

**MINUTES OF THE 5TH MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD HELD ON
9.11.2001**

The fifth meeting of the Project Approval Board for SSA was held on 9/11/2001 under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Elementary Education and Literacy.

2. The list of participants is annexed.
3. In this meeting, the Project Approval Board considered the District Elementary Education Plans of 17 districts of Bihar and 8 districts of West Bengal.

4. Bihar:

4.1 The meeting started with a presentation by the State Project Director, SSA, Bihar. The main points highlighted in the presentation are as follows: -

- i) Out of 38 districts in the State, 20 are already covered under DPEP and balance 18 would be taken up under SSA. Plans of all the districts have been brought before the PAB except that of Patna (Urban) for which the plan is not yet ready.
- ii) The literacy rate in the proposed 17 districts ranges between 37.8% (Supaul) and 63.82% (Patna-rural), while female literacy rate ranges between 21.02% and 52.17% in the above two districts.
- iii) The Gross Enrolment Ratio in these districts years ranges between 14.04% and 81.96% for 6-11 and between 29.01% and 95.68% for 11-14 years
- iv) The number of out of school children is 26,48,546, which is 30% of the total child population in the 6-14 age group. The share of girls is 51.5% while that of SCs is 23.8%.
- v) 4085 habitations do not have any school within 1-km distance.
- vi) The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:72, but in this also large variations are seen from one district to another. The TPR for Siwan district is 1:95 while in Nalanda it is 1:35.
- vii) The number of schools without building is 2672 while number of those not having toilets is 15,287. The number of schools having no drinking water facility is 5001.
- viii) The number of teacher vacancy is 14,192 (16%)
- ix) The ratio of upper primary to primary is 1:4.
- x) In spite of unserved habitations, the State government has not proposed any new schools because all unserved habitations are proposed to be covered through EGS centers.
- xi) The interventions proposed in the annual plans in these 17 districts are 422 EGS centres, 65 alternative schools, 100 ECE centres and appointment of 4488 parateachers.
- xii) In addition the state proposes to construct 2 buildingless schools, repair 834 school buildings, construct additional 151 class rooms, 900 toilets and provide drinking water facility to 222 schools.
- xiii) The total amount proposed for the 17 districts is Rs 53.88 crores of which only 12% was proposed for civil works.

4.2 Secretary, EE&L enquired about interventions proposed by the State Government for out of school children particularly girls, children in slums and other children with special needs.

4.3 The SPD, Bihar clarified that awareness generation and mass mobilisation by actively involving the VECs would be the key initiative to get the children to schools. In addition, the State Government is implementing a number of schemes such as free books to children under PMGY, Mid-day Meal scheme and Re. 1 as attendance allowance to children belonging to SC/ST and weaker sections. The state would rely on opening of EGS and AIE centers for children in the unserved habitations.

4.4 As the State Government has proposed 7,000 EGS centers over a 10-year period with only 422 centres during the current year, Secretary, EE&L enquired as to how they proposed to cover all children in the age group 6-14 years by 2003.

4.5 The SPD pointed out that initially they had proposed about 5000 EGS centers by 2003, however the number was subsequently reduced after discussion with the appraisal team. Dr. Nagaraju of the Appraisal team pointed out that according to the State Policy it is proposed to open EGS centers even in habitations with more than 100 children, which qualify for setting up of a new school. He further stated that the State Government has proposed for 422 EGS centers in such habitations where they should have proposed opening of formal schools as per central norms. The SPD, Bihar informed that their total requirement for EGS centers is 7000. Of these only 3000 qualify to be converted into formal schools, and according to the policy of the Government, 15% of the centers would be converted into full fledged schools every two years. In this way all schools would get converted by the year 2007. Director, Finance, however, pointed out that when the number of school less habitations is only 4085, why the State Government is demanding sanction of 7000 EGS centers. The State representative however clarified that some of the habitations need more than one centre because of both due to large village population and due to large-sized villages having spread of more than 1 km.

4.6 Secretary, EE&L suggested that the State Government should recast their proposals and target setting up of EGS centers in all habitations qualifying for such centres in a two year time-frame so that all children have access to schools by the year 2003. Around 1000 may be sanctioned this year and balance 6000 in 2002-03. Meanwhile, the state should send its commitment to bear the cost of state component under the EGS scheme. Regarding the proposal of the state to have more than one EGS in a habitation, JS (EE) suggested that EGS guidelines provide for appointment of additional teachers also where the number of students goes up.

4.7 On the query of Secretary, EE&L about the State Policy of appointment of teachers, the SPD, Bihar clarified that they have three categories of teachers in schools:

- i) Regular teachers with scale of pay as approved by the State Government. The State Government provides these teachers one-year in service training.
- ii) Para teachers- they are paid Rs. 1500 p.m. and are given 60 days training before appointment.
- iii) EGS teachers – they are paid Rs. 1000 p.m. and are given training of 60 days as in the case of para teachers.

