

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD OF SSA
HELD ON 5.11.2001**

The fourth meeting of the Project Approval Board for SSA was held on 5.11.2001 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, (EE&L). The list of participants is annexed. In this meeting, District Elementary Education Plans of four districts of Punjab, one district of Sikkim, thirteen districts of Karnataka and twelve district of Madhya Pradesh were considered for approval.

2. Agenda Item No.1

The Board confirmed the minutes of the Third Meeting of the Project Approval Board held on 18 September, 2001

3. Agenda Item No.2

The Action Taken Report was taken on record.

4. Agenda Item No.3: Consideration of the District Elementary Education Plans/Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPBs) 2001-2002.

Secretary (EE & L), while inviting the state representatives to make their presentations, requested them to give details on child population, literacy and enrolment in the districts. They were further asked to throw light on the following three issues:

- i) How many out-of-school children are there and the specific strategies suggested to bring them to school?
- ii) The steps being taken to ensure that quality of education is ensured in the schools?
- iii) The special problems of the states and the specific measures suggested to take care of them?

A. Punjab

A brief presentation was made by the Education Secretary, Punjab. The main points highlighted in the presentation are as follows:

- i) Punjab has had no major interventions in the Primary Education Sector like the DPEP or other programmes. The District Plans are all rural based Plans and do not include urban data.
- ii) The proportion of SC population to total population in the age group 6-14 years in districts of Sangrur and Amritsar is quite large.
- iii) As against the total population (6-14 age group children) of 14.91 lakhs, the number of out of school children is 1.40 lakh.
- iv) Patiala district suffers from heavy floods, which implies frequent evacuations and poor state of infrastructure, including educational infrastructure. Hence, the number of

branch schools is quite high. For a branch school, the space is provided by the community, and the teacher is provided by the Government by temporarily diverting teachers from regular schools on a part-time basis. The Distt Plan includes the proposal to upgrade these branch schools into primary schools.

- v) The number of out of school children in Sangrur and Amritsar is large.
- vi) The new schools proposed relate only to the conversion of Branch schools into regular schools. The state would open only EGS centres in the unserved habitations this year, which would be upgraded into regular schools after two years.
- vii) The Plans were based on habitation plans and have been formulated after detailed household survey.

Secretary, EE&L enquired as to their strategy for out of school children. The Education Secretary, Punjab stated that there are about one lakh forty thousand out of school children in these districts and they propose to bring them to school through community involvement and through mobilization of parents, using VECs and NGOs for this. The VECs consist of 8 members, of which two representatives are from Panchayat, two from PTA, one from ex-servicemen, one retired educational personnel, one NGO/individual who has donated either land or some cash for the development of the school and one representative of the cooperative society based in that village. Secretary, EE&L suggested that they should have at least 50% women in the VECs, with adequate representation of SC/ST community.

4.3 Joint Director, NCERT emphasized the need for improving quality of education in schools. He suggested that as a part of strategy for out of school children the State Government should take steps to make schools more attractive. They can also consider granting incentives for children belonging to backward classes and minorities to attract them to join the schools. He wanted to know the strategy for reducing the dropout rate.

4.4 The Education Secretary, Punjab indicated that the dropout rate beyond primary classes is much less and the percentage of dropout is more among boys than girls. He stated that the reasons for dropouts have been identified and they are being addressed. Secretary, EE&L, advised them to improve the quality of learning through teacher training, employment of joyful methods, gender sensitive curriculum, etc. Curriculum could be revised to make it more relevant to local needs. He also suggested that bridge courses be conducted to bring back dropouts to schools. They can also think of flexible timings depending on local need.

4.5 Dr. Shabnam Sinha of NCERT from the Appraisal Team pointed out that, as a policy, State Government is providing textbooks to girls and SC/ST students. However, they have also booked some expenditure on this account to SSA, which is not eligible. The State Education Secretary pointed out that though they have a policy of providing free text books, it was only to an extent of Rs 60/- per child and they want that the balance Rs 90/- may be provided to them as per SSA guidelines.

4.6 DS, Ministry of Labour, stated that they are also running National Child Labour Project (NCCP) in Punjab under which they are providing free text books, mid-day meal and Rs.100 as a stipend. This Project is being implemented in Amritsar District. These should be taken into

account in the state plan. Secretary, EE&L suggested that State Government should co-ordinate the activities under this project and these should also be reflected part of the district plan.

4.7 Director, NIEPA raised the question of quality and suggested effective teacher training for the purpose. He also suggested that the state should use the opportunity given in the SSA framework to establish a SIEMAT. Secretary, Punjab promised to do so in the next year's plan.

4.8 Secretary also directed that the aim should be to get all out-of-school children admitted in primary in the next two years. For that the plans of this year and the next year should see that all gaps in the following are filled up:

- i) Schools should be made available within 1 km
- ii) Drinking water and toilets are there in all schools.
- iii) Interventions relating to teachers/ textbooks/ quality are made.

