



सत्यमेव जयते

**Government of India  
Ministry of Human Resource Development  
Department of School Education & Literacy  
MDM Division**

## **AGENDA NOTE**



### **Meeting of National Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) for Mid Day Meal Scheme**

**25<sup>th</sup> July, 2013  
New Delhi**

**Item No. 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of National Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) held on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2012**

The minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NSMC was circulated to all the members. No response has been received from any hon'ble member of the Committee till date.

Decision required: Confirmation of the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NSMC.

**Item No. 2: Action taken report on decision made in the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of NSMC**

Item No.	Decision of the committee	Action taken
1.	Reimbursement of additional funds on account of withdrawal of subsidy on LPG cylinders to the respective States/UTs	As per the recommendation of the NSMC, a self-contained proposal on the subject was submitted to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure), which concurred the reimbursement of additional funds on account of withdrawal of subsidy on LPG cylinders to the respective States/UTs. Rs. 296 crore were reimbursed to the State Governments during 2012-13 on account of the additional cost incurred by them for procuring unsubsidised LPG cylinders. The States have been requested to submit the proposal for 2013-14.
2.	Revision of Guidelines for MDMS	The Guidelines for MDMS are in the process of revision and the initial draft was circulated to the States/UTs for comments. However, this department has not received any comments from any State/UT. This issue was discussed in the Education Secretaries meeting held on 25 <sup>th</sup> June, 2013 and the States/UTs were requested to furnish their comments expeditiously.  We have requested the experts to work on the draft chapters for food safety, fuel efficiency, social audit, community participation and capacity building.
3.	Revision of the Scheme for inclusion of the recommendations of the Working Group on Elementary Education for 12 <sup>th</sup> Plan	The EFC memo incorporating the recommendation of the working group on elementary education has been circulated along with the observations of the IFD to the appraisal agencies and State Governments for comments. This department has received comments from Ministry of Finance, Ministry of

Item No.	Decision of the committee	Action taken
		Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Renewable Energy Resources. Ministry of Rural Development etc. but comments from Planning Commission are still awaited.

Decision required: For information only

<b>Item No. 3: Main Agenda - Safety, Quality and Hygiene</b>
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A detailed enquiry has been conducted by the MHRD, on the recent unfortunate incident in Chhapra, Bihar. Based on the findings, detailed guidelines have been issued to the States (**Annexure-I**) for corrective action to ensure safety, quality and hygiene at various levels. The following main issues were taken up by the Secretary (SE&L) with all the States Education Secretaries through Video Conference on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2013;

- i) Revamping the management structure at the district level with clear roles and responsibilities for the stakeholders,
- ii) Holding of District level meetings under the chairpersonship of the senior most MP in the district,
- iii) Tasting of food by the teacher / a member of the SMC by rotation
- iv) Contingency plan for the district for any untoward happening and
- v) Strengthening of Grievance Redressal Mechanism

The officials of the MHRD Bureau have been asked to monitor these issues closely in the States allotted to them. It is also proposed to engage the services of reputed / accredited scientific laboratories / CSIR labs for regular inspections of the quality of food in different parts of the country. The Joint Review Missions led by independent eminent nutritional experts have already visited 6 States of the country (Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi), the visit of JRM to Manipur is under progress and it is proposed to cover the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, in the next two months. In addition, surprise visits have been carried out in the States of Assam, Maharashtra and J&K. Social audit has been carried out in two districts of Andhra Pradesh viz. Khammam and Chhittoor. It is proposed to cover 5 other States of the country under social audit in the current year. The orientation workshop for the same by the Andhra Pradesh team is currently under progress.

It is proposed to hold zonal meetings in 5 different zones for in-depth review of the quality issues in MDMS in different parts of the country. The findings of the Bihar enquiry as well as the JRMs in different parts of the country will be shared with the participants in these meetings. This would be followed up by capacity building of

district level officers for enhancing their inspection and quality management skills for the MDMS programme.

