

**F. No. 12-1/2010 MDM 2-1**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Human Resource Development**  
**Department of School Education & Literacy**  
**MDM Division**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi**  
**Dated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2015**

**Subject: Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) for Mid Day Meal Scheme held on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (SE&L).**

The Meeting of the National Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) for Mid Day Meal Scheme was held on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 in Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of **Ms. Vrinda Sarup, 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, NITI Aayog
- 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 Yudhveer Singh Malik, 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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) 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, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, M.S. Building, Gate No. 2, Bangalore – 560001.
- xv) Ms. Aradhana Patnaik, Principal Secretary, Department of Human Resource Development, Govt. of Jharkhand, MDI Building, Telephone Bhavan, Dhurva, Ranchi – 834001.
- xvi) Shri Shaleen Kabra, Principal 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. Arvind Agarwal, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat, Education Department, New Sachivalaya, Block No. 5, 7<sup>th</sup> 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) Economic Advisor, MHRD
- xxii) Additional Secretary(SE), MHRD – Member Secretary

**Copy to:**

- i) PPS to Secretary (SE&L)
- ii) PPS to AS(SE)
- iii) PPS to JS(EE-I)
- iv) DS(BDS) / DS(VKN) / US(RK) / US(SA) / 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 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi**

---

The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) on Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) was held on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Vrinda Sarup, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy (SE&L), Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**.

2. Secretary (SE&L) welcomed the NSMC members and other participants and requested Shri J. Alam, Joint Secretary (EE.I) to take agenda items for 9<sup>th</sup> NSMC meeting for detailed deliberations.

3. Joint Secretary(EE.I) apprised the Hon'ble members that since no comments were received on the minutes of the last NSMC meeting held on 28.07.2014, the minutes may be treated as confirmed. He requested Shri Gaya Prasad, Director (MDM), MHRD to make presentation on agenda items and performance of the Scheme up to 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2014-15. The salient features of the discussion are as under:

**4. Action Taken Report (ATR) was presented on the decisions of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of NSMC held on 28.07.2014 as per details given below:-**

**4.1. Expert committee to suggest the development of ranking method of States based on the performance of the Scheme**

Director(MDM), MHRD informed that the meeting of the Committee has already been held on 12.08.2014 under the chairmanship of Shri Biraj Patnaik, Principal Adviser, Office of the Supreme Court Commissioner. Secretary (SE&L) desired to know from Shri Patnaik about the status of the report of the committee. Mr. Patnaik informed that the members of the Committee need to meet once again to finalize the parameters for ranking method for quantitative and qualitative assessment of the scheme. Secretary (SE&L) advised to have consultation with the States/ UTs and experts on the parameters and the same may be finalized by July 2015.

**4.2 Finalization of compendium of best practices**

Director(MDM), MHRD mentioned that the State-wise list of best practices have been compiled and a letter was written to the States / UTs by the then Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy. He further informed that the Expert Committee has suggested to engage an expert namely Mr.

Chakrapani, Centre for Innovations in Public System, (CIPS), Hyderabad to prepare a good report for the benefit of the States / UTs. Secretary (SE&L) advised that the compendium on Best Practices may be prepared and finalized within one month and the draft compendium may be sent to CIPS to incorporate inputs from the experts and suggest for improvement if any. She further advised that after receiving the final version of the compendium from CIPS, the same may be shared with all the States/UTs.

#### **4.3. Payment of cost of food grains to FCI by States/ UTs**

JS(EE.I) informed that the limit of corpus fund for FCI has been increased from Rs. 300 crore to Rs.400 crore and Rs. 50 crore has already been released to FCI for this purpose on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015. Secretary (SE&L) desired to know from the FCI official about the total pendency of cost of food grain and the number of States with huge pendency of cost of food grains till date. Shri O. P Dani, Chief General Manager, FCI informed that the total pendency is approximately Rs. 340 crore as on February 2015 and the major defaulter States are Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Assam.

Secretary(SE&L) desired that a letter may be written to all these States for a speedy payment of cost of food grains for the years of 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, & 2013-14 to FCI and to conduct a video conferencing with the defaulter States.

