

**MINUTES OF THE 11TH MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD FOR
SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON 3.00 P.M. ON 28.1.2002**

The 11th meeting of the Project Approval Board for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was held under the chairmanship of Shri S.K. Tripathi, Secretary, Elementary Education & Literacy at 3.00 p.m. on 28.1.2002. A list of participants is annexed.

Item No. 1: Consideration of the District Elementary Education Plans of Meghalaya

1.1 The Education Secretary, Government of Meghalaya made a brief presentation on their proposal. The highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- The State Government has submitted proposals for seven districts in the State.
- There are 6629 habitations in these districts of which 1643 are school less habitations. The State Government has proposed 667 new primary schools in such habitations and EGS and AIE centers in remaining habitations.
- The State Government has adopted the educational pattern of classes I to IV for primary stage and V to VII for upper primary stage.
- The number of primary schools is 5646 and that of upper primary is 1041 with enrolment of 3,04,807 and 90,753 respectively. In addition 137 upper primary sections are there attached to the Secondary schools.
- The number of teachers in primary and upper primary schools is 12,654 and 4,743 respectively.
- The ratio of primary to upper primary school is 5:1.
- The drop out rate is very high in the State at 57.16% for I-V and 78% for I-VIII though the difference between the male and female dropout is only minimal.
- The reasons for high drop out include lack of access, uninspiring environment in schools and untrained teachers.
- In order to improve classroom situation to ensure quality, the State Government proposes to organize 10 day induction training for fresh teachers and refresher course for serving teachers.
- The State Government is also implementing some incentive schemes to ensure attendance of students. This include free text books to certain categories, mid-day

meals, supply of TLM, improving infrastructural facilities such as school building, drinking water facilities, toilets etc.

- Special focus groups are girl child and disabled children. For girl child, the State Government is running residential bridge courses.
- The State Government proposes to take assistance of NGOs for conducting survey/assessment camps.
- The State Government is running 2162 Anganwadis.
- The State Government is adopting the following strategies for achieving the goal of UEE:-
 - Setting up of State Resource Centre, District Resource Centre, Block and Cluster Resource Centres.
 - Formation of Village Education Committee, Mother-Teacher Association/ Parent Teacher Association.
 - Completion of house hold survey.
 - Mobilization and awareness campaign.

1.2 He further stated that the State norm for upper primary schools is four teachers. The salary of Para Teachers is Rs. 1500 p.m. which is proposed to be revised to Rs. 3000 p.m. The State Government also has upper primary sections in secondary schools, which need to be funded under SSA through DEEPs. The State Government has a scheme of providing textbooks through book banks established in schools. However, they have been able to cover only 10 to 15% of the children and that too through PMGY or Border Area Development Scheme. As this is not a satisfactory arrangement, they have requested distribution of free textbooks to the children under SSA. He assured that the DEEPs would be revised based on household survey, which will be complete by February 2002. He also pointed out that it was very difficult for the State Government to meet the State share as per the funding pattern approved under SSA. He, therefore, suggested that the pattern should be changed to 90:10, though it would be difficult for the State Government even to meet this 10%.. He further stated that this year itself the state has taken over 1000 schools and the expenditure on this may be taken as the State share of SSA.

1.3 Ms Anupriya Chadha of Ed Cil, stated on behalf of the Appraisal Team, that the SSA Society is still to be set up in the State. In absence of the Society, the state had transferred pre-project funds directly to the districts for four districts while this was still to be done for three other districts. As the State Government has not transferred these funds, Secretary, EE&L

remarked that no funds should be released to the State Government unless PPA funds are transferred. To a query from JS (EE) on the time frame for setting up the Society, State Education Secretary indicated that they are in the process of forming the State level Society for which the proposal is likely to be approved by the State Cabinet in its meeting on 31/1/2002. After the approval, the Society can be set up in a week's time. Ms. Chadha further stated that the perspective plan needed revision after the results of household survey are received. The plans did not indicate convergence with other State and Centrally-sponsored schemes. The State should concentrate on preparatory activity in the next two months, with the emphasis being on establishing structures, orientation of personnel and large scale community awareness programmes. The State also needed to clarify its teacher recruitment and textbook distribution policy.

