

**MINUTES OF THIRTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL
BOARD FOR SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON**

MAY 7, 2003

The 32nd 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 7.5.2003. A list of participants is annexed.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 31st meeting held on 28 February, 2003

The Minutes of the 31st meeting of the PAB held on 28.2.2003 were confirmed.

Item No. 2: Action Taken on the Minutes of the 31st meeting held on 28.2.2003.

Action taken on the decisions of the 31st meeting was noted.

Item No. 3: Consideration of Annual Action Plan 2003-2004 in respect of Tamil Nadu.

3.1 The meeting began with a brief presentation by the Secretary, School Education, Government of Tamil Nadu. The highlights of the presentation are as follows:-

- The State has 29 districts of which 7 districts are covered under DPEP. It has 385 CD Blocks and 12619 Village Panchayats. The number of habitations is 64846.
- Access is not a problem in the State. Out of 64846 habitations, 64105 habitations are served by primary schools and 62971 served by upper primary schools (as per norms for primary and upper primary schools). The number of habitations without primary schools is only 749. These would also be covered this year.
- The literacy rate as per 2001 census is 73.47% while the female literacy is 64.55%.
- The Net Enrolment Ratio for 2002-2003 for primary stage is 93% while it is 90% for upper primary stage. NER increased last year by 6% in Primary and 7% in upper primary.
- The State has identified 5.74 lakh out of school children in 2001-2002 of which 1.08 lakh were enrolled during 2002-2003 and the remaining 4.66 lakh are proposed to be covered this year through EGS Centres, Bridge Courses and Residential Camps.
- The State is also tackling the problem of child labour through NPCL Projects sponsored by the Ministry of Labour.
- The Completion Rate, Retention Rate and Drop-out rate for 2002-2003 for primary stage is 69, 19 and 13 respectively. These rates are 69,19 and 12 for upper primary stage respectively.
- The State is also implementing the schemes of Mid-Day Meal, Free Uniform and Free Textbook to children in the age group 6-14 years to ensure regular attendance of children in primary/upper primary schools. The Noon-Meal

Scheme covers 65.05 lakh children while free textbooks and free uniforms are supplied to 60.23 lakh and 38.90 lakh children respectively.

- The State has a population of 67671 disabled children, out of which 58099 children are covered under the programme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children being implemented by the State Government with the help of 62 NGOs who are engaged in regular supervision and monitoring of the programme.
- The State has also issued identity cards to out of school children who have been identified as a result of household/other survey. For older children the State is planning bridge courses who would be then asked to appear the open school examinations.
- Regarding the progress made last year, it was stated that the State has opened 756 new primary schools, 359 EGS centers and upgraded 676 primary schools to upper primary. The State has also organised 1190 bridge courses and mainstreamed 1.08 lakh out of school children. 3080 BRC supervisors and 3127 teachers
- Grants like TLM, TLE, Maintenance and school infrastructure were released to the schools. The State has also started the School Adoption Programme (for teacher educators) and School Based Training for improving quality in schools.
- The State also conducted special remedial coaching classes for 6.59 lakh children and ID cards have been issued to track out of school children. The State has introduced computer literacy programme in Classes VI, which would be extended to Classes VII and VIII in the coming years. The State has also introduced vocational skill development activities for classes 6,7 and 8.
- All civil works sanctioned last year are under progress and towards this end the State has been able to mobilize contributions of Rs. 1.65 crore by the community in form of cash, kind and labour.
- This year the State is targeting getting all children in school before the end of 2003 by providing access to unserved habitations and by identifying and mainstreaming out of school children. Further, emphasis on quality would be there through need based teacher training, school adoption programme for low performance schools, school based training, remedial classes and child specific programmes.