JS(EE.I) appreciated the decision of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution for continuing the supply of foodgrains on post payment basis for Mid Day Meal Scheme.

#### **4.4 Draft Rules on provision of Food Security Allowance to the children as per National Food Security Act, 2013.**

Director(MDM), MHRD informed that the draft MDM Rules have been prepared and it was submitted to the Legislative Department for vetting. The Legislative Department advised that the MDM Rules should be prepared after incorporating the provisions of 'Food Security Allowance' (FSA) to the beneficiaries in case of non-supply of meals on working days. He added that JS(EE.I) had meeting with representative of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Ministry of Women & Child Development on the matter. The representatives of both the Ministries have informed that the rules are being prepared in the light of the National Food Security Act.. Director, Ministry of WCD informed that they have prepared rules excluding Food Security Allowance.

Secretary(SE&L) requested the State representatives to express their opinion on the matter. Shri Mukesh Kumar, Commissioner, MDM, Govt. of Gujarat suggested that the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution,

being nodal Ministry should take the decision to implement the provisions of the National Food Security Act. The States/UTs implementing Mid Day Meal Scheme will only concentrate on providing quality nutritious meals to the children on the working days to achieve the objectives of the Scheme.

Shri Biraj Patnaik stated that National Food Security Act, 2013 does not allow centralized kitchens to provide MDM in rural areas. But in some States centralised kitchens are also serving meals to the children of the schools located in rural areas. Secretary (SE&L) informed NSMC members that during recent PAB meetings held with the States, it has been clearly mentioned that centralized kitchens should cater schools in urban areas where land is not available to construct kitchen-cum-store in the school premises.

Secretary(SE&L) advised that the recommendations on MDM rules in the light of NFSA should be ready before the next meeting of NSMC; however consultation process may be carried out with the States/UTs followed by a national level meeting to decide the final recommendations.

#### **4.5 Restructuring the composition of Joint Review Mission**

Director(MDM), MHRD informed that restructuring of the Joint Review Mission (JRM) has been done and 7<sup>th</sup> JRM has visited four States viz. Assam, Maharashtra, Telangana & West Bengal during March 2015 and submitted its report to the Ministry and the States. The reports of the JRM have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments for taking remedial measures. He added that a video conferencing is scheduled on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 under the chairmanship of Secretary, SE&L, with the concerned States/UTs for sharing the findings of the report.

Secretary (SE&L) mentioned that the Mission reported about systemic issues of MDMS implementation, perception of the community about the scheme, more social inclusion as an outcome of this scheme, best practices adopted by the State and other implementation issues of the scheme at State/district/school level. She also invited suggestions from the members for improvement of ToRs of JRM to render it more effective for better monitoring of implementation of MDMS.

#### **5. Review of the Scheme during first 3 quarters of 2014-15**

Director(MDM), MHRD presented a brief on performance of the scheme based on different components during first 3 quarters of 2014-15. He informed that the performance has improved in the areas like utilization of cooking cost, payment of honorarium to CCHs, construction of kitchen cum stores, inspection etc. compared to first 3 quarters of 2014-15.

In this connection, Secretary (SE&L) expressed her concern over the delay of MIS data entry by the States/UTs and enquired from the State representatives

about the reasons behind this issue. Shri Mukesh Kumar, Commissioner MDM, Govt. of Gujarat informed that the main problem is unavailability of data entry operators in the District and Block levels.

Secretary (SE&L) suggested that in case of inadequacy of data entry operators for MDM MIS, the SSA Data Entry Operators at the district/ block level may be entrusted the work of data entry into the MDM MIS web portal. She also desired that a letter from this Department may be sent to all the States/ UTs in this regard.