1.4 Replying to the comments, the State Education Secretary clarified that they do not have a policy of supplying free text books to the children and that is why the children are dropping out. As already stated by him, the books are supplied to the schools who treat them as bookbanks for lending to children. This allows coverage of only 10-15% of children. Regarding the policy of opening of schools and appointment of teachers was concerned, he stated that the State has the concept of community schools which are informal schools and can be set up by the community on its own. However, the State takes over financing of such schools after some years if the school satisfies certain conditions. The State Government have laid down certain norms for giving permission to such schools which include appointment of qualified teachers, absence of a school within 1 km, availability of adequate land and enrolment of at least 60 children for primary schools and further 60 for upper primary. The community school route was the only route adopted by the state government to open new schools.

1.5 After discussion on the proposals made by the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, the following decisions were taken by the Board:

- i) The State may be permitted to open under SSA 667 new primary schools and 863 upper primary schools. However, taking over the Community schools should be done through a proper screening process in order to Ensure that the schools satisfy the following conditions:
 - a) There should be no school within 1 km.

- b) There should be an intake of at least 40 students.
- c) The school should have been running for at least three years.
- d) The teachers in the school are qualified teachers as per the State rules.
- e) NCTE guidelines should be satisfied as far as the teachers are concerned.
- ii) TLE was sanctioned for 667 primary schools and 852 upper primary schools being newly sanctioned.
- iii) Two teachers for the newly opened primary schools and three teachers for the upper primary schools were sanctioned. Salary of only one month was sanctioned at the rate of Rs 1500/- per month.
- iv) School grant for 5975 schools and teachers grant for 13228 teachers was sanctioned as per the norms of SSA
- v) 10 days induction training for 4015 new teachers and 10 days in-service training for 1810 existing teachers was sanctioned.
- vi) Rs 69.34 lakhs was sanctioned as Research, Supervision, Monitoring & Evaluation grant which is less than the eligibility of Rs 83.65 lakhs at the rate of Rs 1400/- per school.
- vii) Furniture grant for 39 BRCs and 210 CRCs and contingency grant for 42 BRCs and 250 CRCs were approved as per norms.
- viii) As far as the personnel of BRC and CRC, are concerned, the State would appoint senior teachers by transferring them to these centres from the schools where there are already serving. The resultant vacancy in these schools would be filled up by fresh teachers and accordingly SSA would provide for the salaries of these new teachers only at the rate of Rs 1500/- per month. In this year one month's salary for 465 teachers would be provided.
- ix) Training of 46,272 community leaders for 5784 schools was approved for 2 days as per SSA norms.
- x) IED assistance was not permitted since the number of disabled had not been identified by the state.
- xi) Innovative projects were approved for residential school for girls, girls education, SC/ST education and ECCE for an amount of Rs 242.72 lakhs, which is less than the entitlement of Rs 350 lakhs for the 7 districts at the rate of Rs 50 lakhs per district.
- xii) As far as civil works is concerned sanction was given for 39 additional classrooms, 231 school buildings for buildingless primary schools, 39 school buildings for buildingless primary schools, 630 toilets & repair grant for 1170 schools. The total amount allocated for civil works was Rs 616.75 lakhs, which is 32.96% of total plan outlay.

- xiii) Rs 52.51 lakhs was allocated as Management cost, which is 2.81 % of total plan outlay.
- xiv) Text books was not allowed this year pending clarification on the State policy on the issue.
- xv) Based on the above decisions, the total outlay approved by the Board was as follows:

(Rs lakhs)

	District	Total outlay	Civil Works	% of civil works to Total Cost	Management cost	% of management cost to total cost
1	East Garo	286.85	94.50	32.94	6.68	2.33
2	East Khasi	312.36	103.00	32.97	8.40	2.69
3	Jaintia	241.93	79.75	32.96	6.70	2.77
4	Ri bhoi	181.50	59.75	32.92	4.95	2.73
5	South Garo	181.42	59.75	32.94	6.68	3.68
6	West Garo	339.84	112.00	32.96	13.40	3.94
7	West Khasi	327.35	108.00	32.99	5.70	1.74
8	Total	1871.24	616.75	32.96	52.51	2.81

xvi) State Government should satisfy the following as far as spending the money under SSA is concerned:

- (a) The first instalment would be sanctioned only after the State Government constitutes the State Implementation Society and releases the pre-project funds of the balance three districts. The SIS should use the money to carry out the preparatory activities and have the perspective plan ready by April 2002.
- (b) The State Government should give a written commitment for meeting its share of the SSA outlay.
- (c) The State Government should release the above money to the State Implementation Society within one month of the receipt of money in its account.
- (d) First instalment of the State share should also be released to the Society within one month of the release of central share to the State Government.
- (e) At least 50% of the teachers recruited should be female.

