

Minutes of the Meeting of the stakeholders on implementation of Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasas (SPQEM) at 3.00 p.m. on 25th June, 2012.

1. The Department of School Education & Literacy organized a meeting of the stakeholders on implementation of Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasas (SPQEM) at 3.00 p.m. on 25th June, 2012 at "Tagore Hall", Scope Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110 003 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development. Hon'ble Ministers of State, Shri E Ahamed and Smt. D. Purandeshwari also attended the meeting. Secretaries of the concerned State Government Departments, representatives of Madrasa Teachers Associations, Madrasa Boards Chairmen and a few beneficiary teachers under the scheme participated in the meeting. A list of participants is at **Annexure I**.

2. Secretary (SE & L) initiated the proceedings by welcoming all the participants in the first of its kind meeting to discuss various implementation issues of the scheme. She gave a brief account of the implementation of the scheme during the last three years. She also shared some of the constraints being faced by the Ministry in implementation including on account of inadequate budget provision. She informed that the 12th Five Year Plan allocation for the scheme is still not decided by the Planning Commission, however, an amount of Rs. 175 crore has been provided for the year 2012-13. Against budget provision for 2012-13, the Ministry has already released some funds for the previously approved proposals. Apart from this, renewal proposals from State have also been approved in the first meeting of the Central GIAC held on 15.6.2012 against the remaining funds. She, further, informed that there are still a number of fresh proposals which could not be considered due to shortage of funds. She invited suggestions/inputs from all the stakeholders for effective implementation of the scheme.

3. MOS(EA) in his welcome address, laid stress on imparting quality education to all the children of minority community. While highlighting the vision of Shri Syed Ahmad Khan in promoting education of Muslims minority, he emphasized the need for reorientation of madrasa education according to the contemporary advances in the field of modern education. He expressed satisfaction over the increased realization by madrasas of the significance of modern education in their curricula. He informed that the targets achieved under SPQEM with regard to Madrasas and teachers covered, have surpassed the estimates of the Planning Commission by more than 100% in three years of the implementation of the scheme. He mentioned that the difficulties being reported by

the Madrasas such as delay in release of teachers' honorarium, issues relating to utilization certificates are being taken-up with the State Governments for their redressal. He informed that the Government of India usually releases 100 percent funds for proposals approved under SPQEM in single installment and States need to institute a system for releasing funds directly to the bank accounts of the teachers on a monthly basis. While concluding he expressed hope that many valuable suggestion would emerge from this meeting for better implementation of the scheme.

4. Thereafter, Dy. Secretary, ShriVirender Singh, made a presentation on the implementation of the scheme. A copy of the presentation is at Annexure II. He thereafter invited the Hon'ble Human Resource Development Minister to address the participants.

5. In his opening remarks, Hon'ble Human Resource Minister, informed that the idea of convening this meeting was to interact with all the stakeholders to understand the difficulties being faced in the implementation of the Scheme at various levels. He further informed that the name of the scheme itself suggest that the basic objective of the scheme is to provide quality education in Madrasas. Therefore, there is a need to introspect and discuss whether the implementation of the scheme is leading to quality education for students. He asked the participants to think over this aspect and raise issues whether quality education is happening in Madrasas. If not, then what are the steps required to put it in place. He further stated that quality education should enable the children studying in Madrasas to compete with all, in this era of global competition. He mentioned, that he is aware about certain issues in implementation of the scheme which require suitable redressal. He requested the participants to focus on the substance i.e. quality of education, while raising issues for discussion. In the context of this background, he sought comments and suggestions from all the stakeholders.

6. In the open house discussion, nearly all the participants from the beneficiary teachers' group and teachers association representatives raised various issues and gave suggestions for improving the implementation of the scheme. All the participants complimented The Ministry for conducting the meeting of the stakeholders. Most of the issues raised by the Madrasa teachers association were common in nature such as, delay in release of teachers' honorarium, low rate of honorarium, non-receipt of recurring salary, delays in registration with NIOS, need for better monitoring at State level, extending some of the benefits under SSA to Madrasas, issue of utilization certificates under the scheme etc. A summary of discussion is presented as follows:

A. Issues raised by Madrasa Teachers' Associations

- (i) **Monitoring structure at National and State Level:** Representatives from Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh raised the issues of better monitoring of the scheme. For this purpose they suggested to set-up monitoring committees at National as well as State level with representatives from Madrasa Teachers' Associations.
- (ii) **Revision of the Rate of Teachers' Honorarium:** Representatives from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura requested to revise the rate of teachers' honorarium as the current rate of honorarium is very low.
- (iii) **Streamlining the Payment of Teachers' Honorarium –** Representatives from most of the States voiced their concern regarding delay in payment of teachers' honorarium. It was informed that the teachers in some States have not received honorarium for past one or two years. They suggested that the timely payment of honorarium to teachers should be ensured and the required structure / system should be put in place for this purpose.
- (iv) **Delay in Release of Grant for Renewal Proposal:** All the Madrasa Teacher Associations' representative raised the issue of delay in grant for renewal proposals. It was suggested that State should be asked to send the renewal proposal to MHRD in time. Further it was also suggested that the renewal proposal should be sent by State Government to MHRD along-with Utilisation Certificate without referring to the State Grant-in-Aid-Committee. Such proposals can be referred to Grant in Aid Committee only in cases where are some changes.
- (v) **Regularisation of Services of Madrasa Teachers:** Representatives from Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Tripura requested to make the scheme of Madrasa Modernisation a permanent scheme and regularise the services of Madrasa Teachers so that these teachers do not face uncertainties regarding their careers.
- (vi) **Clarification Regarding Qualification:** Some representatives also raised the issue of qualifications prescribed under the scheme. It was mentioned that there is lack of clarity on whether for the honorarium @ Rs. 12000 per month the qualification is Post Graduation with B.Ed. / Graduate with B. Ed. or simply post graduation. It was requested that clarification in this regard needs to be issued. Representative from Tripura, also raised the issue of four year time given to under graduate teachers to acquire qualification on prescribed under the Scheme. He informed that the teacher particularly in the age group of 45 to 60 years are not likely to attain the qualification prescribed by the Scheme. Therefore, Ministry should make some concession in this regard.

- (vii) **Issues pertaining to NIOS:** Representatives from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana raised the issue of delay in registration / recognition by NIOS. They mentioned that the process of registration under NIOS take almost two years and there are many pending proposals from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana which have yet not been cleared by NIOS. Hon'bleHRM enquired from Chairman, NIOS the reasons for taking so much time in registering Madrasas.Chairman informed that during last 6 months, 80 madrasas have been registered and at present there is no proposal pending for registration with NIOS. He will further check this status to ensure that all pending proposals have been cleared.
- (viii) **Extending Facilities like TLM, MDM, Text Books and Uniforms to Madrasas:** Representatives from most of the States suggested to provide facilities like TLM, MDM, Text Books, and Uniforms to students in Madrasas. It was informed that in some States Madrasas get some of these facilities however, there is a need to provide these facilities to all Madrasas. Further, representative from the Madhya Pradesh raised the issue of Uniform not being given to Madrasas after implementation of the RTE Act. He informed that prior to RTE Act these Madrasas were getting uniform under SarvaShikshaAbhiyan. He requestedthat a necessary clarification in this regard need to be given.
- (ix) **Issue Relating to Utilisation Certificate and Audited Expenditure Statement:** The representatives from all the States raised their concerned regarding non-submission of Utilization Certificate by States for the previous years' grant which delays the grant for subsequent years. This is a major challenge for which teachers are the ultimate sufferer. It wasrequested that the State Government should be instructed to furnish Utilization Certificate in time. Alternatively MHRD may also consider making releases by relaxing the condition of Utilisation Certificates. The representative also express their difficulties in getting Audited Statement prepared and requested that this condition should also be relaxed.
- (x) Representative of Madhya Pradesh raised the issues of delayed disbursement of text books in Madrasas. He informed that the text books are given to Madrasa Students after nearly half of the academic session is over. In this context HRM desired to know from the representative of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the reason why text books are not given to the students in Madrasas along-with Government School students and advised him to ensure in future text book should be given to Madrasa students in time.

- (xi) Apart from this, some other issues were also raised by the teachers' association such as:
- (a) Mini ITIs courses being run by Madrasas should be recognized by Ministry of Labour and Employment.
 - (b) There should be a nodal officer in State level to handle issues relating to SPQEM.
 - (c) Madrasa teachers may be allowed more than three teachers based on enrolment.
 - (d) State GIAC should have representation from Madrasa Teacher Association.
 - (e) There should be a condition that the teachers appointed under SPQEM have studied Urdu language at-least upto 10th standard.
 - (f) Need for maintaining a comprehensive database of the beneficiaries under the Scheme and placing the same in the public domain.