#### **6. Findings of the report of the Swami Sivananda Memorial Institute (SSMI)**

Director(MDM), MHRD informed that this Department has sanctioned a pilot project of one year duration to SSMI, Delhi to make comprehensive investigation and interventions in two blocks of district Faizabad of Uttar Pradesh during 2013-14. The SSMI has already submitted its final report in December, 2014. The major findings of the report relate to MDMS to be made compliant with the Schedule II of the NFSA 2013 and FSSA 2006; set up a standing committee of Secretaries of Govt. of India to ensure co-ordination and convergence between MDMS-ICDS-RBSK; to provide a safe working environment free of smoke for CCHs; to change the payment system from reimbursement to advance payment; enhance the remuneration of cooks; capacity building of cooks and other stakeholders; mandatory health check-up for cooks; develop SOPs for delivery of nutrition and food safety. JS(EE.I) informed that SSMI made presentation on the findings of the report and it would be shared with the States / UTs after acceptance of the report by the Ministry.

#### **7. Findings of the reports of the Monitoring Institutes (MI)**

Director(MDM), MHRD informed that 38 Monitoring Institutes have been engaged by the Ministry for monitoring the Mid Day Meal Scheme across the country. The MIs have covered 11663 schools in 304 districts in 30 States/UTs during April, 2013 to September, 2014. The major findings of these reports relate to serving of MDM in almost all the visited schools; no discrimination on the basis of caste, gender and community in cooking or serving or seating; quality of food grain and meals was found to be satisfactory; maintenance of buffer stock of food grains in the visited schools; provision of drinking water/water filters/RO system in many of the visited schools; Cook cum helpers engaged as per norms in most of the schools and their honorarium is paid through their bank accounts in most of the States/UTs. Some of the concern areas reflected in these reports relate to delay in reaching cooking cost from State to school levels; delay and irregular payment to cook-cum-helpers; unavailability of eating plates in most of the schools; slow pace of construction of kitchen-cum-stores; Food served by

NGO was not hot in many States/UTs; participation of community is marginal; monitoring and supervision by the state and district officials of the scheme is minimal in majority of the visited schools; convergence with RBSK requires strengthening.

In response to the issue of unavailability of eating plates for the children in schools, Secretary (SE&L) advised that a detailed study of the MI reports may be done to find out the States and districts facing this problem and the amount of unspent MME fund of this States. She also advised to write letter to these States to utilize the unspent MDM-MME fund for purchasing eating plates for school children.

## **8. Implementation of Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) for real time monitoring of the Scheme**

Director(MDM), MHRD informed that a web enabled MDM-MIS is functional since June, 2012 for online monitoring of the scheme and the States/UTs are feeding annual and monthly data into the portal. Two States namely Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have already implemented their own IVRS for near real time monitoring of the scheme. On 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2014, the competent authority advised that MDM-IVRS project be rolled out in consultation with NIC to get competitive bids and ensure implementation in a time bound manner. During the PAB-MDM meetings of 2015-16, Secretary (SE&L) advised the State/UT Governments to start collecting the mobile numbers of all the teachers and other functionaries in the States/UTs to roll out the project in time.

He further informed that the Department has finalized consultancy agency for revision of the RFP for empanelment of the Service Providers for the project. A consultation with Industry was held on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015. The 1<sup>st</sup> draft of revised RFP prepared by the consultancy agency is received in the Ministry.

In response to the query from Secretary (SE&L) regarding status of the IVRS project, JS(E.E.I) informed that the timeline to rolled out the project is July 2015 on the assumption that all constraints are completed in time.

## **9. Any other item with the permission of the Chair.**

### **9.1 Independent Study on impact of MDMS:**

Shri Biraj Patnaik suggested that an independent evaluation may be conducted to ascertain the impact of the scheme and issues related to social equity under MDMS. Secretary (SE&L) informed that on the directions of the Parliamentary Committee, this Ministry has sent central teams to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh for the said objective. However, the teams did not observe any caste, religion or gender discrimination in MDMS. Shri Mukesh Kumar, Commissioner, MDM, Govt. of Gujarat opined that the issue of social equity and caste discrimination may be included in the teachers

training module to make them more sensitive about this issue. Secretary(SE&L) requested the committee members to suggest some diverse ways to carry out un-announced visits more effectively.

Secretary(SE&L) also advised to conduct an independent study for MDMS and proper ToR may be finalized before initiating the same. She also requested the NSMC members to communicate their suggestion for designing the ToR for this proposed study. The cost of the study may be met from the funds of the TSG-MDM, Ed.CIL(India) Limited.

