

**MINUTES OF FORTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL
BOARD FOR SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON**

28 JULY 2003

The 43rd meeting of the Project Approval Board for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was held under the Chairmanship of Shri S.C. Tripathi, Secretary, Elementary Education & Literacy at New Delhi on 28.7.2003. A list of participants is annexed.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 37th PAB Meeting held on 13.6.2003 to consider the Annual Plans of Gujarat & Andhra Pradesh.

1.1 The Minutes of the 37th meeting of the PAB held on 13.6.2003 were confirmed.

Item No. 2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 38th PAB Meeting held on 18.6.2003 to consider the Annual Plans of Madhya Pradesh & Karnataka.

2.1 The Minutes of the 38th meeting of the PAB held on 18.6.2003 were confirmed.

Item No. 3: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 39th PAB Meeting held on 23.6.2003 to consider the Annual Plans of Bihar

3.1 The Minutes of the 39th meeting of the PAB held on 23.6.2003 were confirmed.

Item No. 4: Action Taken on the Minutes of the 37th, 38th & 39th meetings

4.1 Actions taken on the decisions of the 37th, 38th and 39th meetings were noted.

Item No. 5: Consideration of Annual Plans for 2003-2004 in respect of Government of Jharkhand.

5.1 The State Project Director, Jharkhand made a brief presentation. The highlights of the presentation are as follows: -

- There are 22 districts in the States of which 9 are covered under DPEP and 13 are non-DPEP districts.
- The literacy rate in the State is 54.13%. The male literacy rate is 67.94% while the female literacy rate is 39.38%.
- The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in primary grades is 66.23% while in upper primary it is 48.77%. Overall GER for primary and upper primary is 57.18%.
- There are 56.81 lakh children in the age group 6-14 in the State of which 35.17 lakh (63%) are enrolled in the Govt. and Aided schools, 9.89 lakh (15%) are in private schools and 3.73 lakh (6.7%) in EGS centres. The number of out of school children is 8.02 lakh.
- There are 16322 primary schools, 4055 upper primary schools and 11514 EGS Centres in the State.
- The number of unserved habitations, which was 13519 as on 1.4.02, has come down to 2967 as on 1.4.03.
- The number of teachers' posts sanctioned in the State is 68470 of which 51422 are filled in leaving 17048 vacant positions.

5.2 It was noted that the State Government has opened 10552 EGS centres during 2002-2003. Secretary, EE&L observed that since these centres are already one year old, the State Government may consider converting these centres into regular schools. The State Education Secretary pointed out that they already have the policy of converting 15% EGS centres into full-fledged schools. Secretary, EE&L, however, suggested that they should consider upgrading a larger number of EGS centres into schools and new EGS centres should be set up only to fill in the gaps to cover unserved habitations in the interim. The upgraded schools may even be different from the present State run schools, with the responsibility of running them being given to the same village community which has been running the EGS centres, which would lead to lower costs and better accountability. This would enable the State to get additional teachers and buildings for these schools.

5.3 Regarding the bridge courses, the SPD explained that they would be opening a bridge course for the 11-14 age group population in every 3 km. Resource persons have been identified for the purpose and training material developed. Secretary, EE&L suggested that they should take help of good NGOs who have the experience and expertise in this task.

5.4 Secretary (EE&L) asked about the State policy in filling up the teacher posts. The State Secretary replied that Jharkhand Public Service Commission has been entrusted with the responsibility of filling up these posts. Exams have been conducted and the evaluation is going on presently. The results are expected some time in August. He added that certain complications arose due to the new reservation policy in the State, but the recruitment process is going on. Secretary (EE&L) advised that the State should have a contingency plan as these processes and the State should think of appointing community teachers recruited at the local level itself.

5.5 Dr. A.A.C. Lal made the following observations on behalf of the Appraisal Team: -

- i) The State has completed the household survey and used the data in preparing the Plans.
- ii) The male and female literacy rates have a wide gap, which needs attention of the State Government.
- iii) The State also has an alarming situation of having up to 50% of the schools as single teacher schools in certain districts. In certain other schools where two posts of teachers are sanctioned, the schools are manned by a single teacher resulting in high pupil teacher ratio.
- iv) The use of NCERT books has led to local inputs being missed in the curriculum. JS (EE) suggested that, till the State sets up its SCERT, it can think of constituting a State Resource Group for textbook development, which can develop learning materials/ books in the local context. SPD clarified that the State has prepared bridge material in four tribal languages
- v) The State has proposed opening of EGS Centres in habitations, which qualify for opening a new Primary School itself.
- vi) The State has an adverse ratio of primary to upper primary schools and hence there is a need to upgrade more primary schools into upper primary schools.
- vii) Out of 22 districts in the State, DIETs are functioning in only 9 districts. As such, there is a need to establish more DIETs to ensure one DIET in every

district. JS (EE) suggested that till the DIETs are set up, state should strengthen the BRCs.

- viii) The monitoring institutions have already got involved in partnership with States as per the new monitoring framework.
- ix) The administrative infrastructure in non-DPEP districts is weak. Even the State Society is not fully equipped, with many of the functional areas not in position. Secretary (EE&L) suggested that the State should replicate the administrative support structure of DPEP districts in the non-DPEP districts. He also asked the State to fill up the State level posts immediately.

5.6 JS (EE) suggested that in order to meet the requirement of large number of untrained teachers in the State, the State could increase the capacity of the DIETs to 200, as per the recent decision of NCTE. Further, the B.Ed Colleges can also be permitted to take up BTC courses, apart from good NGOs who could be allowed to run BTC courses. The State should make use of these opportunities to increase the number of trained teachers in the State.

