

**Minutes of the 51st meeting of the Project Approval Board held on 26.05.2004
to consider the Annual Work Plan and Budget (2004-05) of
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Kerala**

The 51st meeting of the PAB for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for the State of Kerala was held on 26.5.2004 under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Kumud Bansal, Secretary (EE&L).

2. At the outset, Secretary (General Education), Government of Kerala made a brief presentation on the State's proposal. The highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- a) The State already has a primary and an upper primary school within a radius of 1.5 kms and secondary school within a radius of 3 kms. The total number of children with special needs identified is 89147, which constitutes about 2% of the total child population in the 6-14 years age group. Of these, only 966 children are still out of school.
- b) Drop-out rate in the State is less than 1% in the Classes I-VIII.
- c) 1,12,562 teachers are employed in the schools.
- d) Out of 13,801 out of school children, 11724 have been enrolled in multi-graded learning center and only 2,077 children are still out of school and they will be enrolled during the current year.

3. The following points were discussed by the PAB

- It was felt that the progress made under teacher's training, community training, research and evaluation, salary of block resource persons, IED etc. was below the target.
- Information on PTR, GER and NER has not been furnished in the plan.
- The State was advised to provide orientation training for its functionaries on financial management, planning, academic support, IED etc.
- Specific strategies for the enrollment of 966 disabled out-of-school children have not been proposed. The State was advised to formulate strategies to bring all out-of-school children to school.
- Convergence with other departments like Rural Development/Drinking Water Supply/Public Health Engineering etc. should be ensured for provision of drinking water and construction of toilets with SSA funds.
- A number of aided school buildings need urgent repairs and since expenditure on other interventions like teachers' salary, distribution of free text books is incurred by the Government, the expenditure on repairs of aided schools should also be considered. Secretary (EE&L) observed that since this is an issue affecting several States a considered view would have to be taken for giving maintenance grant to aided schools.
- Teachers are not being trained for 20 days in a year as per the prescribed norm. The State had also not indicated the number of teachers to be trained in 2004-05. Secretary (General Education), Government of Kerala promised to furnish the details of the number of teachers to be trained during the current financial year.
- Medical examination of physically challenged school children is being conducted by the State. In this regard, Secretary (EE&L) suggested that State Government may also identify good NGOs in this field and they can avail of the scheme for Education of Disabled for NGOs in the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Government of India.
- For Computer Education, Secretary (EE&L) advised that computer aided education for upper primary level should be expedited. The examples of Tamil Nadu, SSA, Azim Premji Foundation and Kendriya Vidyalaya/Navodaya Vidyalaya could be looked at. Secretary, also asked Kerala to explore with service providers who could provide computer facilities in upper primary schools free of cost, and after school hours it could be used for commercial purposes. Secretary (E), Govt. of Kerala promised to take up this issue on priority.
- The State has one city with over one million population, viz., Kochi (13.5 lakhs), but no separate sub-plan for urban deprived children of Kochi city has been prepared.

- Director, Ministry of Tribal Affairs suggested a special focus and regular monitoring of SSA Kerala's efforts for ST children. The State Government was also advised to avail of the scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for construction of boys & girls hostel and Ashram schools for tribal children.
- Exposure visits by Kerala SSA, to see good practices to improve quality of education in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh should be undertaken within the 6% ceiling of project management costs.
- Development of BRC's as "pedagogy parks" to improve quality inputs for teachers, can be undertaken within the SSA allocation for Research, Evaluation and monitoring funds available at State/district level.
- Representative of RIE, Mysore, suggested that SSA, Kerala develop primers for atleast Classes I-II in the local tribal dialects as bridge materials. Secretary(EE & L) further suggested that the opinion of the local community may also be obtained in this regard.
- The pass out rate with at least 60% marks for the Primary stage (as a proportion of Class I enrolment) is as low as 44% in Kerala. This indicates that the quality of education has to be improved and remedial action initiated. Special focus of achievement levels amongst SC/ST students was necessary. The example of remedial coaching for SC's in Tamil Nadu could be emulated by Kerala.
- Under the research component special studies should be undertaken on classroom processes, student achievement and other areas of quality, so that Kerala's strategies for quality education are improved.
- State Education Secretary stated that School Education Commission constituted by State Government has recently made several recommendations for improvement in the quality of education. Recommendations of the Commission will be examined by the State Government and further action will be taken.
- Parallel SSA management structures at district level should be phased out, so that additional SSA supported programme officers work with the mainstream district education officer in-charge of elementary education.

4. Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team, the **Annual Work Plan and Budget for SSA Kerala for an amount of Rs.16789.72 lakhs including Rs.1692.61 lakhs as spillover for 2003-04 was approved as per details given in Annexure-I, for the year 2004-05. (Management cost including MIS and Media was recommended within the ceiling of 6% of the outlay).**

- (a) Ex-post facto approval of re-appropriation of an outlay of Rs. 48.55 lakhs was also accorded. This includes Rs. 42.07 lakhs for civil works, Rs. 0.66 lakhs for school grant, 0.80 lakhs for teachers grant, Rs.2.72 lakhs for teacher training and Rs. 2.30 lakhs for maintenance grant which was incurred in excess of the amount approved during the year 2003-04.

