

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD HELD
ON 30.03.2006 TO CONSIDER AWP&B FOR 2006-07 OF THE STATE OF
ASSAM FOR SSA AND NPEGEL**

The PAB meeting for AWP&B for SSA and NPEGEL of Assam was held on 30.03.2006.

2. The list of participants in the meeting is enclosed Annexure-I.

Status:

3. The State made a brief presentation of the progress of SSA programme. The State informed that out of 58.48 lakh children in the age group of 5-14 years 54.18 lakh children (92.64%) are in schools and EGS centres. The number of out of school children has come down to 4.29 lakhs as against 13.42 lakhs children in 2002-03. The gender gap has come down from 3.74% in 2002-03 to 1.75%. The dropout rate is 3.09% for primary and 2.54% in the upper primary. 95.27% of SC children and 94.45% ST children are school going. 997 schools are being supported with District Quality manager. There are still 6845 single Teacher Schools. Each child from class I-IV is given subject-wise competency based workbook.

The State has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 248.03 crore during 2006-07 as against the outlay of Rs. 280.00 crore.

Gist of proposals for 2006-2007

4. For the year 2006-07, the State proposed no new schools and proposed construction of 204 school buildings for buildingless schools, construction of 33045 additional class rooms; major repairs for 2834 schools; EGS(Primary) intervention for 48,520 children; AIE centres for 3,09,957 children; IED interventions for 1,06,209 children, and creation of 728 posts additional teachers.

The State indicated that an amount of Rs. 115.00 crore has been provided in the State Budget for the year 2006-07.

5. Approvals:

After a detailed discussion, the PAB approved the following interventions for Assam for 2006-07.

(i) **Civil works:** The following civil works were approved

Activity	Spillover	Fresh	Total	Financial outlay (Rs. in crore)
Buildingless school (primary)	90	154	244	11.82
Buildingless school (upper primary)	16	50	66	2.78
Dilapidated Building	205	-	205	1.21
Repairs	105	-	105	1.00
Additional classroom(primary)	3991	24369	28360	565.81
Additional classroom (upper primary)	642	5631	6273	124.90
Toilets	25	967	992	1.95
Drinking water	-	788	788	3.94
Urban Resource Centres	24	-	24	0.43
			Total	713.89

(i) **Out of school children:** To cover out of school children and to continuing the existing interventions, the following strategies have been approved.

Activity	No. of children
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EGS centre(Primary)	3,59,434
EGS centre (Upper Primary)	48,520
Residential camps	970
AIE centre	3,09,957
Innovative coaching	59,847
Other intervene for urban children	41,788
Total	8,20,516

The financial outlay for this is Rs. 99.10 crore.

(i) **Remedial Teaching:** Remedial Teaching of 2,55,697 children was also approved with an outlay of Rs. 5.97 crore.s.

(iv) **Free Text Book:** Free Text Book was approved for 19,10,565 primary school children and 9,38,600 upper primary children. The financial outlay is 40.82 crore.

The State Government has a policy of supplying free Text Books to Boys (General category). The State Government has undertaken to reimburse the cost of distribution of Text Books for Boys. The cumulative expenditure incurred by SSA on account of this from 2002-03 onwards is Rs. 36.74 crore. The State Government has not so far reimbursed this, the State Government shall reimburse this amount during 2006-07 or else it will be deducted from the second instalment of Government of India to Assam SSA in 2006-07.

(v) **Maintenance Grant:** Maintenance grant was sanctioned to 41278 schools with a financial outlay of Rs. 20.63 crore.

(vi) **School grants:** School improvement grants was sanctioned to 30487 primary schools and 10791 upper primary schools. The financial outlay is Rs. 8.25 crore.

(vii) **Teachers grant:** Teachers grants was sanctioned to 84,691 primary teachers and 69,319 upper primary teachers. The financial outlay is Rs. 7.70 crore.

(viii) **Teachers salary:** Reimbursement of salary of 2851 OBB teachers was approved. The financial outlay is Rs. 20.52 crore.

(ix) **Teachers Training:**

(a) In-service Training of 12 days per Teachers for 1,56,133 Teachers(primary and upper primary) was approved. Out of this, 1,56,133; 73,401 teachers will also be trained in gender sensitization, IED interventions and school environment for a period of 6 days. This was also approved. The financial outlay is Rs. 16.06. crore.

(b) Training of 12000 untrained teachers through Distance mode in collaboration with IGNOU was approved. The total financial outlay for this is Rs. 3.63 crore.

(x) **Innovative Activities:**

(a) ECCE: The State proposal to provide seven days of training for 5422 AWW, ten days training for 6615 teachers of schools having a minimum of 2 teachers on ka-sreni support, holding review meetings and provision of workbook, TLM kit was approved. The financial outlay is Rs. 3.45 crore.

(b) CAL: The States proposal to conduct refresh training for teachers of the smart school and to keep the computers in good working condition in 500 smart schools was approved. The financial outlay is Rs. 3.45 crore.

(c) SC/ST: For activities related to retention of SC/ST children a financial outlay of Rs. 3.45 crore was approved.

(xi) **IED:** Coverage of children with disability through Medical Assessment camps, distribution of Aids and appliance,s training of Resource Teachers and review

meeting was approved. The total number of CWSN is 1,06,209. The financial outlay for this activity is Rs. 7.71 crore.