5.7 Based on the recommendations of the Appraisal Team, observations made by the participants and clarifications given by the State representatives, the Board approved the perspective plan for an amount of Rs 130963.27 lakhs as per details given in Annex I. However, it was also indicated that the approved plan could be revised in case of policy changes which could occur in the interim. The PAB itself recommended that instead of providing for upgradation of EGS centers into regular primary schools at the rate of only 15% of the EGS centers, the State should target conversion of all EGS centers into schools by the year 2007, preferably under the control of the community. Hence, while approving the perspective plans, the Board also stated that these could be changed in the respective annual plans based on fresh data generated and policy changes in the course of implementation. Further, following decisions were taken by the Board in regard to Annual Plans 2003-2004:

- i) No new primary schools had been asked for by the State in the year 2003-04, since the State was focusing on EGS as the method for providing access in the initial years. 820 new upper primary schools were sanctioned along with the 2000 upper primary schools sanctioned in principle in 2002-03. TLE grant was sanctioned for all these new schools, apart from 661 existing upper primary schools which have not been covered under Operation Black Board. 5640 teachers were also sanctioned for these schools at the rate of two teachers per school.
- ii) In addition, against the proposed requirement of 12563 teachers in the year 2003-04, 11407 teachers were sanctioned for primary. Further, against the total requirement of 30030 additional teachers in the existing primary schools to be filled in the period 2003-07, the PAB, in light of the very high PTR in the State, approved the sanction of additional 17048 teacher posts in the primary in 2003-04 itself, with the condition that these posts could be filled only on filling up of equivalent number of the vacant posts in primary and upper primary by the State Government in the ratio of 1:1. For upper primary no additional teachers in the existing schools were approved since the PTR for upper primary was within the stipulated norms. It was also clarified that the State should preferably fill up these positions through a decentralized recruitment process based on panchayats. The State should aim for recruitment of those as teachers through Panchayats who have the minimum academic qualification and then provide for NCTE approved training package so that they become eligible teachers as per NCTE norms.

- iii) School grant, maintenance grant and teacher grant was approved for the existing schools.
- iv) Free textbooks were sanctioned for all eligible children in Primary and Upper Primary.
- v) In addition to the EGS centres in access-less habitations approved last year for enrolling 331151 out-of-school children through Departmental EGS and 40583 through NGO run EGS, further approval was given for the EGS centres for 66750 children.
- vi) AIE schemes were approved for 206994 children in primary and 527967 children in upper primary as proposed, on the recommendation of the appraisal team which witnessed tremendous enthusiasm amongst the stakeholders to get all children in school. However, a condition was laid down that release of funds by GOI for the AIE scheme would be done only after details of the schemes to be taken up including the name of the village and the agency to take up the scheme was furnished.
- vii) Since the classes are overcrowded, as suggested by the appraisal team was only 16%, and the civil works percentage, the Board approved an additional 2000 class rooms to be taken up in 2003-04 itself, apart from 1708 proposed by the State, from the approved 11770 class rooms for the 2003-07 perspective plan.
- viii) For community training, the SPD represented that in the extremist affected areas, two days training would not be enough and hence a nine day module has been developed by the State for these areas. The PAB, while permitting 9 day training in these areas, stated that funds under this head would be provided only for two days and the balance may be met from the management head within the 6% margin.
- ix) SIEMAT was approved in principle, but the funds for this would be released after receipt of detailed project report having approval of Government of Jharkhand.
- x) Approval was also given for teacher training, innovation, management cost, civil works (restricted to 33%), R&E, BRC, CRC, community training, IED, etc as per the recommendations of the appraisal team
- xi) Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, a total Annual Plan 2003-04 for an amount of Rs 29469.33 lakhs was approved as per details given in Annex II.
- xii) Rs 2655.72 lakhs was approved as Spill over for sanctions given in the year 2002-03 as per details given in Annex III.
- xiii) Rs 5875.70 lakhs was approved under DPEP as fresh outlay and Rs 1591.68 lakhs as spillover as per details in Annex IV for period April 2003 to September 2003, the scheduled ending of the project. Further, since talks are already on extension of the project, Rs 3724.37 lakhs was approved as outlay for October 2003 to March 2004 as per details at Annex IV with the condition that if the extension is not given, these interventions would be taken up under SSA to the extent that they fall under SSA norms.
- xiv) 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 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 43RD MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD
HELD ON 28TH JULY, 2003 AT SHASTRI BHAVAN, NEW DELHI**

1. Shri S.C. Tripathi, Secretary (EE&L) In the Chair
2. Ms. Vrinda Sarup, JS (EE), MHRD
3. Dr. P.K. Seth, Director, (Finance) MHRD
4. Shri A.K. Amar, Director, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
5. Ms. Somya Dave, Director, AE

In Attendance

1. Shri Amit Khare, Secretary, Govt. of Jharkhand
2. Smt. Smita Chugh, SPD, Govt. of Jharkhand
3. Shri A.K. Mallick, Sr. Programme, JEPC, Jharkhand
4. Shri Jitendra Kumar, JEPC, Jharkhand
5. Shri Sachin Kumar, JEPC, Jharkhand
6. Dr. Pushpa Mandal, NCERT
7. Shri A.A.C. Lal, Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL
8. Shri S.C. Gujaria, Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL
9. Shri Sanjeev Kumar, TSG, Ed.CIL
10. Shri Praveen Kumar, Director , MHRD
11. Shri O.P. Chaturvedi, US ,MHRD