

Action Taken Report on 1st JRM Recommendations

Sl. No.	Key Recommendations	Present status/Action taken
	<i>Planning and Appraisal</i>	
1	The possibility of providing an indicative planning allocation to each state at the start of the planning process should be explored by MHRD with the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission. In such an approach, these indicative amounts would be based on the expected budget resources that will be available. The state notional allocations should be based on objective needs. States could then plan their PAB proposals within this overall envelope.	This has been started from the year 2013-14 and States have been informed .
2	Within each state's approved amounts by the PAB, a minimum percentage should be determined at the national level for investment in areas other than civil works and teacher salaries.	A percentage of funds under recurring head is kept aside for teacher training, training of heads of schools, school grant, guidance and counselling and other quality interventions.
3	The timetable for RMSA PABs should be brought forward, so that the first releases take place in April.	Time table drawn up for 2013-14 and intimated to States/UTs
4	PAB minutes more elaborately drawn up to indicate the reasons for rejection of proposal items.	The recommendations of the JRM are being kept in mind while drafted up the minutes.
5	There is need to clarify the remit of RMSA in relation to special needs children. In a number of states visited the impression given was that catering for special needs was not part of RMSA – rather this work was undertaken by a separate centrally sponsored scheme, Integrated Education for the Disabled at Secondary School (IEDSS). One approach would be to amalgamate IEDSS within the RMSA framework. There is indeed a broader need to examine which other secondary education initiatives could profitably be brought within the RMSA Framework to promote operational synergies and effectiveness.	IEDSS has been integrated with RMSA from 2013-14

	<i>Civil Works</i>	
6	MHRD should commission a review of current civil works practices, including siting, design, sanitation and environmental issues, which would focus on effective utilization of spaces to improve functionality and cost effectiveness; the review should identify examples of good practice and practical solutions for the wide range of situations found in Indian states. The review should also identify a strategy to support states in making changes to their current practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Till now, the MHRD has been undertaking review of civil works during the finance / procurement review meeting as well as while conducting the appraisal of States/ UTs Annual Plan. In the current year, the plan is to undertake separate dedicated review of civil works through Quarterly Review Meetings/Regional Workshops. ➤ As far as Environmental, Sanitation, Siting etc. issues are concerned, an environmental assessment of schools (sample of 15 schools) in five states has been carried out and the Report is being finalized .Accordingly further steps will be taken up.
7	MHRD should review several of the norms related to civil works, to increase norms related to unit costs to bring them in line with current state schedules of rates and introduce flexibility with respect to the norms on room sizes.	RMSA ,until now , was following normative unit cost based on the normative size of the rooms / components based on the Kendriya Vidyalaya Scheme of the Govt. of India. In the last financial year 2012-'13, no new approvals for civil works were given in the whole country. As far as current financial year is concerned, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has permitted States / UTs to apply States Schedule of Rates (SSOR) or Central Public Works Department (CPWD) rates whichever is lower for civil work interventions. In the current year , proposals for civil works form the States and UTs have been received, considered and approved by the PAB on the basis of the State Schedule of rates.
8	RMSA norms should be revised to provide flexibility on room sizes and covered areas.	In the current year, as the States / UTs has been allowed to follow state SOR, the States / UTs have been given the flexibility to go by their State Specific Sizes based on the Bureau of Indian Standard Norms / Specifications.
9	TSG and TCF to support development of design guidelines at the National level and support states in design renewal, building	The MHRD has planned to develop the design guidelines at National Level in consultation with National Level Institutions having

