

Minutes of the meeting of the Project Approval Board (PAB) on 24th April, 2006 to consider the Annual Work Plan and Budget 2006-07 of Bihar for SSA (including NPEGEL)

1. The PAB meeting for considering the Annual Work Plan and Budget 2006-07 of Bihar was held on 24th April, 2006 under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (EE&L). A list of officers, who attended the meeting, is at Annex-I.
2. Secretary, Education, Bihar made a brief presentation about the initiatives taken and planned by the Government of Bihar and SSA Bihar. The highlights are as follows:-
 - (i) There is a requirement of 91,996 additional teachers for all new schools and to achieve PTR to 40:1.
 - (ii) Primary net completion rate has increased from 49% to 60%.
 - (iii) A recruitment of 1.60 lakh PSM and PS (Panchayat Shikshak) is planned soon after Panchayat elections.
 - (iv) A restructuring of the PSM and regular teacher cadre is planned.
 - (v) The Chief Minister is keenly interested in development of school infrastructure and planning for "total school".
 - (vi) Syllabus and textbook revision is being initiated based on NCF 2005.
3. The fact-sheet of the State, with Educational Indicators is at Annex-II.
4. Secretary (EE&L) raised the issue of unsatisfactory performance of SSA Bihar in the past few years including 2005-06. Secretary, Education Bihar responded by saying that there was inadequate state commitment to UEE in the past. Also the performance in 2005-06 was affected adversely by the 2 elections in the State.
5. An issue-wise discussion took place on the SSA proposals for 2006-07.
 - (i) *Opening of new schools:* It was observed that against 548 new PS sanctioned for 2005-06, not a single PS has been opened. Similarly only 3990 UPS have been setup against the target of 7317. The State has proposed upgradation of 7723 EGS centres to primary schools. The presentation made by Secretary, Education, it was highlighted that there is a gap of 23,347 primary schools against eligible habitations. It was therefore decided that this gap should be closed at the earliest and therefore the State should open more new primary schools

during 2006-07. Looking at feasibility it was decided that during 2006-07:

- (a) **The State would setup 15000 new PS, including 7723 EGS centres proposed for upgradation to PS. Remaining gap would be addressed during 2007-08.**
 - (a) **The proposal for upgradation of 822 primary schools to upper primary schools was agreed to.**
 - (b) **It was also decided that the PS sanctioned by 2005-06 would be functional by 01.07.2006 and the UPS by 01.08.2006.**
 - (c) **The State would close the EGS centres that have not been upgraded to PS and mainstream students to regular schools. This is expected by September 2006.**
- (ii) *Teachers:* It was observed that against the sanction of 103559 teachers, 70151 had been appointed leaving a gap of 33,408 yet to be appointed. There are 72,864 vacancies of teachers on the State Cadre. The State has proposed additional teachers based on PTR and also teachers for the students (40:1) likely to be shifted from EGS centres to primary schools by September 2006. The PAB took the following decisions:-
- (a) **A total of 80522 new teachers were sanctioned for Bihar**
 - **30,000 new teachers for new 15,000 PS.**
 - **1644 new upper primary graduate teachers for upgraded UPS.**
 - **822 new HM for new UPS.**
 - **48056 additional teachers as per PTR.**
 - (b) **The State would recruit teachers against all vacant State Cadre posts during the year.**
 - (c) **The balance recruitment of 33,408 teachers against earlier sanctions would be completed by 31.08.2006. The sanction of 1,03,559 teachers under the AWP&B 2005-06 was continued during 2006-07 as recurring teachers.**

