

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

**Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of National Steering-Cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC)**  
**held on 03.12.10 in Conference Room, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi**

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The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the National Steering-Cum-Monitoring Committee for the Mid Day Meal Scheme was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010 in New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of HRD to review the implementation of the Scheme and advice measures for improving the scheme. The list of participants is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

2. Secretary(SE&L) welcomed all the members of newly constituted NSMC and participants and requested Dr. Amarjit Singh, JS (EE-I) to make a presentation highlighting the status of implementation of MDM scheme and issues for discussion.

3. JS(EE-I) informed the status of action taken on various issues discussed in the second NSMC Meeting held on 20-10-2009 for successful implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme during 2009-10. The para wise action taken is as under:

**3.1 Review Mission on Mid Day Meal Scheme:**

Three Review Missions comprising members from GOI, State, UNICEF and Supreme Court Commissioner visited States Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in 2009-10 and two Review Missions visited Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat during 2010-11. Third mission will have to visit Uttarakhand in 2010-11. The review missions have submitted recommendations to States. State of Uttar Pradesh has reported that they have taken action on the recommendations of the review mission and most of the recommendations have already been implemented. The action taken note on recommendations of Review Mission is awaited from rest of the States.

**3.2 Revision in food norm:**

Food norm for upper primary has been revised with the approval of the competent authority and is effective from 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009. Upper primary children are now entitled for 700 calories, 20 gm of proteins, 150 gm rice/wheat, 30 gm pulses, 75 gm vegetables and 7.5 gm oil & fat.

**3.3 Revision in cooking cost:**

Cooking cost (excluding labour and administrative charges) has been revised from ₹ 1.68 to ₹ 2.50 for primary and ₹ 2.10 to ₹ 3.75 for upper primary w.e.f. 1.12.2009. This has been further enhanced by 7.5% w.e.f. 1.4.2010. This will be raised by 7.5% w.e.f. 1.4.2011.

Dr. Prema Ramachandran, Director, Nutrition Foundation of India suggested that the cooking cost should be linked to price index as the prices of pulses and vegetables are increasing. If the vegetable prices increase, in most of the areas vegetables are not included in the MDM. Due to increase in price of pulses, very watery served dal is served, which will reduce the protein content in the meal. In order to compensate, legumes also can be included in the menu which cost less than pulses and have high protein value. The community should be made aware of these issues. She further suggested that these issues can be included in the guidelines for awareness among the implementors at the grass root level.

Secretary(SE&L) informed that there is a provision of 7.5% enhancement in the cooking cost in the next year.

#### **3.4 Provision for payment of honorarium to cook cum helpers:**

JS(EE-I) stated that Programme Approval Board of Mid Day Meal Scheme 2010-11 has approved more than 26 lakh cook-cum-helpers to be engaged by the States / UTs as per norms laid down by GOI. Honorarium is being paid to cook cum helper @ ₹ 1000/- per month on sharing basis between centre and NER States in the ratio of 90:10 and with other States in the ratio of 75:25.

#### **3.5 Fund flow through society mode under MDM:**

Secretary(SE&L) mentioned that the Ministry's proposal in this regard did not meet with approval.

#### **3.6 Construction of Kitchen cum stores:**

The cost of construction of kitchen-cum-store is determined on the basis of plinth area norm and State Schedule of Rates. The plinth area norm is 20 sq. mt. for construction of Kitchen-cum-store in schools having upto 100 children. For every addition upto 100 children, additional 4 sq.mt. plinth area will be added. Slab of 100 children may be modified by the States/UTs depending upon local conditions. For example, the hilly areas, where the number of children in schools is less, may have larger slabs. In one State/UT, there can be more than one slab. However, the modified prescription of plinth area will have to conform to the above ceiling. Department has sanctioned 1,03,555 kitchen-cum-stores and released Rs.1044.29 crore during 2009-10 as per the revised norm.

#### **3.7 Transportation Assistance to 11 special category States:**

Transportation assistance to 11 States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, , Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand is at par with PDS rate prevalent in the States and is effective from 1.12.2009.

