

**MINUTES OF THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL
BOARD FOR SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON MAY 28, 2003**

The 35th 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 28.5.2003. A list of participants is annexed. Since NCERT and NIEPA budgets were being discussed in the PAB, their nominees on the PAB did not form part of the deliberations of the Board when the budgets of these institutions were being discussed.

Item No.1: Consideration of Annual Action Plan 2003-2004 in respect of NIEPA

1.1 Director, NIEPA represented that with NIEPA being involved actively in SSA for appraisal, monitoring & supervision and research activity, it is essential to have dedicated personnel for this activity. Presently, NIEPA staff is itself small in number and is stretched to a maximum. He stated that he would require funds as per the following:

- i) Staff: Rs 3,20,400/-
- ii) Computer with printer: Rs 1,00,000/-
- iii) TA/DA: Rs 5,00,000/-
- iv) Studies, etc: Rs 15,00,000/-
- v) Total: Rs 24,20,400/-

1.2 It was pointed out that for monitoring & supervision, NIEPA has already been granted Rs 2 lakhs for infrastructure development, including computers. So computers may not be necessary to be approved again by the PAB. Again, for monitoring & supervision recurrent cost and appointment of a research fellow has been approved for a total amount of Rs 2.32 lakhs per annum. Director, NIEPA stated that the present proposal before PAB was inclusive for all SSA activities including monitoring and supervision, and the present proposal may be deemed to subsume the earlier approval.

1.3 Based on the recommendations of the Appraisal Team, observations made by the participants and clarifications given by Director, NIEPA, an amount of Rs 22,40,300/- was approved as the annual plan for SSA activities in NIEPA for 2003-04, as follows:

1. Staff

- i) Project Associate Fellow (1) @ Rs 12,300 for 9 months: Rs 1,10,700/-
- ii) Project Assistant (1) @ Rs 8,300 for 9 months: Rs 74,700/-
- iii) Project data entry operator (1) @ Rs 6,100 for 9 months: Rs 54,900/-
- iv) Total staff: Rs 2,40,300/-

2. TA/DA: Rs 5,00,000/-

3. Studies/ Workshops /Training Programmes: Rs 15,00,000/-

1.4 Following conditions were also prescribed for the release of the money:

- i) The money would be released in two instalments to the institution, the second instalment being given after incurring at least 50% of the money released earlier.
- ii) Any money released towards TA/ DA so far, which is lying unspent as on 31/3/2003 would be adjusted against the first instalment.
- iii) The staffing cost approved was for Rs 2,40,300/- for the balance 9 months of the year. The institution would be free to modify the staffing pattern depending on the requirement, but within the total amount approved.

- iv) Prior approval of the Ministry may be taken for carrying out any study, workshop or training programme. Any activity which has been approved in the earlier years but not started would have to be got approved afresh. Any funds sanctioned for any activity which has not been started would be adjusted against the first instalment.
- v) The amount of Rs 2 lakhs already sanctioned for infrastructure grant under SSA monitoring & supervision would be above this amount being approved now.
- vi) The institution would maintain a separate account for these funds and submit a quarterly expenditure statement to the ministry.

Item No.2: Consideration of Annual Action Plan 2003-2004 in respect of NCERT

2.1 HOD, Elementary Education, NCERT stated NCERT is involved in depth with the SSA programme in activities like monitoring & supervision, teacher training support, evaluation, baseline surveys and research & development. These are in addition to the basic work of textbook preparation and evaluation which NCERT is involved in. Thus, additional support would be required for NCERT to do justice to SSA related activity. He stated that he would require funds as per the following:

- i) Staff:
 - a) Textbook evaluation: Rs 4,58,400
 - b) Teacher Training: Rs 2,92,800
 - c) Monitoring: Rs 4,58,400
 - d) Achievement study: Rs 3,52,800
 - e) R & D: Rs 3,98,400
 - f) Total: Rs 19,60,800
- ii) Research Projects: Rs 20,00,000
- iii) Infrastructure support: Rs 15,00,000
- iv) Monitoring & supervision: Rs 12,50,000
- v) Total: Rs 67,10,800/-

2.2 It was pointed out that for baseline achievement survey approval has already been given for an amount of Rs 67.85 lakhs by the PAB in its 23rd meeting held on 28/10/2002. That was for the complete project and so any funds sanctioned now would be a duplication. Further, NCERT has already been granted Rs 2 lakhs for infrastructure development, including computers. So any approval to be given now would need adjustment of this amount. Again, for monitoring & supervision recurrent cost and appointment of a research fellow has been approved for a total amount of Rs 2.32 lakhs per annum. HOD, NCERT stated that the present proposal before PAB was inclusive for all SSA activities including monitoring and supervision, and the present proposal may be deemed to subsume the earlier approval.

