmal Sharma, 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. A.M. Tiwari, 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(SE), MHRD – Member Secretary

Copy to:

- i) EC/PPS to Secretary (SE&L)
- ii) PPS to AS(SE)
- iii) PPS to JS(SE-II)
- iv) Dir(SSP) / DS(BDS) / DS(VKN) and US(RK) / US(KCM) / US(AD)

**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
28th July, 2014 at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi**

The 8th meeting of the National Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) on Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) was held on 28th July 2014 under the Chairmanship of Shri R. Bhattacharya, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy (SE&L), Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The list of participants is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

2. Secretary (SE&L) welcomed the participants. He observed that representatives of only four Ministries/Departments were present in the meeting out of 8 nominated Ministries/Departments. He advised that a letter may be issued to the Secretaries of non-participating Ministries/Departments requesting them to depute their representatives in the next meeting(s) of NSMC.

3. Joint Secretary (SE-II) apprised the Hon'ble members that since no comments were received on the minutes of the last NSMC meeting held on 16.12.2013, the minutes may be treated as confirmed. A detailed presentation was made on various agenda items and performance of the Scheme during 2013-14.

4. Action Taken Report (ATR) was presented on the decisions of the 7th meeting of NSMC held on 16th December, 2013 as per details given below:-

4.1. Formation of an Expert Committee to suggest modalities and to address other issues relating to introduction of millets / nutri rich cereals in MDMS.

The NSMC was informed that Ministry of Agriculture had already constituted a Committee on millets under the Chairmanship of Shri Atanu Purkayastha, Joint Secretary and a Committee on Nutri-rich cereals under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Agriculture Cooperation. Therefore, setting up of a separate committee on millets/Nutri rich cereals in MHRD may not be desirable. Secretary (SE&L) desired that the recommendations of these Committees should be provided to the members of NSMC.

AS (SE) suggested that the availability of millets/nutri-rich cereals should be considered along with the willingness of States/UTs to introduce them in MDMS. She suggested that a meeting with the officials of Ministry of Agriculture and States interested in promoting millets under MDMS, may be held under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (SE-II) for consolidating the requirements of States for millets/nutri-rich cereals so that these could be

supplied through Food Corporation of India/Small Farmer's Agri. Consortium/State Government's procurement agencies etc.

4.2 Formation of an Expert Committee to suggest the development of ranking method of States based on the performance of the Scheme.

Director (MDM) informed that the report of the Expert Committee for developing ranking method will be submitted by the end of August, 2014. Secretary (SE&L) advised that the report should include parameters on quality also.

Additional Secretary (SE) suggested that key Indicators of ranking should be selected carefully for making comprehensive assessment of the performance of the States/UTs on the basis of physical & qualitative key indicators. She further advised that these should also incorporate findings of 3rd party assessment of the MDM Scheme, with reference to qualitative indicators.

4.3 Enhancement of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers and Slab for kitchen devices linked to enrolment.

The NSMC was informed that the proposal for the enhancement of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers has been drafted.

4.4 Preparation of compendium of best practices being followed in the States and formation of an Expert Group to validate the same.

The NSMC was informed that a draft compendium was prepared on 'Best Practices followed in the States/UTs under MDMS' based on information provided by the States / UTs in their Annual Work Plan & Budget 2014-15. Secretary (SE&L) advised to finalize the compendium of Best Practices in 15 days and upload it on MDM website before the next meeting of Education Secretaries to be held on 26th August, 2014.

4.5 Visit of Central team to Jharkhand

Director (MDM) informed that the issue relating to delay in the release of food grains in Khunti district of Jharkhand was sorted out over telephone after a detailed discussion with officials of Government of Jharkhand and FCI. Therefore, the central team did not visit Jharkhand.

4.6 Payment to FCI

The NSMC was informed that the payment of cost of food grains to FCI has been decentralized at district level with effect from 1st April, 2010. As per the guidelines, the FCI is to raise bill in respect of the lifted food grain by 10th of the next month from the month of lifting of food grain by the State from FCI and the State has to make payment to FCI within 20 days of the receipt of bill. But there are some bottlenecks in the implementation of these guidelines. The FCI reflects the pendency of the bill immediately after food grain has been lifted by the State. Even if the payment is made by the State to the Regional

Office of FCI, it is not reflected in the FCI statement of outstanding payments because this statement is consolidated at Hqr. The time lag in communicating the payment from FCI Regional Office to Hqr. results in the mismatch in the payment.

Nevertheless, MHRD has been advising the States to make immediate payment to FCI. The States have been advised at various forums for making timely payments to FCI. Three meetings were held with the Department of Food and Public Distribution as well as FCI to sort out this matter.

