

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF EMPOWERED
PROGRAMME COMMITTEE (EPC) OF NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH
MISSION HELD ON 04/10/2012**

The Fifteenth meeting of the Empowered Programme Committee (EPC) of NRHM was held on 4th October, 2012 at 11 a.m. in the Committee Room No.155-A, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The list of EPC members and other participants is annexed.

At the outset, Joint Secretary(Policy) welcomed the members of the EPC and stated that this was the first EPC meeting since NRHM was made coterminous with the 12th Five Year Plan. The gist of discussions held on each agenda item and decisions taken are as under:

AGENDA 1: Proposal for Broad Principles / Norms for the Implementation of National Disease Control Programmes.

The proposal was discussed at length whereafter the EPC decided to recommend the proposal for MSG's approval with the following stipulations:

- a) A comprehensive proposal will be separately prepared detailing incentives provided / to be provided to ASHA under NRHM for various activities other than JSY bringing out justification for proposed enhancement in the existing rates. Meanwhile, existing incentives to ASHA under National Disease Control Programmes will remain in force.
- b) Enhancement of incentive payable to surgeons and other staff for hydrocele operations is not justified and therefore not recommended for MSG's approval.
- c) Proposal to extend the incentive of Rs.5,000/- per surgery to non-government hospitals conducting reconstructive surgery under NLEP is not justified and hence not recommended for MSG's approval.
- d) The final proposal to be taken to the MSG must include a detailed note on changes proposed in the existing framework for engagement of private sector in detection and treatment of TB and DR-TB.

Agenda 2: Proposal for Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene.

EPC decided to recommend the proposal for approval of MSG. EPC also observed that the initiative being of immense importance, States must be advised

- a) to continue the initiative in 107 existing districts without any interruption;
- b) prioritise this scheme for expansion in all districts and make appropriate provisions in the annual PIP.

Agenda 3: Proposal for Report to EPC on Recommendations of Committee of Officers / Experts constituted to look into the Justification for Additional Cost Quoted by HLL for Sanitary Napkins under the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme.

EPC considered and recommended the proposal for MSG's approval.

Agenda 4: Proposal for uniform ASHA incentives and removal of conditionalities under JananiSurakshaYojana

While presenting the proposal, it was highlighted that under JSY, ASHAs are getting Rs. 600/- for facilitating institutional deliveries in rural areas of Low Performing States. However, ASHAs are getting only Rs. 200/- in urban areas of these States. Similarly, they are getting Rs. 200/- only in both the rural and urban areas of High Performing States (HPS) for facilitating institutional deliveries. In High Performing States only BPL/SC/ST mothers are entitled for JSY benefit. Further, due to low TFR in these states, less women qualify under JSY in comparison to Low Performing States. As a result, number of pregnant women per ASHA becomes less and the amount of incentive remains very less for ASHAs which is also reflected in low achievement levels under JSY particularly in urban area. Moreover, if a pregnant mother moves to her mother's place for delivery after taking full ANC at original place, ASHA does not get any incentive. Further, courts have been taking an adverse view of conditionalities of parity and age applicable in HPS. JSY benefit being restricted to only BPL/SC/ST women in these States, these women are more vulnerable to mortality and morbidity.

After detailed discussion, EPC decided to recommended the proposal for MSG's approval as under:

- Removal of criteria/ conditionalities associated with parity and minimum age of the mother in so far as institutional deliveries are concerned in the High Performing States and for home deliveries in all States with prospective effect on Financial Year 2012-13.
- Payment of composite and uniform incentive to ASHAs in all States as under:
 - Rural areas: Rs. 300 for Antenatal component and Rs. 300 for facilitating institutional deliveries
 - Urban areas: Rs. 200 for Antenatal component and Rs. 200 for facilitating institutional deliveries

AGENDA 5: Proposal for Strengthening of 50,000 Sub Health Centres in remote areas and approving a new norm for setting up Sub Health Centres in hilly and desert areas.

The proposal was recommended for MSG approval with the following stipulations:-

- (a) Strengthening of Sub-Centres should be taken up only in remote/inaccessible/High Focus districts.
- (b) Such districts among the hilly states and desert areas should be identified, where the relaxed norms for sanctioning new sub-centres will be allowed.
- (c) Roles, responsibilities and qualifications for Community Health Officers should be clearly defined.
- (d) AYUSH doctors should be eligible to be appointed as Community Health Officers.
- (e) Colocation of Sub-Centres with the Anganwadi centres should be encouraged.

AGENDA 6: Proposal for Strengthening National Programme Management of the National Rural Health Mission.

EPC considered and recommended the proposal for approval of MSG.

AGENDA 7: Proposal for seeking approval of revalidation of unspent balances.

It was decided to recommend the proposal for MSG's approval.

AGENDA 8: Proposal for utilizing services of ASHAs for counselling women for IUCD retention.

The proposal was withdrawn in view of the EPC's recommendation to bring a comprehensive agenda in respect of incentives payable/to be paid to ASHAs.

