

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE
EMPOWERED PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
OF THE
NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MISSION (NRHM)**

Chairmanship	:	Secretary, Health and Family Welfare
Date & Time	:	9TH October 2006, 4.30 pm
Venue	:	Room No. 249, A-Wing, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi

The fifth meeting of the Empowered Programme Committee (EPC) of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was held under the chairpersonship of Shri Prasanna Hota, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare in Committee Room, 249-A, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi. The list of participants is enclosed.

The Chairperson welcomed the members present. The following items were discussed during the meeting :

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

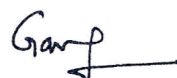
Confirmation of the Minutes of the fourth Meeting of the EPC, held on 18th September 2006

It was indicated that no comments were received from any of the participants and the EPC accordingly approved the minutes of its fourth Meeting held on 18th September 2006.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

Proposal for Mission Flexible-Pool under NRHM, One Budget Head from FY 2007-08 and its Operational Requirements.

The committee was briefed about the protocols proposed to be adopted for financial transactions under NRHM. The EPC approved the proposal for setting up a Financial Management Group (FMG) to support the Mission and adoption of the procedures as detailed in the agenda. It was decided that the position may be reviewed after six months.



AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

Proposal to strengthen existing partnerships and bring NGO contributions to NRHM to the forefront – Scheme for having National NGOs

The committee was briefed about the proposal for strengthening partnerships with NGOs under NRHM and the proposal to have National NGOs to provide leadership and coordinate the activities taken up by Regional Resource Centres (RRCs) at the State level and the Mother NGOs (MNGOs) at the district level.

Secretary (H & FW) pointed out that the selection criteria for National NGOs should be made more stringent and preconditions of turnover and certain service delivery criteria may also be included, in addition to other criteria mentioned in the agenda. He also proposed that this initiative should have an "inter ministerial scope". A screening committee comprising representatives from other Ministries concerned and the Planning Commission should be involved in the selection process of the National NGOs.

The EPC approved the agenda in principle, subject to the eligibility criteria being developed as suggested by the Chairman for which the technical assistance of the Advisory Group on Community Action, which is a Standing committee of leading NGOs already set up under NRHM by the Ministry. The Planning Commission and representatives from the Deptt of Panchayati Raj Institutions should also be co opted to attend this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

Proposal for placement of an accounts manager at PHCs in North Eastern States- for approval of the EPC

The agenda was approved in principle for consideration by the MSG.

Gang

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

Setting up of North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Homeopathy (NEIH) in the campus of North eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS)

The proposal was discussed in detail by the committee. The Chairman emphasized the special needs of the North East region and clarified that the scope of North Eastern Health Mission should not be restricted only to NRHM. While NRHM provides the overall strategic framework for improving status of health care and for health sector reforms in the NE states, the funding for various initiatives would flow out of NRHM funds as well as the 10 % allocation for NE states out of the cumulative budget of the Ministry. He observed that there is need to integrate both these sources of allocation for NE to facilitate maximum utilization of funds, reduce operational costs and enable the states to achieve better outcomes. This would also help better integration of activities at the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary levels of health care in these states. He desired that a detailed mechanism be worked out in this regard for consideration of the MSG.

The proposal was accepted in principle by the EPC for placing before the MSG for its consideration. The Committee desired that in the meantime, Department of AYUSH should work out details of the proposal in consultation with NE States, based on their needs. While the Capital Costs related to the project could be provided out of NE budget (10%) of DoHFW, creation of posts for proposed institutions and recurring cost need to be met out of the DoAYUSH budget. Further the proposal should be enlarged to provide for a centre of excellence at NEIGRIMS to facilitate mainstreaming of AYUSH in the NE as envisaged under NRHM.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

Other matters

The process of approval of the State PIPs under NRHM was discussed. It was pointed out that placing each State PIP before the EPC is a time consuming process. Therefore, it was decided that the state PIPs may be appraised and approved by the National Programme Co-ordination Committee (NPCC) chaired by the Mission Director, keeping in view the empowerment of EPC to delegate its powers to the Mission Director as per the cabinet approval for NRHM and approval norms. However, the abstracts of the approvals be placed before the EPC for its information.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

Gang