No. D-12011/01/2017-DBT

Government of India/ भारत सरकार

Cabinet Secretariat/ मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय

DBT Mission/ प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण मिशन

4th Floor, Shivaji Stadium Annexe
Rajiv Chowk, New Delhi- 110001
Dated: July 27, 2017

Subject: Minutes of the meeting dated 27/07/2017 on NSP – regarding.

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith Minutes of the meeting held on 24/07/2017 under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (DBT), Cabinet Secretariat on the above mentioned subject for your kind information and necessary action.

Enclosure: As above

(Ravi Ranjan)
Under Secretary (DBT)
Tel – 23343860 Extn. 363

To: -

1. Secretary, D/o Higher Education
2. Secretary, D/o Social Justice & Empowerment
3. Secretary, M/o Minority Affairs
4. Secretary, M/o Tribal Affairs
5. Secretary, D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
6. Secretary, D/o School Education & Literacy
7. Secretary, M/o Labour & Employment
8. Chairperson, Welfare & Rehabilitation Board, MHA
9. Secretary, M/o Electronics & IT
10. Controller General of Accounts.
11. Director General, NIC

Copy to:

1. Sr. PPS to Secretary (C&PG)

No. D-12011/01/2017-DBT
Government of India
Cabinet Secretariat
(DBT Mission)

Subject: Review of NSP - Minutes of the Meeting dated 24th July, 2017.

A meeting under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (DBT), Cabinet Secretariat was held on 24th July, 2017 to review implementation status of various decisions taken in the meeting held on 2nd May, 2017 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (C&PG) and subsequent meeting dated 30.06.2017 under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (DBT), as well as other issues raised by different participating Ministries/Departments.

2. List of participants is at Annexure.

3. M/o Minority Affairs stated that last date for making renewal applications has been fixed as 31.07.2017. They have, however, received communication from various States to extend the last date for making renewal applications up to 31.08.2017, keeping in view the fact that new academic session/year has either not started or startedlate. **The matter was discussed and it was decided to extend the last date for making renewal applications upto 31.08.2017 for all scholarship schemes.**

4. On the query by Joint Secretary (DBT) regarding the actions/decisions on the communication received from Government of West Bengal to the M/o Minority Affairs citing various discrepancies in the scholarship disbursal list in the last academic year, NIC informed that due diligence had been undertaken by them in finalization of the list. However, they are ready to reconcile the list if additional information is provided by West Bengal. It was informed that the gap between West Bengal's claim and the list worked out by NIC was very huge. The matter was discussed in details and **it was decided that NIC would reconcile the list and incorporate the reasons for rejection against the rejected applications, to remove doubts and bring greater accountability.**

5. Joint Secretary (DBT), opined that the rejection cases should be handled with care. The rejection may be either due to non-fulfilment of eligibility conditions or due to other technical reasons. **The issue was deliberated and it was decided that all such cases marked for rejection due to technical reasons, should be given another chance for taking corrective measures, in a time-bound manner. For the current Academic Year, time frame for taking corrective measures in the**

applications identified with technical discrepancies may be one month beyond 31st August, 2017. Despite this, if an application is rejected, provisions may be incorporated to inform the reasons for rejection to the concerned applicants.

6. As regards applications received in the previous Academic Year and rejected due to some technical reasons, **it was decided that NIC would work out the list of all such applications which were rejected on technical grounds, giving specific reasons for rejection and inform such students accordingly within a week. On this list, concerned Ministries/ Departments may take a decision to issue scholarships to such students after taking corrective measures and applying due diligence.** In case it is decided by the concerned Ministry/ Department to release the scholarship, the information may be mapped on NSP in due course.

