

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

1. The 82nd meeting of the Project Approval Board for considering the SSA Annual Work Plan and Budget 2006-07 of Orissa was held on 24th April 2006 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (EE&L). A list of officers, who attended the meeting, is at Annex-I.

2. The Secretary & Commissioner (School & Mass Education), Government of Orissa gave a brief account of the policy decision taken by the State Government regarding recruitment of teachers and transfer of schools to Panchayats, role of PRIs / VECs in monitoring teacher attendance and quality aspects etc. He also indicated that the entire planning process has been revamped and increasingly e-technology was being used for this. On the Civil Works front, he said that 325 engineers are in place, one in each Block. With regard to State share, he indicated that for the year 2006-07, the State Government has budgeted for Rs.172.67 crore and that remaining State share, as may be necessary, would be provided in the Supplementary Budget. The Chief Secretary would be the Chairman of the EC of SSA Orissa. He also informed that the State had decided to set up 1000 girls hostels in Panchayats that did not have residential facilities from the State budget.

3. The State Project Director, Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority made a presentation of the progress of implementation of SSA in the State. The highlights of the presentation are:-

- (i) There are total 98,89,939 children in the 0-14 years age group and there are still 6,03,261 children in the 6-14 years age group who are out of school.
- (ii) The drop out rate has declined to 11.71% in 2005-06. The dropout rate for girls has declined to 11.90% in 2005-06.
- (iii) An amount of Rs.419.90 crore was released by GoI GoO under SSA and an amount of Rs.34.30 crore under DPEP. The State has incurred an expenditure of Rs.384.39 crore under SSA against available funds (including unspent balances of previous years), which was 74%. Against

- DPEP the expenditure was Rs.44.25 cr0ores, which is 82.08% of the available funds, but only 43% of the approved outlay.
- (iv)The physical progress in Civil Works in the year 2005-06. Out of total cumulative target of 28626 works, 19538 works were completed and 9088 works in progress.
 - (v) The completion rate was 68.25%.
 - (vi)The cumulative expenditure against financial target was 89.5%. The State has a system of electronic transfer of funds to the district and sub-district level in all 30 districts.
 - (vii)Project e-Shishu is being implemented as a dynamic Child tracking System. The process involved tagging 52000 villages to the schools and identifying names of all children enrolled and out of school. The GIS School Mapping and EPIS (Teacher Inspiration) September are also being initiated. A system is now in place for online monitoring of physical and financial progress against AWP&B.
 - (viii)3,83,584 children covered through 18742 EGS Centres and 36,529 children covered through 1425 AIE Centres. EVs trained to conduct bridge course and mainstreaming of EGS pass outs.
 - (ix)Free textbooks distributed to 34,02,376 children.
 - (x) Teacher’s handbook for Class IV developed. Activity based textbook in English for Class V has been developed and introduced.
 - (xi)80392 primary teachers trained on UNMESH-II and 51430 teachers received training in English subject. 413124 teachers received theme specific training. 23,828 SSS (Para teachers) given 15 days induction training. 13,222 EVs (EGS) given 10 days enrichment training.
 - (xii)The State has planned the following activities under the Biju Patnaik Computer Aided Education Programme (BiCEP) involving development of 35 content – specific CDS, 5 State specific CDs in Oriya, 2 in tribal language, orientation programmes for DPCs, DI of schools and DIET faculty members.
 - (xiii)2426 MCS operated in 166 NPEGEL blocks. 2111 additional class rooms constructed in 166 blocks and provided with electricity and drinking water facilities.

4. The fact sheet and educational indicators of the State is at Annex-II.
5. Secretary (EE&L) has expressed concern over the persistent mismatch between published DISE data generated by the State through HH surveys and the Educational Statistics collected for MHRD. She felt that since the DISE inputs are also made by the State, a system of validation of data provided to DISE should be in place at district and State level so that the discrepancies get minimised. She requested Joint Secretary (EE-II) to inform all States / UTs to ensure convergence between DISE and Educational Statistics data. States/UTs should send only one data set to MHRD. The definition of dropout rates and the methodology of dropout rate calculation should also be uniform. The Department has recently circulated the methodology (as advised by NIEPA) to all States / UTs. Secretary, Education Orissa that this would be ensured in Orissa and is feasible since the SPD is also Director Elementary Education.
6. The following discussion and decision took place on the major components:
 - (i) **Access:**
 - (a) The State had proposed 1906 EGS for up gradation against 2975 habitations eligible for PS. There are 18,261 EGS centres in the State out of which 4000 are likely to be closed due to low enrolment or non-viability. It was decided that all 2975 habitations would be provided with PS (under SSA & DPEP).
 - (b) The State has 830 habitations eligible for UPS. Opening of 830 UPS was approved for 2006-07.
 - (c) After rationalisation of EGS centres, the State would evolve a clear policy on continuation / up gradation of EGS to PS. For the current year, for the new PS & UPS, only costs of teachers' salaries and TLE would be sanctioned, in view of the already heavy CW targets.

