

**MINUTES OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD OF  
SSA HELD ON 13 & 14 DECEMBER, 2001**

1. The sixth meeting of the Project Approval Board of SSA was held under the Chairmanship of Shri S.K. Tripathi, Secretary, Elementary Education & Literacy on 13-14 December, 2001 to consider District Elementary Education Plans of Tamil Nadu and Punjab. The list of participants is annexed.
2. Following decisions were taken on the agenda items:
3. **Agenda Item No.1 :** The Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of Project Approval Board held on 5 November, 2001 and the Fifth Meeting held on 9 November, 2001 were confirmed.
4. **Agenda Item No.2 :** Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the Project Approval Board meetings held on 5 November and 9 November, 2001 was taken on record.
5. **Agenda Item No. 3 :** Consideration of the District Elementary Education Plans and Annual Work Plan 2001-2002 in respect of Tamil Nadu under SSA.
  - 5.1 The Education Secretary, Tamil Nadu made a detailed presentation on their proposals for 22 non-DPEP districts. Some of the highlights of the presentation are as follows :-
    - i) The total population of the children in the age group 5-14 in the 22 districts proposed to be covered is 68.56 lakh out of which 4,16,390 children are out of school.
    - ii) The literacy rate in these districts ranges between 53% in Sivagangai district and 88.11% in Kanyakumari while female literacy ranges between 40.78% and 85.38% in the same districts. The overall literacy rate of the state stands at 73.47%
    - iii) The Gross Enrolment Ratio, Net Enrolment Ratio and Drop-out rate for these districts are 99.89%, 87.64% and 14.42% respectively.
    - iv) The number of primary and upper primary schools in these districts is 21984 and 8410 respectively and the ratio of primary to upper primary school is 2:1 in Chennai and 5.1:1 in Salem. The overall ratio of primary to upper primary school is 2.6:1.
    - v) The reasons of drop-out as stated by State Education Secretary are lack of awareness, non-availability of schools, economic constraints, poor infrastructure, unattractive schools/syllabus, etc.
    - vi) The State Government has taken a number of measures to reduce drop out and also to enroll children not attending schools so far. These include formation of VECs, enrolment drives, mobilization of NGOs, involvement and convergence with other Departments and community participation through schemes like school improvement programme and school patron scheme. On enquiry from Secretary, EE&L about the details of community participation in school improvement programme, the Education Secretary, Tamil Nadu clarified that the community contribution is about 33% of the total expenditure which comes by way of civil

work, equipment and TLM in schools. The community has contributed about Rs 300 crores in five years.

- vii) The State Education Secretary had also indicated that they are running a number of welfare schemes for the children in the above age group, namely, free noon meal (coverage, 44.8 lakh children), free text books (coverage 62 lakh children), free slates, free uniforms and free bus passes. On enquiry from Secretary, EE&L as to who are eligible for free text books, uniforms etc. the State Education Secretary clarified that while free text books are supplied to all children, free uniforms are given to only those children who are taking free noon meal. The free noon meal is available to all children but some of them could voluntarily opt out.
- viii) The State Education Secretary stated that they propose to conduct public exam from 5<sup>th</sup> standard onwards and they will be conducting the public exam for 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> from this year itself.
- ix) Regarding the proposed plans, Secretary (Education), Tamil Nadu stated that they have asked for 18565 items for civil works and 35773 cases of repairs. They have further asked for 1817 primary school teachers and 2854 middle school teachers. The TPR in middle school was 1:60 and in primary there are 501 single teacher schools. As far as schools are concerned they have asked for 452 new primary schools, 789 upgradation of primary to upper primary, 339 EGS centres and 3092 AIE schemes.
- x) The total plan outlay proposed for the 22 districts and state component was Rs 300.35 crores.

5.2 On behalf of the Appraisal Team, the representative of NCERT reported that the planning and preparation of the DEEPs was systematic but all available data was not utilised while preparing the Plans. He has also pointed that although the DIETs in the State have manpower and are fully equipped but they have not been fully associated in preparation of plans. The State Government should fully utilize the services of the DIET/SCERT faculty for this job which would also help in capacity building. There is a need for complete convergence between the various Departments like Harijan welfare schools (called Adidravida schools in TN), child labour schools, etc. who are also running schools for specific target groups. There were inadequate facilities of playing grounds, drinking water and toilets in the schools visited by the Appraisal Team.

