

F.No. 8-9/2009 MDM 2-1
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of School Education & Literacy
MDM Division

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 12th September, 2012.

Subject: Minutes of the meeting of the National Level Monitoring Institutions' Review Committee held at New Delhi on 27.08.2012 under the Mid Day Meal Scheme.

The meeting of the National Level Monitoring Institutions Review Committee under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme was held on 27.08.2012 at New Delhi to review issues related to Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

2. A copy of the minutes of the above meeting is enclosed for information & necessary action.


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**Minutes of the National Level Review Committee Meeting with Monitoring Institutes
at New Delhi on 27th August 2012 on Mid Day Meal Scheme**

The National Level Review Committee meeting with 41 Monitoring Institutes (MIs) was held at New Delhi on 27th August, 2012. The list of participants in the meeting is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

2. Ms. Rita Chatterjee, Joint Secretary(MDM), MHRD extended a warm welcome to the MIs and appreciated their role in providing valuable information about the implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme at the grass root level. But she expressed her concern over delay / non-submission of the half yearly reports by a few MIs. Due to the delay in receipt of their reports, Ministry of Human Resource Development is not able to communicate their observations to the concerned States / UTs.

3. JS(MDM), MHRD made a presentation in which the following issues were also discussed:

i) **Delay in submission of Half Yearly Reports by MIs**

11 MIs as mentioned in **Annexure-II** did not submit their 3rd half yearly report. Two of them are yet to submit the 2nd half yearly report. JS(MDM), MHRD explained that the delay in submission / non-submission of MI report dilutes the value of these reports. She, therefore, impressed upon all MIs to ensure timely submission of their reports. MIs assured that they will adhere to the prescribed time schedule for the submission of their reports.

ii) **Reporting on sensitive issues like discrimination**

JS(MDM), MHRD also impressed upon the MIs to be careful in report writing on sensitive issues like discrimination on the basis of caste, gender, religion etc. in the preparation and serving of mid day meal in schools. MHRD do not wish to curtail the freedom of MIs in report writing on these issues but the facts need to be verified carefully and substantiated by evidences / minute observations because they have serious ramifications. MHRD had recently deputed Central teams to Odisha,

Rajasthan, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh for confirmation of remarks of discrimination in these States as reported by MIs. It was noticed by these teams that except in one school in Odisha, there was no trace of discrimination on the basis of caste etc. in other States. The MI from Karnataka clarified that it had used the word gender "segregation" and not 'discrimination" in its report. MIs were advised to use terminology which may not be misconstrued. The MIs assured that they would be careful in future in report writing on sensitive issue like discrimination.

iii) **Review of the Terms of Reference**

It was informed that Centralised Kitchens are not being monitored at present by the MIs. Their monitoring is absolutely necessary because they are providing mid-day meal to 10 per cent of the children being covered under MDMS. The quality and quantity issues of these Centralised Kitchens also need to be monitored minutely. Joint Secretary(EE.I), MHRD has already circulated a format to all MIs on 3rd February, 2012 for monitoring the Centralised Kitchens. This format may be utilized for monitoring them and the observations of the MIs may be submitted in the prescribed format.

The Monitoring Institutes have agreed to monitor the Centralized Kitchens. However, the MIs desired that it should also be included in the TORs proposed to be revised in October, 2012.

iv) **Coverage of Poor Performing Districts.**

The attention of MIs was drawn to e-mail dated 6th April, 2012 from, Dr. Amarjit Singh JS (EE-1) regarding coverage of the children under MDMS in 144 poor performing districts identified on the basis of performance appraisal of the AWP&B 2012-13 from States. These districts require vigorous monitoring because some of them are Left Wing Extremism affected while others are located in tribal, NER States and hill area States where conditions of life are tough as compared to plain areas. They need a well thought out action plan for ensuring that MDM Scheme is implemented in an effective manner. The reporting of the MIs would go a long way in improving the implementation of the scheme in these districts.

Shri Gaya Prasad, Director, MDM, MHRD suggested that sampling techniques adopted by MIs should be so evolved that most of the 144 districts are covered by the MIs in the next round of monitoring. MIs informed that they are already covering these districts as per the existing TORs. MI inquired whether additional visit is to be made to these districts. If so, extra funds may be provided to the MIs for such visits.

v) **Modalities for assessing the impact of MDM on Enrolment and attendance.**

As per MIs reports, MDM has created an impact in enhancing the enrolment and attendance in schools. JS(MDM), MHRD desired that the modality for this inferences may be given because enrolment is depending upon many other factors such as provision of free textbooks to the children, uniforms etc. through SSA. MIs assured to provide necessary information in this regard.

vi) **Inclusion of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) schools for monitoring by MIs.**

Presently, MIs do not cover the NCLP schools. JS(MDM), MHRD informed that MIs should include at least one NCLP school in the list of 40 schools to be monitored in each district. MIs agreed to this suggestion. However, they desired that a letter should be issued by the MHRD in this regard along with list of NCLP schools in each State.

vii) **Short supply of foodgrains**

JS(MDM), MHRD informed that complaints about the short supply of foodgrains under MDMS are being received frequently. It is understood that FCI delivers the indented quantity of foodgrains from its godown by weighing the empty truck and then the loaded truck. The quantity of foodgrains is acknowledged by the State Government official who lifts the food grain from FCI godown. Ideally each gunny bag is expected to weigh 50 kg but it is not happening in practice because some gunny bags are packed randomly. Some of them may contain food grains in excess of 50 Kg whereas others may have less than 50 kg foodgrains. It is possible that some of the blocks may receive gunny bags weighing more than 50 kg while others

may receive gunny bags containing lesser quantity. This needs to be resolved at the State level by weighing the quality of foodgrains delivered at each school.

Nodal officer of the Nabakrushna Choudhury Bhubaneshwar, Odisha suggested that a weighing machine may be provided up to Block level for weighing quantity of foodgrains. JS(MDM), MHRD assured to consider this suggestion of MI.

viii) **Display of Logo**

As per the MDM guidelines, MDM logo is to be painted at a prominent place in the school so that it is clearly visible to the students / parents / teachers / visitors. The expenditure for this purpose may be incurred from the MME funds. The MI should note that logo is painted in each school because it would generate awareness of MDMS amongst the stakeholders.

ix) **Reporting on Grievance Redressal Mechanism**

Although MIs are reporting on the Grievance Redressal Mechanism yet the information on the nature of complaints received is not given. The MIs were advised to include this information in their reports. The number of complaints received and disposed off may also be indicated in their reports.

x) **Participation by Nodal Officer of MIs in the SSMC meetings**

Director(MDM) informed that it has been communicated to all States / UTs to invite a nodal officer of MIs to attend in State Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (SSMC) meeting held under the Chairpersonship of Chief Secretary of the State and make a presentation on MDMS. The MIs informed that they do attend SSMC meetings whenever invited by the State Governments. But sometimes they do not get information about these meetings. Therefore, MIs desired that all State Governments may be requested to send the notice for SSMC meeting at least seven days in advance so that they are able to make useful contribution in these meetings. Chairperson agreed to the above suggestion from MIs.