7. Regarding the decision pertaining to backward integration of UGC/AICTE scholarships/ fellowships on NSP, it was informed by NIC that no concrete progress has been made. Expressing concern over the issue Joint Secretary (DBT) mentioned that the deadlines decided in earlier meetings had already been missed and the issue is being monitored at the higher level. He requested D/o Higher Education to ensure that **meetings between the technical teams of UGC/ AICTE must be held on regular intervals to finalize the protocols and integration at the earliest.**

8. On the decision taken in the previous meetings of NIC preparing an NSP App for use by desirous States running CSS scholarship schemes of Ministries/ Departments, Joint Secretary, M/o Tribal Affairs requested NIC to convey the readiness of the NSP App. NIC informed that they needed more time for preparing the App. Joint Secretary (DBT) requested M/o Tribal Affairs to further request **States to create their own Portal** and also requested **NIC to expedite development of NSP App.**

9. Joint Secretary, M/o Tribal Affairs proposed creation of a Master database of registered Institutes, Courses and Course fees to avoid confusion and discrepancies as reported in previous years. Joint Secretary (DBT) informed that provision for the same had already been suggested in the draft SOP and would be incorporated from next Academic year.

10. Issue related to non-availability of specific reports of previous year's scholarship was also raised by Ministries/Departments. It was informed by NIC that they are continuously working on creation of various reports on the request of Ministries/ Departments. **It was, however, decided on the suggestion of Joint Secretary, M/o Tribal Affairs that NIC would provide Data structure and API to willing Ministries/ Departments to generate reports as per their need.**

11. It was also decided that Help-desk and grievance redressal system of NSP would be further strengthened to resolve issues in a better and time-bound manner. **For this purpose, NIC would examine possibilities of incorporating a ticket based system for timely redressal of grievances, failing which the grievance would be suitably escalated.** JS (DBT) advised Ministries/ Departments to strengthen their technical teams for resolution of grievances. MoMA also requested NIC to develop feature for transferring technical queries raised on the Ministry's helpdesk to NSP. NSP agreed to provide such functionality expeditiously.

12. Ministries/Departments raised concern on non-availability of suitable reporting mechanism pertaining to successful and failed transactions, which leads to various confusions at the Ministry as well as Applicant's end. It was informed by NIC that they are facing problems for getting timely payment status from PFMS. **It was decided that PFMS may look into the matter and provide the payment status, incorporating reasons for failure in a time bound manner.**

13. On the applications pending due to technical reasons of previous Academic year, **it was decided that the same may be suitably incorporated in NSP and students may be appropriately informed, to enable them to apply for renewal, pending release of previous year's scholarships.** It was also decided that previous year's applications which were found eligible but rejected due to technical reasons such mistakes in IFSC codes / bank accounts etc. may be examined by concerned Ministries / departments off-line. In case such cases are processed directly by the Ministry / department, same maybe included as fresh case for the current year.

14. On finalization of the list of Top Class Institutes, Joint Secretary (DBT) requested **Ministries/ Department to take a decision on the already provided list by D/o Higher Education as per earlier decision and adopt the list upto possible extent.**

15. D/o **Social Justice & Empowerment** was again requested **to expedite the development of State Portal and their back end integration with NSP.**

16. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

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Annexure

1. Shri Peeyush Kumar, Joint Secretary, DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat- In Chair
2. Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, M/o Tribal Affair
3. Shri Ravindra Singh, Secretary to Chairperson, Welfare & Rehabilitation Board, MHA
4. Shri S.B. Singh Deputy Director of General, NIC
5. Shri Soumitra Mandal, Director, DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat
6. Shri Arvind Kumar, Director, D/o Social Justice & Empowerment
7. Shri M.K. Kejarewal, Director, D/o High Education
8. Dr. Sunita Siwach, Joint Secretary, UGC
9. Shri Shashi Bhushan, Technical Director, NIC
10. Shri Ravi Ranjan, Under Secretary, DBT, Cabinet Secretariat
11. Shri M.K Jha, Under Secretary, M/o Tribal Affair
12. Shri S.K Verma, Under Secretary, D/o School Education & Literacy
13. Shri Raman Dey, Under Secretary, D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
14. Shri Aditya S. Singh, Under Secretary, M/o Minority Affairs
15. Shri Rajiv Kumar, Sub Inspector, Welfare & Rehabilitation Board, MHA
16. Shri Amit Kumar, Sr. Consultant, MeitY
17. Shri Mani Ratna, Sr. Consultant, MeitY
18. Shri Amarjit Singh Vohra, Consultant, D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
19. Ms. Rashmi Bhatia, Consultant, M/o Tribal Affair
20. Shri Arun Arora, Consultant, D/o Social Justice & Empowerment
21. Shri R.K. Khare, Consultant, D/o School Education Literacy