- (d) **After the mainstreaming of children from 7722 EGS centres in September 2006, the State could approach the PAB with a proposal for additional teachers on account of increased enrolment in Government schools due to shifting of children from EGS to regular schools. This would be considered based on evidence of increased enrolment.**
- (iii) *Civil works:* The Appraisal Team mentioned that only 23,287 units had been constructed against 73856 sanctioned till 2005-06. The percentage of expenditure against cumulative approved outlays for civil works is 76.27%. The completion rate for civil works sanctioned during 2005-06 is only 5%. This is mainly on account of inadequate monitoring and lack of supervisory personnel. Secretary, Education, Bihar pointed out that their experience with engineers has not been good and the State was not in favour of a large engineering setup. He informed that the civil works sanctioned upto 2005-06 would be completed in August 2006. He also pointed out that the 79th PAB meeting had approved re-appropriation of additional amounts from other heads of AWP&B 2005-06 to civil works for 29 districts within the ceiling of 40%. He requested for approval of re-appropriation for the other 9 districts also. This was agreed to.

Based on infrastructure gap projected in DISE, the Appraisal Team has recommended 61,284 additional classrooms (1/3rd of the total infrastructure gap). Secretary (EE&L) felt that based on past performance the State would not be able to complete 61,000 additional classrooms and 15,000 new school buildings in 1 year, given that civil works of previous years are still in progress. The following decisions were taken:

- (a) **Construction of 223 buildingless primary schools were approved.**
- (b) **Construction of 61,000 additional classrooms were approved.**
- (c) **Construction of 15,000 new primary school buildings was approved.**

It was decided that new civil works for 2006-07 should be taken up on completion of the items sanctioned till 2005-06. Therefore the PAB sanctioned only 50% of the total cost of civil works at Sl. (a) to (d) above as

fresh civil works component. This amounts to Rs. 136927.37 lakh.

An amount of Rs. 16346.11 lakh was approved as spillover for civil works for 2006-07.

The PAB agreed to the request of Bihar SSA an additional re-appropriation of Rs. 2635.28 lakh for civil works from other heads under the DPEP AWP&B 2005-06 in the 9 districts of Araria, Aurangabad, Banka, Jamui, Khagaria, Patna (Urban), Saharsa, Samastipur, Supaul. District-wise additional amounts for civil works are at Annex-III. This amount is included in the total fresh allocation for civil works for 2006-07.

- (iv) *Out of school children and EGS & AIE:* The State indicated that there are 23.15 lakh children who are out of school. The SRI study had indicated 32 lakh children are out of school. The house-hold survey initiated in early 2005 has not yet been compiled and analysed. The Appraisal Team expressed concerned over the lack of any initiative for older out of school children in the 11-14 age group. It was also pointed out that non-availability of programme personnel is a major constraint in implementation of strategies for out of school children. There had been no real change in the number of out of school children in the past year. JS(EE-II) informed that Bihar, with other States would need to undertake in mandatory house-hold survey in 2006-07. The following decisions were taken:

- (a) **The following targets and financial allocations were approved under AIE:**

	No. of Children	Amount (RS. in lakh)
- Back to school camp	37289	256.77
- Building care	592060	4669.63
- Residential camp	37666	595.53
- Innovative scheme	299499	2417.88
- Others	397996	3012.31
- Remedial Teaching	86236	208.64

- (b) **The State would prepare a strategy for inclusion of 11-14 year old out of school children within 31st May 2006.**

