OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Expanding the scope of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) – reg.

DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer), as a major reform initiative, was launched w.e.f. 1.1.2013 in 24 selected schemes of 8 Ministries/Departments for re-engineering the existing delivery systems and process-flows; to reach out to end beneficiaries directly using modern technology and ICT tools. DBT since then has been universalised vide O.M. No.I-11011/58/2013-DBT dated 13th February, 2015 and 19th February, 2015 to cover all Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, both Plan and Non-Plan, where cash benefits are transferred to individual beneficiaries implemented through Centre / State / Sub-State level / Government’s Implementing Agencies/Societies or Non-Government organisations.

2. In order to give further fillip, DBT Mission has been shifted to Cabinet Secretariat and progress in DBT is being monitored at the highest level of the Government. During interactions held by the DBT Mission with various Ministries / Departments, it was realised that the scope of the DBT can be expanded to include all welfare / subsidy schemes operated by all the Ministries / Departments of Government of India directly or through implementing agencies, which involve cash / kind benefits’ transfers to individuals. Accordingly, the scope of DBT is expanded to include following categories of schemes:-

A. Benefits

i. Cash Transfer to Individual Beneficiary – This category includes Schemes or Components of Schemes wherein cash benefits are transferred by Government to individual beneficiaries. Example PAHAL, MGNREGA, NSAP etc. This transfer of cash benefits from Ministry/Department to beneficiaries may take place through different routes, as given below:-
   a) directly to beneficiaries e.g. PAHAL, MGNREGS
   b) through State Treasury Account to beneficiaries e.g. Old Age Pension Scheme in Uttar Pradesh
   c) through any Implementing Agency as appointed by Centre/State Governments to beneficiaries e.g., Scholarships Schemes, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY)
In-kind Transfer to Individual Beneficiary- This category includes schemes or components of schemes where in-kind benefits are given by the Government to individuals through an intermediate agency. Typically, Government or its agent may incur expenditure internally to procure goods for public distribution and make services available for targeted beneficiaries. Individual beneficiaries receive these goods or services for free or at subsidised rates. For example, Fair Price Shops are provided with POS devices that enable authentication of beneficiary details and disbursement of subsidised food grains to the targeted beneficiaries. While Department of Food incurs internal expenditures for providing subsidised food grains, biometric authentication ensures targeted disbursement of such in-kind subsidies.

B. Processes

In addition to the above two broad categories, the DBT programme also includes Other transfers within the Programme design, comprising transfers made to the various enablers of government schemes like community workers, NGOs, in the form of honorarium, incentives, etc. for successful implementation of the schemes. For example - ASHA workers under NHM, Aanganwadi workers under ICDS, teachers in Aided Schools, Sanitation staff in ULBs etc. who are not the beneficiaries but are given wages, training, incentives for their service to the beneficiaries/community.

3. Ministries / Departments are requested to examine various programmes / schemes implemented by them or their attached offices / PSUs / Autonomous organisations / Implementing Agencies in the light of the expanded scope of DBT and may establish internal DBT Cell to take advantage of ICT technology to improve Government to People interface. Ministry / Department should develop IT application to capture real time information about the DBT status of various programmes / schemes in respective websites so that issues of efficiency, transparency and accountability are effectively achieved. DBT Mission will establish a portal enabling consolidation of DBT information from various departmental applications through an appropriate IT interface. The progress of DBT implementation will be monitored through e-Samiksha Portal of the Cabinet Secretariat.

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To

1. Secretaries to all Central Ministries/Departments.

Copy for information to:-

1. Chief Secretaries to all State Governments