5.3 On the convergence with other Departments, the State Education Secretary clarified that they propose to take over the schools run by Adidravida Welfare Department from the next year. He also stated that the present plans take into account the adidravida schools also. He also clarified that facilities available in the schools run by other Departments have been reflected in the SSA Plans.

5.4 Secretary, EE&L suggested that they should take advantage of the various schemes being run by the Government of India such as schemes of Ministry of Rural Development, 10<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission and 11<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission funds to make up these facilities in their schools. The state Secretary stated that they are using funds from other schemes also and this year the Government has tied up NABARD funds under the RIDF scheme for high school buildings and toilets for boys and girls. He also clarified that they have taken a policy decision to provide separate toilets for girls in all primary and upper primary schools.

5.5 Shri Job Zachariah, Director, HRD, pointed out that child labour is a big problem in the State but the State Government has not suggested any specific strategy for them in their plan. He also stated that the plans did not reveal how many buildingless schools are there. The State Education Secretary pointed out that they are already collaborating with the Labour Department to tackle the problem of child labour and they propose to open 3000 schools for such children under the AIE scheme.

5.6 It was also noted that although the State Government has sanctioned grant for TLM under Operation Blackboard Scheme, such material was not available in most of the schools visited by the Appraisal Team. It was clarified that orders have been placed for the second sanction.

5.7 Shri P. K. Mohanty, DEA, HRD pointed out since teacher pupil ratio in certain districts was less than 1:40, their demand for additional teachers is not justified. It was noted that even though the SSA norms permit two teachers in every primary school, the existing teacher pupil ratio does not warrant sanction of additional teachers by GOI. The State should rationalize their posting and fill the gaps by redeployment of teachers. Dr. Lal of NCERT pointed out that since Tamil Nadu population also includes Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil speaking people and hence there is a need to have language teachers of the respective language in their schools in addition to the other teachers required in primary/upper primary schools. He, therefore, supported the demand of additional teachers by the State Government. The State Education Secretary also stated that they have already done massive redeployment of the teachers in the State and the present demand is based on the position after redeployment. It was pointed out to him that the posts already sanctioned but not filled up cannot be taken as SSA liability.

5.8 Based on discussions on the points made above, following decisions were taken:

- (i) 452 new primary schools would be opened. Secretary (SE), Tamil Nadu certified that these schools were in habitations which did not have any schools within 1 km and had a population of 300 and stated that all these schools would be started this year itself.
- (ii) New teachers would be sanctioned for the 452 new schools at the rate of two teachers per school. Regarding other teachers asked for in the plan, the State Government was to come with full justification for these teachers, since the PTR ratio in the primary was better than the 1:40 specified in SSA norms.
- (iii) School grant and Research & Monitoring grant for 21658 schools and teacher grant and teacher training (for 10 days only) for 88796 teachers was agreed to at the rate provided for in SSA norms.
- (iv) TLE @ Rs 10000/- per school was permitted only for the new schools.
- (v) 197 new upper primary schools were sanctioned after Secretary (SE) of Tamil Nadu assured that in these cases there were no upper primary schools within 3 km and that at least 25 children would be available for admission after passing out of primary.
- (vi) Only one teacher was permitted this year for the new upper primary schools this year as only one class would function initially.
- (vii) The overall PTR of the state was shown as 1:38 but the PTRs of districts were above 1:40 and the appraisal team also had seen crowded classrooms in upper

