

**First Joint Review Mission of RMSA  
(January, 2013)  
Terms of References (ToRs)**

**1. Introduction**

1.1 Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is a Programme of the Government of India, implemented in partnership with the State Governments with the main objective to make secondary education a good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons. The scheme seeks to enhance enrolment in classes IX and X by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, to improve quality of education imparted at secondary level by ensuring all secondary schools conform to prescribed/ standard norms, to remove gender, socio-economic and disability barriers and to achieve universal access to secondary level education by 2017, i.e. by the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

1.2. RMSA was launched in 2009, funded through national resources (central government + state government) and now has tied up for external funding by Development Partners (DP) – World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA), United Kingdom’s – Department of International Development (DFID) and European Union (EU). As part of the agreement for external aid from the DPs which came into effect in November, 2012, the Joint Review Mission (JRM) is to be conducted every six months in the months of January and July each year. The January Mission undertakes States visits, while the July mission is a desk review. The field visits to the selected States/UTs implementing RMSA will be by a Joint team of nominees of both the Gol and the DPs, after which there will be discussions on the findings of the State visits followed by report writing and wrap up in which the Education Secretaries/SPDs of the States will also be participating.

**2. Mission Plan**

The RMSA Mission will comprise of ten members which will include a team leader and education experts as well as a Financial Management expert. The agency-wise composition will be as follows:

- Government of India (MHRD) – 5 members including mission leader
- World Bank, DFID and EU combined - 5 members

Each State Team will submit a draft State Report on the State visited by them and obtain feedback on the same during a State level wrap-up, before departure from the State. The team will also be responsible for compiling the final report of the Review Mission.

**3. Mission Objectives and Guiding Principles**

3.1. RMSA has been under implementation since 2009-10 and is still evolving its processes and systems. The JRM therefore will focus mainly on the infrastructure (access) that is being created, related processes both financial, and administrative. This will also include reviewing overall strategies being adopted in the planning and implementation of the Programme with reference to its basic objective. The guiding principle will be one of learning and sharing from the experiences so far; identify gaps and to collaboratively explore and work out options for bridging those gaps.

3.2 The Mission will

- Visit 5 states i.e., **Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Orissa and Punjab** and two districts in each State to review progress in overall implementation of the programme
  - Follow up issues highlighted in evaluations and studies.
  - Identify any studies to be undertaken in the following six months;
  - Examine issues related to programme implementation, capacity at the state, district and sub-district levels;

3.4 During their visits to the States, the Mission would enquire, in detail, into the following aspects:

- Planning and budgeting processes/allocations (at district, state, national levels)
- Budget allocations through the AWPB process
- Planning at the district and state levels
- Using the Planning and Appraisal Manual
- Setting priorities for funding at district, state and Centre
- Using monitoring tools and the results framework
- Civil Works
- Identification of need for a new/upgraded school
- Selection of sites for upgrading/new schools
- Procurement and e-procurement of civil works
- Quality and supervision of works
- Role of SMDCs
- Green' schools, environmental issues

3.5 The JRM for RMSA will provide State reports on each State visited and one overall report.

#### **4. Terms of Reference (ToR)**

- Assessment of programme management and implementation arrangements (including financing & procurement).
- An assessment of State, district and sub-district monitoring systems in place.
- Identify best practices; Specific interventions that have been successful and can be replicated
- Areas of capacity building

- Identification of areas for further qualitative research/ case study.

## 6. Time Frame

The JRM will take place between 14<sup>th</sup> January to 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2013 and the draft schedule/time frame is proposed as follows:

Date	Day No.	Activity
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2013 (Mon)	Day 1	Briefing by Government of India, Internal discussion on distribution of tasks and writing responsibilities among mission members, preparation for field visits and <b>Departure for States.</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2013 (Tue)	Day 2	Briefing at the State Project Office and discussion with State level resource, organizations/ Monitoring Institutes/ Convergent Departments/ other districts.
16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2013 (Wed-Fri) (Field Visits)	Day 3 to 5	Visit to Districts
19 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2013 (Sat) (Field Visit)	Day 6	Writing of State Report and Wrap-up meeting at State level with draft State Report to be presented to the State (An email copy be sent to Department of School Education & Literacy, Government of India). <b>Departure for Delhi.</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> to 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan, 2013 (Sun-Wed)	Day 7 to Day 10	Internal meeting of the JRM to share and review highlights of filed visits and identification of key issues and Writing of Report
24 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2013 (Thu)	Day 11	Pre-wrap up meeting with MHRD
25 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2013 (Fri-Sun)	Day 12 to Day 14	Finalization of report
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2013 (Mon)	Day 15	Wrap-up meeting

## 7. Documents and information which may be required for mission:

- (i) GOI budget allocation for RMSA for 2011-12 / 2012-13
- (ii) Financial Management Reports
- (iii) Audit Reports from States/UTs, National component for the period 2010-11 / 2011-12
- (iv) SEMIS reports – National, State and District Report Cards
- (v) Overall programme implementation report on states /UTs (Annual reports)
- (vi) Appraisal notes of all States/UTs and minutes of PAB 2010-10/2011-12

The documents will be shared with the Mission members one week prior to the visits.

