F. No. 16/IWA/Istt/Misc/11/2019 Circular

Dated 04.07.2019

CIRCULAR

Subject : Record of discussion : Prime Minister’s meeting with Secretaries.

Copy of the Record of Discussion of Prime Minister’s meeting with Secretaries held on 10th June 2019 is attached herewith for necessary information and action.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Ajay Kumar
Assistant Secretary (A&E)

Copy to :-

1. Chief Engineer (Technical)/ Chief Engineer (JMVP)/ Chief Engineer (Traffic)/ Chief Engineer (Patna)/ Hydrography Chief, IWA, Noida/ Patna
2. Director, IWA, Patna/Kolkata/Kochi/Guwahati
3. Officer-in-charge/Dy. Director, IWA, Sahibganj Sub-office
4. Director (Finance & Accounts), IWA, Noida
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Copy for information to :-

PPS/PS/PA to Vice-Chairman/ Member (Technical)/ Member (Finance)/ Member (Traffic)/ Secretary
Dear Sir/Madam,

Kindly find attached the Record of Discussion of Prime Minister's meeting with Secretaries held on 10th June 2019, for further necessary action.

Best regards

Rashna Shah  
Joint Secretary,  
Cabinet Secretariat  
011-23016876
RECORD OF DISCUSSION: PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH
SECRETARIES (JUNE 10, 2019)

Cabinet Secretary in his introductory remarks stated that the PM has interacted directly with officers of not only Secretary level but also of the level of Deputy Secretary/Director, Joint Secretary and Additional Secretary and taken their inputs and suggestions. This is something which had never happened before. Today’s meeting was the first one after the swearing in of the new Government. He stated that the Hon’ble Prime Minister has given us two important tasks. Firstly, that each Ministry has to prepare a 5 year Vision Document with Annual Sub Plans, Timelines and Milestones. The Vision Document has to be very specific, measurable and outcome oriented, in terms of Projects/Schemes/Programmes/Activities etc. These are to be prepared based on discussions in the Sectoral Group of Secretaries within one month. Secondly, each Ministry/Department has to identify one big impactful decision that can be implemented in the first 100 days of the Government and also ensure that necessary approvals are obtained for the same.

2. Suggestions were, thereafter, sought from Secretaries on the process of formulating the Vision Document, its main ingredients and also on major impactful decisions that could be implemented in first 100 days. Suggestions were also invited on new policy and process reforms.

Suggestions from Secretaries:

Secretary Panchayati Raj (Shri Rahul Bhatnagar)

1. There should be clarity in the directions, guidelines and orders issued by Government Departments. Lack of clarity results in delayed implementation and malpractices.

2. 30 lakh elected representatives in the Panchayati Raj system need to be mobilised for identification and generation of economic opportunities in rural areas.

Secretary Defence (Shri Sanjay Mitra)


2. Reforms related to the Armed Forces including those related to Ordnance Factory Board and DPSUs as well as creation of Non-lapsable Defence Reforms Fund can be finalised in first 100 days.

3. Creation of Defence Diplomacy Fund is under consideration.
Secretary, Rural Development (Shri Amarjeet Sinha)

1. The vision of a Poverty Free India can be achieved through significant reduction in Multi-Dimensional Poverty in the next 5 years through focus on Education, Health, Nutrition and Livelihood diversification. Household level and Panchayat level baseline information detainted through SECC and Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) is now available which can be effectively used for this purpose.

2. Activities related to water conservation must be encouraged as they have a direct impact on poverty eradication.

3. One impactful decision could be livelihood diversification through Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) by developing their existing nano enterprises into small and micro enterprises and providing them marketing linkage, access to finance etc. (PM responded by stressing the need for capacity building, resource mobilisation and skill upgradation of SHGs).

4. Section 7 of the Aadhar Act may be suitably amended to enable use of Aadhar as a single identifier for availing benefits under various flagship schemes of Government.

5. There is a need to prepare a Social Registry for every rural household, that periodically records change in their socio economic status.

Secretary, Electronics and Information Technology (Shri Ajay SAWHNEY)

1. The vision is to make India a global manufacturing hub for new generation futuristic electronic products.

2. National Software Products Mission would reduce our dependence on software product imports and enhance domestic production capacity.

3. In major sectors such as health, agriculture etc a single public digital platform providing complete information to the public needs to be encouraged to enhance e-governance.

