

**MINUTES OF FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD FOR
SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON JUNE 22, 2004**

The 55th meeting of the Project Approval Board for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was held under the Chairmanship of Smt. Kumud Bansal, Secretary, Elementary Education & Literacy on 22.6.2004. A list of participants is annexed.

Item No. 1: Consideration of Annual Plan of NCERT

1.1 Dr. Vashisht, Head, Elementary Education, NCERT explained that the present proposal was for strengthening the monitoring system for and for ensuring that the system, as developed by NCERT, becomes operational early. Towards this end, they have asked for increased infrastructural support, apart from continuation of staff support. They have also asked for funds for monitoring, supervision & academic resource support to State functionaries and provided for five regional conferences.

1.2 JS (EE_I) pointed out that apart from the present proposal, NCERT has also proposed an additional amount of Rs 1.14 crore for setting up a Secretariat for the National Resource Group on Quality under SSA. While the proposal was yet to be appraised, prima facie, a separate Secretariat was not necessary. NCERT is meant to look at quality related issues and the NRG should rely on existing resources of the institution. He further added that the present plan was merely focussing on the quality monitoring under SSA. However, NCERT should be playing a much larger role on the quality aspect of UEE. Further each of the RIEs should have a greater involvement in this effort. To ensure this they should be strengthened with expertise on Elementary Education. NCERT should also take up tasks like textbook evaluation, study of evaluation systems, etc.

1.3 Secretary (EE&L) stated that NCERT has a specific role in achieving the goals of SSA. Vision of NCERT towards this end should come out clearly. It should address concerns of both quality and achievement. It should be able to identify specific quality needs of States and zero in on specific issues like textbooks, teacher training, etc.

1.4 Director (Finance) stated that NCERT is a fully equipped institution and the kind of infrastructure support requested may not be necessary. It would be enough if only supplemental support is provided through SSA.

1.5 Director, Dept of Tribal Affairs stated that the plan should also address the need of tribal population, with an action plan on developing materials in tribal dialects. JS (EE_I) requested her to send the population of various tribal groups speaking various tribal dialects.

1.6 Based on the discussions, held the PAB decided to ask NCERT to prepare a fresh plan keeping the above concerns in mind. However, in the interim, it approved the continuation of existing staff proposal for Rs 9.84 lakhs as follows:

(Rs)

1	Senior Consultant @ Rs 25,000 per month	3,00,000
2	Consultant @ Rs 20,000 per month	2,40,000
3	Senior Research Associate -2 @ Rs 8,000 per month	1,92,000
4	Junior Project Fellow-2 @ Rs 5,000 per month	1,20,000
5	Computer Assistant -2 @ Rs 5,500 per month	1,32,000

Item No. 2: Consideration of Perspective and Annual Action Plan 2004-2005 in respect of Bihar.

2.1 Secretary of Education, and SPD, Bihar, made a brief presentation, its salient points being:

- Bihar has 37 districts, with the DPEP programme operational in 20 districts. Further, State has 533 blocks, 8561 Panchayats and 45103 villages.
- The literacy rate in the State is 47.53% with the female literacy being only 33.57%. In the last decade the literacy growth has been only 10.04% against the national average of 13.84%.
- Of the total 72,652 habitations, 7294 are unserved, of which 3,921 are not qualified even for an EGS centre. The State would be opening EGS centres in the remaining habitations this year.
- The total 6-14 age-group population is 1,91,81,851 as in 2004, of which 1,58,66,763 are enrolled in either Govt or private schools. The enrolment in Govt schools only is 1,11,26,180. The total number of children out-of-school are 33,15,088 of which 15,57,697 are girls and 9,48,614 are SC children.
- The GER in primary is 89.36 % while in upper primary it is 72.10 %.
- There were totally 38,927 primary schools and 12,808 upper primary schools, with the Primary to Upper Primary ratio being 2.5:1.
- Out of the total 2,62,461 sanctioned posts of teachers in the schools, only 1,48,457 are filled in. However, the State has appointed 35,075 Panchayat Shiksha Mitrs (PSMs) to tide over the problem in interim. The PTR, based on existing strength is 75:1, which comes down to 61:1 if the PSMs are taken into account.
- The State has planned for certain special initiatives this year, some of them being:
 - Special provision for Buniyadi schools
 - Special provision for Charwaha schools
 - Provision of workbook/ worksheet for concurrent evaluation of children
 - One year distant mode training for PSM/ teachers
 - Setting up of Mahila Shiksha Kendras in all districts
 - Opening of Bal Verg
- Under NPEGEL the State is covering 219 blocks, at the rate of 5 EBBs per district, in addition to the blocks taken up in the previous year. Totally 1667 clusters are being taken up this year,
- State has proposed this year a fresh plan of Rs 786 crores under SSA, Rs 51 crores under NPEGEL and Rs 118 crores under DPEP for the year 2004-05.