	from the innovative work done in SSA and DPEP.	expertise in the subject and States/UTs which are the main implementing agencies. While doing so it is proposed to leverage the learning's and experience of SSA and attempt to factor in the regional variations
10	A review of use of maintenance and repair grants at secondary level should be an element on a broader study.	This will be done in the Quarterly Review Meeting/Workshops proposed for civil works at regional and National level.
11	Strengthen guidance on electrical, plumbing and other finishing works and enhance monitoring procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The States/UTs have already been advised to follow the Part-8, 'Building Services', section-2, 'Electrical & Allied Installation' and Part-9, 'Plumbing Services' of National Building Code (NBC). ➤ As far as strengthening monitoring procedures are concerned, Third party monitoring of implementation of interventions sanctioned under RMSA including civil works is already under process. This will be supplemented by field visits. Further the States / UTs have also been granted higher percentage of MMER in the current financial year for putting in better implementation and monitoring mechanism. The states are being encouraged to take up concurrent monitoring of Civil works
12	Need to focus on the functional aspects of civil works and encourage innovations. TSG capacity needs augmentation to perform these additional functions	As far as augmentation of TSG capacity is concerned, the MHRD has already decided as well as approved more number of posts in the TSG. The Posts sanctioned for the Civil Unit of the TSG are one for Chief Consultant, one for Senior Consultant & two for Consultant. The process for filling in the vacant posts is under way.
13	The TSG/ TCF should work on developing a design guideline that lists out the broad space requirements, functional requirements, design considerations, environmental considerations and cost considerations for the various civil works facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As stated in 9 above ➤ As far as cost is concerned, the States / UTs have been given the flexibility to go by their SSOR / CPWD rates, whichever is lower.

14	A more diverse ‘menu’ of civil works packages could be developed and from this menu states should be encouraged to develop their own designs.	After development of Design Guidelines, menu of civil works packages will be developed.
15	A more comprehensive sample monitoring framework could be developed. This could include periodic independent audits of civil work.	Will be undertaken through the Third Party Evaluation / MIs.
16(a)	Civil works planning should be based upon a school wise verification and identification of the immediate needs in a school.	This principle is being strictly followed. Appraisals are conducted and approvals accorded strictly on the basis of infrastructural gap analysis in accordance with the UDISE.
16(b)	The provisioning of urinals and water closets should be based on the number of children using the toilets and not on the civil works package blueprints. Bureau of Indian Standards or the National Building Code recommendations should be followed in this respect.	The principle is being already broadly followed in the current financial year & the same will be firmed-up in this year.
16(c)	Toilet designs should also ensure availability of water and proper flushing arrangements. In girl’s toilets, provision for disposing of sanitary napkins is necessary.	The States / UTs are being sensitized on the issue at the time of appraisal and review.
16(d)	Ensure that repair grants are effectively used for maintenance of schools. A school maintenance manual should be developed and distributed. This grant would need to acknowledge that large schools need a larger grant.	It has been decided by the MHRD to undertake review of utilization of Repair Grant in the Quarterly Review Meeting / Workshop of the Civil Works. Thereafter a Formulation of the School Maintenance Manual will be commissioned. The issue has also been discussed with the States during the National Workshop of working of SMDCs.
	<i>Education of Satisfactory Quality</i>	
17	Engage a wide range of stakeholders in a structured dialogue about how to identify the main constraints to learning outcomes and effective strategies to overcome them. The objective of that conversation should be on how to help teachers respond to the multiple learning needs of their students, and develop state	A workshop has been held by the TCA on “Learning Outcomes” with a number of State Representatives. More steps will be taken on this recommendation. In addition to this, the Ministry is funding the National School

	strategies which are then reflected in their RMSA proposals. Of particular importance will be to bring together the various relevant implementing agencies of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, such as RMSA, SSA and Teacher Education, to develop a mechanism which would create inter-Mission linkages around substantive and institutional issues.	leadership programme , in which activities for leadership development and professional development for Schools leaders are being undertaken through NUEPA with the States.
18	The Planning and Appraisal process allow states to take future projections of student enrolment into account when planning infrastructure investment.	Potential enrolment is worked out for upgradation of elementary school into secondary school.
19	States should be able to use funds from the RMSA Programme to pay for translation of the documents.	States can utilize the funds under MMER to meet translation of documents
20	2 % MMER needs to increase to allow sufficient resources for states to provide for the prescribed implementation structures and to remove perverse incentives to pursue high-cost items simply to increase MMER resources. The formula on which MMER is calculated could be finessed to incorporate a predictable recurrent cost component and smaller percentage element.	The norm for MMER has been revised such that for the country MMER can be approved upto 4% of total allocation. To ensure that smaller States/ UTs get a minimum fund for setting up management structure, MMER are being approved upto 5%. The approval upto 5% was accorded to the State/ UT if the proposal of the State/ UT found merit. With the indicative budget which was worked in advance and shared with the States, the criteria for MMER was distributed were worked out.
21	The states need more clarity on the utilization of the recurrent fund releases to them, in accordance with the state's priorities.	In the review meetings with Finance Controllers of States / UTs, it has been clarified that within the approved budget, the States have the flexibility to utilise the funds available under each head according to their priorities, (recurring and non recurring) while ensuring that funds from recurring head are not diverted to non recurring and vice versa.
22	The school grant need not be uniform across all schools. While states should set a minimum amount that each school would receive, states should have the flexibility to allocate the remaining resources according to enrolment in secondary education. States could, if they choose, continue to allocate the same amount to each school.	No demand from States has been received by the MHRD, This may be considered if States send a demand.

