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

New Delhi, January 6, 2010

Subject: Minutes of 2nd meeting of National Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme to review the implementation of the Scheme held on 20.10.2009.

The 2nd meeting of National Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme was held on 20.10.09 in New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (SE&L), Ministry of HRD to review the implementation of the mid-day-meal Scheme.

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


(Gaya Prasad)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

Distribution (All members of NSMC)

- i) Financial Advisor (MHRD), (represented by Shri S.R. Dhall, Director (Finance)
- ii) Dr. Chandramohan, Advisor (Education), Planning Commission
- iii) Dr. R. P. Singh, Deputy Advisor (Planning Commission, New Delhi).
- iv) Director, NCERT (represented by Dr. Kiran Devendra, Professor, NCERT, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi.
- v) Director, NUEPA (represented by Dr. Pramila Menon, Professor, NUEPA, 17-B, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi.
- vi) Managing Director, FCI (represented by Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Executive Director (Information Technology), FCI, New Delhi
- vii) Secretaries of the following Department :
 - a) Health and Family Welfare (represented by Ms Shalini Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi)
 - b) Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
 - c) Women & Child Development
 - d) Rural Development
 - e) Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation
 - f) Youth Affairs and Sports
- viii) Director, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad (represented by Dr. G.N.V. Brahman, Scientist & HOD).
- ix) Director, Nutrition Foundation of India, New Delhi
- x) Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health, JNU, New Delhi.
- xi) Executive Director, National Health Systems Resource Centre, NRHM, New Delhi
- xii) Dr. Venkatesh Athreya, Retd. Professor of Economics and Advisor (Food Security), M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai - 600 113.

- xiii) Prof. S. Anandlakshmi, (Retd.), Director, Lady Irwin College, A-204, Mansarovar, 19, 2nd C-Ward Road, Balmiki Nagar, Chennai – 600 041
- xiv) Principal Secretary, Basic Education, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh (represented by Sh. Parth Sarthi Sen Sharma, Special Secretary, Basic Education & Director (MDM), Govt. of UP.
- xv) Principal Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, School Education Department, Bikas Bhawan, Salt Lake, Kolkata (represented by Shri Vikram Sen, Secretary).
- xvi) Shri James Varghese, Secretary, General Education Department, Govt. of Kerala, Secretariat, Thiruvanthapuram – 695 001
- xvii) Principal Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra, School Education and Sports Department, Mantralaya Annexe, Mumbai- 400 032 (represented by Shri. Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, School Education).
- xviii) Principal Secretary, Govt. of Mizoram, School Education Department, Civil Secretariat, Block C, AIZWAL-796 001.
- xix) Smt. Sunila Masih Science Teacher, Mitra GHS Kanya School, Suhagpur, Hoshangabad – 461 771, Madhya Pradesh .
- xx) Smt. A. Hemawathi, Head Mistress, Government Girls Middle School, Veeraveli, 2-A, Bahadur Saheb Street, Puducherry – 605 001.

Copy to:

- I) PPS to Secretary (SE&L)
- II) PS to JS (EE-1)
- III) Director (AS)
- IV) Director (RC)
- V) All Officers of MDM Division

(Gaya Prasad)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

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

Minutes of 2nd meeting of National Steering-Cum-Monitoring Committee held
on 20-10-2009 at 3:30 p.m. in Conference Room, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi

The second meeting of the National Steering-Cum-Monitoring Committee for the Mid Day Meal Scheme was held on 20th October, 2009 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 advise on measures to improve the scheme. The list of participants is enclosed as **Annexure-I.**

2. At the outset, Secretary(SE&L) welcomed the members of NSMC and participants and requested Shri. Anant Kumar Singh, JS (EE-I) to make a powerpoint presentation highlighting the status of implementation and issues for discussion.

3. The minutes of the first NSMC meeting held on 26th November, 2008 were approved. The committee noted the efforts made by the Department to implement the decisions taken in the previous meeting.

4. JS(EE-I) informed the members that the Ministry has decided on a review mission on MDM scheme comprising the representatives of the GOI, States / UTs, international organisations and NGOs. 8 such teams will review all the aspects of the scheme in two districts of 8 selected States / UTs. One of the two districts will be selected by the State and the other by the team. They will visit about 10 schools, and hold discussions with all stakeholders to assess the quality of implementation of the scheme at the grass root level and give suggestions for improvement. They will also interact with the District and State level functionaries to assess the management and monitoring system prevalent in the State, particularly the efficiency of the fund flow system. The expenditure on this review will be borne from the MME fund available with the GOI. The committee approved the proposal.