- (f) VECs or equivalent bodies should be constituted and accounts opened to incur expenditure under teachers grant, civil works, maintenance grants, school grants and other such expenditure which has to be incurred only through these bodies as per SSA norms.
- (g) The State Government will maintain their level of investment in elementary education as in 1999-2000 and give the details of this to GOI before the release of second instalment. The contribution as State share for SSA will be over and above this investment.
- (h) The second instalment would only be released after the previous instalment of Central Government and State share has been transferred to the State Implementation Society and substantial progress has been made in expenditure as far as money already released is concerned.

Item No. 2: Consideration of the District Elementary Education Plans of Himachal Pradesh

2.1 The State Project Director, Himachal Pradesh made a brief presentation. The highlights of the presentation are as follows :-

- There are 12 districts in the State of which 4 are covered by DPEP and 8 districts are proposed to be covered under SSA.
- The literacy rate is 71.13% with male and female literacy rate at 86.02% and 68.68% respectively. This is better than the national average.
- The number of primary schools is 10633 with 27525 teachers enrolling 665994 students in them.
- The number of middle schools is 1709 and number of teachers is 7542. The enrolment in these schools is 122376.
- The State has set up SCERT as well as SIEMAT to provide resource support to the programme.
- There is a decrease in the drop-out rate with the implementation of DPEP programme.
- The number of out of school children in the five districts of Solan, Hamirpur, Kinnaur, Una and Bilaspur is 1771 only. Most of them are from the families of migrant population of labourers.
- The survey on drop-out shows a very small percentage of drop-out.

- The State Government has not proposed new schools, no school buildings or additional class rooms but only boundary walls, toilets, drinking water and electrification in the existing schools.
- The State has started school mapping exercise as a part of pre-project activity.
- VECs have been given statutory status under the new Panchayati Raj Act.

2.2 Dr. Manju Jain from NCERT, on behalf of the Appraisal Mission, stated that they visited four schools and one DIET in Solan. Access and Retention were not a problem in the State. In spite of the PTR being 1:20, there were many single teacher schools. Hence there was a need for rationalization and redeployment of teachers. As most of the roofs of the schools were leaking, repair was a big problem and needs to be taken up immediately to provide a conducive environment to the children. Most of the rooms were dark and electrification in the schools need to be sanctioned as proposed. The teachers do not have training in multigrade teaching, although, this is prevalent in most of the schools. The State Government also need to draw a strategy for the 5% population, in the hardest to reach category, as the District Elementary Education Plans have not suggested any action plan for them. Books and curriculum also need to be reviewed.

2.3 After discussion on the proposals made by the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, the following decisions were taken by the Board:

- i) No new primary or upper primary schools were sanctioned.
- ii) TLE for existing 209 upper primary schools which had not been covered under Operation Black Board was sanctioned.
- iii) School grant for 3405 schools and teachers grant for 11396 teachers were sanctioned as per the norms of SSA.
- iv) Teacher training was sanctioned for 10 days for 11396 teachers
- v) Research, Supervision, Monitoring & Evaluation grant was sanctioned for 3405 schools at the rate of Rs 1400/- per school.
- vi) It was noted that the sub-district educational administrative structure in the State was not at the community development block level, but at the level of educational block, which is slightly smaller than the CD block. The State officials stated that it was essential to have the BRCs at the educational block level for reasons of administrative convenience and to ensure proper monitoring and accountability and stated that similar pattern was being

followed by them in the DPEP districts. The members of the PAB deliberated on the issue at great length and the decision in the case of Mizoram taken in the 9th meeting of PAB as adopted. It was recognized that it would be neither feasible nor practical to ask the State to restructure their educational administrative set-up so as to make the Block as the unit of educational administration. The present structure has been existing from the very beginning and any change at this stage would not only be difficult but would also disrupt the entire structure. It was also noted that in the DPEP programme, in which the concept of BRC originated, circle or educational blocks were taken into consideration for opening of BRCs. PAB felt that for this purpose the alternate educational administrative unit such as circle or educational block should be treated as 'Block' under SSA. However, since there appeared to be some ambiguity in the SSA guidelines in which the word 'Block' has not been clearly defined, it was felt that this point needed to be clarified first. Therefore, it was decided that, while the State should have 26 BRCs with one BRC in each educational block, only 21 BRCs may be sanctioned this year, corresponding to the 21 CD blocks only. The balance 5 BRCs would be considered in the next year's plan after receipt of necessary clarification. Accordingly, contingency grants for 21 BRCs and 511 CRCs were approved as per SSA norms.