Secretary (SE&L) desired that FCI may furnish details showing outstanding FCI payment which breached Rs.300.00 crore mark during 2013-14 and 2014-15. He further desired that the names of States having large outstanding payments may also be indicated for taking up the matter with these States.

5. Modalities for providing of Food Security Allowance to the children as per National Food Security Act, 2013

Draft MDM Rules under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 were prepared and submitted to Ministry of Law for vetting. The quantum and modalities of payment of Food Security Allowance (FSA) to the children in lieu of non-serving of mid-day meal are to be decided as per the provisions of NFSA. The members were requested to give their suggestions whether FSA should be given daily, weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly and also the mode of its payment, whether in cash or in kind.

AS(SE) mentioned that since States/UTs are implementing the MDMS, and since the serving of mid-day meal may be disrupted due to various exigencies such as non-availability of food grains, cooking cost or absence of cook-cum-helpers etc., therefore, consultations with the States/UTs on the draft MDM Rules under NFSA, 2013 should be held first. She advised to constitute a committee in which representatives from the States of Bihar, Gujarat, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir & Tamil Nadu, National Institute of Nutrition, Nutrition Foundation of India and office of Supreme Court Commissioner should be included under chairpersonship of JS(SE-II), to make concrete recommendations.

Secretary (SE&L) advised that the draft MDM rules should also be circulated to the members of NSMC for their comments/suggestions while the above Committee should hold its deliberations speedily.

6. Recommendations of the Expert Committee on Nutrition

It was informed that the report of the Expert Committee on Nutrition headed by Dr. Prema Ramachandran, Director, Nutrition Foundation of India (NFI), New Delhi has been received. The major recommendations of the committee relate to the role of community in checking for ingredients etc. is very important for

micro biological contamination; mandatory testing of meal at kitchen level and from the farthest school which is being served by the Centralised kitchen, especially in the months of July to September when the environmental conditions are conducive for the growth of bacteria and viruses.

Shri A.M. Tiwari, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat informed that the Govt. of Gujarat has installed biometric system on pilot basis in about 6000 schools in two districts at an average cost of Rs. 20000/- per school. The height and weight of the school children is taken regularly for calculating the Body Mass Index (BMI). The concurrent monitoring for testing the food samples is also proposed. He further added that in some schools special arrangements for storage of LPG cylinders, keeping racks for ingredients cleaning of utensils, and other condiments and food - grains, special platforms etc. have been constructed. Secretary (SE&L) appreciated the efforts and desired that the Principal Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat make a presentation on this during the Education Secretaries meeting scheduled to be held on 26th August, 2014.

Principal Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat further mentioned the problems of kitchen cum stores in the schools. He added it is not possible to prepare mid-day meal in the smaller kitchens for the schools having large enrolment. He requested that additional assistance may be provided for constructing large kitchen-cum-stores. Director (MDM) clarified that size of kitchen-cum-store is decided on the basis of enrollment in the schools. Secretary (SE&L) requested Director (MDM) to prepare a matrix for categorization of schools from 1-8 classes on the basis of enrolment.

7. Analysis of the Monitoring Institutes (MI) reports

Director (MDM) informed that Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with 38 Monitoring Institutes (MIs) for monitoring the MDM scheme from April, 2013 to March, 2015. These MIs are required to submit four half yearly reports on monitoring the MDMS. These MIs covered 1715 schools in 44 districts during the 1st half year (11 MIs have submitted 15 reports) and 2051 schools in 52 districts during the 2nd half year period (13 MIs have submitted 18 reports). The major findings of MIs relate to delay in reaching cooking cost from State to school levels; Food grains are not being delivered at school levels in many States; Irregular payment to cook cum helpers; Cook cum helpers are not trained; Inadequate eating plates; Slow pace of Construction of Kitchen cum store; Less participation of community, poor convergence with school health programme. These findings have been shared with the States/UTs with a request to send the ATN on the reports.

8. Testing of food samples by Institutes / Labs / States as per the Guidelines

Director (MDM) informed that the Government of NCT Delhi and Government of Punjab have engaged Sriram Institute of Industrial Research, Delhi and International Testing Centre, Panchkula respectively for testing the food samples of Mid-Day Meal. Principal Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat informed that the State Govt. has started testing of food samples in urban (Municipal) areas through reputed labs.

Secretary (SE&L) desired that all States/UTs should be advised to ensure testing of food samples through reputed accredited labs. Principal Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat informed that Health Officials of Municipal Authority in Gujarat inspect the schools on regular basis to monitor the quality of food, health & hygiene issues.

