

**MINUTES OF TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD
FOR SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON 28 OCTOBER, 2002**

The 23rd 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 28.10.2002. A list of participants is annexed.

Item No.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 20th Meeting and 22nd meeting of the Project Approval Board held on 19th September 2002 and 9th October 2002.

The minutes of the 20th and 22nd meetings of the Project Approval Board held on 19 September 2002 and 8 October 2002 respectively were confirmed.

Item No.2. Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the 20th Meeting and 22nd Meeting of the Project Approval Board held on 19th September 2002 and 9th October 2002.

Action Taken Reports were noted.

Item No.3: Consideration of the proposal of the NCERT for an allocation of Rs.80.64 lakhs for the Baseline Achievement Survey at Class-III.

3.1 Dr. Avtar Singh of the Department of Measurement and Evaluation, NCERT gave a brief description of the proposal to the Board. Following are the highlights of the proposed test:

- Trial tests would be conducted in Language and Mathematics in December 2002/ February 2003. 3 tests in 15 schools in each subject would be conducted. The number of schools to be tested would be 2250 and the number of students covered would be 70,000.
- Based on the results, the tests would be standardized and applied in 125 districts in December 2003/ February 2004.
- The final results would be obtained after analysis by December 2004.

3.2 Secretary, EE&L suggested that they should undertake various activities simultaneously to curtail the duration of the Project and the final results should be given latest by June 2003. If

necessary NCERT should also outsource certain resources and involve State level institutions in this task, so that their capacities are also build up.

3.3 Based on the discussions held, following decisions were taken:

- i) The tests would be structured taking into account the experience of DPEP data.
- ii) NCERT would complete the entire exercise and furnish the results by June 2004. If necessary NCERT may outsource some of the processes to speed-up the result.
- iii) The responsibility of field activities at the district level will be entrusted to the Principal of DIET, where DIETS are available. For this a letter would be sent by the MHRD to the States.
- iv) The faculty of SCERTs and DIETs would be involved in the conduct of survey and their personnel would not be paid any honorarium for the purpose.
- v) No air travel would be permitted to the participants except for those in North-East.
- vi) NCERT should form an advisory committee with JS (Planning) as the Chairman, which would advise on all aspects of the testing process.
- vii) The total outlay approved, based on reworking done by NCERT, was Rs 67.85 lakhs as per details in Annex I.

Item No.4: Consideration of Annual Plan 2002-2003 in respect of Jammu & Kashmir.

4.1 Looking to the demographic and educational indicators for the State, Secretary, (EE&L) observed that the literacy rate is very poor in certain districts. Also the situation in the State being different from other regions in the country, he desired to know the special efforts being planned by the State to get all children in the school and retain them for eight years.

4.2 The Education Secretary, J&K stated that the norms applicable normally for other States under SSA should not be made applicable to J&K because of the peculiar problems associated with it. The major part of the State is mountainous, with even the District Headquarters not being connected with proper roads. The State also has socio-cultural problems in certain areas. In Kargil, Sunni Muslims do not send their girls to schools resulting in low female literacy in that district. Similarly, in Doda, Rajouri and Poonch areas similar problems are witnessed for Gujjar Muslims. The large SC population in Jammu areas also faces similar problems. The State, therefore, needs to introduce some incentive schemes to attract girls to the schools. The State gives free text books to classes 1 and 2 and free uniforms to Classes 1, 3 and 5. He has, therefore,

suggested that the Centre should allow them to give free textbooks and uniforms under SSA to all children in areas where SC/ST communities are in majority and also in areas where female literacy is very low. Secretary, EE&L pointed out that this Ministry is already sanctioning grants to provide free textbooks to all girls and SC/ST children for classes I to VIII, if this facility is not being provided by the State Govt. But it may not be possible to sanction grants for uniforms to girls. The State may consider sanctioning this activity from its own resources.