3.3 Secretary, EE&L wanted to know what was the incentive for the teachers to perform and what is the disincentive if the teacher does not perform well. The State Secretary informed that while VECs have no direct control over the teachers they can pass a resolution for higher authorities to take action. He added that the authorities take remedial action when such feedback is received from the Village Education Committee. Secretary, EE&L also enquired as to whether the VECs also organize functions to highlight the achievements of teachers if they are doing well. He suggested that some other States have taken steps to provide VECs with a greater control over teachers through a system of incentives and disincentives and the State may look into the means for achieving the same. JS (EE) indicated that unlike other states, Tamil Nadu has not decentralized the teacher's cadre. The State Secretary, however, clarified that while the recruitment is not decentralized, the cadre of teachers is restricted to the block. Director

(IJ) also pointed out that the IIM study relating to Tamil Nadu had reported about marking of attendance by the teachers for the week in advance and/or opening of schools by one hour late or closing one hour early. Secretary, EE&L advised the State Education Secretary to take note of it and also take remedial action in this regard.

3.4 Secretary (EE&L) enquired as to what is the strategy for awareness campaign adopted by the State Government. The State Education Secretary indicated that they adopt door to door canvassing methods for mobilizing and involving the community in their efforts.

3.5 Smt. Pushpa Mondal on behalf of the Appraisal Team made the following points:

- The State has projected the number of schools on the basis of 2:1 ratio of primary to upper primary schools but they have not included aided schools while calculating this ratio. Some of the districts have also not applied distance and population norms.
- For opening upper primary schools, the transition rate from primary to upper primary should also be considered.
- The Plan document presents population of children in the age group 6-11 and 11-14 collected through household survey. But some districts have not projected block specific population, which form the basis for enrolment projection.
- Though the districts have DISE 2002 data, they have not used the same in estimating under age and over age children to arrive at requirement of new primary/upper primary schools.
- The districts have not mentioned the basis for estimation of teacher requirement at primary/upper primary level.

3.6 JS (EE) enquired as to what is their strategy for older children? The State representative indicated that they propose to cover such children through open school system. JS (EE) further pointed out that the Appraisal Team has indicated about non-utilisation of funds released during 2001-2002. The entire amount was carried as spill-over during 2002-2003. The State representative stated that the funds were received by them in April and, therefore, could not be utilized.

3.7 Based on the recommendations of the Appraisal Team, observations made by the participants and clarifications given by the State representatives, the following decisions were taken by the Board in regard to Annual Plans 2003-2004 in respect of Tamil Nadu: -

- i) 356 new primary schools, along with 756 teachers and TLE was approved for the year 2003-04. 177 additional teachers were also approved for existing schools. 399 new upper primary schools were also sanctioned along with TLE grant and one teacher each, with the balance two teachers to be sanctioned over the next two years. Approval was also given for 638 additional teachers in the existing schools. Salary was also approved for teachers approved under the programme in the previous years.
- ii) School grant, maintenance grant and teacher grant was approved for the existing schools. TLE was also approved for 123 uncovered schools.
- iii) 359 EGS centres, bridge courses for 4,53,669 children and residential camps for 12,400 children was approved. The funds for bridge courses and residential

camps would be released only after the State submits the details of habitations where these are to be opened.

- iv) Approval was also given for teacher training, innovation, management cost, civil works (restricted to 33%), R&E, BRC, CRC, community training, IED, etc were approved as per the recommendations of the appraisal team
- v) Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, a total Annual Plan 2003-04 for a amount of Rs 33876.34 lakhs was approved as per details given in Annex I.
- vi) Rs 2887.72 lakhs was approved as Spill over for sanctions given in the year 2001-02 and Rs 3419.71 lakhs for sanctions given in the year 2002-03 as per details given in Annex II.
- vii) It was 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.
 - (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

Item No. 4: Consideration of Annual Action Plan 2003-2004 in respect of Kerala.

4.1 Education Secretary, Kerala made a brief presentation. The highlights of the presentation are as follows: -

- The State has 14 districts of which 6 are covered under District Primary Education Programme.
- The literacy rate of the State is 90.92% while the female literacy rate is 87.86%.

- The number of primary and upper primary schools is 6758 and 2957 respectively. The State also has provision of Alternative Schools numbering 297.
- The number of teachers in primary and upper primary schools is 64437 and 56814 respectively.
- The child population for the age group 6-14 years is 43.78 lakh and the number of children enrolled in this age group is 40.19 lakh leaving a balance of 3.59 lakh children out of school. The State has proposed 381 EGS Centres to cover access-less habitations to cover children who do not have access.