(ii) **Civil Works:**

While there has been considerable improvement in the pace of implementation of civil works in Orissa, there are a large number of incomplete works. Only 3% of the fresh targets of 2005-06 have been completed. The State committed that all civil works sanctioned till 2005-06 would be completed by 31.8.2006. It was decided that the State could take up dilapidated school buildings as 2 ACRs within the overall approved ACRs for each district. A total CW budget of Rs. 41875.01 lakh including spill over of Rs. 4607.36 lakh was approved. The items of new works include BRC-20, CRC-782, PS-2824, UPS-11845, ACR-6693. This target has been arrived at by limiting the proportion of civil works to 55% for the 15 special focus districts and 40% for the 15 other districts.

(iii) **Teachers:**

Against 58558 positions of teachers sanctioned till date, 55770 have been recruited. The balance 2,788 teachers would be recruited within a period of 2 months. The State had 7401 single teacher schools on 30th September 2005, which is a very high number. Secretary, Education Orissa informed that after the recruitment and placement is completed, there would be no single teacher school. Secretary (EE&L) stressed the need for rationalisation of deployment of teachers. 4516 posts of new primary school teachers were approved against 2258 new PS (upgraded from EGS) and 1660 new teachers against 830 new UPS. 537 PS will be opened under DPEP (1074 new teachers posts under DPEP).

(iv) **Out of School Children:**

The progress in AIE interventions is not satisfactory. The State has put in place good strategies for migrating children. But this coverage of children has to be increased significantly. The State needs to revise upwards the targets for coverage of migrating children under AIE during the course of the year. The State agreed to work through NGOs, which are actively working in these areas.

The PAB approved the following AIE targets and funds:

	No. of Children	Amount (RS. in lakh)
Back to school	230547	461.09
Bridge Courses	98319	491.60
Remedial teaching	62090	248.36
Residential camp	11626	2830.57
Innovation	3433	233.44

Backs to school (campaign and Bridge course of short duration for dropout children) and Bridge courses are being attempted on scale for the first time. The State should understand the strategies and experience of other States in the next few months for successfully implementing bridge courses.

(v) ***Quality Improvement:***

While almost all teachers (90%) of primary level received in-service training in 2005-06, only 23% of upper primary teachers received training in 2005-06.

SPD informed that UNMESH-III module for primary teachers is under preparation and 60-70% primary teachers would receive training in 2006-07 (no training will be conducted after December 2006). Udaya II is already being implemented and all U. Primary teachers would be covered during 2006-07. Shri D. Jhingran, Director raised the issue of weak academic support structure and irregular monthly meetings and school visits. He also stated that the BRC/CRC system was not supporting the upper primary level.

SPD committed that all BRC/CRC would be in position by 31st July 2006. Also the entire academic support system would be reactivated especially for UPS.

(vi) ***Strategies for tribal areas:***

45% of the OOSC are ST children (against 23% share in population). Dropout rate of ST children is 50%. The NERs are also low in the 8 KBK districts. Shri D. Jhingran, Director raised the issue of poor teacher availability and high rate of teacher absenteeism in remote, tribal pockets. Secretary Education Orissa felt that the interventions of school uniform, proposed opening of 1000 girls hostels, VEC empowerment, transfer of schools to Panchayats and the introduction of tribal languages at primary stage would help in increasing enrolment and reduce dropouts in ST areas.

Secretary (EE&L) requested the State to prepare and submit a strategy for improving enrolment, enhancing participation of ST children and improving quality in the 8 KBK districts within 1 (one) month. The dropout rate for ST students should be reduced from 50% to 30% in 2006-07.

SPD informed that Tribal Component Coordinators would be in place in 17 districts within June 2006. The reduced norm of 20 children in ST areas for opening a school is also being implemented.

The Multilingual Education Programme is proposed to be implemented in 10 languages in pilot schools with 100% ST students. This would be accompanied by community mobilisation and teacher sensitisation activities. The State would also set up tribal language units in identified DIETs.

7. The State Project Director, Orissa indicated that implementation of Civil Works SSA in the 30 districts of Orissa has not conformed to the targets approved by the Project Approval Board (PAB) in the past four years. The State has submitted a revised proposal for Civil Works for 2005-06 to include revised district wise targets after reconciling the mismatch between PAB approvals and the works already

started. There is no change in the financial parameters amounting to Rs.19677.89 lakh.

It is seen that the revised district proposals of Civil Works exceed the 40% ceiling in respect of Deogarh (40.7%), Kandhamal (43.6%), Koreput (44.7), Malkangiri (46.5%), Nabarangapur (41.7%), Nuapara (42.2%) and Sonepur (43%).

Keeping in view that this is an attempt for a one-time correction to rationalize the unrealistic targets of past 4-5 years, the proposal was approved by PAB. The revised targets may be seen at Annex-III.