2.3 Based on the recommendations of the Appraisal Team, observations made by the participants and clarifications given by NCERT, an amount of Rs 34,32,200/- was approved as the annual plan for SSA activities in NCERT for 2003-04, as follows:

1. Staff

- i) Senior Consultant (1) @ Rs 25,000 for 9 months: Rs 2,25,000/-
- ii) Consultant (1) @ Rs 20,000 for 9 months: Rs 1,80,000/-
- iii) Sr. Research Associate (2) @ Rs 5,500 for 9 months: Rs 99,000/-
- iv) Jr. Project Fellow (2) @ Rs 4,400 for 9 months: Rs 79,200/-
- v) Sr. Computer Operator (2) @ Rs 5,500 for 9 months: Rs 99,000/-

- vi) Total staff: Rs 6,82,200/-
 - 2. Infrastructure support: Rs 5,00,000/-
 - 3. Research Projects: Rs 10,00,000/-
 - 4. Monitoring & Supervision: Rs 12,50,000/-
- 2.4 Following conditions were also prescribed for the release of the money:
- i) The money would be released in two instalments to the institution, the second instalment being given after incurring at least 50% of the money released till then.
 - ii) Any money released towards any activity so far, which is lying unspent as on 31/3/2003 would be adjusted against the first instalment.
 - iii) The staffing cost approved was for Rs 8,62,200/- for the balance 9 months of the year. The institution would be free to modify the staffing pattern depending on the requirement, but within the total amount approved. The
 - iv) Prior approval of the Ministry may be taken for carrying out any research study. Any activity which has been approved in the earlier years but not started would have to be got approved afresh. Any funds sanctioned for any activity which has not been started would be adjusted against the first instalment.
 - v) The amount of Rs 2 lakhs already sanctioned for infrastructure grant under SSA monitoring & supervision would be adjusted against the infrastructure amount being approved now.
 - vi) This approval does not include baseline study for which separate approval has already been given earlier.
 - vii) The institution would maintain a separate account for these funds and submit a quarterly expenditure statement to the ministry.

Item No.3: Consideration of Annual Action Plan 2003-2004 in respect of Distance Education programme of IGNOU.

3.1 A presentation was made by the Vice Chancellor, IGNOU and In-charge DEPP, IGNOU regarding the structure of the programme, progress so far and the proposals for inclusion of DEP component in SSA. It was stated during the presentation that the DEP under DPEP is coming to close in June 2003 and the Department has proposed a plan for 3 months under it. Under this plan emphasis has been on development of DL materials and multi-media packages and capacity building. A major focus is on installation of DRS in all SCERTs and upgradation of 27 districts in Assam and MP.

3.2 For the period after June 2003, it has been proposed to create a DEP component under SSA. The focus would be on creating the infrastructure and build capacity in the non-DPEP States and the non-DPEP districts in the DPEP states. Various uses envisaged for the DEP under SSA would be as follows:

- i) For review and monitoring of SSA implementation through teleconferencing.
- ii) Training of untrained teachers and in-service training.
- iii) Capacity building of SCERTs/ DIETS for teacher educators.
- iv) Script writing and production of audio-video programme.

v) Community training through teleconferencing with VEC members.

During 2003-04 the focus would be on providing basic infrastructural facilities in the non-DPEP districts and organizing capacity building workshops for these. The total amount proposed for this year was Rs 376.45 lakhs.

3.3 Ms. Prerna Gulati on behalf of the Appraisal Team stated that the expenditure planned for the DPEP upto June 2003 is high because of the necessity of settling bills of activities carried out last year. Also emphasis on pending infrastructure development and capacity development items has been provided. Similarly, under SSA component, almost Rs 1 crore is for providing infrastructure in form of DRS in SCERTs/ SIEs/ DIETs in non-DPEP districts. Another issue is that the state distance education coordinators were till now borne on the IGNOU establishment but now would have to be placed in the establishment of the State Implementation Society.