4.3 Some of the other problems highlighted by the State Secretary, are high cost of construction and teacher absenteeism. This they were trying to address by appointing local volunteers as teachers at a salary of Rs 1500/- per month. If volunteers are not locally available with the minimum qualification of 10+2, the State is also permitting relaxation to Class X. He has further indicated that they are also running some mobile schools in certain areas such as Doda district.

4.4 Secretary, EE&L enquired whether they would need separate schools for girls. SPD, J&K stated that while they do not need separate schools for girls at primary level, at the upper primary these would be useful in improving retention of girls. However, the areas where these would be required have not yet been identified.

4.5 Dr. S.C. Jain of NCERT, on behalf of the Appraisal Team, made the following observations:

- As J&K did not have the experience of DPEP, they need some specialized training with respect to management information system and decentralized planning by institutions like NIEPA before the Perspective Plans are prepared by the State Team. The State has to provide a vision for academic support for quality issues, which is lacking in the present plans. The State does not have any thinking on CRCs, BRCs, IASE & CTE. While DIET is available in every district, they have not been involved in the planning process.
- There is evidence of data discrepancies and also data gap, which the State may like to revisit before drafting their Perspective Plans.
- The State is running schools in the open and, therefore, need to be sanctioned more buildings for schools. Existing school buildings are also in a bad condition.

- The PTR in the State is between 1:14 and 1:23 at the primary level and between 1:23 and 1:43 at upper primary level. While the State has surplus teachers in urban areas, they have shortage of teachers in rural areas.
- TLE sanctioned under Operation Blackboard is not found to be available in some of the schools visited by the team.

4.6 Mr. Sourav Banerjee of Ed Cil and a member of the appraisal team pointed out that low density of population has led to many habitations having no schools at all. At the other extreme, a significant presence of private schools was also witnessed and so some kind of convergence needs to be involved. While the overall PTR ratio is reasonable, rationalization is necessary to improve the PTR at the local level in all areas. The State Secretary replied that the major reason for this is the teachers not going to rural areas due to the reason of militancy and migration of family members from rural to urban areas. Further, the State has passed the Education Act, which would enable to improve the quality of private schools also once the rules are framed for this.

4.7 Secretary EE&L desired to know whether the State has formed VECs/PTA to manage the affairs of the schools and whether these Bodies also have women as their members. ES, J&K stated that they have constituted such bodies which include women as well as representatives of the SC/ST communities.

4.8 Director (Finance) pointed out that as per the impression received by him, school buildings are not inadequate in the States. The State needed to give more detailed data for certain districts to appreciate the educational scenario particularly of the Kashmir region.

4.9 Based on the plans prepared, remarks of the appraisal team and discussions thereon, following decisions were taken regarding the Annual Plans of 2002-03:

- i) 314 new primary schools were approved for habitations in Jammu division having population more than 300 along with TLE and 628 teachers. The teachers should be recruited only for these schools with the condition that they cannot be redeployed in any other school. The proposals for Kashmir division were deferred in absence of adequate data, and would be moved on file on receipt of adequate information.
- ii) 44 upper primary schools were approved through upgradation of existing primary schools along with TLE and 105 teachers with the condition that they cannot be redeployed in