- primary. Since this anomaly could not be explained, the additional teachers requested were not permitted for upper primary this year.
- (viii) School grant and Research & Monitoring grant was permitted for 7959 upper primary schools and teacher grant and teacher training (for 10 days only) for 69371 upper primary teachers as per SSA norms.
- (ix) TLE @ Rs 50.000/- was sanctioned for only 197 new upper primary schools.
- (x) Furniture grant and contingency grant was permitted for 306 BRCs and 2852 CRCs. 10 teachers were permitted for each BRC.
- (xi) Community training for 29617 schools as per norms of SSA and IED grant for 39402 children was permitted.
- (xii) Rs 405.50 lakhs were permitted under the innovation head and Rs 304.09 lakhs under the management head.
- (xiii) Under the civil works Rs 2565.45 lakhs were permitted for 35 BRCs, 15 CRCs, 94 new school buildings, 16 school buildings for buildingless schools, 491 additional classrooms, 2510 toilets, 2367 drinking water schemes and repair & maintenance for 9770 schools.
- (xiv) Since it has been already decided to use the DPEP Phase I savings in the non-DPEP districts (as approved by the EFC), it was decided that the total SSA allocation would be reduced by this amount for items which are being funded from DPEP savings.
- (xv) The total amount approved, district-wise, is as follows:

(Rs lakhs)

Sl. No.	District	Total SSA Plan	Money available under DPEP-I savings	Net SSA Plan
1	Chennai	510.58	83.29	427.29
2	Coimbatore	547.97	137.63	410.34
3	Dindigul	325.81	0.00	325.81
4	Erode	432.61	0.00	432.61
5	Kancheepuram	368.60	80.22	288.38
6	Kanyakumari	208.76	56.34	152.42
7	Karur	195.47	0.00	195.47
8	Madurai	380.44	0.00	380.44
9	Nagapattinam	246.18	64.22	181.96
10	Nammakal	253.93	0.00	253.93
11	Nilgiris	164.61	31.82	132.79
12	Salem	437.29	0.00	437.29
13	Sivagangai	240.50	0.00	240.50

14	Tanjore	447.71	98.45	349.26
15	Theni	169.52	0.00	169.52
16	Tirunelveli	400.43	118.67	281.76
17	Tiruvarur	358.23	58.97	299.26
18	Thiruvallur	312.70	89.76	222.94
19	Thiruchirapalli	296.72	0.00	296.72
20	Tuticorin	252.82	88.69	164.13
21	Vellore	600.15	0.00	600.15
22	Virudhnagar	298.50	0.00	298.50
	Total	7449.53	908.06	6541.47

(xvi) State Government should satisfy the following as far as spending the money under SSA is concerned:

- (a) The state government should give a written commitment for meeting its share of the SSA outlay.
- (b) The state Government should release the above money to the state implementation society within one month of the receipt of money in its account.
- (c) 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 government.
- (d) At least 50% of the teachers recruited should be female.
- (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 Central government and 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.

6. Agenda Item No. 4 : Consideration of the District Elementary Education Plans and Annual Work Plan 2001-2002 in respect of Punjab under SSA.

6.1 Secretary (Education) Punjab made a presentation on the balance 8 districts of Punjab, nine districts having been already sanctioned in the earlier meetings of PAB. As in the earlier plans, these plans are also restricted to the rural areas. He stated that the

literacy in these districts ranges from 61.83% (Gurdaspur) to 72.08% (Hoshiarpur). There were totally 26207 out of school children in these districts in the age group 6-11 and 23992 children in the age group 23992. 2587 children in schools and 1915 children outside children with special needs have been identified in these districts. The PTR in all these districts is less than 40:1. The state Government in its plans has proposed 545 new primary school sanctions, 3715 new class rooms, 113 BRC buildings, 803 CRC buildings, 1566 upgraded primary schools, 77 buildings for buildingless schools, 545 new primary school buildings, 6651 sanitary blocks with drinking water facilities and maintenance for 9459 schools. In addition, the state has also proposed 2052 ECCE centres and 1090 primary school teachers. The total plan size proposed for these eight districts was Rs 6603.099 lakhs.

