

**MINUTES OF TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PROJECT
APPROVAL BOARD FOR SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON
5 DECEMBER, 2002**

The 27th 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 5.12.2002. A list of participants is annexed.

Item No.1: Consideration of Annual Action Plan 2002-2003 in respect of Assam.

The Mission Director and Ex-Officio Secretary & Commissioner, Elementary Education, Government of Assam made a brief presentation. The highlights of the presentation are as follows: -

- There are 23 districts in the States of which 9 are covered under DPEP and 14 are non-DPEP districts.
- There are 54 lakh children in the age group 5-13 in the State of which 39.5 lakh are attending schools. The number of out of school children is 14.5 lakh.
- Household survey completed in 14144 villages through community provided volunteers and State, District and Block Level Resource Persons.
- School Survey was also conducted covering all Government, aided, private, ventures and religious schools.
- Comprehensive teacher data base compiled.
- People's awareness campaign activities carried out through meetings in 109 Blocks, 1643 Village Panchayts and 14144 villages.

- Following Committees formed through participatory and democratic process:-
 - 36384 VECs in every village
 - 1065 Tea Garden Education Committees
 - 414 Ward Education Committee in town areas
 - 2451 Gram Panchayat Education Committees.
- Work of preparation of Village Education Register initiated.
- Preparation of Perspective Plans based on habitation specific primary data and finding of studies undertaken as part of pre-Project activities initiated.

2. On a query from Secretary, EE&L, the Mission Director clarified that VECs have been assigned the work of maintaining Village Education Register. Secretary, EE&L, suggested that the Teacher Grant of Rs.500 and School Grant of Rs.2000 available under the programme should be routed through VECs. He has also suggested that construction of school building and control of teacher cadre should be assigned to the VEC. On a further query from Secretary, EE&L, the Mission Director stated that the State has district cadre for teachers and hence they cannot be transferred from one district to another district.

3. The Mission Director admitted that provision of schooling facilities is poor in certain districts particularly border districts such as Darrang which has three different types of regions, namely, international border, forest area and tea garden.

4. Dr. A.A.C. Lal on behalf of the Appraisal Team made the following observations:-

- The State has made no proposals for opening of new primary schools or upgradation of primary to upper primary although State has 3000 habitations without schools.

- Proposals for EGS and bridge courses have been included after their meeting with the Appraisal Team and JS (EE).
- There is variation in number of BRC and CRC proposed this year to that approved last year. This has resulted in variation of number of resource teachers.
- BRC/CRCs were not set-up in non-DPEP districts. So no expenditure is incurred against last years approved budget.
- Also the last year's budgets for IED, free textbook is still unspent.

5. The Secretary, EE&L directed that all Appraisal Reports should in future indicate the budget sanctioned/grant released to the State last year, its utilization and the balance unspent available with the State Implementation Society out of it.

6. The Mission Director indicated that due to financial constraints it was not possible for State Government to open new schools or to appoint teachers in regular scale. Secretary, EE&L observed that since the State propose to open EGS centres even in habitation which qualify for a regular school a long term view on the upgradation of these centers would have to be taken..

7. Director (Finance) observed that data regarding school buildings/classrooms required by the State Government is not available. The Plans also do not indicate the number of vacancies of teacher posts .

8. It was noticed that the State is facing the problem of large number of untrained teachers. JS(EE) suggested the State should try the Sikkim model of getting their teachers trained through distant mode in which had been launched in Sikkim.

9. After discussion on the District Elementary Education Plans, for the year 2002-2003, of the State of Assam and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team , the Project Approval Team has taken the following decisions:

A. IN RESPECT OF 14 NON-DPEP DISTRICTS:

1. Project Management Cost

- i) A sum of Rs.116.76 lakh was approved for the salary and office expenses/meetings etc for the three months of the current financial year, which is 1.04% of the total approved budget.
- ii) The unspent balance out of last year's approved budget for furniture and equipment under Project Management Head for the financial year 2001-02 shall be treated as spillover in this financial year.
- iii) The unspent amount, available, on account of salary and office expenses/meeting under this Head against the last year's approved budget shall stand lapsed.

2. Community Training/Mobilization

- i) A sum of Rs.120.37 lakh was approved for Community Training/mobilization in 25078 habitations.
- ii) The unspent balance under this activity out of last year's approved amount may be treated as spillover in the current financial year.

3. Primary and Upper Primary Schools

- i) The Board approved a sum of Rs.1005.24 lakh as Teacher Grant, School Improvement Grant for primary and upper primary government, provincialised and recognized schools.

4. Block and Cluster Resource Centres

- i) A sum of Rs.554.40 lakh for salary of 2640 resource teachers for three months was approved.

- ii) Contingency and TLM grant for 96 Block Resource Centres was approved as per SSA Norms.
- iii) Meeting and Travelling Allowance for three months for the 96 Block Resource Centres was approved.
- iv) Contingencies and TLM grant for 1664 Cluster Resource Centres was approved as per norms.
- v) Board approved a sum of Rs.96 lakh and 166.40 lakh as furniture grant for 96 block and 1664 Cluster Resource Centres respectively.
- vi) The unspent balance out of last year's approved budget for BRCs/CRCs, including for furniture , shall remain lapsed.

5. Free Text Book to children (ST/ST & Girls)

- i) Board approved a sum of Rs.1701.67 lakh towards textbooks to 2268892 children for SC/ST communities and girls.
- ii) Unspent balance out of last year's budget for free textbook shall be lapsed.