- any other school. The proposals for Kashmir division were deferred in absence of adequate data, and would be moved on file on receipt of adequate information.
- iii) No additional teachers were approved in view of the low PTR prevalent in the State.
 - iv) Free text books were permitted for girls and SC/ST students of Class III –VIII.
 - v) TLE for uncovered primary and upper primary schools would be moved on file subject to the condition that the State Secretary would certify that the schools had not been covered under Operation Blackboard.
 - vi) 328 Cluster resource centres were approved. However, no BRCs were approved this year in absence of concrete plans of the State for operationalizing the same.
 - vii) Teacher training for untrained teachers in distance mode through the IGNOU package was approved.
 - viii) EGS centres involving 47283 children were approved for habitations with population less than 300. However, the State should give detailed list of these habitations along with detailed plan for implementing this before funds could be released for this activity.
 - ix) Innovative activity was permitted for girls education, provided specific proposal was received which would be processed on file.
 - x) Under community training, a condition was put that at least 30% of the personnel trained should be women.
 - xi) The unit cost for civil engineering works as recommended by the appraisal team was approved. If the State makes out a case of a higher unit cost, it should send a proposal accordingly, which would be examined on file.
 - xii) The proposals regarding R&E grant, IED, maintenance grant, community training, teacher training, school grant, teacher grant, management cost (subject to 6% ceiling) and civil works (subject to 33% ceiling) were approved as per recommendations of the appraisal team.
 - xiii) It was decided to provide a vehicle to the State Level Society, by withdrawing one vehicle already provided to districts under the pre-project activity.
 - xiv) The State was directed to ensure that the State Project Director should be senior to the two Directors of Education, so as to ensure proper implementation of the programme. To ensure this either the Special Secretary or Secretary himself could be the ex-officio SPD with an Addl. SPD to assist them in day-to-day functioning of the Society.
 - xv) Since the State policy of population of 300 for a village to have a regular school was found to be quite stringent, the State was asked to examine changing this norm to 200 as found in some hilly states.

- xvi) Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, a total Annual Plan 2002-03 for an amount of Rs 5148.55 lakhs was approved as per details given in Annex II.
- xvii) 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) Teachers appointed against posts created through SSA funds should be made accountable to the VEC for at least salary payment. The latter would monitor the attendance before releasing the salary.
 - (e) 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 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.
 - (h) 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.5: Consideration of Annual Plan 2002-2003 in respect of Sikkim.

5.1 The Joint Director (Education), Govt. of Sikkim made a brief presentation of the proposals. The highlights of the proposals are as follows: -

- Sikkim is a hilly terrain with four districts with density of population at 76 per sq.metre.

- The State has three tier system for elementary education, namely, I-III known as lower primary, I-V primary and I-VIII junior high school.
- The number of primary and upper primary schools is 744 and 240 respectively.
- The literacy rate which was between 45% and 65% during 1991 has jumped to 59% and 75% during 2001.
- The total population of children in the age group 6-14 years is 1.20 lakh while the number of out of school children is 0.15 lakhs.
- While the medium of instruction in the State is English, there are 13-14 other languages, apart from Nepali, which would have to be taught to the students. Hence separate teachers have to be provided in all these languages. This has led to a low PTR of 21:1.
- Sikkim Education Bill has been passed and sent to Government of India for approval.

5.2 Secretary, EE&L desired to know the position of utilization of funds sanctioned last year. The State representative indicated that they have received Rs.14.00 lakhs for pre-Project activities last year, which has been fully utilized, and the pre-Project activities completed. They had also received a grant of Rs.62.00 lakh as first instalment of the GOI share and Rs.11.00 lakh as State Govt. share against last year's Annual Plans. They are, however, yet to spend this money.

5.3 Mr. Venkataramana of TSG on behalf of Appraisal Team made the following observations: -

- Habitation wise data has not been reflected in the Plans.
- Data on exact number of school less habitations is also not available. The State representative indicated that there are 277 habitations of which 232 have schools and 45 are school-less.
- Information on primary school graduates not reflected in the Plans.
- Teacher-Pupil ratio is much below the SSA norms. The State representative explained that the reason for ratio is the need for language teachers.
- Due to the districts being small, the funds available for R&E and management cost is not sufficient. Secretary (EE&L) explained that since the districts are small many of the activities could be centralized at the State level instead of having separate structure for each district. This would reduce the management cost appreciably.

