

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 Punjab for SSA (including NPEGEL)

1. The 82nd PAB meeting for considering the Annual Work Plan and Budget 2006-07 of Punjab 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 (EE&L) and JS(EE-II) welcomed the new Secretary, Education and SPD SSA Punjab.

3. Secretary, Education, Punjab outlined the policy measures being undertaken by Government of Punjab. He informed that 4181 PS had been transferred to PRIs / ULBs and recruitment of 10,004 teachers for these schools was underway. Teachers would be selected only on merit (marks secured in class XII) and they could not be transferred outside the village. An ordinance ensuring that teachers do not retire during the academic session is likely to be promulgated soon. The Punjab Government is implementing computer education very seriously. Computer education has been made a compulsory subject at upper primary stage. He made out a case for sanctioning computer teachers for upper primary schools under SSA since it was difficult to train older teachers in computer skills. He also opined that University Departments and other Institutions should be involved in training of teachers to break the monopoly of DIETs. He also informed that the expenditure on elementary education has been rising since 1999-2000 except for 3 years viz 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05. The State is very keen to use EDUSAT for teacher training from 2006-07 onwards.

4. SPD SSA Punjab made a brief presentation about the progress of Punjab SSA during 2005-06 and the proposals for 2006-07. She highlighted the following:

- (i) During 2005-06, an expenditure of Rs. 218.91 cr. was incurred against the total allocation of Rs. 225.82 cr. (97%).
- (ii) There are 79,994 out of school children in the State. They are proposed to be covered through EGS centres (55534) and AIE (24460) during 2005-06.
- (iii) 23,574 new children enrolled in EGS / Bridge courses. 273 EGS centres closed during 2005-06 and 311 new centres opened. Presently 2982 EGS centres are functional with 87429 children.
- (iv) 3 bridge course materials developed. Bridge courses II books and I provided to 50643 children studying in EGS centres.

- (v) 65.1% of civil works had been completed and 30% were in progress, 4.85% yet to be started.
- (vi) 84466 (85%) of teachers received in-service training during 2005-06.
- (vii) 140 medical assessment camps conducted; 10,200 children provided aids and appliances, 216 resource rooms setup, 16 RBCs and 3 day care centres approved.
- (viii) 1660 ECCEs centres were setup in 2005-06 and TLM provided.

5. The fact sheet and educational indicators for Punjab are at Annex-II.

6. The following discussion took place regarding various components of SSA:

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

SRI IMRB study has estimated 1.08 lakh children out of school against the State estimate of 79994 children. The results of the household survey conducted in 2005-06 have not yet been finalised. Preliminary findings indicate that 2.18 lakh children are out of school, though this may include 5-6 year old children also. A pilot survey has been done in slums of 3 cities and brick kilns. Secretary (EE&L) advised the State to ensure that all out of school children are covered during 2006-07.

(ii) ***EGS & AIE:***

2982 EGS centres are presently functional. The PAB agreed to the State proposal for additional 1239 EGS centres.

State has indicated that 397 EGS centres are eligible for upgradation. However only 88 have been proposed during 2006-07. This is based on the availability of land. It was decided that a field analysis would be conducted for all 397 locations for deciding on upgradation within a period of 2 months. Also a State policy for upgradation EGS to PS and for continuation as alternative schools, if necessary, needs to be finalised.

A field based assessment about EGS centres including eligibility for upgradation and need for continuance would be completed by 31st July 2007.

(iii) ***Teachers:***

Secretary Education, Punjab informed that the Government of Punjab had frozen the recruitment of 10,004 teachers in 1999

and then abolished these posts in 2002. It was decided that GoP would send these Government orders to the Department to examine if there was any possibility of supporting additional teachers against these positions. Secretary (EE&L) appreciated the move of GoP to transfer these teachers and schools to PRIs / ULBs. She wanted the State to ensure that these schools continued to be academically supported to BRCs / CRCs. Secretary Education GoP said that this arrangement has already been made.

Regarding computer teacher State was informed that the thrust under SSA is on computer aided learning and not computer literacy. The State could utilise funds under the "Innovative Activity" component for computer teacher. Secretary Education GoP requested GoI to consider a norm of 4 teachers for every UPS where the 4th teacher could be a computer teacher. JS(EE-II) stated that States could workout their own norms of number of teachers per school. However since SSA is only an additionally, the current norms are considered adequate.

234 additional teachers as per PTR norm and 176 teachers against upgradation of 88 PS to UPS were approved. In addition 2010 teachers sanctioned earlier would be continued.

(iv) ***Grants: TLE, School, Teacher and R&M***

The TLE and school grants were recommended as proposed it was terrified that teacher grants would be provided for working teachers and R&M grants only for schools with their own buildings.