He further informed that the above is as per the new draft policy which is still to be approved by the Government.

4.8 While discussing the proposals for civil works, it was noted that the state Government has not proposed any new school building during the current year. However, the state Government planned to construct around 4000 schools till 2007.

4.9 Director, Finance pointed out that the number of classrooms to be repaired has been reported as 66,000. This number is more than the number of schools in the State. However, it was seen that except for Siwan and Nalanda, no other district had proposed any classroom construction. But it was felt that each district should at least take up 50 classrooms for construction this year. It was agreed to sanction 101 classrooms in Siwan district and 50 each in the remaining 16 districts, subject to the 33% ceiling limit on civil works not being reached.

4.10 Dr. A.A.C. Lal of NCERT pointed out that most of the class rooms/school building in the State are in a bad shape and need to be repaired immediately. Rs. 5000 available for repairs under the scheme of SSA would not be sufficient for major repairs. This being the case, it was seen that many districts had not provided for this amount in the plan. Accordingly, it was decided that this grant should be given to all schools. Regarding money for major repairs, the SSA norms do not provide for it and this would be examined afresh by Government of India as a policy issue.

4.11 Most of the districts have not provided for any innovative activity. However, it was felt that this is an essential part of the plan and some amount should be given, though on a reduced scale for each of the districts.

4.12 Dr. (Mrs.) Mukhophadhyay of NIEPA pointed out that the State Government is already providing text books to the SC/ST children at half the cost while for girls it is provided totally free. So she suggested that the balance 50% for providing free textbooks to SC/ST children could be given from SSA funds.

4.13 After detailed discussion on the proposals, the following decisions were taken:-

- (i) Girl toilets @ 20,000 per unit were sanctioned for 20% of the schools without toilets during the current year and remaining to be sanctioned next year.
- (ii) Teacher Training and training of VEC members was approved as per SSA norms.
- (iii) IED – The outlay proposed by the State Government for the districts of Aurangabad, Jahanabad, Madhubani, Nawada, Samastipur and Saran were approved as proposed by the State.
- (iv) Block Resource Centre (BRC) – The State Government has proposed construction of four BRCs - one each for Gopalgunj and Madhubani and two for Saran. These were approved. At other places the BRCs can temporarily function from the Block offices or any other suitable place.
- (v) Cluster Resource Centre(CRC) – Construction of 24 CRCs were approved - three each in the district of Madhubani and Nalanda, five in Siwan, 11 in Samastipur and two in Saran.
- (vi) All civil works are to be within the ceiling of 33%.
- (vii) Under innovative programmes, 5 lakh each was approved for ECCE, girls education and computer education.
- (viii) Upper Primary - No new construction during the current year. The State Government will submit within the three months proposals of upper primary schools for 2002-2003 to reach the 1:2 ratio of upper primary to primary schools. The proposal should however take into account the students passing out of class V as also transitional ratio of students going to upper primary classes.

(ix) The total amount approved district wise is as follows:

Sl no	District	Revised amount (Rs crores)
1	Nawada	4.68
2	Patna	4.20
3	Saharsa	2.51
4	Samastipur	5.25
5	Saran	5.52
6	Siwan	3.91
7	Supaul	2.93
8	Aurangabad	4.34
9	Begusarai	3.57
10	East Champaran	3.60
11	Gopalganj	3.24
12	Jehanabad	4.34
13	Katihar	4.52
14	Khagaria	2.61
15	Madhepura	3.73
16	Madhubani	4.36
17	Nalanda	3.74
	Total	67.05

5 West Bengal

5.1 A brief presentation on the proposals was made by the SPD, SSA, West Bengal. Some of the main points of the proposal are as follows: -

- i) There are 18 districts in the State of which 10 are covered under DPEP and 8 are now proposed to be covered under SSA. While Darjeeling and Siliguri belong to the same revenue district, they are treated as two different educational districts.
- ii) The State Government has submitted proposals for primary level only. Proposals for upper primary level will be submitted in December, 2001.
- iii) The major thrust is on quality education and the State Government has brought in the idea of a Circle Level Resource Centre in place of BRC, which will cater to a unit smaller than the Block. The total cost per district would not exceed the amount which would have been required if the BRC pattern had been followed.
- iv) The number of out of school children in the age group 6-14 years is 8,29,647, which is 20% of the total children in this age group. The percentage of such children in Siliguri district is, however, 36% since there are no private schools in this district.
- v) Number of existing primary schools is 1,08,647 and that of Shishu Shiksha Kendra is 90,000.
- vi) The number of primary schools without toilet facilities is 17,135 and that of those not having drinking facilities is 7616. The State Government has not proposed any requirement for these items since they propose to meet the expenditure on such facilities from the Rural Sanitary scheme, administered by Rural Development department and through the 11th Finance Commission Funds