4. Natural Language Processing Mission is under consideration to overcome the language barrier between different regions speaking different languages. This can be achieved in the next 5-7 years.

5. Increased digital connectivity would facilitate “Work from home” and would discourage migration to big cities.

Secretary, Higher Education (Shri R Subrahmanyam)

1. The Department has prepared a 5 Year Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) to bring transformational change in Higher Education.
2. In the next 100 days, the Department would focus on filling up of nearly 3 lakh faculty vacancies in Central, State and Private Universities by conducting a drive. (Appropriate UGC Guidelines have been issued).

3. New Education Policy may be finalised soon. It will usher in key reforms including setting up of a Single Regulator for higher education, National Education Commission and National Research Foundation etc.

Secretary, Agriculture (Shri Sanjay Agarwal)

1. Department’s focus is on achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds production.

2. Loans to farmers amounting to Rs.1 lakh crores and launch of an agricultural equipment rental App. is targeted for next 100 days.

3. A Kisan Portal is being set up to provide all useful information to farmers at one place.

4. Empowered Agriculture Council of States on the lines of GST Council could be set up.

Secretary, Telecomunications (Smt Aruna Sundararajan)

1. All Departments may explore the possibility of raising resources through innovative monetisation which could help increase the resource envelope by one and a half times. (PM directed that the relevant framework, be shared with Cabinet Secretary).

2. Citizen feedback on Government schemes and officials including the lower level officials through an IT Platform could help in improving accountability of Government.

3. Focussed interventions on 5 – 6 parameters targeting the poorest 100 million may be planned on a saturation mode so as to bring them out of poverty.

4. Department’s 5 year vision document would focus on providing broadband connectivity to every individual, village and development institution.

5. In the next 100 days, the Department would make every effort to improve the quality of its service.

Secretary, Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (Shri Ramesh Abhishek)

1. Department’s vision is to make India’s business enterprises both in manufacturing and services, globally competitive.

2. National Ease of Doing Business Policy and Start up Vision 2024 (50,000 new start-ups in 5 years and 20 lakh jobs) is being developed.

3. In the next 100 days, National E-Commerce policy and National Retail Policy would be finalised.
Secretary, Economic Affairs (Shri Subhash Garg)

1. To arrest the drop in economic growth and achieve 8-9% annual Rate of Growth, all out efforts would be made in next 5 years to increase infrastructure investment, push key reforms in financial sector, improve digital infrastructure and increase female work participation rate, etc.
2. A Gold policy to develop gold as an asset class will be finalised in the next 100 days.
3. Outcome budget for each of the major Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes will be prepared and effort would be to streamline these schemes and rationalise their number.

Secretary, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Dr. KP Krishnan)

1. Ministry's vision would focus on creating a learner centric Skilling Vocational Education Ecosystem that would improve productivity in the unorganised sector.
2. Convergence of Skilling programmes and Institutions under various Ministries to ensure their effectiveness would be pursued.
3. Jan Shikshan Sansthas providing vocational training to the poor and illiterate, presently functional in over 200 districts would be expanded to cover all districts in next 5 years.

Secretary, Ex-Servicemen Welfare (Ms Sanjeevanee Kutty)

1. Department is working in collaboration with industry organisations to provide employment opportunities in the corporate and banking sectors for ex-servicemen. These efforts will be further strengthened.

Secretary, Environment (Shri C K Mishra)

1. Presently Rules and Regulations of the Department are Government centric and are not effectively implemented. There is a need to encourage participation of individuals and organisations from outside Government. For example, India's global commitments on climate can be implemented only through active participation of industry.
2. 5 year vision may focus on reorienting the Ministry's focus from regulatory work to development work.

Secretary, Health & Family Welfare (Smt Preeti Sudan)

1. Department's vision aims to mainstream Health and Wellness in all policies of Government.
2. E-Pharmacy Rules, Guidelines on Digital Health Stack and a strategy to tackle the health hazard posed by e-cigarettes will be finalised in 100 days.
3. Key legislations like National Medical Commission Bill to push important reforms in the sector and Allied Healthcare Professionals Bill to regulate and standardise education of and services by such professionals, will be implemented.

4. Learning from the success of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, the Department would focus on convergent implementation of major schemes.

Secretary, Biotechnology (Dr. Renu Swaroop)

1. Science and Technology related matters cannot succeed in isolation and should be mainstreamed with the work of all Ministries/Departments.

