

**MINUTES OF SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
EMPOWERED PROGRAMME COMMITTEE (EPC)
OF THE NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MISSION
HELD ON 22ND JANUARY 2007**

The seventh 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 Bhwan, New Delhi. The list of participants is enclosed.

AS (J) and Mission Director welcomed the Secretary and the members of EPC. Thereafter the agenda items were taken up for discussion.

**Agenda Item No. 1
Confirmation of the Minutes of the Sixth meeting of the EPC held on 5th
January 2007**

No comments were received from any of the members. Accordingly the EPC approved the minutes of its sixth meeting held on 5th January 2007.

**Agenda Item No. 2
Proposal for organizing Health Melas for all Districts in North Eastern
States**

The Item Nos 2-4 pertaining to NE were presented by JS(KR). It was explained that the items proposed are based on the discussions and decisions taken in the meeting of North Eastern States held at Guwahati in Nov, 2006 which was chaired by the HFM and attended by the Chief Ministers and Health Ministers of the NE States, Secretary(Health and FW) and other senior officials of the State Governments and the Gol.

It was mentioned that at present Health Melas are being organized in every constituency. Keeping in view the difficult terrain and sparse population in the NE states as well as the utility and popularity of the melas, the conference of chief ministers had recommended their district-wise organization. Keeping in

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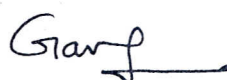
view the special needs of the NE States the EPC decided to recommend the proposal for consideration of the MSG, subject to the condition that the Regional Resource Centre (RRC) Guwahati be requested to work out detailed cost for organizing the Health Melas in each NE state (as the norm of Rs. 8 lakhs was assigned per parliamentary constituency which has a much larger area and population than a district). The EPC also observed that the RRC should co-ordinate with the NE states to facilitate timely utilization of funds and obtain the pending utilization certificates from the states without any delay.

Agenda Item No. 3
Proposal for providing radio sets for ASHAs in Assam

The committee was briefed about need for continuing education & training of ASHAs in NE states on health related issues and the recommendation in this respect made in the conference of NE states based on the utility of radio programmes for reaching out to people in remote and hard to reach areas of Assam. The EPC approved the proposal for providing transistor sets on a pilot basis to ASHAs in state of Assam. The Secy (HFW), however, pointed out that health related radio programmes should be designed for other NE states as well.

Agenda Item No. 4
Proposal for provision for Multipurpose workers in Assam

The committee was briefed about need for having a functional cadre of male health workers in the state of Assam to assist ANM and ASHAs. It was pointed out that almost 60% of posts of Malaria workers in the state are lying vacant thereby compromising reach and efficiency of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) in the state. The Secretary (HFW) observed that recruitment of MPW(M) is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and costs are to be borne out of the State budget. AS(J) and Mission Director suggested that keeping in view its special needs, State could have the option of having a MPW(M) in lieu of additional contractual ANM provided under the NRHM by the Central Govt. in the state. In the meantime the state should expedite appointment of MPWs against existing vacancies it was



decided that feasibility of this proposal be examined before the matter is placed before the MSG.

Agenda Item No. 5

Proposal for utilization of 10% allocation of the Ministry's budget to North Eastern states

At present 10% of this Ministry's budget is earmarked for N.E. The EPC was briefed by the Mission Director about the need for integrating the NRHM and non-NRHM funds for sanction by the EPC/MSG, as at present the EPC/MSG are empowered to approve/modify norms for schemes under NRHM only. Non-NRHM schemes are being approved through a separate procedure. The schemes under NRHM/NE budget therefore need to be taken up together. The Union Cabinet had also in principle approved special dispensation for NE. EPC therefore decided to recommend to the MSG the proposal for considering all proposals pertaining to NE by the EPC/MSG set up under NRHM to avoid unnecessary duplication.

Agenda item No. 6

Proposal for JE Vaccination Campaign during 2007-08

It was explained by AS (J) that this year's JE Vaccination is to commence in April-May. Therefore there was urgent need to approve the JE vaccination programme for this year without any further delay. The committee approved the proposal for expansion of JE vaccination campaign in 22 endemic districts of 9 states during 2007-08 as proposed in the agenda, pending approval of the composite scheme for JE vaccination during the 11th five year plan by the MSG, as recommended by EPC in its meeting held on 5th January, 2007.

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

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