

**MINUTES OF TENTH MEETING OF THE
EMPOWERED PROGRAMME COMMITTEE (EPC)
OF NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MISSION (NRHM)
HELD ON 15TH JANUARY 2009**

Room Num 249, A Wing, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi

The tenth meeting of Empowered Programme Committee (EPC) of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was held under chairmanship of Shri Naresh Dayal, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare in Committee Room No. 249-A, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi. The list of participants is enclosed.

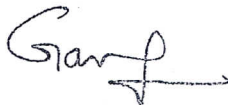
The chairperson welcomed the members of EPC. There after the agenda items were taken up for discussion.

Agenda 1

Confirmation of Minutes of Ninth Meeting of Empowered Programme Committee (EPC), held on 3rd January 2008

The Minutes of Ninth meeting of Empowered Programme Committee held on 3rd January 2008 were confirmed subject to the following modifications proposed by Dr N K Sethi from Planning Commission vide his letter dated 4th March 2008 :

1. *Page 1, para 2 – insert the first sentence "Henceforth, bound volume of agenda notes will be sent to all members at least two weeks in advance."*
2. *Page 2 – insert at the end of para 1 "Sr. Adviser (Health), Planning Commission requested that hard copies of all the reports may also be sent to them."*
3. *Page 3, at the end, point No. 4 could be inserted – "While upscaling, it will be appropriate to keep in view the suggestions emerging through independent formative evaluation of ASHA Scheme in the States where it is in operation."*
4. *Page 4, insert after para 1 – "It was suggested that besides attention on elderly, improvement of child sex-ratio may be kept as an important component."*
5. *Page 5, insert in point No. 3 in the second line – "The IT infrastructure envisaged in the proposal under consideration should ensure synergy with other flagship programmes and the existing network of the NIC, IDSP, PRI etc. and are available for the NRHM."*
6. *Page 5, under Agenda item No. 9, first line – The EPC noted routed though. "though" should read as "through".*



7. Page 6, para 2, insert in the first line – "Dr. N.K. Sethi flagged the issue of separate surveillance activities for polio, tuberculosis etc. and the need to conceptualize " and towards the end of this para, "The States may also be made active stakeholders in the process."

Agenda 2

Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Eighth EPC held on 10th July, 2007

The ATR of eighth meeting of EPC held on 10th July 2007 compiled on the basis of the inputs from respective divisions was noted by the EPC.

Agenda 3

Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Ninth EPC held on 3rd January, 2008

The ATR of ninth meeting of EPC held on 3rd January, 2008 compiled on the basis of the inputs from the respective divisions was noted by the EPC.

Agenda 4

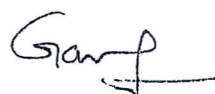
Progress of NRHM - Presentation for Information of EPC

The progress of NRHM was noted by the EPC. The Deptt of Water Supply was requested to consider providing water quality testing kits to Health Sub Centres & training and incentivisation of health workers for the task of water quality testing. It was pointed out that parameters of access to drinking water, sanitation and incidence of water borne diseases are part of the house-hold survey envisaged under NRHM.

Agenda 5

Proposal for procurement of pregnancy test kits for the Sub-Centres (Procurement Division)

The representative of HLL made a presentation about the features of the initiative. It was pointed out that the GoI is supporting the positioning of these kits as part of basket of RCH services. Over time, as the product gains acceptance, the states



may start supporting the activity directly. It was also pointed out that HLL has started marketing the kits in open market at very competitive rates. After discussion, the EPC endorsed the proposal for submission to the Mission Steering Group (MSG) of NRHM.

Agenda 6

Revision in the norms of payment of honorarium to vaccinators and supervisors during JE vaccination campaign (Immunisation Division)

This proposal refers to the revision in the norm of payment of honorarium to vaccinators and supervisors during JE vaccination campaign and was presented by JS (AJ) before the EPC. After discussion, the EPC endorsed the proposal for approval of the MSG of NRHM.

