

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

JUNE 13, 2003

The 37th 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 13.6.2003. A list of participants is annexed.

Item No.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 33rd meeting held on 21.5.03.

1.1 The Minutes of the 33rd meeting of the PAB held on 21.5.03 were confirmed.

Item No.2: Action Taken on the Minutes of the 33rd PAB Meeting held on 21.5.2003.

2.1 The action taken on the decisions of the 33rd PAB meeting was taken on record.

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

3.1 SPD, Gujarat explained that out of the 25 districts in the State, 14 districts were non-DPEP districts, while three were those where DPEP had, come to an end. In three districts the programme is still in operation with the help of Dutch assistance, while in three other districts (five after bifurcation) the programme is being run through state funds. In addition the State has also prepared separate plans for the four major Corporations. SSA plans have been prepared for all the 25 districts and the 4 corporations, while the DPEP plans have been prepared for the three assisted districts. It was directed that from next year the plans of State assisted districts should also be brought before the PAB so that a holistic picture on progress towards UEE is obtained.

3.2 Secretary (EE&L) desired to know the status of the out of school children in the State and the strategies formulated to get these children to school. It was informed by the SPD that there are presently 4.46 lakh children out-of-school children. The State is planning to open 7899 bridge courses and 9651 back-to-school camps which would help enroll 3.49 lakh children in school. The remaining 96 thousand children would be enrolled in regular schools through enrolment drives. The State has planned a massive fortnight long enrollment drive in which all ministers and senior officers would also be participating. Members of the appraisal team pointed out that there were certain discrepancies in the figures given by the State, especially in the districts of Kheda, Mehsana, Navsari, Panchmahal, Ahmedabad M.C. and Vadodra M.C., where a large number of children appear to be unaccounted for. Secretary (EE&L) asked the SPD to have this examined and have appropriate strategies in place, so that all children are enrolled in school/ alternate schools before the end of the year. The State should send specific plans for these children, mentioning the strategies, specific locations and time schedules for this to the Government of India. It was also observed that the number of children with disabilities appears to be underestimated.

3.3 SPD, Gujarat listed out the action taken in the State in the previous year. She stated that the year was utilized for setting up various institutions like BRC, CRC, VECs, PTAs. Capacity building training was held for various functionaries like BRC personnel, district authorities, etc. Social assessment studies have been carried out in all the districts of Gujarat and the results of the study utilized in the planning process. However, on behalf of the appraisal team it was stated that the information available with the districts was not being used in the quality improvement plan. JS (EE-I) stated that the State has been unable to collect the EMIS data in the non-DPEP districts, though the DPEP district data have been received. SPD promised that the same is being collected now and would be sent in a month's time.

3.4 Based on the recommendations of the Appraisal Team, observations made by the participants and clarifications given by the State representative, it was decided to approve the perspective plan of Rs 65141.17 lakhs for the period 2003-07 as per details given in Annex I. However, it was made clear that any subsequent changes, which may be required based on fresh data generated, may be carried out in the respective annual plans. Further, following decisions were taken by the Board in regard to Annual Plans 2003-2004:

- i) 101 new primary schools, along with 202 teachers and TLE was approved for the year 2003-04. With this the State is expected to satisfy the entire requirement of Primary Schools in the Tenth Plan. No new upper primary schools were sanctioned since the State was already exceeding upper limit of 2:1 ratio between Primary and upper primary. The State may present a case for specific areas separately if it was felt that these areas do need new upper primary schools. Salary was also approved for 1696 teachers approved under the programme in the previous years.
- ii) School grant, maintenance grant, teacher training and teacher grant was approved for the existing schools and teachers. It was clarified that to the maximum extent possible the training should be held at the level of BRC/ CRC and not at the DIET level.
- iii) TLE for 8083 uncovered primary schools was approved, with the condition that the State Secretary should certify that these schools have not been covered under OBB.
- iv) Bridge courses and back-to-school camps were approved for 3,49,833 children.
- v) SIEMAT was approved in principle, but funds would be released for it only after the receipt of the Government of Gujarat's administrative sanction for the institute.
- vi) Community training in the urban areas was approved at the rate of 3 per school.
- vii) At the request of SPD, the PAB permitted water harvesting features in totally ten schools in two districts of Surendranagar and Rajkot on a pilot basis. These would be then evaluated and further expansion considered in the future years based on the results of the evaluation. State was also asked to take recourse to the Swajal Dhara scheme of the Prime Minister for providing drinking water facilities in the schools.
- viii) Approval was also given for innovation, management cost, civil works (restricted to 33%), R&E, community training, IED, etc were approved as per the recommendations of the appraisal team
- ix) Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, a total Annual Plan 2003-04 under SSA for a amount of Rs 21759.73 lakhs was approved as per details given in Annex I.
- x) Rs 1014.70 lakhs was approved as Spill over for sanctions given in the year 2002-03 in SSA as per details given in Annex II.
- xi) Rs 2733.29 lakhs were sanctioned as fresh outlay and Rs 1050.81 lakhs as spill over (Total Rs 3784.09 lakhs) under DPEP for the year 2003-04 as per details given in Annex III.
- 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 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 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 Andhra Pradesh.