4.9 Based on the above discussions, the following decision was taken:

- i) The state can be given the actual cost of text books for girls, SC, ST, incurred above the Rs 60/- being incurred now by the state (which they should continue to incur), subject to an upper limit of Rs 90/-.and the actual cost.
- ii) All building-less schools should be sanctioned this year itself and to that extent the sanction of new primary school buildings would be reduced.
- iii) Toilets in all schools should be completed over a period of two years. Thus 50% of these should be taken up this year and 50% next year.
- iv) As far as additional teachers are concerned, only two teachers per school for the new Branch Schools would be sanctioned. Other additional teachers would be considered in the next plan.
- v) The suggested innovative activities of girl child education, early childhood education and education of Scheduled Caste children at the rate of Rs 15 lakh each and for Computer education for Rs 5 lakh per district were approved.
- vi) Based on the above, following size of District Plans were decided for the following districts of Punjab:

	District	Annual Plan size,2001-2002 (Rs crores)
1	Sangrur	9.80
2	Ferozepur	10.21
3	Patiala	11.51
4	Amritsar	13.48
	Total	45.00

5. Sikkim

5.1 A brief presentation was made by Special Secretary, Education, Sikkim. He informed that there were four districts in Sikkim and all of them were non-DPEP districts. The District Elementary Education Plan for West district had been submitted now for consideration by the Board, while other three district plans would be submitted shortly. Based on the Household Survey, the total number of children in the age group 5-14 was found to be 26,357, of which 2,651 children were out of school.

5.2 The Distt. Plan for West district contained the following proposals:

i)	New primary school	6
ii)	Upgradation of upper primary school	9
iii)	Appointment of Primary/Upper Primary teachers to fill existing Gaps	105/56
iv)	Additional no. of teachers for primary	30
v)	Addl. no. of upper primary teachers	45
vi)	No. of Language teachers	100

5.3 Based on the discussions, the following decisions were taken :-

- i) Only two new primary schools and upgradation of three upper primary schools would be allowed this year.
- ii) For the above appointment of four primary school teachers and six upper primary school teachers would be allowed this year.
- iii) Construction of two new primary building for the new primary schools and three additional classrooms for upgraded primary schools were agreed to.
- iv) Minor repairs at a cost of Rs.5000 approved for all schools.
- v) Provision of toilets at a cost of Rs.20 thousand per unit and drinking water facilities at a cost of Rs 15 thousand per unit was agreed to for 150 and 80 schools respectively.
- vi) Civil works not to exceed 33% of the total Project cost.
- vii) Management cost not to exceed 6% of the total cost.
- viii) Teacher training and other activities as per approved norms of the Project.
- ix) IED component should also be sanctioned.
- x) The question of appointment of Language teacher would be taken up separately before the Cabinet.
- xi) The state may send proposals for appointment of EGS teachers in the difficult areas.
- xii) The monastery schools may be given assistance under innovative scheme.
- xiii) The total plan size approved for the West District for the year 2001-2002 was Rs 1.46 crores.

6. Karnataka

6.1 A presentation on the proposals was made by the Commissioner, Public Instructions (CPI) Karnataka. He stated that while there were 11 non-DPEP districts, Tumkur and Bangalore had been split into two educational districts each, and so plans had been prepared for 13 districts. He informed that there were around 8% out-of-school children and the state was going to use the mechanism of bridge courses to get the children back to school. 541 habitations are unserved and they plan to open new schools in these habitations. The state government was against the policy of EGS and so no scheme is being suggested under that. For urban areas the state has proposed mobile schools.

6.2 Following decisions were taken by the Board on the proposals of the state government:

- i) Only revenue districts would be taken into consideration for sanction of Plans. So a single plan size would be sanctioned for Bangalore and, similarly for Tumkur. Accordingly, innovative fund for these districts would be limited to Rs 50 lakhs each.
- ii) As far as mobile schools are concerned, they can be booked under innovative activity. However, under SSA only teachers' salary and other such grants such as TLM, School grant, etc. would be given. The cost of buses, etc. would have to be borne by the state Government, outside its SSA obligation.
- iii) Regarding 541 schools proposed 50% would be sanctioned this year.
- iv) TLE would be sanctioned for those schools which are not covered under OBB.
- v) Free textbooks for Class VIII students may be given under SSA since it is not covered under the free textbook scheme of the state.
- vi) Based on the above following annual plan sizes were approved:

	District	Annual Plan size,2001-2002 (Rs crores)
1	Bangalore	8.83
2	Chitradurga	4.58
3	Chikkamagalur	4.90
4	Davangere	4.51
5	Dakshin Kannada	4.64
6	Hassan	5.79
7	Kodagu	2.42
8	Shivamoga	6.34
9	Tumkur	8.79
10	Udupi	3.35
11	Uttar Kannada	5.97
12	State Component	0.10
	Total	60.22

7. Madhya Pradesh

Secretary, Education, Madhya Pradesh briefly explained the details of the District Plans. She stated that the state has decided to have only EGS type of intervention at the primary level and so was not proposing any primary schools in the Plan. The gap identified at the Upper Primary level was 2385 and so upgradation has been proposed in these areas. For these upgraded schools the state has proposed only two teachers, instead of entitlement of three. Innovative activities relating to gender, ECCE and computers have been proposed. The state has also proposed setting up of libraries in all the schools.