B. Issues raised by State Madrasa Board Representatives

- (i) Chairman, Madrasa Board, Bihar, appreciated the efforts of MHRD to convene this meeting of stakeholders on implementation of Scheme SPQEM. Highlighted the need of generating awareness about scheme. He also invited the participants for the proposed centenary celebration of establishment of Madrasa Board in Patna.
- (ii) Chairman, Madrasa Board, Madhya Pradesh, also complimented the Ministry for convening stakeholders meeting and thereby giving the beneficiaries an opportunity to raise their grievances and make suggestions for implementation of the Scheme. He suggested that these kinds of meetings should be continued in future and also requested the Ministry to convene the next such meeting in Madhya Pradesh.

C. Issues raised by State Government Representatives

- (i) Secretary (Minority Welfare), Uttar Pradesh highlighted the fact that the Madrasa teachers are being paid very low salary and hence there is low motivation amongst them. In UP, 5445 Madrasas were covered under the scheme during 2009-10 but in 2010-11 only 1400 Madrasas have been given renewal grant. She suggested that MHRD should not insist on renewal proposals being approved by State Grant in Aid Committee.
- (ii) Secretary (Minority Welfare), Rajasthan suggested that the State Government may pay the salaries to Madrasa teachers in advance and thereafter seek re-

imbursement from MHRD.Hon'ble HRM instructed the MHRD officers to explore the possibilities of release grants on reimbursement basis.

- (iii) Secretary (Secondary Education), Assam informed that the proposal under SPQEM of Assam was not considered by Central Grant in Aid Committee in its meeting held on 15th June, 2012 due to the stay by the Hon'ble Court on release of previously approved grant. He requested MHRD to approve and release the grant so that the same could be disbursed as and when the stay in the Court Case is vacated. On the request of Secretary (Secondary Education), Assam to release grants to the State, HRM advised the State to resolve the issue in the court where the affected teachers have filed a Writ Petition and Guwahati High Court.

7. On the issues raised by Madrasa Teachers Associations of Bihar and Odisha regarding non submission of Utilisation Certificates and other relevant information Hon'bleHRM instructed the Government representative of the State to submit Utilisation Certificate and other relevant information within 4 weeks so that releases can be made for the proposal approved by CGIAC. HRM also informed that a web-based software for keeping an updated data-base of the beneficiary teachers will be developed and made on-line. He also assured that he will make personal efforts for seeking more funds to the tune of Rs. 200 crore from Ministry of Finance, to tide over the shortage of funds under the Scheme.On the issue of extending SSA funding to Madrasas, heinformed that aided schools are not covered under SSA norms.

8. Hon'ble HRM in his concluding remarks, observed that the entire discussion was focused on issues relating to teachers honorarium, release of funds and other teacher related grievances, whereas, the most important aspect of SPQEM was the quality education of children studying in Madarsas. He agreed that the issues raised, however, are important but at the same time overall objective of quality education should not become secondary objective. He further directed that in the SPQEM scheme monitoring of State proposals etc, should be made online as soon as possible, so that there is greater transparency in the system. Secondly, that one representative of Madarsateachers association and Madarsa Board Chairman should be made members of the State Grant in aid Committees under the scheme. He further advised those States that have not yet constituted State Madrasa Boards to consider the same on priority.

9. Based on the deliberations in the meeting and the issues raised by the stakeholders, Hon'ble HRM decided:

- (i) A National consultative committee for the implementation of the scheme will be constituted, to advise the Government on matters pertaining to the scheme, on which the Central Govt. will after dialogue with States, take a view.
- (ii) The Committee shall consist of 21 members including representatives from teacher associations, Madrasa Boards Chairmen, concerned State Government officials and officials from Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- (iii) The committee will meet twice in a year to discuss and streamline various implementation issues such as the renewal process for State proposals under the scheme, speeding up of NIOS registration of Madrasas, fund release from Centre to State Government and in turn by them to Madrasas, submission of Utilisation Certificates by the State Governments, whether Madarsas are giving qualitative education and monitoring of scheme etc.

