

## **MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD FOR SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON 17.9.02**

The 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Project Approval Board for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was held under the Chairmanship of Shri S.C. Tripathi, Secretary, Elementary Education & Literacy on 17.9.02. A list of participants is annexed.

### **Item No.1: Consideration of Annual Action Plan 2002-2003 of Arunachal Pradesh.**

1.1 The meeting began with a brief presentation by the Secretary, Education, Government of Arunachal Pradesh. The highlights of this presentation are as follows:

- The total population of the State is 10.73 lakh, with the population of children in the age group 6-14 years being 2.45 lakhs.
- The literacy rate in the State is 54.74%, ranging between 32.5%(East Kameng) and 59.15%(Papum Pare).
- The GER at primary level is ranging between 62.6% and 85.9%.
- The number of primary and upper primary schools is 1343 and 353 respectively with enrolment of 131655 and 58740 respectively.
- The drop out rate is very high. It is 50% at the primary level and 60% at the upper primary level.
- The transition rate from primary to upper primary is 75%.
- The entire State is very sparsely populated and the density of population is 10-12 per km. The habitations do not have requisite number of students for opening a formal school which is 20 students in their case. Certain habitations do not have even 10 school going age children which is a minimum number for opening a community school. Hence a large number of small habitations remain school less for want of requisite number of school going children.

1.2 Secretary (EE &L) pointed out that in light of the high dropout rate, the State should take some urgent steps to address this problem. Some of the essential measures which should be taken are:

- Provision of cooked meal under MDM Scheme
- Setting up of Village Education Committees and making them accountable for mobilization
- Mobilization and Orientation of Community Leaders
- Appointment of more and more locally recruited teachers of which 50% are women. Now the Government
- Teacher Training

The State Secretary informed that initially teachers appointed in the State were from outside the State, which led to their not being aware of the local language. But now a conscious decision has been taken to recruit only local teachers.

1.3 Secretary, EE&L desired to know whether the State was implementing the Mid-day meal Scheme by providing cooked food. The State Education Secretary stated that they are not able to implement the Scheme because of the heavy transportation cost involved. Secretary, EE&L then enquired whether they have the PDS shops and if so, why they are not able to transport and supply the food grains available under MDM through the PDS network. The State Education Secretary indicated that they are getting subsidy from Government of India for transporting food grains under PDS. Secretary, EE&L observed that similar facility should be available for lifting of food grains under MDM. JS (EE) indicated that

subsidy is already available for the purpose under MDM also and that the State Government should get in touch with FCI in this regard. Secretary, EE&L directed that transportation cost should be reimbursed to the State Government at the same rate as is admissible for PDS for families of below poverty line. If the present system does not allow for the same then permission of the Finance should be taken for the same. DEA (PKM) was directed to examine the specific problem of Arunachal Pradesh regarding this. He had further suggested that the State Government should explore the possibility of serving cooked Meal under MDM. The State Secretary stated that Government of India should reimburse the cost of cooked meal as the State is unable to bear this cost. The Secretary, EE&L suggested that the State Government should take help of the members of Mother-Teacher Association for supply of cooked meal under MDM.

1.4 The State Education Secretary further stated that the State was facing a major problem of untrained teachers. As much as 50% of the teachers in the State are untrained. JS (EE) indicated that in view of the problem of large number of untrained teachers in majority of the N.E. States, MHRD, in collaboration with NCTE and IGNOU, is considering a programme of teacher training in distance mode. An advance of Rs. 50.00 lakhs has already been released to IGNOU for the purpose. Prof. Kaul of IGNOU then outlined the programme of teacher training through distant mode being piloted in the N.E. States. They have prepared a six-month certificate course for such teachers to cover the backlog of untrained teachers. He has also indicated that they would need certain details from the State regarding the identified DIETs, teaching centres and the resource persons at the rate of 6 per centre. The State Secretary informed that 6 DIETS are already functional in the State. Secretary (EE&L) directed that as six DIETS are already functioning in the State, the programme could be held there and as a first step the State should identify one coordinator and two teachers per DIET to act as resource person. The State has also asked to seek NCTE recognition for these DIETs as per rules. The IGNOU team should go to the State by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October and the first batch of teacher training should start by 1<sup>st</sup> of December.

