

Minutes of the first meeting of the Committee for Internal Review of Mahila Samakhya programme provision (25.11.2009)

Venue: TSG Conference Hall, Ed. CiL, I.P.Estate

Participants:

Committee Members:

- i) Ms. Sarita Mittal (NPD, MS-MHRD)
- ii) Ms. Kameshwari Jandhyala (non-official member of NRG, MS)
- iii) Ms. Nishi Mehrotra (non-official member of NRG, MS)
- iv) Ms. Taranga Sriraman (National Consultant, MS)
- v) Mr. Arun Sharma (Under Secretary-MS, MHRD)- *Member Secretary*

Invitees:

- i) Ms. Santosh Sharma (Gender Consultant, NPO)
- ii) Ms. Mousumi Chakraborty (Financial Management Consultant, NPO)

Proceedings:

Agenda 1: Guidelines for appointment & tenure of MS SPDs

Guidelines for appointment & tenure of SPDs were discussed. Draft guidelines are annexed.

Agenda 2: Social Security for MS personnel through provision of PF, gratuity, health insurance & accident insurance

- i) It was proposed that the position of social security benefits given by other schemes like NREGA, SGSY, may be looked into. Price hike since the last revision of pay structure of staff of Mahila Samakhya programme may also be calculated for consideration. Only thereafter further steps in this direction would be taken. For this purpose we may get feedback from MS State programmes and also explore the position by discussing with the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Women & Child Development. W.r.t. PF, we may write to the PF Commissioner to know the extant policy in the matter keeping in view the contractual nature of the employment of MS staff. In case none of above is applicable to contractual staff, then a suitable provision w.r.t above facilities may be made in the proposed revision of pay structure.

Agenda 3: House Rent and medical allowance

- i) **House Rent:** In this regard it was proposed that the NPO should collect specific data on circle /PWD rates for house rent at block, district and state levels and incorporate a suitable revision in the proposal for revision of existing pay structure.
- ii) **Medical Allowance:** W.r.t. medical allowance it was proposed that an appropriate amount in this respect may be incorporated in the proposal for revision of pay structure.

Agenda 4: Streamlining of TA/DA and leave rules:

- i) This issue was discussed in detail. It was decided that since every state has its own policy regarding TA/DA and leave rules, the same may be left to the discretion of EC. While discussing and deciding the same in the EC, GoI nominee can give his/her opinion in the meeting itself, or discuss the same in the Ministry, convey its opinion and get the same incorporated in the minutes of EC meeting. However, the committee opined that TA/DA for SPD and other staff of MS should not show huge variation.

Agenda 5: Emergency corpus/ fund at state-level:

- i) The National Consultant recalled that the State MS programmes have been requesting the establishment of a corpus/fund at the National or State levels for use in case of emergencies – most of which have to do with fatal/permanently debilitating accidents faced by MS functionaries during their fieldwork. There have been a number of such tragic incidents across the programme in the last year, from A.P. to Uttarakhand.
- ii) The MS XI Plan document provides for contingency funds at both the SPO and DIU levels. However, these are only for use in programmatic context.
- iii) Thus, the issue of support in case of personal/individual emergency of MS staff (e.g. accidents, other medical emergencies etc.) may be addressed through provision of medical allowance (as per Agenda 3, para ii)

Agenda 6: Formulation of mechanism for information & contact between SPDs , non-officials NRG members & NPO:

- i) In this respect the Committee recommended that tour report of NPO consultants and six monthly reports from the States regarding physical & financial progress, should be shared with the concerned NRG members, and minutes of NRG meetings & JRM reports should be shared with all NRG members.

