

Minutes of the meeting of the Project Approval Board (PAB) on 26th April, 2006 to consider the Annual Work Plan and Budget 2006-07 of Jammu & Kashmir for SSA (including NPEGEL)

1. The PAB meeting for considering the Annual Work Plan and Budget 2006-07 of Jammu & Kashmir was held on 26th April, 2006 under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (EE&L). A list of officers, who attended the meeting, is at Annex-I.

2. Commissioner & Secretary, Education, J & K is opening remarks requested Ministry of HRD to issue guidelines for ensuring that teachers and children are not involved in non-educational activities. He specifically mentioned the practice of using children for welcoming VIPs. He also informed that no funds have been received from the Calamity Relief Fund for construction of school buildings damaged in the earthquake.

3. SPD, J&K made a detailed presentation about the achievements during 2005-06 and the proposals for 2006-07. The highlights are as follows:-

- (i) The State incurred an expenditure of Rs. 208.304 cr. against the allocation of Rs. 283.45 cr., which is 77.5%.
- (ii) 282 new primary schools were opened during 2005-06 and 564 teachers were appointed. 646 primary schools were upgraded to upper primary schools.
- (iii) 1226 EGS centres were opened with enrolment of 34,000.
- (iv) The percentage of out of school children reduced to 5.57% from 7.8% in 2004-05.
- (v) 43164 teachers received in-service training.
- (vi) Out of 1936 primary school buildings, 978 have been completed.
- (vii) 13,000 CWSN were medically assessed and 3400 were provided assistive devices. 43,000 teachers received two days orientation course on IE as a part of 20 days training.
- (viii) Remedial teaching were organised at 126 centres for classes VI, VII & VIII.
- (ix) 4 computer centres were added in each district in addition to the 3 centres opened earlier.

4. The fact-sheet of the State, with Educational Indicators is at Annex-II.

5. The following discussion took place and decisions taken on the various components of SSA:

- (i) *Access:* All the PS and UPS (3534 and 2612) sanctioned under SSA have been opened. 1981 habitations are without any schooling facility. Out of these 195 are eligible for PS and 244 for EGS. Since the State is undertaking a detailed exercise of assessing the requirement of EGS and locations where EGS has to be upgraded to PS, no new PS have been proposed in the present proposal.

Commissioner, Education, J & K informed that 148 primary schools could be upgraded to UPS based on the 2:1 norm. This was agreed to.

- (ii) *Teachers:* Against the cumulative sanction of 16532 teachers, the State has appointed 1560 teachers under the Rehber-e-Taleem scheme. 872 teachers meant for 436 EGS centres to be upgraded to PS have not been recruited. This will be taken up after the exercise for review of EGS centres.

- (iii) *EGS:* 6171 EGS are functional in the State. The State has undertaken the major exercise for physical verification of the EGS centres to identify those with less than 15 enrolments, where the habitation already has a school within 1 km or where more than 1 EGS has been opened. This exercise would be completed by June 2006. Therefore no upgradation of EGS to PS has been proposed.

It was decided that the State would communicate the findings of this exercise to the Department by 31st July, 2006 and also develop a clear policy for upgradation of EGS.

- (vi) *Civil Works:* JS(EE-II) expressed concern at the slow progress of civil works (52%) especially in respect to the completion of primary and upper primary school buildings. SPD informed that the progress has now improved due to appointment of new JEs. The State give a commitment that all pending civil works upto 2005-06 would be completed by 30th October, 2006.

12 of the 14 districts are special focus districts as per the population of ST and minority community (based on the 2001 Census). In these 12 districts 1732 PS and 400 UPS have been approved for construction as per the proposal of the State.

3049 additional classrooms have been approved for these 12 districts against the proposal of 3459 ACRs.

For the 2 non-focus district of Jammu and Kathua, 124 PS, 34 UPS and 287 ACRs have been sanctioned. Thus a total of 1856 PS, 437 UPS and 3336 ACRs have been sanctioned for construction during 2006-07.

	MHRD Gap Assessment	Prop.	Recomm.
ACR	- 5187	3836	3336
Buildings	- 1924	2333	2293

Regarding school damaged by the earthquake, Commissioner, J&K informed that the decision has been taken that for the time being the various structures that have come up in the affected villages would be utilized for running of schools.

Thus a total amount of Rs. 17733.43 lakh, including spillover (49.7% of the total allocation of 2006-07) has been sanctioned for civil works. An amount of Rs. 1178.43 lakh was approved as spillover from 2005-06 for civil works.

- (v) *Out of School Children:* SPD, J&K reported that the survey of OOSC conducted between September to November 2005 has identified 1.07 lakh out of school children.

In the 6-11 age group, 4.60% are out of school children. 7.85% ST children and 10.15% ST girls are out of school in this age group. In the 11-14 age group, 8.19% children are out of school. 20.15% ST children and 26.09% ST girls are out of school in this age group. Kupwara, Budgam, Srinagar, Anantnag and Doda have the highest proportion of out of school children.