5. The committee was informed in detail about the following modifications proposed in the Scheme:

5.1 Revision of Food Norms

Joint Secretary (EE-I) mentioned that National Level Review Committee (NLRC) had suggested to retain the food norms for children of primary and to revise the food norm for upper primary children to increase the quantity of pulses from 25 to 30 grams, vegetables from 65 to 75 grams and to reduce the quantity of oil and fat from 10 grams to 7.5 grams. The calorific value of the meal for upper primary would remain the same i.e. 700 calories per day per child.

5.2 Revision of Cooking Cost

Joint Secretary apprised the committee that the request of States / UTs to revise the cooking cost has been considered. The revision will be made as follows:

S.No	Level	Existing rate	Proposed rate (EFC approved)
1	Primary	Rs. 1.68	Rs.2.50
2	Upper Primary	Rs. 2.10	Rs. 3.75

JS(EE-1) stated that the cooking cost will be further revised by 7.5% on 1.4.2010 and again on 1.4.2011. The cooking cost will be shared between the Centre and the NER States on 90:10 basis and with other States / UTs on 75:25 basis.

5.3 Payment of honorarium to Cook-cum-helper

Joint Secretary(EE-I) stated that the department proposed a separate provision for payment of honorarium of Rs. 1000 per month to cook-cum-helper to ensure that the part time job done by them is adequately compensated in monetary terms. Norm for engagement of cook-cum-helper has also been proposed, according to which now one cook-cum-helper may be engaged for schools upto 25 students, two cook-cum-helpers for schools with 26-100 students and one additional cook-cum-helper for every addition of upto 100 students. The expenditure towards the honorarium of cook-cum-

helper will be shared between the centre and States / UTs on 75:25 basis and with NER States on 90:10 basis.

5.4 Fund flow through Society Mode under MDM

JS (EE-I) stated that the present system of release of funds through treasury mode takes around 3 to 6 months to reach the funds to school / cooking agency level. This is affecting the implementation of the Scheme both in quantitative and qualitative terms. In order to get over this problem the department had proposed to switch over to Society mode for efficient flow of funds, but EFC did not agree for various reasons.

The NSMC discussed the issues in detail and once again stressed the need for switching over to Society mode for efficient flow of funds under MDM Scheme.

5.5 Construction of Kitchen Sheds

JS(EE-I) apprised that the States / UTs are facing difficulty in constructing the kitchen shed due to inadequate unit cost of construction. States / UTs are pressing persistently to revise the unit cost of construction. Keeping in view of the demands of the States / UTs Government of India has proposed to revise the cost of construction of kitchen shed. The cost of construction of kitchen-cum-store would be determined on the basis of State Schedule of Rates (SOR) as is being done in SSA. The Department of School Education & Literacy, Government of India would lay down the plinth area norm on the basis of children studying in school instead of one norm for all States. Now, the cost of construction will be shared between the Centre and the States/UTs in the ratio of 75:25 in Non-NER States, where the sharing ratio will be 90:10 in the North Eastern States.

Shri. Vikram Sen, Secretary, School Education, Govt. of West Bengal stated that the State Government is spending Rs.40,000 / kitchen shed in the schools at present. In urban areas, due to dearth of space only smaller kitchen sheds can be constructed, whereas in rural areas larger kitchen sheds

will be possible. The revised norm for construction of kitchen sheds is flexible and it should work efficiently.

Special Secretary and Director, MDM, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh further raised the issue of inadequate availability of drinking water facilities in most of the schools in Uttar Pradesh. With just one hand pump in each school regardless of no. of children, it takes a long time to clean and wash the plates. It was suggested to have more than one hand pump depending upon the strength of the children.

5.6 Transportation Assistance

JS(EE-I) mentioned that there was pressing demand to raise the transportation assistance from the hilly states. This Department has proposed transportation assistance in the 11 Special Category States (viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Tripura) at par with the PDS rates prevalent in these States.

5.7 Decentralisation of payment to FCI at District level

JS(EE-I) stated that the present system of payment to the FCI for foodgrains takes 3-4 months, while the proposed system of payment to cost of foodgrains to FCI at district level will ensure payment within two months to the FCI. EFC has agreed with this proposal.

Representative from the Food Corporation of India supported the revised system of making payment to FCI at district level but requested the MHRD to make advance payment to the FCI before lifting the foodgrains. JS(EE-I) clarified that the Department has given a corpus of Rs. 300 crore to FCI which is equivalent to the cost of foodgrains required for about two and a half months. Now, the payment will be done within 2 months, so the FCI will gain from this change.

6. Review of the Scheme

JS(EE-I) highlighted the achievements of MDM Scheme which had covered 11.19 crore children (8.33 crore children at primary stage and 2.86 crore children at upper primary stage) under MDM during 2008-09. He further stated that 11.77 crore children are expected to be covered under MDM (8.41 crore children at primary stage and 3.36 crore children at upper primary stage) for FY 2009-10 for the purpose of release of funds. If number of children availing MDM increases during any quarter then the PAB approval, the states have been requested to contact the MHRD with evidence for more resources.