9. Incidents of MDM / complaints / media reports and action taken thereon

Director (MDM) informed that Guidelines have been issued for setting up of the Grievance Redressal Cell (GRC) by the States/UTs. As per the information given by States/UTs in their Annual Work Plan & Budget, the GRC is functional in all the States at various levels.

Director (MDM) further informed that 29 incidents have been reported from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha during the year. Most of these incidents were reported by the media. The State Nodal Departments are not reporting these incidents pro-actively. The States should be advised to develop a mechanism suo-motu prompt reporting of the incident immediately on its happening. MHRD is using social media i.e. Facebook, Twitter and YouTube for sharing the important information in respect of Mid Day Meal Scheme.

Dr. Prema Ramachandran suggested that there is a need to strengthen School Management Committees for reporting incidents. She mentioned that bacterial and viral infections such as cough & cold, diarrhea, fever etc. are prevalent during rainy season. It has been observed that 25% of the school children fall sick during these months. Shri Biraj Patnaik mentioned that IVRS can play an important role in this regard.

Secretary (SE&L) informed the members about the latest development on implementation of IVRS for MDMS. He suggested that the States/ UTs should be encouraged to design and implement IVRS on their own while information required in GOI would be a template on which all States would give their data / inputs, from the larger IVRS based data base of their State.

10. Findings of the latest Joint Review Mission (JRM) report – Uttarakhand

Director (MDM) informed NSMC members that Joint Review Mission visited Udham Singh Nagar and Dehradun districts in Uttarakhand from 12-20th May,

2014 for reviewing the implementation of MDMS in the State. The findings of the JRM relate to implementation and dietary issues.

Additional Secretary (SE) mentioned that the Ministry is in process of restructuring the composition of the JRMs and requested all the members to provide their suggestions, if any to make the JRMs more meaningful and effective.

Dr. Prema Ramachandran mentioned that JRMs have made important contribution by collecting information on BMI data of children. She suggested that this process should be carried forward to get the desired result for improving the scheme. She further suggested JRMs should visit one good and one poor performing districts of the States and inter-State comparison may also be conducted in this regard and International standards for calculation of over nutrition and under nutrition of children should be taken as standard measurement.

11. Any other Item with the permission of the Chair.

Dr. Prema Ramachandran mentioned that administration of micronutrients Weekly Iron Folic Acid Scheme (WIFS) varies from State to State. She suggested that there should be uniformity in the administration of micronutrients under WIFS in the States. She further added that anemic children should be given additional does of micronutrients in convergence with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

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

List of Participants

1. Shri Rajarshi Bhattacharya, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
2. Ms. Vrinda Sarup, Additional Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
3. Shri A.M. Tiwari, Principal Secretary, Department of Education, Govt. of Gujarat.
4. Smt. Nirmal Sharma, Secretary, Department of School Education, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir.
5. Shri J. Alam, Joint Secretary (SE-II), Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
6. Dr. Nagesh Singh, Economic Adviser, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
7. Shri Biraj Patnaik, Principal Adviser, Office of Supreme Court Commissioner.
8. Dr. Prema Ramachandran, Director, Nutrition Foundation of India, India Habitat Centre, Core 4A, Upper Ground Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003.
9. Ms. Sujata Sharma, Economic Adviser, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
10. Dr. N.K. Sahu, Economic Adviser, Ministry of Rural Development.
11. Shri Gaya Prasad, Director (MDM), Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
12. Ms. Kiran Gupta, Deputy Advisor (HRD), Planning Commission, Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi.
13. Professor (Smt.) Neelam Sood, Head, NUEPA, New Delhi.
14. Shri Yogesh Kumar, Professor, NCERT, New Delhi.
15. Dr. N. Arlappa, Assistant Director, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.
16. Shri B.S. Mohapatra, ED (Finance), Food Corporation of India, 16-20, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi- 110001.

17. Shri O.P. Dani, Chief General Manager, Food Corporation of India, 16-20, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi- 110001.
18. Dr. Suparna S. Pachouri, Director (MDM & EFA), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
19. Shri Vimal Dubey, Director, Food Safety and STD Authority of India.
20. Shri Sailesh Jogkim, Under Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.
21. Shri B.D. Shivani, Deputy Secretary (MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
22. Shri V.K. Nayyar, Deputy Secretary (MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
23. Shri Rajeev Kumar, Under Secretary (MDM 2-1), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
24. Shri Arnab Dhaki, Under Secretary, MDM, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
25. Shri K.C. Meena, Under Secretary (MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
26. Shri K.L. Ahuja, Section Officer (MDM 2-1), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