- (c) **The State would undertake the study on migration patterns to enable designing of appropriate strategies.**
- (d) **All out of school children would be enrolled during the current year.**
- (v) *Free textbooks:* **The PAB agreed to the request of the State provide for 100% amount under SSA** for free textbooks based on the fact that State Government had not released any funds to the Bihar Textbook Corporation since the inception of SSA for supply of free textbooks.
- (vi) *Inclusive Education:* The Appraisal Team pointed out that there has been little improvement in the performance of Bihar SSA under IED during 2005-06. **It was decided that the total allocation for IED for 2006-07 would be limited to Rs. 1187.26 lakh per 182655 children.**
- (vii) The State has proposed 3 RPs at each BRC and 2 RPs at each CRC. Since SSA norm not allow for more than 20 RPs per CD block, the number of RPs at CRC would have to be restricted to 1 only. The State would place serving senior teachers who are selected through an appropriate selection process as RPs at BRC and CRCs and recruit additional teachers under SSA in their place. A total number of 1413 RPs at BRC and 4479 CRCs were approved. And equal numbers of additional teachers were sanctioned under the BRC and CRC component.
- (viii) *Quality Improvement:* Secretary(EE&L) observed that performance of students of Bihar has been consistently higher than most of the States in national level learning achievement assessments. However, the State does not have the strategy for regular assessment of achievement levels of all children to enable remedial action to ensure that each child achieves in prescribed competencies. **The State would put in place a mechanism for periodic evaluation of students learning levels and a systematic effort of remedial teaching within a period of 4 months.** Representatives from SPO Bihar informed that the first report based on NCERT quality monitoring tools would be submitted by 1st August, 2006.
- (ix) *NPEGEL:* The Appraisal Team pointed out that the strategies under NPEGEL and girls education were clearly delineated. A supplementary plan should be submitted for this purpose.

- (x) *Educational Indicators:* JS (EE-II) informed that the growth of girls enrolment in Bihar from 2001-02 to 2003-04 has been only 2% per annum compare to much higher rates of growth of girls enrolment in UP, Rajasthan and MP. **It was decided that Bihar would prepare a comprehensive plan of action to reduce the gender gap to 5%.**

The State committed to reduction of the dropout rate from the present 40% to 20% by the end of 2006-07.

6. The Appraisal Team pointed out that the availability of basic data and a quality of planning has actually deteriorated over the past two years. Shri Dhir Jhingran, Director (EE) pointed out that project implementation and monitoring was very unsatisfactory on account of lack of programme personnel. He felt that unless adequate staff is made available at the earliest it would not be appropriate to expect significantly better performance during 2006-07. The State agreed that recruitment of project staff would be completed by 31st July, 2006.

7. 27 of the 38 districts have been categorized as special focus districts on account of SC, minority population and high out of school children. 82.97% of the new primary schools have been approved in these 27 districts. 82.09% of the additional classrooms are allocated to these districts. 78.83% of new teachers have been approved for these special focus districts. 83.6% of EGS & AIE allocations are earmarked for these districts. Overall, 81.73% of the total SSA allocation for 2006-07 is allocated to these 27 districts (Annex-VI).

8. **The PAB approved a total allocation of Rs. 234014.72 lakh for SSA and 7393.03 lakh for NPEGEL for AWP&B 2006-07 as per the State summary (Annex-IV) and detailed district-wise cost sheet (Annex-V). The total SSA allocation for 2006-07 is Rs. 241407.75 lakh.**

9. The State gave the following commitments to the PAB for the year 2006-07:

- ❖ The balance recruitment of 33.408 teachers against sanctioned post of SSA would be completed by 31.8.2006.
- ❖ 70,000 teachers will be recruited this year against state vacancy.
- ❖ The State will submit a plan in one months time detailing strategies for covering out of school children in the age group of 11-14 years.
- ❖ The state will submit supplementary plan under NPEGEL and girls education.
- ❖ All civil works sanctioned up to 2005-2006 will be completed by 31.8.2006.

- ❖ Recruitment for Project Staff will be completed by 31st July, 2006.
- ❖ All out of school children to be enrolled during 2006-07.
- ❖ PTR to be brought down to 1:40.
- ❖ The dropout rate at primary level will be brought down (ie. from 40% to 20%) by 20%.

Annex-III

Details of amount to be re-appropriated to civil works from savings in other heads in 2005-06 for the 9 districts not approved in PAB meeting on 22.3.2006

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Amount re-appropriated
1.	Araria	198.860
2.	Aurangabad	431.090
3.	Banka	175.953
4.	Jamui	213.930
5.	Khagaria	381.275
6.	Patna (Urban)	51.191
7.	Saharsa	218.686
8.	Samastipur	751.228
9.	Supaul	213.060
	Total	2635.280