8. After detailed discussions, the PAB approved the following interventions for Orissa for the year 2006-2007.

- (i) The PAB decided that the State would cover the entire infrastructure gap during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08. It was decided that the civil works for 2006-07 be restricted to 40% in non-focus districts and 55% in focus districts. The remaining works would be taken up during 2007-08. The total approval for civil works amounted to Rs. 41875.01 lakh including spill over works of Rs. 4607.36 lakh. All pending civil works (up to 2005-06) would be completed by 31.8.2006.
- (ii) An amount of Rs.7793.14 lakh was approved for interventions for out of school children.
- (iii) Twenty days in-service teacher training was sanctioned for 1,22,287 teachers.
- (iv) TLE grants approved for 27 new primary schools and 830 new upper primary school.
- (v) School grants were sanctioned to 38966 schools.
- (vi) Free text books were sanctioned to 34,02,376 children in primary and upper primary classes.
- (vii) Under IED component, Rs.1539.31 lakh were sanctioned covering 1,29,659 disabled children.

- (viii) Under innovation activities, an amount of Rs.1500 lakh was sanctioned covering ECCE, Girls Education, SC/ST students and computer education.
- (ix) Under Research, Evaluation, Monitoring and Supervision, an amount of Rs.540.94 lakh was approved at different levels subject to the condition that the State involves research institutions like Dr. P.N. Institute of Advanced Study in Education, Sambalpur and NKC Centre for Development Studies, Bhubaneswar and RIE, Bhubaneswar.
- (x) Under NPEGEL the PAB approved a total amount of Rs.6175.88 lakh including a spill over of Rs.2132.40 lakh.
- (xi) There are 15 special focus districts in Orissa. Details of interventions are given at Annex-IV.

9. PAB approved a total of Rs.104231.49 lakhs under SSA, NPEGEL and DPEP for implementation by OPEPA. The PAB approved Rs. 93961.31 lakh for SSA (SSA + NPEGEL) and Rs. 10270.18 lakh under DPEP for the year 2006-07. Break-up of fresh allocation and spill over amount is given below: -

(Rs. in lakh)

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of Scheme</i>	<i>Fresh allocation</i>	<i>Spill Over</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	2	3	4	5
1	SSA	82571.96	5213.47	87785.43
2	NPEGEL	4043.48	2132.40	6175.88
3	DPEP	9514.36	755.82	10270.18

Costing tables of the approved amounts are given at Annex-V.

The PAB approved the proposal of Rs.9514.36 lakh and Rs.755.82 spill over for DPEP i.e. a total amount of Rs.10270.18 lakh. This is subject to the condition that in the districts of Koraput, Malkangiri and Mayurbhanj where the balance in the EFC cost is not sufficient to cover the proposed Annual Plan, approval of Ministry of Finance for utilisation of contingency funds and for exceeding the ceiling of Rs.40 crore per district would be taken.

10. The State gave the following commitments to PAB for improvement in implementation of SSA in 2006-07: -

- (1) All pending Civil Works to be completed by 31.8.2006.
- (2) The dropout rates in ST children are brought down by 20% (from 50% at present to 30%) during 2006-07.
- (3) The State would workout a comprehensive strategy for improving NER, participation and quality in the 7 KBK districts and submits a strategy paper within 1 (one) month.
- (4) The State Project Director would give the details of EGS Centres to be closed and those found eligible to continue or be upgraded to primary schools within 31st August 2006.
- (5) The State would complete the backlog of recruitment of teachers in 2 months time (30th June) and confirm that there is no school where PTR is more than 50:1.
- (6) All BRC/CRC Resource Teachers would be recruited by 31st July 2006.
- (7) The Government order nominating Chief Secretary, as head of EC of Orissa SSA would be issued within 1 month.
- (8) The State would implement a comprehensive package for quality improvement, especially for follow-up of teacher training by restructuring the BRC/CRC system.
- (9) The State would increase by 10% the number of children achieving more than 60% marks at the end of Class V & Class VII/VIII respectively.
- (10) The State would operationalize the Quality Monitoring Tools of NCERT in the given timeframe.

11. It was directed that State should satisfy the following conditions to avail SSA funds”

- (i) The State Government should give written commitment for meeting its share of the budget approved according to 75:25 Centre-State sharing pattern.
- (ii) First instalment of the State share should be released within one month of the release of Central share, to the State Society.

- (iii) At least 50% teachers recruited should be female.
- (iv) Teacher appointed against posts created through SSA funds should be made accountable to VECs for at least their salary payment. The latter would monitor the attendance before releasing salary.
- (v) VECs or equivalent bodies should be constituted and accounts opened to incur expenditure under teacher grants and other expenditures that has to be incurred only through these bodies under SSA norms.
- (vi) The State Government will maintain their level of investment in elementary education as in 1999-2000 and give details of this to GOI before release of second instalment. The contribution as State share will be over and above this investment.
- (vii) The second instalment of State share has to be transferred to the State Implementation Society and after at least 50% of 1st instalment has been utilised.
- (viii) 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.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Ms. Kumud Bansal, Secretary (Deptt. of EE & L), MHRD *Chairman*
2. Ms. Vrinda Sarup, Joint Secretary, D/o EE&L, MHRD
3. Prof. S.K. Thakur, Chairperson, NCTE, Delhi
4. Dr. Chandrmaohan, Director, Planning Commission, New Delhi
5. Dr. C.V. Dharma Rao, Dy. Secretary, M/o Tribal Affairs, New Delhi
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