2. An Innovation or R&D Cell could be set up in each Ministry/Department which could act as a link with the Science & Tech Ministries and help facilitate two way flow of S&T information.

Secretary, Labour and Employment (Shri H.L Samaria)

1. The work on preparing 4 Labour Codes (Industrial Relations; Wages; Social Security; Occupational safety health & working conditions) by amalgamating about 36 Labour Acts is on and out of these, 3 Codes will be finalised within 100 days. This will have a major impact on Ease of Doing Business.

2. Ministry would take action to expand the coverage of Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana including extending the terminal date for registration of beneficiaries beyond March 31, 2019. The scheme has already benefited over 1 crore people.

3. Under the PM Shramyogi Maandhan Yojana (for workers in unorganised sector) already over 30 lakh persons have been enrolled and the new Pension scheme for small traders and retailers is expected to benefit about 3 crore persons.

**Guidance by PM**

1. The recent election results indicate a pro-incumbency mandate and people’s overwhelming approval for the last mile delivery of Government programmes by all Ministries/Departments.

2. The trust of the common man in Government has increased which is manifested in the positive vote cutting across social and sectarian divide.

3. Citizens have high expectation of positive change in their lives from the Government. This should be taken as an opportunity and Secretaries should act as a catalyst for this change. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which has shown remarkable results because the people desired change and were directly involved in the programme, can serve as a model.

4. Bureaucracy has over the years developed expertise in handling problems emanating from scarcity of resources. Due to various
interventions and sustained efforts of the Government, we now are in a situation where scarcity is being replaced by surplus. The focus now, therefore, must be on developing expertise in effective management of such surpluses.

5. India’s demographic dividend can be a double edged sword. It can lead to rich gains but if not effectively utilised it can have adverse impact.

6. Each State and all Ministries will have to contribute if India has to become a $5 trillion economy in the next 5 years. Therefore, all Ministries/Departments should think outside silos and collectively work towards achieving the objective of promoting Make in India, reducing dependence on imports and strengthening the economy.

7. Export of India’s skilled workforce to countries which require those skills must be encouraged along with promotion of export of technology.

8. The improvement in Ease of Doing Business ranking in the last 5 years has been significant. Sustained efforts are essential to bring this ranking within the first 50. However, the true measure of success would be when this also improves the Ease of Living for the common man.

9. All Ministries/Departments should identify specific Ease of Living parameters and improve the systems in such a manner that would require minimal Government intervention in lives of the people.

10. The goal of poverty eradication can be achieved with full involvement of the local community and villages. Government agencies must act as a catalyst to make this happen.

11. For effective governance, an attempt has been made to consolidate functions across various Ministries. For example, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship was set up to consolidate all skilling activities and now Jal Shakti Ministry and the Ministry of Fisheries & Animal Husbandry have been created to provide renewed focus on these sectors.

12. Island development is a priority for the Government. There are a large number of islands in the country and their growth potential needs to be fully utilised. A new Department will be set up in MHA for Island development.

13. Use of technology and innovation in Government must be encouraged to augment the capability and enhance efficiency and ease of working. Each Department should create a technology savvy team that can help design tools such as real time monitoring dashboard in next 100 days.

14. 75th year of independence and 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary are critical landmarks in India’s history. It should motivate us to identify targets which can be achieved with full participation of all Indians.
15. The 5 year vision should have clear, achievable and measurable outcomes for each year and these should be closely and regularly monitored at the level of Secretaries, Ministers and PMO.

16. An intensive exercise is planned where each Secretary will present the 5 year Vision Document of his/her Department. Each such presentation could include in-depth analysis of the strengths, resources available, challenges and the proposed strategy, etc.

17. All Departments have to collectively work for the development of Aspirational Districts, identifying areas where they can make a difference.

18. New entrants need to be posted to Aspirational districts so that they are exposed to this development initiative right at the beginning of their careers.

19. Feedback should be obtained from the field through regular interactions. Once a month field visits by Government of India officials would help in improving the quality of programme delivery.

20. The mechanism of Sectoral Group of Secretaries is well established and functioning well. Niti Aayog and Cabinet Secretariat may also consider replicating such sectoral groups in the work distribution of their offices.

21. All Ministries/Departments have to work as a team and focus on strengthening the delivery mechanism and bringing about qualitative change at the grass root level. Suggestions and ideas should be freely exchanged as some of them may crystallise into policy changes.

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