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

List of Participants

S. No.	State	Name of Participant&Designation
1	Uttar Pradesh	Sh. Ajaz Ahmed President, All India Madrassa Teacher Assoc.
2		Sh. Jawed Aalam Director, Minority Welfare Registrar Madrassa
3		Sh. Wahidullah Khan Saidi -
4		Sh. Muslim Raza Khan National President
5		Sh. BadreAlem Pradesh Co-ordinator
6		Sh. Mohd. Hakim -
7		Sh. Irfan -
8		Sh. Atikurrehman IMASS Member
9		Sh. Sameullah Ansari -
10		Sh. Sultanbeg Teacher
11		Sh. JunaidHawa -
12		Sh. Ajimullah Teacher
13		Sh. Basarat Ali -
14		Sh. SheshNathPandey Distt. Minority Welfare Officer Meerut
15	Uttar Pradesh	Mohd. Ibrahim Khan Teacher (UP)
16		Sh. Abdul Harman -
17	Chhatisgarh	Sh. YunosQureshi Chairman, Madarsa Board
18		Sh. SabilHasan Teacher
19		Mohd. GulamJilani in replace of Sh. ZafarAalam Teacher
20		Sh. N.A. Raza Teacher
21	Madhya Pradesh	Sh. Rashid Khan Chairman, M.P. Madarsa Board

S. No.	State	Name of Participant&Designation
22		Sh. Kafil Ahmed Madrassa Adani K.
23		Sh. Mohd. SohabKureshi Teacher
24		Sh. EftakharNasir Teacher
25		Dr.Shahid Ali Kureshi Teacher
26		Sh. Amin Uddin Teacher
27		Sh. Mustak Khan -
28		Sh. FaizAhal -
29		Mohd. Shuaib Khan -
30		H. JunedAhemed -
31		SSH Rizvi Dy. Director
32		Mohd. Tahir S.O.
33		Orissa
34	Sh. M.Q. Khan Member Madrassa Board of Odisha	
35	Sk. ShakilurRaheman -	
36	Sh. EbadurRaheman Khan Asstt. Teacher Madrassa Sayadoolah	
37	Sk. Adbul Hafiz Asstt. Teacher Madrassa Ganib Nawaz	
38	Assam	Sh.N.M.Hussain Secy., Govt. of Assam
39		Smt. Gita Sharma Director of Madrasa Edu. Cum Secy., State Madrasa Board
40		Md. FazalUddinBashani President, Assam Madrasa Teacher's Assoc.
41		Nizamuddin Ahmed Principal, SBAr.College P.O. Biswanath
42		Shahabuddin Ahmed H/M H.L. Pre. Sr. Madrassa Kanrup
43	Kerala	Dr. K. Abdul Gafoor Minority Cell C/o MMO Mukkam-673602

S. No.	State	Name of Participant&Designation
44		Sh. K.P. Subair Member Grant in Aid Committee Govt. of Kerala
45	Uttarakhand	Sh. M.A. Aleem Ansari Deputy Registrar, UKMadarsa Board
46		Sh. Ziauddin General Secretary, IMASS
47		Sh. Nizamuddin Secy. Madarsa Welfare Society
48		M.H. Khan Secretary Minority Welfare, Govt. of Uttarakhand
49	Karnataka	Mr. A.M. Gorikhan General Secy., Noorul Huda Edu. Society
50		Mr.Mohd. Arifuddin (Mujahed) Teacher
51		Mohd. Ashraff Asstt. Teacher, NoorulHudaAraleSchool
52	Haryana	Mohd. JahirHussain General Secy., MewatTalimi Society
53		Mohd. Khalid Managing Director, MewatModernAcademy
54	Maharashtra	Ms.NaseemMitha Advisory Board Member
55	Bihar	Sh. MumtazAlam Chairman, Bihar Madrasa Edu. Board
56		Sh. ZahidurRahman Principal, Madrassa Alhasana, Padampur
57		Sh. Ehtasham Sadri Secy., Bihar Madrasa Science Teacher Assoc.
58		Mohd. Sabir Madrassa Teacher & Welfare Assoc.
59	Andhra Pradesh	Sh. S.K. Kareemulla BSNMOE Society
60	Tripura	Md. Mustafa Kamal SPQEM Organization
61		Md. JahirulHaque SPQEM Teacher
62		Md. Enamuddin Member Board Sub-Committee

S. No.	State	Name of Participant&Designation	
63	Rajasthan	Sh. UsmanGani Secy. Rajasthan Madrasa Board	
64		Sh. Islam Mohd. PS, Rajasthan Madrasa Board	
65		Sh. Amin Ali in replace of Ms.Nigar Sultana	P.A.
66		Sh. Harun Khan State M. Mainrty	
67		Dr.Hardev Sharma Asstt. Prof.	
68		Sh. S.R. Meena Principal Secretary	
69	Jharkhand	Mohd. HamidulGazi Teacher	
70		Syed FazlulHoda Teacher	
71	JamialMilliaIslamia, New Delhi	Prof.AzraRazzach Professor	
72		Dr.SabiitaHussain Assoc. Professor	
73		Prof. M.H. Qureshi Prof., JMI, New Delhi	