

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MISSION (NRHM)

**MINUTES OF SIXTH MEETING OF THE
EMPOWERED PROGRAMME COMMITTEE (EPC)**

Chairperson : **Secretary, Health and Family Welfare**
Date & Time : **5TH January 2007, 10.00 am**
Venue : **Room No. 249, A-Wing,
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi**

The sixth meeting of Empowered Programme Committee (EPC) of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was held under chairpersonship of Shri Naresh Dayal, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare in the Committee Room No. 249-A, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi on 5th January 2007. The list of participants is enclosed.

The Chairman welcomed the members present. Mrs. S. Jalaja, AS & Mission Director (NRHM) gave a brief overview of progress of various initiatives under the Mission. Sh. B.P. Sharma, Jt. Secretary presented the Agenda Items.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

Confirmation of the Minutes of fifth Meeting of the EPC, held on 9th October 2006.

No comments were received from any of the members and the EPC accordingly approved the minutes of its fifth Meeting held on 9th October 2006.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

**Action Taken Report of the fifth Meeting of the Empowered Programme
Committee (EPC), held on 9TH October 2006, 4.30 pm**

The Action Taken Report of the fifth meeting of the Empowered Programme Committee held on 9th October 2006 was discussed and accepted. It was pointed out by representative from AYUSH that an EFC note for setting up North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Homeopathy has been circulated to various departments and shall be finalised shortly, since the Department of AYUSH has decided to take up the scheme within its own budget. The group was also apprised of progress of appraisal of the state PIPs by National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC) and salient features of the approvals were discussed.



AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

Proposal for expansion of JE vaccination Campaign to high risk districts

The committee was briefed about the proposal for expanding the JE vaccination campaign to 11 states in a phased manner over 2007-08 to 2010-11 at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 162.34 crore. It was noted that the campaign has to start by the month of April-May and preparatory work has to be undertaken expeditiously. The representative from Planning Commission pointed out that although the Planning Commission had approved this proposal for FY 2007-08, a comprehensive proposal for Universal Immunisation Programme inter alia subsuming this scheme should be included in the XI plan proposal of the department.

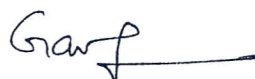
The EPC accepted the proposal and recommended it for approval by MSG. However, in view of the limited time available before the launch of the campaign, it was decided to undertake necessary preparatory action for the campaign, pending approval of the MSG.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

Ex-post facto approval of modification to Proposal for Rationalisation of Compensation Package/ transaction cost for Family Planning services – approved earlier in the Mission Steering Meeting held on 22.09.2006.

The proposal to rationalize the sterilisation compensation scheme was originally approved by EPC in its meeting on 18.09.2006 and later approved by the Mission Steering Group in its 2nd meeting held on 22.09.2006. Certain changes in total approved package were however felt necessary while the scheme was being finalised and post facto approval of EPC was accordingly sought. The modifications include changes within the total approved package of Rs. 800, modalities of payment to accredited private centres in EAG states and payment to APL families in Non EAG states, as proposed in the agenda.

The Secretary (H & FW) pointed out that the number of sterilizations has actually gone down in a number of States and the target free approach has not yielded



expected dividends. It may therefore be necessary to examine some forms of incentives to promote sterilisation alongside quality services.

After discussion, the committee approved modifications as proposed in revised agenda circulated during the meeting. It was stated that the total budgetary implication of the sterilisation compensation scheme after the proposed modifications was Rs.264.97 crore (the original budgetary implication of the sterilisation compensation scheme, prior to rationalization, was Rs. 155.33 crore). The proposal with additional budgetary implication of Rs. 109.63 crores (70.5% above the original) was recommended by the EPC for consideration by the MSG.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

Proposal for Scheme for Awareness Creation by Hon'ble Members of Parliament against the practice of sex selection

The committee was briefed about the scheme of granting Rs. 5 lakh per Parliamentary constituency to 126 Members of Parliament in seven States/UTs for holding awareness events as advocacy tools to create awareness on issues of sex selection and declining sex ratio, as announced by the Union Health Minister in the Parliament. It was further stated that after approval by EPC, guidelines will be issued to ensure proper utilization of the funds allocated, similar to the Health Mela Scheme. Secretary (H & FW) pointed out that MNGOs may be involved in the initiative so as to ensure that funds allocated to State Health Society for the events are utilised within this financial year. The total budgetary implication of the initiative is Rs. 6.30 crore. Sh. Raghubir Singh, AS & FA communicated concurrence to the proposal subject to safeguards being built to ensure that funds are utilised within the financial year.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

NPCC appraisal and approval of Project Implementation Plans under the Mission Flexible Pool for intimation of EPC

It was stated by Sh. Amarjeet Sinha, Jt. Secretary that the National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC) chaired by Mission Director (NRHM) has approved state PIPs to the extent of total Rs. 954.55 Crore for non North Eastern States out of



which Rs. 523.14 Crore has been approved for release. In addition to these, PIPs of NE states for Rs. 149.75 crore have also been appraised and approved by NPCC. The committee was apprised of the features of state PIPs and approvals granted by NPCC and the approved funds and release for individual States.

The AS & FA pointed out a need to conduct base line and mid line studies to monitor improvements in service delivery in view of allocation of substantially large funds in the sector for upgradation in infrastructure, equipments and manpower skills. He pointed out that evaluation studies are essential to track productive utilisation of funds. AS & MD (NRHM) pointed out the various safeguards taken under the Mission.

Sh. S.K. Sinha, ADG (Stats) apprised the committee about the Annual District Health Surveys to be undertaken by the RGI on behalf of the MoHFW, as decided by the Prime Minister in the last meeting of the National Commission on Population. The Secretary (H & FW) pointed out need to ensure synergy on this matter with Department of Women & Child Development, Deptt of Drinking Water Supply and Deptt of Sanitation etc so that the data requirements of these departments could be addressed together in the District level surveys, avoiding duplication.

Shri B.K. Sinha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj raised a point about the approval of the District Health Action Plans under NRHM. He pointed out that a constitutionally mandated PRI Committee has to approve District Action Plans. After discussions, it was urged that a unified mechanism could be worked out jointly by both departments.

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