Agenda 7


Revision in the norm for immunization under the State Programme Implementation Plan of NRHM (Immunisation Division)

JS (AJ) presented key features of the initiative before the EPC. It was pointed out that the states should be permitted to provide funds for supportive supervision of Immunisation in their PIP. Ms. Parma Sen, Director, Department of Expenditure pointed out that the norms of training should be in line with the other trainings under NRHM. After discussion, EPC endorsed the modifications in norms and additional activities of Immunisation mentioned in the agenda for approval of the MSG of NRHM

Agenda 8

Proposal for the Draft National Health Bill 2008, GoI (NRHM I Division)

JS (AS) gave a brief outline of the draft national Health Bill 2008, and Ms Shruti Pandey, NHSRC presented features of the Draft Bill before the EPC. The members of the EPC, unanimously supported the need for a Framework law for health sector. It was



pointed out that role of local self governments and the District Planning Committees should be highlighted in such a law. It was recommended that the draft Bill should also be debated in the civil society before finalization. After discussion, the EPC approved the presentation of the Draft Bill for discussion before the MSG of NRHM.

Agenda 9

Proposal for revision of TA/DA Norm of Experts for Certification & Monitoring of Anesthesia & EmOC Training (Training Division)

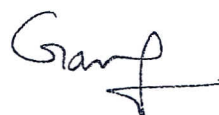
Dr Dinesh Beswal, AC (Training) presented details of the proposed revisions. It was pointed out by Ms. Parma Sen, Director, Department of Expenditure and Dr NK Sethi, (Planning Commission) that norms of payments should be at par with norms approved under the 6th Pay Commission. In response to a request for upward revision of the norms to other trainings also, it was pointed out that the division(s) concerned may process proposal for similar rationalizations of norms of trainings in the respective divisions.

After discussion, the EPC recommended the modifications as per agenda for approval before the MSG of NRHM.

Agenda 10

Revision of DA for Trainee of Group A, B, C and D (Training Division)

Dr Dinesh Baswal, AC (Training) presented details of the proposed revisions. It was noted that Gol needs to support the DA payable to trainees who are employees of the state Governments when they are deputed to attend trainings conducted by Central Institutions/ programmes. It was decided that the DoPT rates for payment of DA should be treated as the ceiling and subject to the same, the proposed revisions were endorsed for submission before the MSG of NRHM.



Additional Agenda 1

School Health Programme

Dr Sangeeta Saxena, AC (Child Health) presented details of the proposed School Health Programme and associated financial implications. JS (AJ) explained the details of agenda before the EPC. During the discussions, it was pointed out by Dr NK Sethi (Planning Commission) that the various models of school health programmes operating in the field should be examined before adopting a single model. JS (AS) pointed out that interventions under NRHM are envisaged to be state driven and hence the GoI should only prepare normative guidelines for adaptation by the states. Dr Srinath Reddy (Public Health Foundation of India) pointed out that the school should be portal of health education and a teacher-centric model of school health should be recommended. Ms. Parma Sen, Director, Department of Expenditure pointed out that the agenda has not yet been examined by the Finance Ministry.

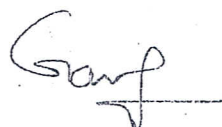
Secy (HFW) pointed out that it would be appropriate to recommend generic guidelines on school health to the states without costing. The NPCC can then examine the costing.

Subject to the observations of Secy (HFW), the agenda was endorsed by the EPC.

Additional Agenda 2

Proposal for ASHA Package under JSY in High Performing States

Sh Sanjay Prasad, Director (DC) presented the agenda and JS (AJ) explained the details before the EPC. During the discussions, it was pointed out that initially ASHA were envisaged only in the relatively poor performing states (which constituted the High Focus States under NRHM). The JSY had therefore not built any provision for performance linked incentives to health worker in non ASHA States. Under JSY the benefit to mothers in the high performing states is restricted to the SC/ST and BPL cases only.



Now the ASHA have been approved for the entire country including the states categorized as High Performing States for the purpose of JSY. As on date, in these states ASHAs are not receiving any incentives for JSY related activities. This is compromising their sustainability.

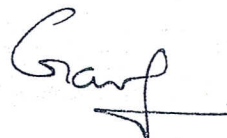
The agenda under consideration seeks to remedy this deficiency and provide JSY linked performance incentives to the ASHAs in high performing states also. After discussion the agenda was approved by the EPC for submission before the MSG.

Additional Agenda 3

Proposal for increasing the IDD survey amount under NIDDCP

Dr BK Tiwari, Advisor (Nutrition) presented the agenda before the EPC. It was noted that the existing amount sanctioned for IDD survey was prescribed several years back and required to be rationalized. After discussion, the EPC endorsed the modification for presentation before the MSG of NRHM.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairperson and members of the EPC.

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