- vii) No recruitment of teachers during the last 10 to 15 years has taken place in certain districts resulting in teacher-pupil ranging between 1:32 to 1:91.
- viii) Till 2002 March the state would concentrate on a dedicated campaign for enrolment and would carry out rationalization of primary schools. 70% of the out of school children will be brought into schools by July 2002 and the balance by March 2003.
- ix) The strategy for bringing the out of school children to schools is a multi-pronged one. Around 50% of children of out of school children are overaged, who would be mainstreamed through AIE scheme. 16% of out of school children are already near existing schools/SSKs and would be admitted in them. For the balance 34%, they would open 10,900 new SSKs and 1000 new formal primary schools. In addition 300 existing primary schools would be relocated to cater to the out of school children. The new primary schools would be opened by closing some SSKs under state budget and opening them under EGS scheme.
- x) The TPR ranges from 1:31 to 1:88 and bringing it to 1:40 may be very difficult.
- xi) The total amount proposed for the annual plan of the eight districts for the year 2001-2002 was Rs 58.42 crores

5.3 Director (Finance) wanted to know as to how 10 thousand Shishu Shiksha Kendra would be funded under EGS Budget. Opening of SSKs under EGS after closing them under state head may not be possible as per EGS norms. JS (EE) pointed out that no proposals for EGS have yet been received in the Ministry. However, Shishu Shiksha Kendra meeting Government of India criteria will be covered under EGS and rest will have to be funded by the State Government. It was noted that there are 11 thousand Shishu Shiksha Kendra are functioning in the State of which 7 thousand only conform to the GOI guidelines.

5.4 The State Government has proposed major repairs in 294 units in four districts at the rate of Rs. 1 lakh per unit and minor repair in 769 units at a cost of Rs. 50 thousand which are at present not covered under the Scheme. However, it was agreed that, as per the norms, only a sum of Rs. 5000 per school available under the scheme could be utilized for the purpose by the State Government.

5.5 After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken :-

- i) Siliguri and Darjeeling would be taken as a single district together and not separate ones.
- ii) The State Government to open 1000 new primary schools as suggested.
- iii) 95 building less schools to be taken up for construction of school buildings
- iv) Construction of 332 additional classrooms was approved.
- v) Construction of 37 CLRCs and 23 CRCs agreed to, subject to limit of expenditure which would have been incurred if BRCs had been constructed instead of CLRCs.
- vi) Additional staff in CLRCs/CRCs should be within the overall management cost of the Project.
- vii) No TLM to ICDS can be given, except under the innovative head.
- viii) Under the Innovative, ECCE/Girls Education to be taken up as per norms. After an year ECCE intervention evaluation should be done
- ix) Child friendly elements can be given under innovative head.
- x) No separate allotment for transportation can be given. It should be part of textbook cost.

xi) The total amount approved district wise is as follows:

Sl no	District	Revised amount (Rs crores)
1	Burdwan	4.28
2	Hoogly	4.38
3	Howrah	4.56
4	Midnapore	7.03
5	Nadia	2.84
6	North 24 Parganas	5.74
7	Darjeeling/Siliguri	2.86
	Total	31.69

6. The meeting ended with Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL
BOARD ON SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON 9TH, 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. Dr. Rekha Bhargava, Jt. Secretary (representative of Secretary, WCD)
5. Shri S.S. Sharma, Director(Finance)(representative of FA, MHRD)
6. Shri V.P. Yajurvedi, Director, (representative of Secretary, Labour).
7. Dr. Anil Shukla, Dy. Secretary (representative of Chairperson, NCTE)
8. Shri C.S. Nagaraju, Professor (representative of Director, NCERT).

IN ATTENDANCE

1. Shri N.P. Singh, Comnr. & Secretary,(Education), Govt. of Bihar.
2. Shri S.K. Negi, SPD, Bihar
3. Shri Rajesh Thadhani, Prog. Officer, BEP, Bihar.
4. Shri Praveen Kumar, Director, MHRD
5. Ms. Rashmi Sharma, Director, MHRD.
6. Shri Amit Kaushik, Director, MHRD.
7. Ms. Purna Gulati, Deputy Secretary, MHRD.
8. Shri Rajiva Sinha, SPD, WBDPEP
9. Shri K.K. Vashishtha, NCERT
10. Shri A.A.C. Lal, NCERT
11. Shri S.M.I A. Zaidi, Fellow, NIEPA
12. Shri Sudesh Mukhopadhyaya, Sr. Fellow, NIEPA
13. Ms. Madhumita, Asso. Fellow, NIEPA.
14. Shri Dayaram, Chief Consultant, Ed. CIL
15. Shri K.Gopalan, Consultant, TSG, Ed. CIL
16. Shri Sourav Banerjee, Consultant, TSG
17. Shri M.K. Talukdar, TSG, Ed. CIL
18. Shri O.P. Chaturvedi, US, MHRD
19. Shri V. Peddanna, US, MHRD