## **9.2 Convergence with Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)**

Dr. Prema Ramachandran, Director, Nutrition Foundation of India, highlighted the issue of poor convergence in MDMS and RBSK and opined that there should be a synergy between the Ministry of HRD and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. She stressed upon the measurement of height and weight of the school children and calculation of BMI. She further opined that the evaluation studies may be carried out in States/Districts which are poorly performing under MDMS to bring out the reasons and enhance the coverage of children.

Shri Mukesh Kumar, Commissioner, MDM, Govt. of Gujarat also opined that as MDMS and RBSK are being implemented by two different departments, there is an issue of convergence in the States.

Shri Prabhakar, Dy. Commissioner, Child Health, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, mentioned that under National Health Mission (NHM), RBSK is a priority area. He further informed that under RBSK, dedicated teams for school visits has been created in all the Blocks and expected to cover more children under RBSK during 2015-16. In response to the query from Secretary (SE&L) regarding health check up of CCHs under RBSK, Dy. Commissioner, Child Health, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare replied that this may be done under RBSK as the health teams are led by AYUSH Doctors.

Secretary (SE&L) advised the representative of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to take greater initiative for better implementation of RBSK during 2015-16. She also advised that in the selected districts States may conduct State review Mission from MME funds. She also added that in the State Review Mission for MDMS, one member may be from RBSK or health department.

## **9.3 Provision of soaps for hand washing in schools**

Dy. Commissioner, Child Health, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, mentioned that hand washing before and after having meals is an important aspect and suggested to include it in the State Review Mission TORs. Dr.



Arlappa, Asst. Director, NIN Hyderabad also mentioned that soaps are not available in the schools for hand washing of the children.

Director(MDM), MHRD informed that soap for hand washing in the schools can be purchased from MME fund available in the schools. Secretary (SE&L) informed NSMC members that recently MHRD has issued detailed guidelines on food safety and hygiene under MDMS.

Secretary (SE&L) advised that that a norm should be made on the items of expenditure to be made through MME funds at the school level for the clarity of the implementing agencies at school level.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of NSMC on 09.11.2015.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**List of Participants**

1. Ms. Vrinda Sarup, Secretary (SE&L), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
2. Shri J. Alam, Joint Secretary (EE-I), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
3. Shri Sujit Gulati, Principal Secretary, Department of School Education, Govt. of Gujarat, New Sachivalaya, Gujarat.
4. Shri Mukesh Kumar, Commissioner (MDM), Govt. of Gujarat.
5. Shri Gaya Prasad, Director (MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
6. Shri S.L. Meena, Deputy Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs.
7. Professor Sudha P Rao, CEO, SDME Society.
8. Shri Bharatarshabha Dasa, Vice President, Communication Akshaya Patra Foundation, Bangalore.
9. Dr. Prema Ramachandran, Director, Nutrition Foundation of India, India Habitat Centre, Core 4A, Upper Ground Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003.
10. Shri Rakesh Ch. Sharma, Director, FSSAI.
11. Dr. N. Arlappa, Assistant Director, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.
12. Shri Biraj Patnaik, Principal Adviser, Office of Supreme Court Commissioner.
13. Dr. P.K. Prabhakar, DC, Ministry of Health and FW, New Delhi.
14. Shri O.P. Dani, Chief General Manager, Food Corporation of India, 16-20, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi- 110001.
15. Shri Anil Kakria, Deputy Secretary (Finance), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
16. Shri B.D. Shivani, Deputy Secretary (MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
17. Shri V.K. Nayyar, Deputy Secretary (MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

18. Shri Rajeev Kumar, Under Secretary (MDM 2-1), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
19. Shri Arnab Dhaki, Under Secretary, MDM, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
20. Shri Sachin Arora, Under Secretary (MDM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
21. Shri K.L. Ahuja, Section Officer (MDM 2-1), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
22. Shri Tanmoy Ghatak, Senior Consultant (Plan Monitoring), TSG-MDM, Ed.CIL.