7.2 Following decisions were taken as far as MP plans are concerned:

- i) TLM grant may be given to all schools.
- ii) The upper primary schools proposed were approved. However, before recruitment of teachers proper rationalization should be done to see that the overall 1:40 ratio is not violated.
- iii) Library can be taken up under innovative activity.
- iv) Staff, except teachers, can be appointed only on consultancy/contract basis and the total cost should be within the 6% management cost limit.
- v) Distance education for teacher training can be taken up only under the Teacher Education scheme. It may be taken up under SSA, if the total cost of training comes under the SSA norms of Rs 70/- per day.
- vi) Free textbooks can be given for SC/STs since the state is not providing for the same. But it cannot be provided for girls, including SC/ST girls, since the state is already having a scheme for that.
- vii) Girls' toilets should be taken up on a priority and should be completed in two years' time. So 50% should be sanctioned this year and 50% next year.
- viii) All building less primary schools can be taken this year, subject to 33% ceiling limit.
- ix) Some 20-30 additional classrooms for Cluster Resource Centres may be taken up, within the overall ceiling.
- x) It was agreed that items already covered under the plan for utilization of savings under DPEP-I for these districts would not be separately covered under SSA this year. This is in keeping with the EFC decision.

xi) Based on above, following plan size was approved:

	District	Annual Plan size,2001-2002 (Rs crores)
1	Ujjain	5.21
2	Narsinghpur	3.46
3	Chindwara	5.49
4	Bhopal	2.33
5	Indore	3.07
6	Harda	2.62
7	Hoshangabad	5.29
8	Sagar	7.58
9	Balaghat	4.33
10	Katni	4.18
11	Jabalpur	3.59
12	Gwalior	4.43
	Total	51.59

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING OF THE 4th PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD ON SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON 5TH, NOVEMBER, 2001

1. Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Secretary, EE & L, In the Chair
2. Shri Sumit Bose, Joint Secretary, MHRD
3. Shri Jagan Mathews, Joint Secretary, MHRD
4. Prof. B.P. Khandelwal, Director, NIEPA
5. Shri V.P. Yajurvedi, Director, (representative of Secretary, Labour).
6. Shri R.N. Vaswani, Dy. Secretary, (representative of Secretary, WCD)
7. Shri J.C. Sharma, Director, Planning Commission (representative of Principal Adviser(Edu), Planning Commission.).
8. Shri M.S. Khaparde, Joint Director, NCERT (representative of Director, NCERT).
9. Shri R.S. Khan, Vice Chairperson, NCTE (representative of Chairman, NCTE).

IN ATTENDANCE

1. Shri R.S. Sandhu, Secretary, Education Deptt., Govt. of Punjab.
2. Shri S.S. Randhawa, SPD, SSA, Govt. of Punjab
3. Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar , Commnr, Govt. of Karnataka.
4. Shri G.L. Hegde, D.P.I., Govt. of Karnataka.
5. Shri B.K. Nagaraja Rao, Joint Director, Govt. of Karnataka.
6. Ms. Amita Sharma, Secy, Elementary Education, R.G.S.M, Govt. of M.P.
7. Shri D.S. Sisodia, Computer Programmer, DPEP, M.P.
8. Ms. Archana Bhambal, Dy. Manager, RGSM, Bhopal.
9. Shri D.P.S. Rana, Govt. of Sikkim.
10. Shri K.P. Adhikari, Govt. of Sikkim.
11. Dr K.K. Vashishtha, NCERT
12. Dr A.A.C. Lal, NCERT
13. Dr. Shabnam Sinha, NCERT.
14. Shri S.C. Gujaria, Ed.CIL, TSG.
15. Shri V. Venkataramana, TSG, Ed. CIL.
16. Ms. Rashmi Sharma, Director, MHRD.
17. Ms. Shalini Prasad, Director, MHRD.
18. Shri Job Zachariah, Director, MHRD
19. Shri Amit Kaushik, Director, MHRD.
20. Shri P.K. Mohanty, DEA, MHRD
21. Ms. Perna Gulati, Deputy Secretary, MHRD.
22. Shri Praveen Kumar, Director, MHRD
23. Shri O.P. Chaturvedi, US, MHRD