4.1 The State Project Director, Andhra Pradesh made a brief presentation. The highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- Out of the 23 districts in the State, 19 have had experience of DPEP while 4 had the experience of Janshala. Presently DPEP is operational in 14 districts in the State and the State has asked for extension of the ongoing programme in other 5 districts.
- The State has 110 municipalities, 28546 revenue villages and 72639 habitations.
- Literacy rate in the State is 61.11%, with the decadal increment being 17.03%. Eleven districts have still the female literacy below 50%.
- There are 59127 primary and 15476 upper primary schools, with additional 11903 upper primary sections in high schools.
- There are totally 157 lakh children in the State of which 6.4 lakh are out of school. The overall NER in the State is 97.51 for the age-group 6-10 and 93.34 for the age group 11-14. There is hardly any gender gap in the NER.
- The transition rate from Class V to VI was 91.5 while that from VII to VIII was 90.814807 habitations are still without schools
- Some of the major strategies suggested by the State are:
 - Opening of new primary schools in habitations within 1 km if the population is above 250.
 - Opening of new upper primary schools if there is no UP school within 3 km.
 - Training of regular teachers, untrained teachers, new teachers and vidya volunteers.
 - Special strategies for focus groups.
 - Getting out-of-school children to school through enrollment drives, back-to-school camps, summer schools, residential and non-residential bridge courses and seasonal hostels.

4.2 Following points were made on behalf of the appraisal team:

- Since the birth rate is low in the State, the annual plan should have been made on the basis of household survey and census 2001 data.
- State should take up development of textbooks soon after curriculum revision. It should ensure that the textbooks reduce curriculum load.
- State should focus on capacity building of the mandal resource persons.
- State should see that the DISE becomes fully functional within the stipulated time
- Civil works construction in the non-DPEP districts was slow and needs to be expedited.

4.3 It was pointed out by the State SPD that in urban areas the school education committees were unable to directly take on the construction work of schools and as a result the work was suffering. She made a request to allow the engineers with the municipal bodies to take on the construction work. In the interest of expediting the construction of schools it was agreed that in

the urban areas municipal engineers could be entrusted with the construction work but funds would continue to be routed through the school education committees, which would also supervise the construction and keep a watch on quality.

4.4 Since the appraisal of the perspective plans had not been done in financial terms had not been done, these were not approved. However, requirement of primary schools and upper primary schools over the Tenth Plan period was approved as per the details given in Annex IV.

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

- i) 534 new primary schools, along with 1068 teachers and TLE was approved for the year 2003-04. 2118 new upper primary schools were sanctioned along with 4299 teachers and TLE.
- ii) 909 additional teachers, 2047 para teachers and 460 other teachers were approved for existing primary and upper primary schools. Salaries for teachers recruited in the previous years were also approved.
- iii) School grant, maintenance grant, teacher training and teacher grant was approved for the existing schools and teachers.
- iv) EGS centers, Bridge courses, remedial teaching, residential camps, and back-to-school camps, etc. were approved for 3,12,059 children.
- v) Free textbooks were approved for the upper primary children.
- vi) Approval was also given for innovation, management cost, civil works (restricted to 33%), BRC, CRC, maintenance grant, Teacher training, R&E, community training, IED, etc were approved as per the recommendations of the appraisal team
- vii) Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, a total Annual Plan 2003-04 under SSA for a amount of Rs 32972.96 lakhs was approved as per details given in Annex V.
- viii) Rs 4932.80 lakhs was approved as Spill over for sanctions given in the year 2002-03 in SSA as per details given in Annex VI.
- ix) Since there was uncertainty over extension of the DPEP programme in 5 districts of AP, no approval was given under this and separate approvals would be taken for this, once the extension is obtained. For the balance 14 DPEP districts an amount of Rs 14602.33 lakhs was approved for the year 2003-04 for fresh activities and Rs 2241.99 lakhs as spill over as per Annex VII.
- 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 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 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

**ATTENDANCE 37TH MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD TO BE
HELD ON 13TH JUNE, 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. Dr. P.K. Seth, Director, Finance, MHRD

In Attendance

5. Ms. Meena Bhatt, SPD, Govt. of Gujarat
6. Smt. Poonam Malakondaiah, SPD, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
7. Dr. Madhumita, NIEPA
8. Dr. Manju Jain, NCERT
9. Shri ABL Srivastava, Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL
10. Shri K. Gopalan, Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL
11. Shri Ravindra Kumar Mishra, Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL
12. Ms. Amita Singla, TSG, Ed.CIL
13. Ms. Perna Gulati, Dy. Secretary, MHRD
14. Shri Praveen Kumar, Director, MHRD
15. Shri O.P. Chaturvedi, US, MHRD
16. Shri J.S. Bajwa, Desk Officer, MHRD