राष्ट्रीय आदिवासी छात्र शिक्षा समिति
(जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत
एक स्वायत्त संस्थान, भारत सरकार)
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National Education Society for Tribal Students
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Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India)
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F. No: NESTS/EMRS/CAC/109/2021-22/1496 **Dated**: - 24th Dec, 2024

The Principal Secretary,
Tribal welfare department,
Govt of States/UTs.
(As per list)

Subject: Urgent action required on key operational issues affecting Eklavya Model Residential schools (EMRS)-reg.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

This is to bring to your kind attention several important issues which have been brought to the notice of NESTS, concerning the operations of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in your State/UT. These concerns are critical for improving the functioning of EMRSs. The following few issues require immediate attention:

1. **Not allowing individual EMRS to float tenders**: It has come to the notice of NESTS that the individual EMRSs are not permitted to float tenders for its required purchases. This restriction is limiting the autonomy of EMRSs and is affecting its ability to procure goods and services in a timely and efficient manner. It is required that individual EMRSs are to be permitted to float tenders as per its requirement at school level, as per delegation of financial powers.

2. **Opening GeM Account:** It has been reported that individual EMRSs are not permitted to open Government e-Marketplace (GeM) accounts in some states by registering itself as buyers and approvers. This is preventing the schools from utilizing GeM for procurement, which is an essential platform for efficient and transparent purchasing. Accordingly, individual EMRSs must be enabled to open GeM accounts and register as buyers and approvers, thereby facilitating its access to this essential procurement platform.

3. **Booking expenditure incurred by State EMRS Society in EMRS individual bank account**: Another concern is that EMRSs are being compelled to book expenditures incurred by the State EMRS Society—such as those related to organizing state-level functions—in the accounts of the individual EMRSs. This practice is leading to discrepancies in financial records and mismanagement of funds at the school level and require immediate interventions. This is gross violation of financial propriety and this practice must stop immediately. It must be understood that such actions lead to lesser funds at the disposal of schools for catering to the needs of students.

4. **Admission issues**: It has been observed that students who have completed Classes VI and VII are applying for admission to Class VI by submitting incorrect details to appear as if they are still in Class V. This creates a heterogeneous group in the same class, with a wide age gap, which may lead to bullying and other social challenges. It is advised that no students from higher classes (than Class V) should be allowed to appear for the entrance/admission test in class VI.

5. **DBT to the parents of EMRS students:** According to NESTS guidelines, students enrolled to EMRSs are to be provided with uniforms, textbooks, stationery, bedding, and daily-use items. However, it has been observed that, instead of directly providing these items to students, the money is being transferred to the parents' accounts. This practice defeats the very purpose of EMRS scheme and its intended benefits are not achieved. Thereby, this practice must be stopped with immediate effect, and the direct provision of these items to students be enforced across all EMRSs in State/UT.

6. **Providing food through mid-day meal scheme:** It has been reported that the EMRS students in Classes VI to VII are provided with food under the Mid-day Meal Scheme, and EMRSs are currently offering only two meals per day. Additionally, the quality of the meals is often substandard, and in many cases, food is transported from a distance of 70-80 km to the EMRSs. This practice needs to be stopped immediately, and arrangements should be made for EMRSs to provide minimum three meals per day, along with tea and snacks, prepared locally at the schools themselves from the recurring funds provided by NESTS.

The above issues directly impact the smooth functioning of EMRSs and the well-being of the students. I request you to take immediate action to address these concerns and ensure that appropriate measures are taken to resolve them in your State/UT. NESTS appreciate your cooperation and looks forward to your prompt action on these matters. Action taken on all the above issues may be sent to NESTS on urgent basis.

With regards

24/11/24

(Ajeet K. Srivastava)
Commissioner, NESTS

Copy to:

i) The Nodal Officer, State EMRS Society (as per list) for the needful and information please.
ii) The EMRS Principals (as per list), for the needful and information please.