2.2 There was an extensive decision on the teacher position in the State. Secretary (EE&L) remarked that there was lot of delay in filling up of posts of teachers and the State had not been able to fill up a single post sanctioned under SSA in 2003-04. Secretary (Education) Bihar explained that the Government had decided to fill up the posts through regular teachers appointed by Bihar Public Service Commission. For this the State had also revised the rules to make Intermediate as the qualification, which would have made it compatible with NCTE guidelines. Since there is a shortage of trained teachers in the State, a decision was taken to allow untrained teachers also to compete in the written exams, with a provision that they would be given in-service training through distance mode to enable them to obtain the professional qualifications prescribed by NCTE. In the interim, the Government is planning to appoint PSMs. JS (EE-II) stated that this could be done as an interim measures , but the State should have clear cut rules and the PSMs should be allowed to gradually acquire the qualification of teachers as is being done in North-east and Jharkhand. State Secretary stated that the rules are in place and the training package has been approved by NCTE for giving them

professional qualifications over time. Once approval of Govt is obtained, the teachers would be in place by December end. Secretary (EE&L) stated that the State should commit on the following regarding the PSMs:

- Schedule of action so as to ensure that teachers are in place by December
- Monthly report on the extent of progress made.
- Provision of professional qualification to teachers through distance mode
- Recruitment by Panchayats
- Details of training schedule

2.3 Prof. Akthar Siddique of Jamia Millia, the monitoring institution for Bihar, stated that the State needs to develop a healthy pre-service teacher training system so as to ensure that shortage of trained teacher does not occur in future. State Secretary explained that the present capacity in the State was only around 6000, against the requirement of a lakh teachers in the State. So the present infrastructure was to be utilized on priority for clearing the backlog of untrained teachers in the State. JS (EE-II) stated that in the distance mode more number of teachers could be trained by using BRCs also as contact centres. Secretary (EE&L) stated that the pre-service training should be strengthened to the extent as to cover the requirements arising due to regular attrition, while the distance mode may be used in the interim to deal with the present problem of untrained teachers.

2.4 State Secretary stated that GOI has been giving only 50% of the cost of textbooks, on the ground that the State was already giving 50% subsidy to the Textbook Corporation under the State Policy. However, the orders of the State Government sanctioning subsidy had been withdrawn on the grounds that they were issued without proper authority and approval. Secretary (EE&L) stated that this would need deeper examination and for this the State would have to furnish copies of orders approving & withdrawing the subsidy and details of subsidy released to the Corporation all these years.

2.5 SPD wanted an escalation of Rs 79.39 crores provided for civil works sanctioned earlier since the unit costs actually arrived at were found to have been higher than what was approved by the PAB. This was because the design of buildings were prepared after the PAB approval and the cost of these designs was found to be higher than the indicative figure approved by the PAB. Secretary (EE&L) stated that this should have been raised through correspondence immediately after the design was finalised. SPD promised to check up the matter and revert to GOI later on the subject.