AGENDA 9: Proposal for Procurement of Pregnancy Test Kits under NRHM.

EPC considered and recommended the proposal for MSG's approval.

AGENDA 10: Proposal for Expanding the Scheme of Home Delivery of Contraceptives (Condoms, OCPs, ECPs) by ASHAs at Doorstep of Beneficiaries to All Districts.

EPC considered and recommended the proposal for MSG's approval.

AGENDA 11: Proposal for Family Planning Insurance Scheme.

The proposal was approved for being recommended to MSG. It was decided that the issue of State contribution in the ratio applicable under NRHM would be separately examined by the Ministry in consultation with IFD.

AGENDA 12: Proposal for Provision of funds to other Ministries in respect of payment of compensation to the acceptors of sterilization and IUD insertion.

It was decided to recommend the proposal for approval of MSG.

List of Officers who attended the 15th Meeting of Empowered Programme Committee (EPC) of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) held on 04.10.2012 at 11:00 AM

S.No	Name & Designation
1	Sh. P.K.Pradhan, Secretary, MoHFW
2	Sh. Keshv Desiraju, Special Secretary, MoHFW
3	Sh. Rajiv Takru, Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, MoHFW
4	Ms. Anurdha Gupta, Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NRHM), MoHFW
5	Dr. Rakesh Sarwal, Advisor Health, Planning Commission
6	Sh. A.K.Shiva Kumar, Member, National Advisory Council
7	Shri Manoj Jhalani, Joint Secretary, MoHFW
8	Ms. Anu Garg, Joint Secretary, MoHFW
9	Sh. Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Joint Secretary, MoHFW
10	Ms. Sujaya Krishnan, Joint Secretary, MoHFW
11	Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Joint Secretary, MoHFW
12	Dr. R.S.Shukla, Joint Secretary, MoHFW
13	Sh. Anil Ganeriwala, Joint Secretary, AYUSH
14	Sh. Saurabh Garg, Joint Secretary, Department of Expenditure, MoF
15	Dr. N.K.Dhamija, Deputy Commissioner, Training, MoHFW
16	Dr. Sushma Dureja, Deputy Commissioner, Family Planning-II, MoHFW
17	Dr. Teja Ram, Deputy Commissioner, Family Planning- III, MoHFW
18	Dr. V.S.Salhotra, Deputy Commissioner, Adolescent Health, MoHFW
19	Dr. T. Sundraraman, Executive Director, NHSRC
20	Sh. Manoj Pant, Director, VBD/CCD, MoHFW
21	Ravindra Pattar, Director, NRHM-Fin, MoHFW
22	Ms. Anuradha Vemuri, Director, CH & PNDD, MoHFW
23	Ms. Preeti Pant, Director, NRHM-III, MoHFW
24	Ms. Limatula Yaden, Director, NRHM-IV, MoHFW
25	Sh. P.R.Meshram, Director, MoDONER
26	Dr. Ashok Kumar, DDG, TB, MoHFW
27	Dr. A.C.Dhariwal, Director, NVBDCP, MoHFW
28	Dr. Jagvir Singh, NPO, IDSP, MoHFW
29	Dr. L.S.Chauhan, Director, NCDC, MoHFW

30	Ms. Kumkum Marwah, Joint Technical Advisor, MoWCD
31	Ms. Sigy Thomas Vaidhyan, Deputy Secretary, PF-II, MoF
32	Dr. O. Chattopadhyay, Additional Director, NVBDCP, MoHFW
33	Dr. C.M.Agrawal, DDG, Leprosy, MoHFW
34	Dr. A.K. Puri, ADG, Leprosy, MoHFW
35	Dr. Devesh Gupta, Addl. DDG, TB, MoHFW
36	Dr. K.S.Sachdeva, Addl. DDG, TB, MoHFW
37	Dr. Niraj Kulshreshta, Addl. DDG, TB, MoHFW
38	Dr. P.K.Srivastava, Joint Director, NVBDCP, MoHFW
39	Ms. C.V.Sardana, Under Secretary, MoPR
40	Sh. Ajith Kumar N, Deputy Director, NRHM-II, MoHFW
41	Sh. Manoj Sinha, Under Secretary, VBD/CCD, MoHFW
42	Sh. Amba Dutt Bawari, Under Secretary, NRHM-I, MoHFW
43	Dr. Lata Kapoor, Deputy Director, NCDC, MoHFW
44	Sh. Kedar Nath Verma, Deputy Director, NRHM-I, MoHFW
45	Ms. Urvashi Prasad, Consultant, MoDWS
46	Dr. Sonali rawal, Consultant, NRHM
47	Mr. Vipin Garg Consultant RCH
48	Ms Geetanjali Agarwal, Consultant, Adolescent Health, MoHFW
49	Dr. Rachana Parikh Consultant, NRHM
50	Ms Asmita Jyoti Singh, Consultant, NRHM
51	Dr Anubhav Srivastav, Consultant, NRHM