Transportation assistance based on the PDS rates has been already sanctioned to two States i.e. Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim. 4 States viz. Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Uttarakhand have sent the proposals for the transportation assistance based on the PDS rates existing in the States.

Secretary(SE&L) mentioned that transportation assistance to 11 special category States was discussed in the meeting held on 25-10-2010 at Shillong, Meghalaya. She felt that there should be some follow-up with the States to ascertain the action taken by them.

**3.8 Decentralised system of payment of cost of foodgrains to FCI at district level:**

The payment of the cost of foodgrains has been decentralised at the district level and it is in practice w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010. All the districts of the States / UTs are making payment to FCI.

**3.9 Proposal from States on Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME) Plan to strengthen the monitoring mechanism:**

4 States viz. A&N islands, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have sent proposal for MME and proposals from remaining States are awaited.

Secretary(SE&L) emphasized the importance of effective monitoring mechanism at various levels and requested that efforts be made to strengthen the monitoring systems.

**3.10 Monitoring of the Scheme by independent monitoring institutions:**

42 reputed institutions are assigned the task of monitoring the Mid Day Meal Scheme and they submit their reports on half yearly basis. An analysis of the reports has been made and forwarded to the concerned States /UTs for taking remedial action and sending the action taken note at the earliest.

**4. Budget allocation and releases 2010 – 11:**

During this financial year, the budget provision for MDM is ₹ 9440 crore. The unspent balance of recurring Central Assistance available with the States / UTs as on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010 is ₹ 1158 crore. The fund available for 2010-11 is ₹ 10598 Crore for Mid Day Meal Scheme. The GOI has released second installment of recurring Central Assistance to most of the States / UTs.

**5. Review of the Scheme:**

JS(EE-I) highlighted the achievements of MDM Scheme upto 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 of the current financial year. The presentation made by him is at **Annexure-II.**

**6. Secretary(SE&L) invited suggestions / comments from the members of the NSMC on the proposals for consideration:**

6.1 The Secretary requested the members of the NSMC for their views on how to measure the impact of Mid Day Meal Scheme on enrolment, retention, learning achievement and nutritional status of children.

Dr. G.N.V. Brahmam, member NSMC stated that it is very difficult to isolate the impact of the MDM on nutritional status of the children who were availing MDM, as MDM provides a single meal to a child in a day. The NSMC felt that we

cannot attribute impact only to MDM on enrolment, retention, learning achievement and nutritional status of children as a number of schemes are in operation in the country.

**6.2 Enhancement of norm for children of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) from primary to upper primary:**

JS(EE-I) mentioned that 9 States have proposed for inclusion of NCLP Children under Mid Day Meal Scheme and PAB MDM has approved Mid Day Meal for 343857 children of NCLP Schools in these states at primary norm. The Ministry of Labour has requested that children studying in NCLP Schools belong to higher age group i.e. 11+ age group, so they are entitled for MDM at upper primary norm. The Committee unanimously approved the proposal.

**6.3 Coverage of pre-primary children under MDM:**

Secretary(SE&L) stated that this issue has already been discussed at various forums. We may need to consult with Ministry of Women & Child Development in the matter as 'Integrated Child Development Services' is the Scheme responsible for the welfare of pre-primary children.

**6.4 Approval of additional requirement of funds for kitchen-cum-stores sanctioned during 2006-07 to 2008-09:**

JS(EE-I) mentioned that ₹ 412.21 crore is required for completion of 83640 kitchen sheds sanctioned to 3 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Punjab during 2006-07 to 2009-10 in the light of the revised norm for the construction of Kitchen-cum-stores as construction of these kitchen sheds are yet to start. The Committee felt that additional fund should be provided for completion / construction of kitchen-cum-store in all the States / UTs as per the mandate of the RTE Act, 2009. Secretary(SE&L), however, clarified that this decision would have to be taken at the competent level.