6.1 Budget allocation and Releases: 2008-09

During 2008-09, the budget provision for MDM was Rs.8000 crore, out of which Rs. 6688.02 crore was released after adjusting the unspent balance of Rs. 1030.63 crore.

6.2 Budget Allocation and Releases: 2009-10

During this financial year, the budget provision for MDM was Rs. 8000 crore, out of which Rs. 2304.45 has been released, after adjusting the unspent balance of the last year, to the States as first installment. The present system of releasing the fund is as follows:

- i) 25% of the allocation is released in advance without asking for any information.
- ii) After receiving unspent balance position from the States / UTs, Government of India releases balance of the first installment.
- iii) After receiving the 75% utilization of the first installment, second installment is being released by GOI.

The States/UTs have been requested to utilize 75% of the Central assistance and send UC to the centre, and then only 2nd instalment will be released. He informed that the foodgrains and funds are released to States / UTs in advance for smooth running of the Scheme provided they furnish information in time. He mentioned that State Government of Andhra Pradesh

has not given the any information regarding the unspent balance for the year 2008-09 so far.

Shri Parth Sarthi Sen Sharma, Special Secretary and Director, MDM, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh mentioned that there should be revision in cooking cost release criteria. It should be in two instalments i.e. 50:50 as it is already in SSA. In response to this, Director (Finance), MHRD clarified that components of SSA and MDM are different, so system for release of funds for both programmes cannot be same. JS(EE-I) apprised that under Rural Development programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development also, the Central assistance is being released in two instalments. The NSMC recommended that the fund should be released in two instalments. First instalment (i.e. 50%) should be released without seeking any information in the beginning of the year and the second instalment should be released after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous year.

6.3 Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

JS (EE-I) mentioned that the MME expenditure reflects the health of the monitoring and evaluation aspect in the States. Only 14 States/UTs viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tamilnadu, Sikkim, A&N Islands, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, D&N Haveli, and Lakshadweep have utilized full allocation. 8 states / UTs Orissa(66%), Meghalaya(68%), Puducherry(77%), Rajasthan(80%), Manipur(81%), Madhya Pradesh(84%), Uttarakhand(84%), Punjab(96%) have been able to utilize 60-100%, whereas rest of the 9 states namely Haryana(7%), Delhi(15%), Kerala(29%), Jharkhand(30%), Uttar Pradesh(34%), West Bengal(48%), Gujarat(49%), Himachal Pradesh(51%) and Assam(56%) have utilized less than the 60% of the funds under MME.

JS(EE-I) mentioned that the States/UTs have been requested on many occasions to prepare a management and monitoring plan and if the cost of its implementation is more than the fund allocated for the purpose, they may send it to GOI for consideration. This is a very important for effective

implementation of the scheme but we have not received any proposal from any State / UT so far.

Shri Parth Sarthi Sen Sharma, Special Secretary and Director, MDM, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh mentioned that 2% of the MME is not sufficient and requested for enhancement.

Shri. Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, School Education Govt. of Maharashtra mentioned that there should be separate staff for the management of MDM at the grass root level.

Secretary (SE&L) mentioned that many States/UTs have not been able to spend the existing MME allocation. Precisely for this reason States / UTs have been requested to prepare detailed proposal so that a policy decision on earmarking fund for MME is taken.

JS (EE-I) informed committee that there is a lot of progress in receiving QPRs from the States during 2008-09. QPRs have been received from all States / UTs except few States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Jharkhand. He appreciated that States like Manipur and Lakshwadeep had already sent the second QPR of the FY 2009-10. He urged that the States / UTs must adhere to the time schedule while sending the QPR.

Professor Promila Menon from NUEPA mentioned that there is need for regular inspections and daily monitoring for improving retention and dropout. In North Eastern States, orientation for the functionaries involved in implementing MDM and dissemination of guidelines to the school level is needed for their awareness and better implementation of the scheme.

Shri. Vikram Sen, Secretary, School Education, Govt. of West Bengal informed that two institutes namely Indian Institute of Hotel Management and Food and Technology Department, Jadavpur University have been engaged for monitoring of the Scheme. He further mentioned that Khichdi is being served in most of the schools and independent studies also reveals that even if there is varied menu, it is mostly monotonous. It is an implementation problem, which we are trying to tackle. He mentioned that Govt. of West

Bengal had engaged Indian Institute of Hotel Management for preparing the menu.