The major problem relates to STs, especially ST girls the State is undertaking special enrolment drives in these areas and attempting to revive the earlier mobile schools. A research is being conducted by NIAR to identify the needs of nomadic population.

The State intends to start the first level bridge courses (class I to III for 6-10 year old children. Bridge courses for older

children would be taken up later based on the experience of the first level courses. It was suggested to the State that they could get support from other State / resource organisations to prepare for running of bridge courses. A resource team could also visit Srinagar in May 2006 to understand the preparedness of the State for initiating bridge courses. This was agreed to by the State. The following targets and the amount were approved under AIE:-

	No. of Children	Amount (RS. in lakh)
Bridge Courses Level I	31577	266.82
Madarsa (AIE)	4468	37.75
Innovation	1079	12.95
Seasonal Centres (migr.)	4000	120.00

Commissioner, J&K informed that Madarsas in the State are not coming forward to take help from the Government in introducing general subject while many of them were doing so on their own. He informed that SPD has been asked to follow-up with the Madarsas on this issue.

- (i) *Remedial Teaching:* SPD informed that during 2005-06 remedial teaching in 126 centres in UPS in tribal areas produced good results. Secretary (EE&L) urged the State to undertake an exercise of testing of all students in all schools to help provide baseline data on students achievements. Based on this evaluation, weaker children would be identified and remedial teaching should be implemented for all such children throughout the State. Following this an external evaluation should be undertaken to assess the impact.
- (ii) *Inclusive Education:* The performance of the State during 2005-06 was not satisfactory. The State has taken up 183 schools on pilot basis for comprehensive interventions. The State should appoint a person with IE background at the SPO for this component. A total amount of Rs. 200.24 lakh is approved by the PAB for the IE component.
- (iii) *NPEGEL:* NPEGEL had been initiated in 104 blocks. Now only 84 blocks qualify as per Census 2001. It was decided

that ongoing activities would be allowed in those blocks that do not figure in the new list. Fresh activities under NPEGEL would be confined to the 84 EBBs. The State should undertake intensive capacity building exercise for implementation of NPEGEL. SPD informed that he would organise a workshop in June 2006 where resource persons from other State and national level would be invited.

- (iv) *Quality Improvement:* The State has implemented 20 days teacher training programme in the past 2 years. Some renewal of textbooks has also taken place. However there is concern about the quality of the teaching learning process and achievement level of students. About 46% of students in class V passed with 60% or more marks and 31% in class VIII scored 60% or marks.

SPD informed that an exercise of classroom observations and textbook review has been undertaken with the assistance of MHRD. He also informed that a recent policy level meeting in Jammu has identified several issues on which follow-up action is proposed to be initiated. These suggestions include review of the strategy for making English as a medium of instruction from class I, formation of a State Academic Group (SAG) for developing teacher training programmes, capacity building of ZRC/CRC and renewal of curriculum and textbooks.

The State agreed to the formation of an SAG and its capacity building through resource persons and organisations within an outside the State. The work of textbook development in the light of the NCF 2005 would be undertaken by the Board of School Education through a participatory process utilizing members of the SAG who have undergone an intensive capacity building process. The SAG could function under the chairmanship of SPD SSA.

SPD informed that the State has decided to reduce a number of clusters per zone from 8 to 2.

The State committed that it would target a 10% increase in the percentage of children scoring 60% or more marks in class V & VIII and also institute a system of regular pupil assessment and remedial teaching.

6. The PAB approved a total allocation of Rs. 35453.99 lakh including a spillover of Rs. 1340.68 lakhs. This includes an amount of Rs. 46.42 lakh for NPEGEL. The State summary is at Annex-III and district-wise cost sheets are at Annex-IV.

7. The State committed to the following points:-

- (i) All out of school children would be brought to school / EGS / bridge course during 2006-07. Special emphasis will be given for enrolment of ST girls.
- (ii) Dropout rates would be reduced by 5 percentage points.
- (iii) Complete the exercise to assess the status of existing 6171 EGS. Based on the policy formulated for upgradation of EGS to primary schools by the State Govt., the State is to submit a supplementary plan by end July 2006.
- (iv) Appoint 872 teaches sanctioned in 2005-06 against the upgradation of 436 EGS to Primary Schools by July 2006.
- (v) Submit a proposal on NPEGEL clearly stating the number of MCS to be covered based on the notified list of the EBBs that qualify for the Scheme by June 2006. The State would conduct a workshop on NPEGEL for capacity building of State and district level personnel.
- (vi) Begin the bridge courses for out of school children by June 2006
- (vii) Constitute a State Academic Core Group and prepare an action plan on quality improvement by June 2006 based on the recommendations made in the Meeting on Child-Centered Education on 17th April in the State.
- (viii) Start remedial teaching in all the schools including boys after conducting a baseline on the achievements. State to increase the achievement levels of both primary and upper primary level by 10%.