5.4 Based on the plans prepared, remarks of the appraisal team and discussions thereon, following decisions were taken regarding the Annual Plans of 2002-03:

- i) 9 new primary schools were approved for habitations having population more than 200 along with TLE and 18 teachers. The teachers should be recruited only for these schools with the condition that they cannot be redeployed in any other school. The additional language teachers to be provided for these schools should be given from State's funds.
- ii) 5 upper primary schools were approved through upgradation of existing primary schools along with TLE and 15 teachers with the condition that they cannot be redeployed in any other school. The additional language teachers to be provided for these schools should be given from State's funds.
- iii) No additional teachers were approved in view of the low PTR prevalent in the State. The State should carry out rationalization of teachers before asking for additional teachers. They may present their case by not including the other language teachers (when more than one in a school) for calculation of PTR.
- iv) 50% of the cost of free text books was allowed for girls and SC/ST students of Class VI – VIII, with the additional 50% already being provided by the State as subsidy.
- v) Teacher grant and school grant were sanctioned in full this year, with simultaneous canceling of similar grants sanctioned last year.
- vi) Teacher training for untrained teachers in distance mode through the IGNOU package was approved.
- vii) 72 EGS centres involving 15 children each were approved for habitations with population less than 100. 47 Residential Bridge courses and 15 Back to School camps were also approved as per the recommendations of the appraisal team. However, the State should give detailed list of these habitations along with detailed plan for implementing this before funds could be released for this activity.
- viii) Employment of contract science teachers in the monastic schools was permitted. The local community would have to be involved in the functioning of this intervention.
- ix) The proposals regarding R&E grant, maintenance grant, community training, teacher training, BRC, CRC, management cost (subject to 6% ceiling) and civil works (subject to 33% ceiling) were approved as per recommendations of the appraisal team.
- x) Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, a total Annual Plan 2002-03 for an amount of Rs 580.91 lakhs was approved as per details given in Annex III

- xi) Since the details about expenditure under various heads in individual districts against the AWP of 2001-02, the spill over plan would be examined on file at the time of the first instalment of 2002-03.
- xii) 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) Teachers appointed against posts created through SSA funds should be made accountable to the VEC for at least salary payment. The latter would monitor the attendance before releasing the salary.
 - (e) 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 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.
 - (h) 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

ATTENDANCE OF THE 23RD MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD

HELD ON 28.10.2002

1. Shri S.C. Tripathi, Secretary(EE&L) In the Chair
2. Shri Sumit Bose, JS(EE), MHRD
3. Shri C. Balakrishana, JS (Plg), MHRD
4. Shri Jagan Mathews, JS (AE), MHRD
5. Shri Shashi Shekhar Sharma, Dir. (Fin.), MHRD (Representing of FA, MHRD)
6. Ms. Indu Datta, Director, Plg. Comm. (Rep. of Pr. Adviser (Edu), Plg. Comm.)
7. Dr. Shabnam Sinha, (Representative of Director, NCERT)
8. Dr. Meena Gautam, Dy. Secretary (NCTE), (Rep. of Chairperson, NCTE)

In Attendance

1. Shri A.S. Bhat, Secretary, Education (J&K)
2. Shri H.A. Rashid, State Project Director, J&K
3. Shri R.B. Kumar, Jt. Director of Education, South Sikkim
4. Shri C.P. Gurung, Jt. Dir. of Education, North Sikkim
5. Shri I. Mulihia, Additional Director, East Sikkim
6. Dr. D.P.S. Rana, Jt. Dir. Education, GTK
7. Shri Avtar Singh, Director, NLM, NCERT
8. Shri S.K. Gautam, Reader, DEME, NCERT
9. Dr. Pushpa Mandal, NCERT
10. Dr. S.C. Jain, R.I.E. Ajmer
11. Shri V. Venkataramana, TSG
12. Shri Sourav Banerjee TSG
13. Shri P.K. Mohanty, DEA, MHRD
14. Ms. Purna Gulati, Dy. Secretary, MHRD
15. Shri J.S. Bajwa, Desk Officer, DPEP
16. Shri Praveen Kumar, Director, MHRD
17. Shri O.P. Chaturvedi, US, MHRD