1.5 Dr. Yadav, from NCERT and head of the Appraisal Team, made the following observations: -

- District Annual Plans do not present details of planning process adopted.
- The Districts have not maintained uniformity in presenting the data.
- State has not clearly spelt out the strategies to bring the out of school children to schools.
- State has no policy of teacher recruitment and teacher rationalization
- There is a huge backlog of untrained teachers.
- State Resource Group and the District Resource Group need to be set up

1.6 JS (EE) enquired whether low female literacy in the State has any relation with adverse Pupil Teacher Ratio. Dr. Shushma Jairath of NCERT pointed out that in the entire planning process they have not addressed the problem of low female literacy in the State and suggested that they should have gender sensitization module in teacher training in order to tackle low female literacy in the State. The State Government has undertaken micro planning exercise but has not documented it. The State Education Secretary observed on low female literacy issues that the parents are hesitant to send their daughters to school. In rural areas, the girls are admitted to schools at a very late age of 9-12 years and, therefore, they drop out after one or two years of education since the girls face the problem of early child marriage in the tribal areas. The State Government has launched a new scheme under which National Savings Certificates would be bought in the name of the girls in Class 3 and is given to her only if she passes Class X and remains unmarried. Secretary, EE&L suggested that they should organize training of community leaders and they should be told of the evils of early child marriages.

1.7 JS (EE) desired to know the composition of the Village Education Committee. The State Education Secretary stated that they have Assistant Educational Officers or Block Development Officers as the Chairman of the VECs and it also includes at least two parents. Secretary, EE&L suggested that if

50% of the members are not ladies, the VEC should be asked to co-opt mothers of children studying in that school.

1.8 Dr. Mohanty of NIEPA and a member of the appraisal team stated that the statistics used in the plans this year are almost the same as last year, signifying no change. The State secretary explained that last year's plans were approved only in March 2002 and not much time has elapsed to cause a significant change in the indicators. Planning process also did not appear to be participative. Secretary, EE&L suggested that State should depute persons from State level Institutions for training in NIEPA and NCERT.

1.9 Based on the plans prepared, remarks of the appraisal team and discussions thereon, following decisions were taken:

- i) 73 new schools were approved in addition to the 71 approved last year. 110 teachers were approved for the new schools at the rate of 2 teachers per school except in those districts where PTR is already low and which should be filled through redeployment. While 12 months salary for teachers appointed last year was approved, only six months salary was approved for teachers appointed this year. Teacher Learning equipment was also approved for these 73 schools.
- ii) 178 additional teachers were approved in existing primary schools in addition to the 396 approved last year. Salary for teachers appointed last year was approved for 12 months and for those permitted this year the salary was approved for six months only.
- iii) 63 new upper primary schools were approved with TLE. However, no additional teacher for these schools was approved since the PTR in these districts for upper primary was already low and these requirements could be filled up through redeployment. 52 additional teachers were also approved in the existing upper primary schools.
- iv) School grant, Teacher Grant and Repair & Maintenance Grant were approved after deducting the amount sanctioned in 2001-02 since these amounts remain unspent.
- v) Apart from the teacher training proposed, 60 days training of 600 teachers to be trained under IGNOU package was approved.
- vi) 491 EGS centres were approved as proposed. However, the residential bridge courses and back to School Camp were only approved in principle. For these two items the funds release would take place only on receipt of detailed proposal from the State.
- vii) The proposals regarding R&E grant, BRCs, CRCs, innovative activity, community training, IED, Management cost, civil works and SIEMAT were approved as per recommendations of the appraisal team.
- viii) Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, a total Annual Plan 2002-03 for a amount of Rs 2331.89 lakhs was approved as per details given in Annex I.
- ix) Regarding the spill over component of last year, it was explained that while appraising the plan for 2002-003, the items which have been sanctioned in 2001-02 and have not been implemented, have been deducted. Hence chances for duplication with funds going twice for the same activity has been removed. Accordingly, the Board approved a spill over component, towards the second instalment of year 2001-02, for a total amount of Rs 178.32 lakhs as per Annex II.
- ix) It was directed that the State should also satisfy the following conditions:
  - (a) The State Government should give a written commitment for meeting its share of the SSA outlay.