3.4 Ms. Shalini Prasad, Director, MHRD stated that IGNOU could explore cheaper options like voice chat or the radio-in-a-box. VC IGNOU countered that there were severe connectivity problems affecting the voice chat medium. Secretary (EE&L) directed that these technical issues could be examined by the expert group provided in the organizational structure.

3.5 JS (EE_I) wanted to know about the status of the 190 sets which are available now. The Board was informed that most of them are functional except in the States of Bihar, Uttaranchal and West Bengal. Secretary (EE&L) stated that the Ministry should have a regular teleconferencing with the districts which would ensure that the sets are maintained properly. It was decided that one day in a week would be fixed for the teleconferencing, on which teleconferencing would be held with select group of States.

3.6 Based on the recommendations of the Appraisal Team, observations made by the participants and clarifications given by IGNOU, an amount of Rs 169.50 lakhs was approved for the DEP-DPEP for the period till 30/6/2003 as per details in Annex I. It was also decided to create DEP-SSA with the first year budget of Rs 293.95 lakhs as per details in Annex II.

3.7 Following conditions were also prescribed for the release of the money:

- i) The money for DEP-DPEP would be released in full, while that for DEP-SSA would be released in two instalments to the institution, the second instalment being given after incurring at least 50% of the money released earlier.
- ii) Rs 42.80 lakhs lying as unspent balance at the beginning of the year would be adjusted against the release to be made to DEP-DPEP..
- iii) The contracts for existing staff under DEP-DPEP may be extended till 30/6/2003.
- iv) The states would appoint a distance education coordinator (DEC) under contract or deputation in the State Implementation Society, who should be preferably placed in the SCERT for operational purposes. The terms and condition of the coordinator would be essentially similar to that now being adopted by IGNOU for the State DEC. The salary for them would be met from the 6% management cost allowed to States under SSA. The selection committee of the DEC should consist of a representative of IGNOU and one from MHRD. The existing coordinator would be given preference in states where there is a DEP coordinator already functioning under IGNOU.

- v) Of the DRS sets approved, one should be set up at Technical Support Group at the National level.
- vi) The approved staffing would be as per details given in Annex III.
- vii) Evaluation of the various components of the DEP programme done so far should be done, to focus the activities under SSA based on the efficacy of the components.
- viii) IGNOU would come up with state-specific projects for training of untrained teachers and in-service training of existing teachers provided under SSA.
- ix) While approving the teacher training component of SSA of individual districts the norms for per day training cost may have to be reduced in light of lower cost due to training being imparted in distance mode.
- x) The institution would maintain a separate account for these funds and submit a quarterly expenditure statement to the ministry.

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

**ATTENDANCE 35TH MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD
TO BE HELD ON 28TH MAY, 2003 SHASTRI BHAVAN, NEW DELHI**

1. Shri S.C. Tripathi, Secretary(EE&L) In the Chair
2. Shri Sumit Bose, JS(EE-I), MHRD
3. Ms. Vrinda Sarup, JS (EE-II), MHRD
4. Shri Jagan Mathews, JS (AE), MHRD
5. Shri C. Balakrishnan, JS (Planning) MHRD
6. Dr. P.K. Seth, Director, (Finance, MHRD)
7. Prof. B.P. Khandelwal, Director (NIEPA)
8. Prof. K.K. Vashishtha, Head, (Representative of Director, NCERT)
9. Dr. Meena Gautam, Dy. Secretary (Representative of Chair Person, NCTE)

(Since budgets of NCERT and NIEPA were being discussed, their nominees did not form part of PAB for this meeting for those items of agenda where the budgets of these institutions were being discussed)

In Attendance

10. Shri H.P. Dikshit, VC, IGNOU
11. Prof. S.V.S. Chaudhary, DEPP, IGNOU
12. Prof. V.P. Garg, Consultant, DEP-DPEP, IGNOU
13. Ms. Shalini Prasad, Director, MHRD
14. Ms. Ira Joshi, Director, MHRD
15. Ms. Perna Gulati, Dy. Secretary, MHRD
16. Shri Praveen Kumar, Director, MHRD
17. Shri K.J.D. Prasad, US, MHRD