

No. 8-4/2014-TR
Government of India
Ministry of Women & Child Development
(ICDS Training Unit)

1st Floor, Janpath Hotel
Janpath, New Delhi 110 001

Dated: 30th September, 2014

To

- 1. Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries in-charge of ICDS (36 States/UTs)**
- 2. Commissioners/Directors in-charge of ICDS (36 States/UTs)**

Subject: ICDS Training Programme - Accreditation of AWTCs/MLTCs - *Regarding*

Sir/Madam,

The Government of India has approved the Strengthening and Restructuring of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme in a Mission Mode during October 2012. Under the Restructured ICDS Programme, importance of training and capacity building of the ICDS functionaries has been re-emphasized for improving delivery of services as well as accelerating the programme outcomes. There have been concerns expressed by several States about the prevailing conditions of the training centres as well as skills of the Instructors of AWTCs, which has been adversely affecting the training of functionaries. Similar concerns were again visible during the National Consultation on Nutrition held in New Delhi on 22-23 September, 2014. In this regard, the MWCD has already taken initiatives by way of upwardly revisions of the financial norms under the training component as well as for the up-gradation of infrastructural facilities at AWTCs/MLTCs so as to keep in tune with the changing times and techniques.

2. The Restructured ICDS Framework document (dated 22nd October 2012) also provides for a mechanism to strengthen the training institutions under ICDS by way of their proper monitoring and accreditation. It has been envisaged to adopt the system of long term partnerships with such institutions for at least 3-5 years with a view to motivate the partner NGOs to raise better infrastructure – both in respect of physical as well as qualified faculty, at the training centres. However, to begin with, the training centres (AWTCs/MLTCs) need to be encouraged for their accreditation based on certain minimal standards and benchmarks. *Details of such standards and benchmarks are being prepared in consultation with NIPCCD and will be shared with the States very shortly.*

3. Needless to emphasize that the achievement of the objectives of training of ICDS functionaries at the AWTC/MLTC cannot be measured just in numbers but should actually be reflected properly and positively in improved delivery of services under ICDS. In view of this, the accreditation system is proposed as above.

4. It is requested that organizations that are running the AWTCs/MLTCs may be advised to get in touch with the Regional Office/NIPCCD Hqs. for initial guidance on accreditation of their institutions against the stipulated standards and benchmarks as and when the same are shared with them. Institutions, once accredited, may be given long-term contracts for continued engagement with ICDS training programme so as to make optimal utilization of their training infrastructure and skills in an assured environment. This arrangement will help in maintaining the optimum facilities at the training centre as also in maintaining the quality of the training being imparted by instructors of AWTCs/MLTCs.

5. Pending issue of standards and benchmarks for accreditation by MWCD, the States may also take appropriate initiative to improve the quality of training at these AWTCs/MLTCs by addressing their State-specific issues like training of Instructors of these centres and timely transmission of funds to the training centres etc.

Yours faithfully,



(Shipra Roy)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

Tel: 011- 2338 5614

Copy: The Director, NIPCCD, New Delhi - with the request to provide inputs on the framing of standards and benchmarks for accreditation of the AWTCs and MLTCs at the earliest.