23	Efforts are needed to make Government of India releases to states both more predictable and timely.	Fund release to States depends mainly on availability of funds with Centre. Also on the timely submission of Utilization Certificate and other documents relevant from States.
24	Consider whether committed recurrent grants could be released prior to the PABs.	It is being explored.
25	MHRD should support state-level initiatives to improve student learning outcomes.	At present, RMSA supports Remedial Teaching to 20% of the students of Class IX. States have been encouraged to come forward with initiatives in quality interventions and especially to improve student learning outcomes .
26	MHRD to focus on learning outcomes and introduce a section on learning outcomes while providing overview and background for the next RMSA JRM.	The theme is a focus area in the 2 nd Joint Review Mission..
27	The school annual grant should be allowed to be used for regular cleaning of toilets.	It is upto the States how they use School grant. It is flexible fund with the schools.
	<i>Access and Retention</i>	
28	Report aided and unaided school data separately in UDISE	UDISE captures the aided and unaided school data separately
29	Clarify how ‘upgraded schools’ consisting elementary and secondary sections are recorded – either as two schools or as one school.	All schools have a unique 11 digit school ID. Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools having Classes 1 to 8 and covered under DISE earlier, carry the same code even in UDISE. The rest of the schools are given fresh codes.
30	All states should conduct geographical positioning system (GPS) school censuses (covering all schools, government, government aided, private recognised and private unrecognised) and input data on one digital school map.	States are being advised to go for GIS-mapping , using GPS and distance matrix for mapping access.
31	Support should be provided by the TSG / TSF to assist states in digitalising school mapping and integrating UDISE and GIS data.	Workshops have been conducted with States/UTs in which this have been raised and discussed. Steps will be taken on this.
32	A state that has made strong progress in GIS present to all states at the next JRM.	This may perhaps be taken up in the next JRM.

33	Teacher education support (including student centred and content based teacher training modules) needs a larger involvement of teacher education institutions with roles and responsibilities clearly fleshed out.	<p>The NCERT has brought out teacher training modules in science and mathematics as well as in generic concerns (understanding adolescent learner, gender issues, inclusive education, etc.) for secondary stage teachers under RMSA. State Key Resource Persons in science and mathematics are being trained by the Council (NIE, RIEs, PSSCIVE and CIET) in collaboration with SCERTs and state RMSA functionaries.</p> <p>Further, in other subject areas the Council is in the process of preparing teacher training modules.</p> <p>Larger involvement of existing teacher education institution in the state for secondary stage teacher training is need of the hour.</p>
34	MIS to be put in place to track and ensure that all teachers are trained and avoid any duplication	States have been requested to identify all their teachers on their roll for tracking, including for training purposes.
35	A strategic plan with timelines for the integration and consolidation of separate schemes could be developed for the rationalization process. There is a need to examine which other secondary education initiatives could profitably be brought within the RMSA Framework to promote operational synergies and effectiveness.	The Schemes - ICT@ School, Inclusive Education of the Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS), Construction and running of Girl's Hostel (GH) and Vocationalisation of Higher Secondary Education (VE) have been converged with RMSA from this year.
36	2 % MMER needs to increase, to allow sufficient resources for states to provide for the prescribed implementation structures and to remove perverse incentives to pursue high-cost items simply to increase MMER resources	MMER has been approved upto 4% of total allocation for FY 2013-14
37	States are given a firm deadline for completion of the 2011-12 audit reports. MHRD should consider not releasing further funds to those states which are not in compliance.	Audit Reports of 2011-12 have been received from all States/UTs
38	MHRD to develop and circulate a standard TORs for conduct of audit by the e statutory auditor	Sample TOR is given in FMP Manual. Elaborate ToRs are being developed by TSG.
39	Encourage use of computerized accounting software package to begin within the top ten spending RMSA states.	The States were being encouraged to take this up. In addition, the possibility of such a package is being explored.