(xii) **Research and Evaluation:** Some of the important Research activities to be undertaken are:

- (a) Term and impact assessment of EGS intervention.
- (b) Term and impact assessment of sanjogi Shiksha kendras.
- (c) Impact assessment of HTR centres.
- (d) Impact assessment of Ka sereni intervention.
- (e) Field study of usefulness of Natunpath.
- (f) Training and workshops.

The financial outlay is Rs. 4.54 crore.

(xiii) **VEC:** Training of 1,85,288 VEC members, with outlay of Rs. 1.11 crore was approved.

(xiv) **NPEGEL:** The State's proposal to implement NPEGEL in 15 EBB Blocks covering 109 clusters with 1567 villages and 2382 schools was approved. The activities to be undertaken included, developing one upper primary school in each cluster as model school, providing vocational training through summer camps, awards to teachers in recognition of performance, engaging five socio educational mobilisers in each of the Block. The outlay approved is Rs. 1.23 crore.

(xv) **Special Focus District:** There are 17 special focus districts out of 23. The total outlay for these 17 districts is Rs. 907.39 crore. The details of the approved interventions annex (Annexure-III).

6. The Fact sheet of the State is enclosed (Annexure-II)

PAB Observations:

7. Project Approval Board emphasized the following issues for implementation by State:

- (i) The State needs to make a realistic assessment of the requirement of additional classrooms based on school-wise information. As projected by the State, the shortfall is 68,000 ACR whereas as per DISE the shortfall is 47,000 only.
- (ii) The major repairs proposed cannot be allowed. As and when the proposal to provide separate funds for major repairs is approved by competent authority, the State can make a suitable proposal.
- (iii) As per the study of NCERT and ASER and DISE, the achievement level of children is poor. The State needs to strengthen Resource groups and to pay more attention to children who are slow learners.
- (iv) The State has a large number of untrained teachers. This should be remedied in a time bound manner.
- (v) 17% of schools (6961 out of 40859 school) are single Teachers Schools. This needs to be rectified in 2006-07.
- (vi) The State has 15000 Teachers posts vacant borne on the State cadre. The State shall complete the recruitment of Teachers in six months time. The second instalment will not be released unless the recruitment process is completed.
- (vii) The state is not involving NGOs in any activity. Interventions in respect of out of school children, CWSNs, and education of Girl Children can be planned in colloboration with NG Os.
- (viii) For computer maintenance in smart schools, the ITI students can be engaged on contract basis, within the CAL component of innovation funds for district.

- (ix) The state can plan residential schools for serving scattered habitations, within the innovative funds per district.

Commitment:

8. The State made the following commitments for improving implementation of SSA during 2006-07.

- (i) The State will review its policy of not opening new schools and formulate a policy within a period of 6 months on opening of new schools both primary and upper primary and for upgradation of EGS centres. The State Government will prepare specific state norms for those habitations having less than 25 children.
- (ii) The State Government shall fill up the Teachers vacancies within in a period of 6 months. The new recruits will be posted in the schools with single Teachers.
- (iii) The State Government will reimburse an amount of Rs. 36.74 crore spent by the State Project Office on supply of Text Books to Boys (General category) from 2002-03 within in a period of 6 months.
- (iv) The State Government shall issue necessary notification authorizing the VECs to check the teacher absenteeism.
- (v) The State shall formulate a policy to include standard VIII with Elementary Education.
- (vi) The State shall conduct a reliable and valid study on evaluation of EGS centres in the State.
- (vii) The Remedial Teaching should be built in as a part of regular activity of the Teachers. The outcome of remedial teaching will be evaluated.
- (viii) All out of school children will be covered during 2006-07.
- (ix) All the spillover civil works will be completed by July, 2006.
- (x) Quarterly Pupil Evaluation outcomes to be measured and reported in NCERT monitoring tools by July 2006.

- (xi) 30% of the schools in Assam are grade Grade C'. This should be brought down to 10% during 2006-07.
- (xii) The student outcomes as reported in DISE (exam results of class VI & VIII) level will be improved by 10% in 2006-07.
- (xiii) The dropout rate in primary and upper primary may be brought to zero during 2006-07.

Outlay:

9. The total outlay approved by PAB is as follows:

- (i) **SSA:** An outlay of Rs. 94519.46 lakhs for fresh proposals and 9563.51 lakhs as spill over totaling to 104082.97 lakhs was approved.
- (ii) **NPEGEL:** The approved outlay for NPEG EL is Rs. 123.66 lakhs for fresh proposals.
- (iii) **Total:** Thus the total approval for SSA including NPEGEL for the year 2006-07 is Rs. 104206.63 lakhs (including spillover of Rs. 9563.61 lakhs).
- (iv) After deducting the amount of Rs. 3674.35 lakhs to be reimbursed by the State Government as stated in para 5(v), towards cost of Text Books to Boys (GC) the total amount approved is Rs. 100532.28 lakhs.

The district-wise and consolidated statement of costing various activities under SSA is enclosed (Annexure-IV). The details of interventions and costing under NPEGEL are enclosed (Annexure-V).

10. Conditions:

It was directed that the State should also satisfy the following conditions to avail SSA funds: -

- (a) The State Government should give a written commitment of meeting its share of the SSA outlay.
- (b) First installment of the State share should also be released to the Society within one month of the releases of Central share to the State Society.
- (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 the salary payment. The latter would monitor the attendance before released 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 expenditures, 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 installment. The contribution as State share for SSA will be over and above this investment.
- (g) The second installment would only be released after the previous installment 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.