**6.5 Training of middle level supervisory officers:**

The committee suggested for capacity building of MDM officials at different levels and also felt that orientation is needed for monitoring institutions.

**6.6 Development of web enabled MIS with integration of Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS):**

JS(EE-I) stated that this Department is developing a web enabled Management Information System with the integration of Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS). He further mentioned that Government of Uttar Pradesh is already using the Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) for monitoring of the Scheme upto school level on daily basis. NSMC endorsed the proposal.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

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**List of Participants**

1. Ms. Anshu Vaish, Secretary(SE&L), Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
2. Shri Amarjit Singh, Joint Secretary(EE-I), Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
3. Ms. Rita Chatterjee, Joint Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
4. Dr. C. Chandramohan, Adviser (Education), Planning Commission, Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi.
5. Shri K.P. Singh, Deputy Advisor (Education), Planning Commission, Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi.
6. Ms. Sarita Mittal, Director (Finance), Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development
7. Shri Gaya Prasad, Director(MDM), Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development
8. Dr. Rashmi Sinha, Member, NSMC, Apne Aap Women World Wide, D-56, Anand Niketan, New Delhi
9. Shri K. Ashok Rao, Member, NSMC, General Secretary, SSMI, Chandigarh
10. Dr. G.N.V. Brahmam, Member, NSMC, Scientist – 'F', National Institute of Nutrition, Tarmaka, Hyderabad – 500 007
11. Dr. Prema Ramachandran, Member, NSMC, Director, Nutrition Foundation of India, New Delhi
12. Ms. A. Asia Begum, Headmistress, Member, NSMC, Uswathun Hasana Oriental Arabic Primary School, Pallapatti – 639 205, Tamil Nadu
13. Shri Satya Prakash Sharma, Member, NSMC, G.M. School, Kamkor, District Karket, Chhattisgarh
14. Shri K.R. Pisda, Director, Public Information Chhattisgarh, School Education Department, Chhattisgarh
15. Shri Dev Raj Dev, Director, MDM, Complex of Bihar Text Book Corporation, Budda Marg, Patna
16. Mr. B.T. Ngchem, Joint Director, School Education and Nodal Officer, Mid Day Meal, Government of Nagaland
17. Shri Mahavir Meena, Deputy Commissioner, Mid Day Meal Rajasthan, Jaipur.
18. Shri Ch. Pulliah, Additional Director, O/o the Commissioner & Director of School Education, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
19. Dr. Zase Chasi, Additional Project Director, Govt. of Nagaland, Kohima – 797 001
20. Dr. B.K. Tiwari, Adviser, Nutrition, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi

21. Dr. Ajay Khara, Deputy Commissioner, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi
22. Prof. Neelam Sood, NUEPA, 17-B, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi
23. Ms. Rupa Dutta, Director, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
24. Shri S.L. Meena, US(UPA), Ministry of HUPA, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi
25. Shri G.S. Patial, Under Secretary, Department of Food & RD, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.
26. Mr. Pushpendra Rajput, General Manager, Food Corporation of India, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi – 110 001.
27. Shri Krishna Chandra Misra, DGM (AG), Food Corporation of India, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi
28. Ms. Pushpa Gautam, Section Officer, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development
29. Shri B.R. Meena, Section Officer, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development
30. Shri R.K. Mishra, Chief Consultant, National Support Group, Mid Day Meal, Ed.CIL
31. Shri K.K. Sharma, Consultant, National Support Group, Mid Day Meal, Ed.CIL
32. Dr. Anindita Shukla, Consultant, National Support Group, Mid Day Meal, Ed.CIL
33. Dr. Krishnaveni Motha, Consultant, National Support Group, Mid Day Meal, Ed.CIL
34. Dr. Mridula Sircar, Consultant, National Support Group, Mid Day Meal, Ed.CIL
35. Ms. Aditi Gupta, Consultant, National Support Group, Mid Day Meal, Ed.CIL
36. Shri Bhupendra Kumar, Consultant, National Support Group, Mid Day Meal, Ed.CIL