5. It was directed that State Government should also satisfy the following conditions:

- (a) Give a written commitment for meeting its share of the SSA outlay.
- (b) First instalment of the State share should be released to the Society within one month of the release of Central share.
- (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. The latter should monitor teacher's attendance before releasing the salary.
- (e) VECs or equivalent bodies should be constituted and accounts opened to incur expenditure under teacher 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 details of this to GOI before the release of second installment. Contribution as State share for SSA will be over and above this investment.
- (g) Second instalment of central assistance would only be released after previous instalment of State share has been transferred to the State Implementation Society and atleast 50% of the total money released has been spent.
- (h) All appointments against the head of "management cost" should either be on deputation or on contract basis, with all persons recruited having functional computer literacy.

**MINUTES OF FIFTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL
BOARD FOR SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON**

MAY 26, 2004

The 51st meeting of the Project Approval Board for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was held under the Chairmanship of Smt. Kumud Bansal, Secretary, Elementary Education & Literacy on 26.5.2004. A list of participants is annexed.

Item No.1: Consideration of Annual Action Plan 2004-2005 in respect of Tamil Nadu.

1.1 The meeting began with a brief presentation by the Secretary, School Education, Government of Tamil Nadu. The highlights of the presentation are as follows:-

- ∞ The State has 30 districts, 385 CD Block and 12619 Village Panchayats. The number of habitations is 64846. Further, there are 6 corporations and 102 municipalities.
- ∞ There are totally 48583 primary and upper-primary schools, of which 35088 are Government schools and 7916 are private-aided schools.
- ∞ Access is not a problem in the State. The access rate improved from 97% in 2001-02 to 100% in 2003-04 in primary, while in upper primary it improved from 91% to 99%.
- ∞ The net Enrolment Ratio for primary stage increased from 87% in 2001- 2002 to 96% in 2003-04. For upper primary the increase was from 83% to 94%.
- ∞ The State had identified 5.74 lakh out of school children in 2001-2002 which has come down to 2.79 lakh in 2003-04. Of this 1.37 lakh are girls, 0.78 lakh SC children and 0.16 lakh ST Children.
- ∞ The Completion Rate, Retention Rate and Drop-out rate for 2003-2004 for primary stage is 69,23 and 8 respectively. These rates are 74,16 and 10 for upper primary stage respectively. The transition rate from primary to upper primary was 94%.
- ∞ The attendance rate was 93% in primary and 91% in upper primary. Similarly, pass percentage for boys was 96% in Grade V and 94% in Grade VIII, while for girls it was 97% and 96% respectively.
- ∞ The State is also implementing the schemes of Mid-Day Meal, Free Uniform and Free Textbook to children in the age group 6-14 years to ensure regular attendance of children in primary/upper primary schools.
- ∞ Regarding the progress made last year, against the total release by the Centre and State Government of Rs.254.79 crores, the State had spent Rs.245.37 crores. It was, further, stated that the State has opened 356 new primary schools, 249 EGS centres and upgraded 399 primary schools to upper primary. State has also appointed 4172 teachers. It has organised 5366 bridge courses and 22 residential camps with 1.22 lakh children. The State also conducted special remedial coaching classes from 6.45 lakh children. The State has also set up it Grant in aid committee and would be considering participation of NGOs for the EGS/AIE component in 2004-2005.

- œ Grants like TLM, TLE, Maintenance and school infrastructure were released to the schools. IED programme was implemented for 56,939 children through 52 NGOs. However, teacher training could be given only 13 days.
- œ All civil works sanctioned last year are under progress, with 934 of the 1990 2-classroom buildings, 693 of the 1521 3—classroom buildings, 2153 of the 4910 drinking-water facilities and 2655 of the 5981 toilet facilities have been completed. A total community contribution of Rs.2.65 crore was also obtained for civil works.
- œ The year the State has planned for 100% access in upper primary, attainment of 100% NER, raising the completion rate and reducing the repetition and drop-out rate through school specific interventions. The total outlay proposed by the State is Rs.356.67 crores (including NPEGEL & KGBV) for the current year and Rs.49.78 crores as spillover from 2003- 04. Special attention to child labour prone districts under the INDUS project have been addressed in the SSA district plans.

1.2 JS (EE-II) wanted to know the way funds for computer education are being used by the State. Secretary, Education, TN explained that funds are being channelised through private agencies, who have been asked to provide training for 40 hours per student. Curriculum has been prescribed, and the stress is both on computer learning and computer-aided learning. State Education Secretary also mentioned that in view of comments received from Department of EE&L after the Bangalore workshop on computer-aided learning, Government of TN is reconsidering the curriculum to include more emphasis on computer aided-learning rather than mere computer literacy. Secretary, EE&L suggested that the State can think of a BRC based teacher training model in which the private provider may be permitted to use the facilities after of BRC during the non-office hours for private computer coaching, while giving free computer training to teachers during the day time. The State Secretary stated that in many rural areas there may not be enough private business to offset the free coaching to be given in the day-time, and some payment may have to be given to the service provide. Secretary (EE&L) suggested that one could give Rs.100/- per teacher to provider out of the TLM grant or adjusted against the grant available for in-service training under the programme. The State may develop a model for this and implement it. Before any such training there should be a pre and post training test to find the effectiveness of the training programme.

