

MINUTES OF 36TH MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD FOR SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON JUNE 11, 2003 AT GUWAHATI

The 36th meeting of the Project Approval Board for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was held under the Chairmanship of Shri S.C. Tripathi, Secretary, Elementary Education & Literacy, Government of India on June 11, 2003. The list of the participants is given in *Annexure-I*.

ITEM NO. 1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 27TH MEETING OF PAB

The Board confirmed the minutes of the 27th meeting of the Board held on 5th December, 2002 at Delhi.

ITEM NO. 2 CONSIDERATION OF THE DISTRICT ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PLANS OF 23 DISTRICTS OF ASSAM

- The Commissioner and Secretary (Education), Government of Assam, gave the welcome address and Mission Director (MD), Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, State Implementing Society (SIS), made a brief presentation, highlighting the progress made under the SSA in the State.
- SIS has constituted a resource group for development of for Upper Primary Classes.
- SIS has undertaken a survey to identify deprived urban children in 39 towns in the state.
- The State Level Advisory Board has been re-constituted under APLR rules for universalisation of Elementary Education in tea garden areas.
- State has an ambitious plan to provide drinking water facilities for Lower Primary Schools by virtue of convergence between SSA and 'Swajaldhara'.

2. Chairman of the Board expressed his concern over the large number of out of school children in the state and inability expressed by SIS to bring all these children into either formal or non-formal schooling system. He mentioned that the state should plan and undertake serious efforts for achieving the goal of universal enrollment by the end of present year. Chairman pointed out that against 13 lakh children out of school, 5 lakh have not been targeted in 2003-2004. He advised to plan for more bridge courses, both residential as well as non-residential. MD of SSA explained the reason for limitation to achieve universal enrollment in 2003 itself due to scattered and thin population in the State. He also narrated the difficulties in organising large-scale residential bridge courses due to logistical and security reasons. MD explained that some difficult areas like forest, border areas, tea garden, riverine areas etc. have a problem of access.

He assured the Chairman that they are putting their best efforts to find the solution and would endeavor to put every child in formal/non-formal education system at the earliest.

3. JS (EE-II) advised involvement of good NGOs in accomplishing the task of UEE. MD stated that they have already initiated the process of locating good NGOs by taking the help of District Magistrates and through advertisements. MD agreed that greater effort would be made to cover at least another 2.5 lakh children in 9-11 age group.

4. Chairman of the Board advised the state that they should adopt a uniform national pattern of classification i.e. Class I to V under Primary Section and Class VI to VIII under Upper Primary Section, so that maximum benefit of SSA could be extended to the elementary level classes.

5. The Appraisal Team commended the efforts of the state in creation of capacity for implementation of the programme and for a strong database. There are approximately 4,000 vacancies of the teachers, most districts have encouraging PTR whereas a few have higher PTRs. The condition of the school buildings is not good and there are quite a number of schools, which are in dilapidated conditions. Integration of disabled children into regular schools remains a challenge.

6. The Board, after considering the presentation of the State and comments of the Appraisal Team, approved the following for financial year 2003-2004 under SSA.

- (i) Rs. 50.858 crore towards teacher grant (170803 teachers), school grant (39875 schools), TLE grant for 1389 uncovered upper primary schools, salary of 4637 para-teachers and 8677 OBB teachers.
- (ii) The Board approved Rs. 19.937 crore towards maintenance grant for 39875 schools and Rs. 26.876 crore for free text books to 2067431 children from SC/ST communities and girls.
- (iii) Rs. 26.987 crore was approved for Block Resource Centres to meet out the expenditure on salary contingencies, TLM grant, meeting and travel expenses.
- (iv) For Cluster Resource Centres, the Board approved Rs. 1.285 crore.
- (v) A sum of Rs. 24.556 crore was approved for the teachers training programme.
- (vi) The Board accorded its approval to opening of EGS centres for primary schooling of 264800 children, short term, long term and residential bridge courses for 49249, 114405 and 10080 children respectively. The Board approved Rs. 67.543 crore for interventions related to EGS & AIE. The Board also approved Rs. 7.775 crore for special interventions with respect to integrating the physically challenged children into regular schools. A sum of Rs. 11.50 crore was approved under Innovation head for Early Childhood Care and Education

(ECCE), support to tea garden/special area schools, girl child education and computer aided learning.

- (vii) The Board also approved construction of 530 school buildings for building less schools, 1730 new school building with salvage of some material and reconstruction of dilapidated school buildings, 4946 additional classrooms, 41 BRCs and 67 Urban Resource Centres (URCs) at the cost of Rs. 120.894 crore.

7. Assam Government requested for sanction of 11,442 para teachers for 2003-2004 for districts with adverse teacher-pupil ratio and for tea garden and char areas. However, in view of the Appraisal team' analysis, only 4,637 para teachers targeted to districts with adverse teacher-pupil ratio and single teacher schools would be eligible. It was agreed that Assam Government would first rationalize teacher deployment in other districts to optimise teacher availability before Government of India considers any further requests for additional para teachers.

8. The Board approved a sum of Rs. 38473.11 lakh towards fresh proposals for the financial year 2002-2003 as per the details given in Annexure-II and spillover of Rs. 3599.02 lakh as per the details given in Annexure-III. Thus, the total approval for the State for financial year 2003-2004 was 42072.13 lakh. The Board also considered the perspective plan of the State upto the year 2006-2007 and approved the perspective plan in principle.

Annexure-I

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE PROJECT APPROVAL
BOARD (PAB) MEETING HELD ON 11TH JUNE 2003 AT GUWAHATI.**

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Sh.S.C.Tripathi	Secretary (Elementary Education), MHRD, Government of India
2.	Ms. Vrinda Sarup	Joint Secretary, Elementary Education, MHRD
3.	Dr. P.K. Seth	Director (Finance), MHRD
4.	Sh. D.K. Paliwal	Deputy Educational Adviser, Elementary Education, MHRD
5.	Sh. C.K. Ramaswamy	Section Officer, Elementary Education, MHRD
6.	Sh. Dhir Jhingran	Mission Director, SSA, Govt. of Assam
7.	Dr. Prem Saran	Commissioner (Education), Govt. of Assam
8.	Sh.L.N. Tamuly	Secretary, Elementary Education
9.	Dr. S. H. Ullah	Director Non Formal & Adult Education, Govt. of Assam
10.	Sh. N.C. Bhandari	Jt. Director (School Education), Govt. of Assam
11.	Sh. H.K. Sarma	Director, SCERT
12.	Md. Mohin Ali	Director, Elementary Education, Govt. of Assam
13.	Sh. Akshay Majumdar	Managing Director (Text Books), Govt. of Assam
14.	Sh. H.C. Sarmah	SPO Planning, SSA, Assam
15.	Sh. Uddalak Datta	Sr. Consultant (SFG), SSA, Assam
16.	Sh. A.R. Barbhuiya	SPO, SSA, Assam
17.	Dr. C.P. Bhuyan	SPD, Mahila Samakhaya Society, Assam
18.	Ms. Arzoo Dutta	SPO, IED
19.	Sh. Ibrahim Nafiz	SPO, IED System Analyst
20.	Dr. S.C. Gujaria	Senior Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL, New Delhi
21.	Dr. R.S. Tyagi	Associate Fellow, NIEPA, New Delhi