(v) ***Teacher Training:***

The PAB agreed to the recommendation of the Appraisal Team and approved the training of 70826 working teachers, 2010 additional teachers and 30-day training for 176 new teachers and 234 additional teachers. The PAB advised that training of ECCE and EGS volunteers be budgeted under appropriate heads. PAB advised the State to send a separate proposal indicating clearly the various categories of additional contract teachers already recruited by the State for teacher grants and training.

(vi) ***Textbooks:***

The proposal of the State for providing workbooks at the unit cost of Rs. 35/- to non-SC boys was accepted by the PAB on

the assurance given by the State that these are not provided to the non-SC boys under any scheme of the State Govt.

(vii) **IED:**

The Appraisal Team felt that the proposal of providing training to 30 teachers for 1 year on IED @ Rs. 37.50 lakh could not be accepted as training of such a long duration was not a feasible option to explore in a time bound programme like SSA. Further, the pilot proposal of assessment of learning disabled children in 20 schools @ Rs. 23.20 lakh was not recommended as it was very high cost. The PAB agreed with these recommendations. The PAB approved Rs. 446.53 lakh for the IE component.

(viii) **Civil Works:**

Regarding the issue of Additional Classrooms (ACRs), the State stated that the Appraisal Team based their recommendations on the need as indicated in DISE data 2004-05. However, Appraisal Team clarified that the projected need of the number of ACRs was based on the information provided by the State based on DISE 2005-06 and DPI sources. The Team also informed that the State's proposal of 8477 ACRs included 1617 computer rooms. Shri Dhir Jhingran, Director (EE&L) further pointed out that there was some inconsistency in the enrolment data between the DISE and the school wise data furnished by the State. The PAB took a decision that the Appraisal Team and Punjab SSA officials would jointly workout the infrastructure gap of civil works. The ACR gap was worked out as 5036 classrooms.

After providing the full requirement of 3333 classrooms for 12 special focus districts and providing 1229 classrooms in the 5 non special focus districts (within 33% ceiling), a total of 456 to ACRs were approved for the State. In addition 88 new school buildings with kitchen sheds and child friendly elements in 100 schools on pilot basis were also approved.

(ix) **Management Cost:**

The PAB approved the total management cost of Rs. 1248.475 lakh. The following decisions were taken regarding some items included in the management cost:

- a. The activity of strengthening of DIETs should be funded through the Teacher Education Scheme.

- b. The additional cost for incentives for girls / SCs would have to be sourced from the innovation and other components.
- c. Workbook for non-SC boys was not allowed.
- d. Workbook for EGS & AIE and additional cost for deprived urban children may be shifted to EGS & AIE.
- e. BALA to be shifted to civil works.
- f. Activity based learning kits.
- g. Staff car was disallowed as SSA norms do not allow.
- h. Infrastructure for training of computer teachers and reading books could be sourced from innovation and NPEGEL respectively.

(x) ***Innovation:***

The EDUSAT activity cannot be allowed at present since it is not within SSA norms. Secretary (EE&L) informed that if the norms were modified to include EDUSAT, the State could submit a supplementary proposal. The State could prepare an alternative Innovation proposal for Rs. 15 lakh per district and send to the Department by 31st May, 2006.

(xi) ***NPEGEL:***

NPEGEL was earlier initiated in 12 blocks of 7 districts based on information on EBBs furnished by the State. However as per the Census 2001 only 2 blocks in Ferozpur district qualified for NPEGEL. It was decided that NPEGEL activities would be confined to these 2 blocks. The State was not able to substantiate its earlier list of 2005-06 with the census records. Interventions in earlier, ineligible blocks may be continued, if desired by the State under the Innovative Activity Component. PAB approved Rs. 5.106 lakh for NPEGEL.

7. PAB approved a total of Rs. 23278.14 lakh under SSA/NPEGEL for implementation of SSA in Punjab. Break-up of fresh allocation and spill over amount is given below: -

(Rs. in lakhs)

<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 (including NPEGEL)	23057.03	221.11	23278.14
2	NPEGEL	5.106	--	5.106

Detailed costing sheet may be seen at Annex-III.

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

- (i) All out of school children should be enrolled in school/EGS/bridge course within 2006-07.
- (ii) A field based assessment about EGS centres including eligibility for upgradation and need for continuance would be completed by 31st July 2007. State would finalise a policy for upgradation and continuation of EGS centres (where required)
- (iii) The State would target enhancement of learning achievement levels of students of class V and VIII by 10% during 2006-07.
- (iv) A state-wide system for assessing learning levels of all students would be put in place during the year. Based on this assessment a system of remedial teaching should be initiated in all schools for all students who have unsatisfactory performance.
- (v) State would develop and submit a proposal for "Innovative Activity" upto Rs. 15 lakh per district within 31st May, 2006.
- (vi) State would operationalize the Quality Monitoring Tools developed by NCERT as per their time schedule.
- (vii) The State would reduce its drop out rate at primary level by 5% in 2006-07.

9. 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.