1.3 Secretary (EE&L) wanted to know about the plan to increase access for ECCE. The State Secretary stated that earlier the State was using the innovative fund for ECCE for strengthening the Aanganwadi workers in the existing ICDS centres. Money was being transferred to the ICDS department for training ICDS workers in pre-school component and for providing TLM. But this year the State was going to use these funds for opening pre-schools in habitations which are not eligible for ICDS centres.

1.4 Secretary (EE&L) wanted to know the role of VEC in monitoring attendance of teachers. The State Secretary stated that while VECs have no direct control over the teachers they can pass a resolution for higher authorities to take action. He added that the authorities take remedial action when such feedback is received from the Village Education Committee. This helps in tackling cases of chronic absence. Both teacher and student attendance has gone up in recent years. Secretary, EE&L suggested that more attention needs to be paid on empowering the VEC to improve the teacher attendance. She also wanted to know about the transfer policy of the State. The State Secretary stated that transfer is done at the beginning of the year through a counseling process. The system is totally transparent. He stated that District is the unit for teacher appointment, and transfers take place within the district. During the transfer, it is ensured that no school is left as a single teacher school.

1.5 The State Secretary stated that NCTE is giving recognition to teacher training institutions without NOC from the State Government. This is leading to a demand-supply imbalance in a State like TN where already there are surplus trained teachers. Chairman NCTE

stated that the State Government had given NOC for only 43 out of 700 applicants so far. Recognition is being given now based on recent policy decision taken decision taken by the NCTE Board to tackle the challenge of shortage of trained teachers in many States.

1.6 JS(EE-I) pointed out that plans for metro areas focused mainly on tackling the issue of out-of-school children in the metro areas. There are other issues also in metro areas which the plan should focus on. Deputy Secretary, Tribal Department stated that TN plans and appraisal note were models as far as the issue of ST issues are concerned. ST data has been given in disaggregated manner and separate strategies have been laid down for Tribals. She suggested that vocational training to STs and capacity building of ST teachers should also be included as part of the interventions.

1.7 Shri Ved Prakash on behalf of the appraisal Team stated that there had been excess expenditure totaling Rs.41.794 lakhs in some of the districts in 2003-04 vis-avis the approved plans. He mentioned specifically four cases of Chennai (excess no. of BRC personnel trained compared to sanction), Cuddalore (excess teachers trained), Madurai (excess no. of schools given maintenance grant) and Vellore (excess no. of schools given school grant). The State Secretary explained that while the case of excess no. of BRC personnel was due to non-approval of urban BRCs by PAB, which had already been put in place and which was subsequently removed on receipt of BRC minutes, others were due to incorrect figures of number of schools & teachers being reflected in the plans/minutes. The PAB seeing that the excess expenditure was due to legitimate reasons ratified the same, with the 2003-04 plan being modified to that extent.

1.8 Based on the recommendations of the Appraisal Team, observations made by the participants and clarifications given by the State representatives, the following decisions were taken by the Board in regard to Annual Plans 2004-2005 in respect to Tamil Nadu:-

- i) Since the State had already achieved 100% access in primary, no new primary school were approved. However, as far as upper primary is concerned, PAB felt that the State should go for 100% access this year itself, subject to the restriction of 1:2. Accordingly, PAB approved 1031 new upper primary schools, with TLE and one teacher each. Additional teachers for these primary schools would be approved in the subsequent years incrementally, as per the State Policy.
- ii) School grant, maintenance grant and teacher was approved for the existing schools.
- iii) 363 EGS centres (@ 25 children per centre), bridge courses for 1,26,628 children, back-to-school camps for 1,40,180 children and residential camps for 8350 children was approved.
- iv) PAB also approved 1031 upper primary buildings, 3984 additional classrooms, 1758 toilets, 1675 water facilities, 77 BRCs and 407 CRCs, under civil works.
- v) Approval was also given for teacher training, innovation, management cost, R&E, BRC, CRC, community training, IED etc were approved as per the recommendations of the appraisal team.
- vi) Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, a total Annual Plan 2004-05 for a amount of Rs.37877.06 lakhs was approved as per details given in Annex-1.1. A spill-over amount was also approved as per 4947.77 lakhs as per Annex-1.2.
- vii) Further, Rs.475.53 lakhs was approved towards current plan for NPEGEL and Rs.29.90 lakhs for spill-over, as per details in Annex-1.3.
- viii) 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.
- (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.

Item No.2: Consideration of Annual Action Plan 2004-2005 in respect of Kerala

Minutes will be sent separately.

Item No.3: Vote of Thanks

The meeting concluded with a vote of Thanks to the Chair.