JS (EE-I) informed that out of 42 Monitoring Institutions(MIs) engaged for monitoring the scheme throughout the country, 38 MIs had submitted their six monthly reports. He further highlighted the findings of the Monitoring Institute reports and stated that it has been communicated to the States. Mizoram has already sent the action taken note on the MI findings, but it is awaited from the States.

The States / UTs have also engaged independent institutes to monitor the programme. Director, UP apprised that Govt. of UP has engaged IIM, Lucknow for evaluation of the programme.

6.4 Evaluation studies by Independent Organisations

Joint Secretary(EE-I) also shared the findings of independent agencies. Some of these agencies are as under:

- a. Public Report on Basic Education 2006 - 'Incentives that Work'.
- b. Supreme Court Commissioner Report
- c. Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)
- d. Study of the Mid Day Meal Programme in Khurda, *Orissa*, EPW, June – 2008
- e. Social Audit of Mid Day Meal in *Andhra Pradesh*, EPW, Nov 2008
- f. Implementation of the Mid Day Meal in 4 districts of *Madhya Pradesh*, Vikas Samvad, Bhopal – 2007
- g. An Assessment of the Mid Day Meal Scheme in Chittorgarh District of *Rajasthan*, 2007, CUTS (Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training)
- h. Mid Day Meal Scheme – Understanding Critical Issues with reference to *Ahmedabad* City 2007

The committee expressed satisfaction at the improvement in implementation of MDM reported by these independent agencies. It also expected that the Ministry would take appropriate steps to ensure that the shortcomings reported in these reports are removed at the earliest.

Smt. Sunila Masih, Teacher, Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh mentioned that the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh conducted one study on implementation of MDM scheme in 131 schools in drought prone areas of the Jhabua district and found that foodgrains are not reaching the schools. SHGs are involved in the implementation at the grass root level and teachers have been totally dissociated from the process. This has led to decline in quality of implementation. Teachers must be actively associated in the implementation of the MDM. She also mentioned that firewood is being used for the cooking purpose in schools which will create environmental related problems later.

Dr. Kiran Devendra, Professor, NCERT mentioned that positive examples of implementation of MDM in various States should be highlighted. It will help in improvement of the programme. The committee was informed that NUEPA has done such a study and it will be shared with all concerned.

Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, School Education, Govt. of Maharashtra mentioned that there is no provision for utensils for children to eat in the schools. Poorest of the poor children do not have utensils, so they take food on paper, leaves etc. He suggested that the MDVI scheme should provide for utensils. Secretary(SE&L) responded that community involvement is very important in implementation of the scheme and community should share this type of responsibility. JS(EE-I) mentioned that Social Audit conducted on MDM in 2 districts of Andhra Pradesh reveals that Gram Sabha had provided Rs.1000/- for procuring utensils.

Secretary (SE&L) emphasized that in most of the welfare schemes, there is a need for community ownership through active participation for better implementation of the programme. She further suggested that a study on community participation in implementation of the scheme would be helpful and requested JS(EE-I) to take further action in this regard.

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

**List of Participants in the 2nd Meeting of National Steering-Cum-Monitoring
Committee held on 20.10.2009 at New Delhi**

1. Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
2. Shri. Anant Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary (EE-I), Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
3. Dr. Venkatesh Athreya, Rtd. Professor of Economics & Adviser(Food Security), MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Taramani, Institutional Area, Chennai-600113
4. Dr. Promila Menon, Professor, NUEPA,17-B,Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi
5. Dr. G.N.V Brahman, Scientist-F, HOD, Division of Community Studies, National Institute of Nutrition, Taranaka, Hyderabad-7.
6. Dr. Kiran Devendra, Professor, NCERT, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi
7. Smt. Shalini Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi.
8. Dr. Chandramohan, Adviser (Education),Planning Commission, Yojana Bhavan,New Delhi
9. Shri. Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, School Education Govt. of Maharashtra
10. Shri.Parth Sarthi Sen Sharma. Special Secretary, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
11. Shri. Vikram Sen, Secretary, School Education, Govt. of West Bengal
12. Shri. S.R. Dhall, Director (Finance), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
13. Ms. Sunila Masih, Teacher, Friends Girls Hr. Secondary School, Post-Sohagpur, Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh-461771.
14. Smt. A. Hemavathi, Headmistress, Govt. Middle School, O.K Palayam, Puducherry-605001.
15. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Executive Director, Information Technology, Food Corporation of India, New Delhi.

16. Dr. R.P.Singh, Deputy Adviser, Planning Commission.
17. Shri. Arvind Suri, Director(MDM-3), Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
18. Smt. Rita Chatterji, Director(MDM-1), Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
19. Shri, Gaya Prasad, Deputy Secretary(MDM-2), Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
20. Shri. M.K.Sahay, DO(MDM), Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
21. Shri B.R. Meena, Section Officer, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.