- vii) In the BRC and CRC, the State would appoint senior teachers by transferring them to these centres from the schools where there are already serving. The resultant vacancy in these schools would be filled up by fresh teachers or Vidya upasaks, as per the state policy & NCTE guidelines. The gross salary for the Vidya Upasaks in the State being Rs 2500/- per month, the total requirement of funds under SSA for provision of Resource Centre Personnel would be calculated not at the rate of the salary of the BRC/CRC personnel but at the rate of Rs 2500/- per month for one month. After the recruitment is completed as per State Policy & NCTE Guidelines, the State can ask for a higher amount later to the extent the resultant vacancies are filled up by regular primary teachers, who have higher emoluments. Since the State has asked only for 2 teachers per BRC, this was sanctioned.
- viii) Training of 45,464 community leaders in 5683 villages was approved for 2 days as per SSA norms.
- ix) Assistance for 1695 physically and mentally challenged children was approved as per norms.

- x) Innovative projects were approved for girls education, SC/ST education and ECCE for Rs 230 lakhs as per the State's proposal, which is less than the entitlement of Rs 250 lakhs for the five districts at the rate of Rs 50 lakhs per district.
- xi) As far as civil works are concerned sanction was given for Rs 389.65 lakhs which is 32.92% of the total outlay.
- xii) Management cost sanctioned was Rs 70.65 lakhs, which amounts to 5.97% of the total cost.
- xiii) Based on the above decisions, the total outlay approved by the Board was as follows:

(Rs lakhs)

	District	Total outlay	Manag- ement cost	% of manag- ement cost to total cost	Civil Works	% of civil works to Tot. Cost
1	Kinnaur	110.94	6.60	5.95	36.50	32.90
2	Bilaspur	224.73	13.45	5.98	74.10	32.97
3	Hamirpur	253.63	15.00	5.91	83.05	32.74
4	Una	265.29	15.90	5.99	87.50	32.98
5	Solan	329.15	19.70	5.99	108.50	32.96
6	Total	1183.74	70.65	5.97	389.65	32.92

- xiv) State Government should satisfy the following as far as spending the money under SSA is concerned:
- The State Government should give a written commitment for meeting its share of the SSA outlay.
 - The State Government should release the above money to the State Implementation Society within one month of the receipt of money in its account.
 - First instalment of the State share should also be released to the Society within one month of the release of Central share to the State Government.
 - At least 50% of the teachers recruited should be female.
 - VECs or equivalent bodies should be constituted and accounts opened to incur expenditure under teachers grant, civil works, maintenance grants, school grants and other such expenditure which has to be incurred only through these bodies as per SSA norms.

- (f) The State Government will maintain their level of investment in elementary education as in 1999-2000 and give the details of this to GOI before the release of second instalment. The contribution as State share for SSA will be over and above this investment.
- (g) The second instalment would only be released after the previous instalment of Central Government and State share has been transferred to the State Implementation Society and substantial progress has been made in expenditure as far as money already released is concerned.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE PROJECT
APPROVAL BOARD ON SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD AT 3.00 ON 28TH
JANUARY, 2002.

1. Shri S.K. Tripathi, Secretary, EE & L, In the Chair
2. Shri Sumit Bose, Joint Secretary, MHRD
3. Shri C. Balakrishnan, JS(Plg.), MHRD
4. Shri J.C. Sharma, Director(Edu), Plg. Commission (representative of Principal Adviser(Edu), Planning Commission).
5. Ms. S. Dave, Director(representative of JS(AE) MHRD)
6. Dr. Meena Gautam, Deputy Secretary, NCTE (representative of Chairperson, NCTE).
7. Shri R.L. Raichandani, US(representative of FA, MHRD)
8. Shri S.M.I.A Zaidi, Fellow, NIEPA (representative of Director NIEPA)
9. Shri A.A.C. Lal, Reader, NCERT (representative of Director NCERT)

IN ATTENDANCE

1. Shri R. Chatterjee, Principal Secretary, (Education), Govt. of Meghalaya.
2. Linda Lyngdog, Dy. Director, Meghalaya.
3. Shri G. Barman, ADP, Meghalaya.
4. Shri Akshay Sood, SPD, H.P.
5. Shri Rajeev Sharma, Ex-SPD(HP) Presently, ADM, Shimla, HP
6. Shri B.L. Shukla, Member App. Team, H.P.
7. Ms. Anupriya. Chadha, Ed Cil
8. Shri P.K. Mohanty, DEA, MHRD
9. Ms. Manju Jain, NCERT.
10. Shri Praveen Kumar, Director, MHRD
11. Shri O.P. Chaturvedi, US, MHRD.