4.2 Secretary (EE&L) stated that with the 381 EGS centres, only 10000 of the 3.59 lakh children would be covered. He, therefore, enquired as to how they propose to bring the remaining children to schools this year. The State Secretary stated that they would do so by motivation and canvassing of parents to send their children to schools. Secretary, EE&L further enquired as to what prevented the parents to send their children to schools last year and would the State make some special efforts to bring such children to schools this year. The State representative intimated that since they have habitation wise data for 6-11 years and 11-14 years age group out of school children, they propose to have EGS centres for 6-11 year children and Bridge Courses for 11-14 years. Secretary, EE&L suggested that State needs to conduct a study on problem of out of school children.

4.3 Dr. Gopalan on behalf of the Appraisal Team made the following points: -

- The Plans submitted by the State Government give block wise data on number of children in 5-14 age group. The data is based on household survey. Some districts have, however, not given data separately for 5-11 and 11-14 years children.
- Some of the districts have also not given block wise and caste wise information about out of school children. There is also gap in the information on other categories of out of school children such as working children, migrant children etc. This information also needs to be given to identify focus group children among out of school children.

4.4 JS (EE-I) stated that the expenditure was poor in the State, compared to the plan approved. He also indicated that the State has been slow in other activities like sending of EMIS and PMIS report. It needs to streamline the administrative system, which was appearing to be getting slow after closure of DPEP.

4.5 It was pointed out that the data on out-of-school children needs to be looked into. The State has not used the household survey data to arrive at the figure of 3.59 lakh children. It has rather used two different sources (Projection on 1991 census data to get the total child population and school level data to get the enrolment) and taken the difference to come to the out of school figure. The State needs to look into the results of household survey to come to the correct estimate of this.

4.6 Based on the recommendations of the Appraisal Team, observations made by the participants and clarifications given by the State representatives, the following decisions were taken by the Board in regard to Annual Plans 2003-2004 in respect of Kerala :-

- i) Regarding the question of Teacher Grant or teacher training to Class VIII teachers attached to secondary schools, it was suggested that the State should strive to make class VIII part of upper primary, especially in the light of the Constitution amendment making free and compulsory education a fundamental

right for all children in the age-group 6-14. However, till such time such a step is taken by the State, Teacher training would be given, along with training being given to Class VI and VII, to such number of teachers involved in teaching Class VIII, subject to an upper limit of one-third of the total number of teachers in secondary school (Class VIII to X). Teacher grant would also be given to only such teachers of Class VIII who have been given teacher training. No school grant or maintenance grant would be given for Class VIII.

- ii) SIEMAT was approved in principle, but funds release would occur only on receipt of detailed project report duly approved by the competent authority of the State.
- iii) Noting that there are on average 7-8 schools in a village due to the high population density, it was decided to provide for training of community members at the rate of three per village.
- iv) While approving the management cost, it was reiterated that no deputation allowance would be paid to the employees.
- v) Approval was also given for free textbooks, maintenance grant, school grant, innovation, civil works (restricted to 33%), R&E, BRC, CRC, IED, EGS, etc were approved as per the recommendations of the appraisal team
- vi) Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, a total Annual Plan 2003-04 for a amount of Rs 11629.89 lakhs was approved as per details given in Annex III.
- vii) Rs 1112.98 lakhs was approved as Spill over for sanctions given in the year 2002-03 as per details given in Annex IV.
- viii) It was 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.
 - (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

Item No. 5: Consideration of Annual Action Plan 2003-2004 in respect of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

5.1 The State Project Director, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Andaman & Nicobar Islands made a brief presentation. The highlights of the presentation are as follows: -

- The Union Territory has two districts, namely Andaman & Nicobar and five blocks – three in Andaman and two in Nicobar. The islands are quite remote which has been a challenge to universalisation of elementary education.
- The total population is 3.5 lakhs of which 6.5% are tribals.
- The literacy rate in the UT is 81.18%, while female literacy is 75.29%.
- The projected population of the children in the age group 6-14 years is 71000, while the total children enrolled in schools is 61425.
- The Administration has 322 Government and aided schools including 190 Government primary schools and 50 middle schools/upper primary schools.
- The total number of teachers is 4394 of which 3022 are engaged for elementary stage. The percentage of female teachers is 50.82%.
- The cost of construction of building is quite high as there is a ban on use of local materials.