6. School Maintenance Grant

- i) Board approved Maintenance Grant for 23176 schools as per norms.
- ii) Unspent balance, out of last year's budget for this purpose shall be treated as spillover in the current financial year.

7. Alternative Schools

- i) EGS Centres for 102499 children were approved as per norms.
- ii) Board also approved bridge courses for 141240 children at a cost of Rs.292.95 lakh.

8. Integrated Education for disabled children

- i) Rs.521.63 lakh were approved for special interventions for integrated education 43469 of disabled children.
- ii) Unspent amount for this intervention out of last year's approved budget shall be lapsed.

9. Research, Evaluation, Monitoring & Supervision

- i) Project Approval Board has approved a sum of Rs.339.36 lakh for Research, Evaluation, Monitoring and Supervision.
- ii) The unspent balance under this activity out of the last year's budget shall be treated as spillover for this year.

10. Innovation

- i) Board approved a sum of Rs.700.00 lakhs for innovation approaches for learning, which include development of reading skills, support to girl child, support to tea garden/special area schools and computer aided learning.
- ii) The unspent balance under this head out of last year's approved budget shall be treated as spill over in the current financial year.

11. Civil Works

- i) Board approved a sum of Rs.3493.95 lakh for civil work including construction of buildings for new schools, additional classrooms, BRCs/CRCs etc. This amount to 31.17% of the total approved budget.
- ii) The unspent balance out of last year's approved budget for civil work shall be treated as spillover in the current financial year.

12. **Teacher's Training**

- i) There was no proposal under this functional head for 14 non-DPEP districts, however, the unspent balance out of the last year's approved budget for teacher's training shall be treated as spillover in this current financial year.

B. IN RESPECT OF 9 DPEP DISTRICTS

1. **Primary and Upper Primary Schools**

- i) Project Approval Board, approved Rs.168.985 lakh to government/recognized primary and upper primary schools and their teachers as School Improvement and Teacher grant respectively.
- ii) Unspent balance out of the approved amount for this activity for the last year shall stand lapsed.

2. **Teacher's Training**

- i) Rs.99.71 lakh were approved for teacher's training.

3. **Maintenance Grant**

- i) The Board approved Rs.781.15 lakh for maintenance and repair of 12367 primary and 3256 upper primary government schools.

4. **Free Text Books**

- i) Rs.1004.802 lakh were approved by the Board for providing free textbooks to children from SC/ST community and girls.

5. **Innovation**

- i) The Board approved the innovational interventions for developing reading skills among children from ST community , support to girl

child, support to schools in tea gardens and special areas and computer aided learning and agreed to provide Rs.450.00 lakh.

6. Civil Works

- i) The Board approved Rs.1212.4 lakh, which is 31.66% of the total approved budget, for construction of 595 additional rooms and 271 dilapidated school building.
- ii) Unspent balance out of the last year's budget for this activity shall be treated as spillover in the current financial year.

7. Research, Evaluation, Supervision & Monitoring

- i) Rs.42.28 lakh were approved by the Board for Research Evaluation, supervision & Monitoring as per SSA norms.

8. Block Resource Centre

- i) The Board approved the salary of 336 resources teachers for 3 months of this financial years as per norms.

9. TLE Grant

- i) The unspent balance out of last year's approved budget under this Head for the financial year 2001-02 shall be treated as spillover in this financial year.

Thus, the Project Approval Board, on the basis of the proposal of the Axom Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Mission, recommendations of the Appraisal Teams thereon and the deliberations in the meeting, approved Rs.15040.008 lakh (Rupees 11210.12 for 14 non-DPEP districts and Rs.3829.888 for 9 DPEP districts) as Annual Budget for the year 2002-2003 for implementing SSA in the State of Assam, as per the details given in Annex-I and II.

The Board also approved the spillover of Rs.3442.68 lakh and Rs.203.05 lakh out of the unspent balance available with the Axom Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Mission, against the last year's (2001-2002) approved budget for 14 non-DPEP districts and 9 DPEP districts, as per Annexure-III and IV.

It was also 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

- 10. The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

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**ATTENDANCE OF THE 27TH MEETING OF THE PROJECT
APPROVAL BOARD HELD ON 5.12.2002 AT 3.00 P.M.**

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 Mathems, JS (AE), MHRD
5. Ms. Indu Datta, Director, Plg. Commission (Representative of Pr. Adviser (Edu.), Planning Commission.
6. Dr. Meena Gautam, Dy. Secretary (NCTE), (Representative of Chairperson, NCTE)
7. Shri S.S. Sharma, Director (F), (Representative of FA, MHRD)
8. Dr. Shabnam Sinha, Director (Representative of Director, NCERT)

In Attendance

9. Shri Dhir Jhingran, Mission Director, SSA/DPEP, Govt. of Assam
10. Shri H.C. Srinath, State Project Officer, DPEP, Assam
11. Shri A.R. Barbhuiya, State Project Officer
12. Dr. S.C. Chauhan, NCERT
13. Dr. D.D. Yadav, NCERT
14. Dr. R.S. Tyagi, NIEPA
15. Shri Praveen Kumar, Director, MHRD
16. Dr. D.K. Paliwal, DEA, MHRD
17. Shri V. Venkataramana, (TSG), Ed.CIL
18. Ms. Sobha Panicker, (TSG), Ed.CIL
19. Dr. A.A. Lal, (TSG), Ed.CIL
20. Shri O.P. Chaturvedi, US (EE), MHRD