2.6 Shri Asadullah of the appraisal team pointed out that the number of projected out-of-school children had gone up to 33 lakhs. As per the State's strategy only 5.4 lakh are to be brought into EGS/ AIE in SSA, 7 lakh in private schools and around 17 lakh in formal schools. SPD explained that in addition there are also around 1000 centres under DPEP, and with the massive employment of teachers, formal systems would be ready to absorb these children. Secretary(EE&L) also directed that the State should try to retain at least 5% of dropped out children this year.

2.7 Based on the recommendations of the Appraisal Team, observations made by the participants and clarifications given by the State representatives, the Board took the following decisions in regard to Annual Plans 2004-2005:

- i) No new primary schools had been asked for by the State in the year 2004-05, since the State was focusing on EGS as the method for providing access in the initial years and the recently opened EGS centres had not become eligible for upgradation. 2166 new upper primary schools were sanctioned along with TLE grant and two teachers & one headmaster each.

- ii) Since the State had not appointed additional teachers sanctioned in the previous year, and the enrollment figures had changed, the previous year's approval of additional teachers was cancelled, and a fresh sanction was given for appointment of 80512 new additional teachers. Salary was also approved for 11283 teachers sanctioned under the programme in the previous years for new schools approved previously.
- 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, to the extent of 50% of cost. The issue of balance 50% would be decided on file after the State sends necessary supporting documents as stated in Para 2.4.
- v) EGS centres were approved for enrolling 406222 out-of-school children in access-less habitations under SSA. In addition AIE schemes such as bridge courses, remedial coaching, back to school camps and Balika Shivar were approved for 190827 children under SSA. In addition, 930 EGS centres were to be opened in the 20 DPEP districts under DPEP in addition to continuation of Balika Shivar sanctioned earlier.
- vi) Innovation proposals were approved as proposed by the appraisal team. To a request of the SPD to be allowed to go above the Rs 15 lakh limit per activity, within the overall district limit of Rs 50 lakh, it was explained that similar interventions for different groups of children such as SC/ST and girls could be done and money under both heads dovetailed into one.
- vii) Approval was also given for teacher training, management cost, civil works, R&E, BRC, CRC, community training, IED, etc as per the recommendations of the appraisal team
- viii) Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, a total Annual Plan 2004-05 for an amount of Rs 62540.48 lakhs as fresh plan and Rs 21042.20 as spill-over totaling Rs 83582.68 lakhs was approved as per details given in Annex 2.1.
- ix) Under NPEGEL total approval was given for an amount of Rs 4343.50 lakhs as fresh plan and Rs 556.60 lakhs as spillover, totaling Rs 4900.10 lakhs for year 2004-05 as per details given in Annex 2.2.
- x) Rs 5440.07 lakhs was approved under DPEP as fresh outlay and Rs 6749.80 lakhs as spillover as per details in Annex 2.3 for period April 2004 to September 2004, the scheduled ending of the project. Further, since talks are already on extension of the project, Rs 5567.33 lakhs was approved as outlay for October 2004 to March 2005 as per details Annex 2.3 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. Since State did not propose any extension beyond September 2005, the PAB also approved an outlay of Rs 5314.45 lakhs for the period April 2005 to September 2005, provide the sought extension from September 2004 to September 2005 was received. Physical approvals under DPEP is given in Annex 2.4
- xi) 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

Item No. 4 Vote of Thanks

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

**MINUTES OF THE 55TH MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD FOR
SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON JUNE 22, 2004 AT NEW DELHI**

The 55th meeting of the Project Approval Board (PAB) for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was held under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Kumud Bansal, Secretary, Department of Elementary Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India on June 22, 2004. The list of the participants is at Annexure-I.