- (b) 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.
- (c) At least 50% of the teachers recruited should be female.
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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.
- (f) The second instalment would only be released after the previous instalment of 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.
- (g) All appointments under the head of management cost should either be on deputation or on contract basis, with all persons being recruited having functional computer literacy

**Item No.2: Consideration of Annual Action Plan 2002-2003 of Tripura.**

2.1 The Director (School Education), Tripura made a brief presentation. The highlights of the presentation are as follows: -

- The State has 4 districts and has submitted DEEPs of all the four districts, namely West Tripura, North Tripura, Dhalai and South Tripura.
- The State has a total population of 31.91 lakh with density of population of 304 per sq. metre. The State has 71% general population and 29% tribal population.
- The literacy rate is 73.66% and female literacy 65.41%.
- The number of primary and upper primary schools is 2080 and 428 with enrolment of 4,59,525 and 1,65,487 respectively.
- The State has covered 85% of the habitations with a primary school within one km. And 75.16% with an upper primary school within two km.
- The drop out rate is 50.6% at primary and 65.12% at upper primary level.
- Teacher-Pupil Ratio is 1:26 in primary schools and 1:21 in upper primary schools but the percentage of trained teachers is much less. This is 27.62% at primary and 19.89% at upper primary Stage.
- The State Government has proposed to strengthened DIET, SCERT and College of Teacher Education to enhance their capacity to get more trained teachers and also to reduce the backlog of untrained teachers in the coming years.

2.2 JS(E) observed that the number of never enrolled children is quite large in certain districts. Secretary, EE&L enquired whether there are certain children not getting enrolled at all – any particular community or region and what are the reasons for drop out or non-enrolment of children in the State. The State representative stated that the reasons for children getting dropped out or non-enrolled are house hold work; family occupation; work for wage; looking after siblings; schools not good or not available; not interested in studies etc. He has further stated that the State has 6% Muslim population which does not send their children to school and prefers to send them to Madarasa. Secretary, EE&L desired to know about the strategies and interventions particularly for 6% Muslims. The State Representative stated that

they are putting more emphasis in community involvement and mobilization. They are also organizing orientation of community leaders to tackle this problem.

2.3 JS (EE) enquired whether Autonomous Hill Council in the State has been involved in the planning process. The State representative stated that they have been actively involved in the process and the schools in the Council area are run by the Council only. The representative of the Planning Commission enquired whether the drop out or non-enrolled children are particularly from the tribal community. The State representative clarified that they are from both the categories, tribal as well as general but children from tribal community constitute a greater percentage. Secretary, EE&L suggested that they should involve parents and community leaders and also orient them to take benefit from the Government schemes/incentives offered for the tribal children. JS(EE) suggested that the State should make a curriculum relevant to local needs/conditions, especially for Classes 6 to 8. Shri Yadav from NCERT added that the NCERT has already suggested that curriculum should be developed by the local teachers/community.

2.4 Dr. Menon of NIEPA and leader of the appraisal team commending the efforts by the State Government put in preparation of the Plans also pointed out the following:

- There was some discrepancies and mismatch in the figures/data supplied by the State Government. The data on unserved habitations, both eligible and non-eligible, should have been worked out based on school mapping. The State Government has, however, not undergone this exercise. This could be done in future
- They have also not indicated the transition rate in their DEEPs only the distance and population criteria have been taken for proposing upper primary schools.
- Training of community leaders has not taken place last year in spite of funds having been sanctioned.
- There is a lot of spill over activity but it should not continue for long. The State Government should submit Perspective Plans with detailed strategy for access, retention and achievement and Annual Plans should be derived from the Perspective Plans.

2.5 Regarding Village Education Committees (VECs) and Mother Teacher Association (MTA), the State representative stated that the State has both the bodies with the VECs being Panchayat based and the MTA school based. These bodies are mainly responsible for checking attendance and distribution of incentives/ Mid Day Meal to the children as also attendance of teachers. The VECs meet once a month while MTA meet twice a month. Secretary, EE&L suggested that the State Government should ask the MTA to help in supplying cooked meal to the children under MDM.