6.2 After a discussion on the plans and based on decisions taken for districts covered earlier and the appraisal report for these eight districts, following decisions were taken:

- (i) The total amount permitted for civil works was Rs 2142.2 lakhs for 44 BRC buildings, 77 buildings for buildingless schools, 89 new primary school buildings, 2882 sanitary block and drinking water facilities and maintenance grant for 7430 schools.
- (ii) An outlay of Rs 133.578 lakhs towards management cost was agreed to.
- (iii) Sanction of only 1064 teachers for the new 532 new primary schools sanctioned was agreed to.
- (iv) As far as innovative education is concerned, a sum of Rs 400 lakhs was agreed to towards girls education, ECCE, SC/ST education and computer education as per the norms of SSA.
- (v) Rs 1471.8 lakhs proposed for quality interventions was not agreed to since the proposals did not lie within the SSA norms.
- (vi) Since the state is already providing free text books for SC girls, it was decided that only the non-SC girls and SC boys would be given free text books under the SSA head. No sanction would be given to these districts this year and the state Government may reappropriate the additional money sanctioned for other districts for use in these eight districts. If on the basis of actual expenditure on textbooks this amount is found less than the requirement the state government may revert back to GOI for additional sanction.
- (vii) Teacher grant and school grant was agreed to as per SSA norms.
- (viii) Teacher training was agreed to only at the rate of 20 days per teacher.
- (ix) Research and monitoring grant at the rate of Rs 1400/- per school and training of community leaders as per SSA norms was agreed to.
- (x) It was decided to give the IED grant of Rs 1200/- per child for all children identified in the survey. However, next year the plan should have details of funds being tapped from other sources also such as Ministry of Social Justice.

- (xi) The outlay fixed for each district for the year 2001-2002 is as follows:

(Rs lakhs)

Sl. No.	District	Approved outlay
1	Fatehgarh Saheb	376.47
2	Gurdaspur	1212.92
3	Hoshiarpur	900.01
4	Jalandhar	939.26
5	Kapurthala	512.29
6	Ludhiana	970.61
7	Nawashahar	431.61
8	Ropar	623.21
	Total	5966.38

- (xii) State Government should satisfy the following as far as spending the money under SSA is concerned:

- (a) The state government should give a written commitment for meeting its share of the SSA outlay.
- (b) The state Government should release the above money to the state implementation society within one month of the receipt of money in its account.
- (c) 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 government.
- (d) At least 50% of the teachers recruited should be female.
- (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 Central government and 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.

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

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD ON SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup>, DECEMBER, 2001**

1. Shri S.K. Tripathi, Secretary, EE & L, In the Chair
2. Shri Sumit Bose, Joint Secretary, MHRD
3. Shri Jagan Mathews, Joint Secretary, MHRD
4. Shri V.K. Pipersenia, FA, MHRD)
5. Dr. Prabha Arora, Assistant Director, (representative of Secretary, WCD)
6. Prof. R.S. Khan, Vice-Chairman, NCTE (representative of Chairperson, NCTE)
7. Shri J.C. Sharma, Director, (Edu), Planning Commission (representative of Principal Adviser (Edu), Planning Commission.
8. Shri A.A.C. Lal, Reader, NCERT (representative of Director, NCERT).
9. Dr. Sudesh Mukhopadhyaya, Sr. Fellow (representative of Director, NIEPA).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

1. Shri V.K. Subburaj, Secretary, (S.E), Govt. of Tamil Nadu
2. Shri R.S. Sandhu, Secretary (Edu), Govt. of Punjab.
3. Shri S.S. Randhawa, SPD, Punjab.
4. Shri H.C. Jain, Govt. of Punjab.
5. Shri R. Kannan, Director, DTERI, Chennai.
6. R. Palaniswamy, Jt. Director (Edu), Govt. of Tamil Nadu.
7. Shri R. Narayanasamy, Director of E.E., Govt. of Tamil Nadu.
8. Shri Praveen Kumar, Director, MHRD
9. Shri Amit Kaushik, Director, MHRD.
10. Shri Job Zachariah, Director, MHRD.
11. Shri P.K. Mohanty, DEA, MHRD.
12. Shri Subhash Gujaria, Consultant, Ed. CIL.
13. Dr. Shabnam, Sinha, NCERT.
14. Dr. Swarna Gupta, Reader, NCERT.
15. S.K. Yadav, Reader, NCERT.
16. Shri V. Venkataramana, Sr. Consultant, TSG.
17. Shri O.P. Chaturvedi, US, MHRD
18. Shri B.M. Saddi, US, MHRD
19. Shri V.D.Gaur, E.O., MHRD.