**ITEM NO. 4: **CONSIDERATION OF THE DISTRICT ELEMENTARY
EDUCATION PLANS OF 9 DISTRICTS OF MANIPUR****

Secretary and Commissioner (Education), Government of Manipur apprised the Project Approval Board that implementation of SSA in the State of Manipur could not be taken up because of litigation, which was settled towards the end of last year. Thereafter, the State Government released the money, received by it from Government of India, for the purpose of pre-project activities, to SSA State Mission Authority, Manipur. The Executive Council of the society met under the Chairpersonship of Chief Secretary of the State in January 2004 for the first time and took decisions in respect of utilisation of the money available for pre-project activities. Some decisions for gearing up of the SSA Society for implementation of SSA were also taken. The SSA State Mission Authority utilised the pre project funds for infrastructure necessary to implement the project at State as well as district levels. He added that the State Implementation Society (SIS) has received Rs. 5.00 crore towards the Central Government share against the Annual Work Plan & Budget approved by PAB for the previous year 2003-2004. This money was received on March 24, 2004 hence could not be utilized in the last financial year.

The Appraisal presented its observations and recommended upgradation of 82 primary schools to the upper primary schools, given the ratio of upper primary to primary being 6:1. The team also considered the large number of out of school children and recommended EGS/AIE strategies for 1,39,450 children instead of 44,000 as proposed by the State. The emphasis of the recommendation of the Appraisal Team was on capacity building in the State for implementation of the programme. Strengthening of the BRC/CRC structures so that the training of over 60,000 untrained teachers can be undertaken with the support of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), utilizing these BRCs, in the shortest possible time, was also recommended.

The Chairperson of the Board emphasised to the Commissioner (Education), Government of Manipur that enrolment of all out of school children should be ensured in the present year. The PAB agreed that one CRC for 8-10 schools would be practicable.

The Board directed that the progress of implementation of SSA in the State should be reviewed on two monthly basis, especially with respect to the operationalization of BRCs and CRCs, in-service training of

untrained teachers through IGNOUs' Distance Programme and progress in enrolment of out of school children. The PAB also directed that appointment of the core persons at SPO as well as DPO level be completed within two months.

The Board, after considering the proposals of the State, recommendations of the Appraisal Team, approved the following:-

- (i) Rs. 387.60 lakhs towards teacher grant (12841 teachers), school grant (3643 schools), TLE grant for 529 uncovered upper primary schools (82 new and 447 not covered under OBB).
- (ii) The Board approved Rs. 124.00 lakhs towards maintenance grant for 2480 schools and Rs. 351.46 lakhs for free text books to 234299 children from SC/ST communities and girls.
- (iii) Rs. 97.20 lakhs was approved for Block Resource Centres to meet expenditure on salary, contingencies, TLM grant, meetings and travel expenses.
- (iv) For Cluster Resource Centres, the Board approved Rs. 166.12 lakhs.
- (v) A sum of Rs. 152.15 lakhs was approved for the teachers training programme.
- (vi) The Board accorded its approval to opening of EGS centres for primary level for 76167 children, back to school camps, bridge courses and remedial teaching for 3222, 58761 and 1300 children, respectively. The Board approved a total of Rs. 1178.35 lakhs for interventions related to EGS & AIE.
- (vii) The Board also approved Rs. 20.36 lakhs for special interventions with respect to integrating physically challenged children into regular schools.
- (viii) A sum of Rs. 416.00 lakhs was approved under Innovation head for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), support to education of children from SC/ST communities, girl child education and computer aided learning.
- (ix) The Board also approved the construction of 138 school buildings for building less primary schools and 36 buildingless upper primary schools, 30 BRCs and 42 Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs), 150 additional classrooms, 1322 toilets and 987 drinking water facilities, boundary wall for 50 schools, separation wall in 393 schools and electrification of 345 schools at the cost of Rs. 1389.35 lakh.

The Board approved a sum of Rs. 4100.73 lakhs towards fresh proposals for the year 2004-2005 and Rs. 500.40 lakhs as spill over for the unfinished activities approved for the year 2003-04 as per the details given in **Annexure – 4 (I)**. Thus, the Board approved an outlay of Rs. 4601.13 lakhs for implementation of SSA in the State of Manipur for the financial year 2004-05.

The Board also directed that the States of Bihar and Manipur, whose plans were considered in this meeting, should satisfy the following conditions:

- (a) The State Government should give a written commitment for meeting its share of the SSA.
- (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 later 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 Government of India 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.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.