2.6 Regarding the training needs of the untrained teacher, it was explained that the IGNOU Certificate Course package would be applicable to Tripura also. There are two DIETs. in the State and the State should immediately identify one coordinator and two teachers as resource persons each for the two DIETs. . The State was also asked to seek formal NCTE recognition for the DIETs The IGNOU team should visit the State in the third week of October for initial training and teachers' training should start latest by 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2003.

2.7 Based on the plans, remarks of the appraisal team and discussions held, following decisions were taken by the Board:

- i) 66 new primary schools were approved as per the recommendation of the appraisal team. The Board also decided to give 106 teachers only for the 53 new schools lying in the Council area. The selection of these teachers should be made by the TTAADC. In other areas, the new schools should be staffed by redeployment. TLE for the 66 new schools was also approved.
- ii) No new upper primary schools were approved since transition rates were not given and should be furnished in the perspective plan.

- iii) School grant, teacher grant and repair grant were approved after deducting the amount sanctioned last year since that amount had remained unutilized.
- iv) Teacher training to existing teachers was not approved since the amount sanctioned last year had remained unutilized. However, funds were provided for 10 days training of an additional 2428 untrained teachers, orientation training of 106 new teachers and 60 days IGNOU training for 200 teachers.
- v) Community training was approved for 3000 members of MTA, in addition of training funds sanctioned last year for VECs.
- vi) Other items like research grant, BRCs, CRCs, IED Innovation, civil works, textbooks, etc. were approved as per the recommendation of the appraisal team.
- vii) Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, a total Annual Plan 2002-03 for a amount of Rs 1131.01 lakhs was approved as per details given in Annex III.
- viii) Regarding the spill over component of last year, it was explained that while appraising the plan for 2002-003, the items which have been sanctioned in 2001-02 and have not been implemented, have been deducted. Hence chances for duplication with funds going twice for the same activity has been removed. Accordingly, the Board approved a spill over component, towards the second instalment of year 2001-02, for a total amount of Rs 523.97 lakhs as per Annex IV.
- ix) It was directed that the State should also satisfy the following conditions:
  - (a) The State Government should give a written commitment for meeting its share of the SSA outlay.
  - (b) 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.
  - (c) At least 50% of the teachers recruited should be female.
  - (d) 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.
  - (e) 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.
  - (f) The second instalment would only be released after the previous instalment of 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.
  - (g) All appointments under the head of management cost should either be on deputation or on contract basis, with all persons being recruited having functional computer literacy

3.0 The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks for the Chair.

- **ATTENDANCE OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD  
HELD ON 17.9.2002 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SECRETARY(EE&L).**

1. Shri S.C. Tripathi, Secretary(EE&L) Chairman
2. Shri Sumit Bose, JS(EE), MHRD
3. Shri Jagan Mathews, JS(AE), MHRD
4. Ms. Indu Datta, Director, Plg. Commission (Representing Principal Adviser)
5. Shri M.S. Negi, US, D/WCD, (representative of Secretary, DWCD)
6. Shri R.L. Raichandani, AFA (representative of F.A., MHRD)
7. Dr. Meena Gautam, Dy. Secretary,(representative of Chairperson, NCTE)

**In Attendance**

1. Dr. R.D. Srivastava, Secretary(Education), Govt. Arunachal Pradesh.
2. Shri J.C. Sharma, Dy. Director of School Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh.
3. Shri R.K. Devnath, Director of School Education, Tripura.
4. Dr. (Mrs.) P. Menon, Fellow, NIEPA.
5. Dr. N.K. Mohanty, NIEPA
6. Dr. D.D. Yadav, NCERT
7. Dr. Sushma Jaireth, Reader, DWS, NCERT
8. Prof. M.L. Kaul, Professor of Education, IGNOU.
9. Dr. S.C.Gujaria, Consultant, Ed. CIL
10. Shri P.K. Mohanty, DEA (MDM), MHRD
11. Shri Praveen Kumar, Director, MHRD
12. Shri O.P. Chaturvedi, US, MHRD