5.2 The issues raised by the Appraisal Team are as follows:-

- The drop-out rate in the UT at primary level is nil, while it is 15% at upper primary level. The UT could achieve the goal of UEE by reducing this drop-out rate.
- In the tribal areas, the parents need to be motivated to know the value of education. In order to develop interaction with the parents, PTAs need to be strengthened.
- DIET need to be strengthened to provide timely in-service orientation process to all elementary teachers.
- The syllabus at elementary level needs to be reviewed as per the environmental needs of the Island.
- Teaching learning material need to be provided to schools to make teaching learning process joyful.
- Steps need to be taken to motivate teachers to impart quality education and also to motivate parents/community so that they could take interest in the affairs of the schools.

5.3 Based on the recommendations of the Appraisal Team, observations made by the participants and clarifications given by the UT representatives, the following decisions were taken by the Board in regard to Annual Plans 2003-2004 in respect of Andaman & Nicobar Islands: -

- i) 2 new primary schools, along with 4 teachers and TLE was approved for the year 2003-04. 35 additional teachers were also approved for existing schools.

- ii) School grant and teacher grant was approved for the Government and aided schools while maintenance grant was sanctioned for Government schools. TLE was also approved for uncovered primary and upper primary schools.
- iii) Free textbooks was approved for all eligible children not covered under the State scheme.
- iv) 50 resource persons for BRC/ CRC were approved.
- v) Approval was also given for teacher training, innovation, management cost, civil works (restricted to 33%), R&E, EGS, BRC, CRC, community training, IED, etc were approved as per the recommendations of the appraisal team
- vi) Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, a total Annual Plan 2003-04 for a amount of Rs 757.23 lakhs was approved as per details given in Annex V.
- vii) It was 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.
 - (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

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

**ATTENDANCE OF THE 32ND MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL
BOARD HELD ON 7TH MAY, 2003 AT 10.30 A.M.**

1. Shri S.C. Tripathi, Secretary(EE&L) In the Chair
2. Shri Sumit Bose, JS(EE-I), MHRD
3. Shri Jagan Mathews, JS (AE), MHRD
4. Ms. Vrinda Sarup, JS (EE-II), MHRD
5. Dr. A.K. Ambasht, DS (P), MHRD
6. Dr. P.K. Seth, Director, (Finance, MHRD)
7. Dr. C. Chandramohan, Director, (Education) Planning Commission
8. Dr. Shabnam Sinha, (Reader, NCERT)

In Attendance

9. Shri C.V. Sankar, Secretary, (School Education), Tamil Nadu
10. Shri S. Chandrasekaran, SPD, Tamil Nadu
11. Shri R. Palaniswamy, J-D, (SSA & DPEP), Chennai
12. Shri K. Ramakrishnan, Asst. Director, SSA, Tamil Nadu
13. Shri P. Mara Pandian, Secretary (Education), Govt. of Kerala
14. Shri S. Sukumaran, Director, DPEP & SSA, Kerala
15. Shri R.N. Mangla, SPD, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
16. Dr. B.M. Bhatt, SPO, DTE of Education, A&N Islands
17. Ms. Pushpa Mandal, NCERT
18. Shri P.K. Mohanty, DEA, MHRD
19. Shri Amit Kaushik, Director, MHRD
20. Ms. Ira Joshi, Director, MHRD
21. Shri S.C. Gujaria, Consultant, (TSG), Ed.CIL
22. Shri K.Gopalan, Consultant, (TSG), Ed.CIL
23. Ms. Anupriya Chadha, Consultant, (TSG), Ed.CIL
24. Shri Ved Prakash, Consultant, (TSG), Ed.CIL
25. Shri Sanjeev Kumar, TSG, Ed.CIL
26. Shri Praveen Kumar, Director, MHRD
27. Shri O.P. Chaturvedi, US, MHRD
28. Shri Satish Kumar, SO, MHRD