Decision required: For information and for further suggestions of hon'ble members of NSMC are solicited.

**Item No. 4: Scientific testing of food samples by recognised and accredited laboratories**

The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has engaged the services of Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, Delhi to collect the food sample from the centralized kitchen and schools to test for calorific and nutritional norms. The officials of the MHRD had a detailed meeting with the senior officials of Shriram Institute for Industrial Research for refining their testing protocols and to carry out similar testing in various parts of the country. Recently on behalf of the MHRD they have collected samples from NAANDI foundation at Hyderabad and 3 Centralized Kitchens in Delhi along with the samples from the schools where these kitchens were supplying the MDM.

It is proposed to engage the services of National Accreditation Board of Laboratories accredited labs in different part of the country to carry out scientific testing of food samples in different parts of the country to ensure that quality food without any contamination, is being served to the children.

Decision required: For approval.

**Item No. 5: Provisions for eating utensils for children**

The independent Monitoring Institutes, Joint Review Mission and Office of Supreme Court Commissioner have reported that eating utensils are not available in the schools. In some States, it is observed that communities have also contributed eating utensils in few schools. However, in most States the arrangements are very unsatisfactory. At a number of places it was noticed that the children were eating on their notebooks or very small eating boxes. The field visit of central team also observed that in the absence of the eating utensils, children carry tiffin/plates from their home. It is proposed to provide Central Assistance for procurement of eating utensils. The financial implications would be met from the budgetary provisions of the scheme. Once in principle approval is accorded by the NSMC, the same would be incorporated in the EFC Note for approval of the competent authority.

Decision required: For 'in-principle' approval.

**Item No. 6: System of Procurement of Cooking ingredients, etc. and Safe Storage**

Many studies have reported that quality of the ingredients is not satisfactory and there is a need to look into the matter and devise mechanisms for supply of quality Agmark pulses, edible oils and condiments for MDMS to ensure quality nutritional MDMS for the children. It is relevant to mention that State Governments of Maharashtra, Odisha,

Punjab are procuring and supplying ingredients through the States PSUs. It is proposed to request the States/UTs to consider similar mechanisms or any other mechanism suitable to the States for supply of quality ingredients.

Decision required: For Information only.

**Item No. 7: Contingency Plan for any untoward incident**

The MDM Guidelines envisage that all necessary steps should be taken to avoid any untoward incident in the school. If any such accident does occur in the school, it should be the responsibility of the Head Master to inform District Education Officer / District Health Officer / District Magistrate without any delay. All the States / UTs should issue necessary instructions for linkages with primary health centre / community health centre / district hospital to ensure early treatment of the children. The District authorities should ensure that prompt medical attention is provided to children in the nearby medical facility or by deputing a doctor to the school. It is proposed to constitute an Expert Committee for preparation of Guidelines for contingency Plan.

Decision required: For approval.

**Item No. 8: Baseline study for assessing the Impact of MDMS**

There is no baseline study conducted on Mid Day Meal Scheme so far. To assess the Impact of MDMS it is proposed to engage reputed Institutes viz. NIN, Hyderabad, IITs, IIMs etc. to conduct baseline study for assessing the impact of Mid Day Meal Scheme.

Decision required: For 'in-principle' approval.

**Item No. 9: Monitoring of the Scheme through IVRS system**

The recently created portal for MDM-MIS has stabilized. As the end of the March, 2013, 82% of the school have completed the data entry into the portal. The State wise data will be analysed for further awareness. The RFP document for empanelment of Service Providers for IVRS has been prepared and approval of the competent authority is being taken. This would enable to monitor the Scheme on a real time basis through community participation.

Decision required: For information

**Item No. 10: Review of the performance of the Scheme during 2012-13**

The presentation on salient features of the Scheme on performance during 2012-13 has been prepared and is given at **Annexure-II.**

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