

No. F. 15-3/2013-RMSA.1
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of School Education & Literacy

Dated 22nd August, 2013

To

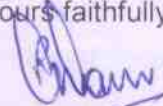
1. The Secretary, in-charge of Secondary Education of Assam.
2. State Project Director, RMSA, Assam.

Subject: 29th meeting of Project Approval Board (PAB) for Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and 9th meeting of unified Project Approval Board held on 26th June, 2013 to consider Annual Plan Proposal 2013-14 for the State of **Assam** in respect of RMSA, Girls Hostel, Vocational Education, ICT @ School and Inclusive Education.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to forward herewith the minutes of the 29th meeting of Project Approval Board (PAB) of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) (9th meeting of Unified Project Approval Board) held on the 26th June, 2013 to consider Annual Plan Proposal 2013-14 for the State of Assam in respect of RMSA, Girls Hostel, Vocational Education, ICT @ School and Inclusive Education for information and necessary action at your end. Sanction letter follows.

Yours faithfully


(Radha Krishani)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Encl: - as above.

Copy to:-

1. EC to Secretary (SE&L)
2. PPS to AS(SE)
3. PS to JS&FA
4. PS to JS(SE-1)
5. Sr. PPS to EA (SE&L)
6. Director (RMSA.1 & ICT)
7. Deputy Secretary (RMSA.2 & VE)
8. Deputy Secretary (GH & IE)
9. VC, NUEPA, New Delhi
10. Director (NCERT) New Delhi
11. Chairman, NIOS
12. Senior Advisor (Education), Planning Commission, New Delhi
13. Other members of PAB
14. All Consultants, TSG (RMSA)
15. Web Master, NIC, MHRD, for posting the PAB Minutes on the RMSA page of the Website.

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Minutes of the 29th Project Approval Board (PAB) (9th Integrated RMSA) held on 26th June, 2013 to consider Annual Plan Proposals 2013 – 14 of RMSA, ICT, GH, VE and IEDSS of the State of Assam.

The 29th meeting of the PAB (9th Integrated RMSA) for considering the Annual Work Plan & Budget 2013-14 for the states of Madhya Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Delhi, Daman & Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli in respect of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), ICT @ Schools (ICT), Girls' Hostels (GH), Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS), Vocational Education (VE) was held on 26th June, 2013 under the Chairmanship of Shri. R. Bhattacharya, Secretary (SE&L).

2. The list of participants who attended the meeting is attached at **Annexure-I**.
3. At the outset, the Secretary (SE&L) welcomed the participants and informed the participants that the Cabinet has favorably considered various long pending demands of the States with respect to adoption of State Schedule of Rates (SoR) for civil work, enhancement of percentage of funds under Management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (MMER), continuance of 75:25 sharing pattern (in case of NE states 90:10) between Centre and States and extension of quality related interventions of the scheme to Government aided schools. He also clarified that the revised norms relating to applicability of SoR and enhanced MMER provisions will be applicable prospectively.
4. **Ms. Caralyn Khongwar Deshmukh**, Director (RMSA I) then presented the status of the State in the Secondary Education Sector, identifying areas of concern and highlighting achievements of the State. A copy of presentation is at **Annexure II**.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA)

5. The State has submitted Annual Audit Reports up-to 2011-12 and auditing is under process for 2012-13. The state has used UDISE 2012-13 data for preparation of Annual Work Plan, 2013-14.
- 5.2 The State has made efforts to extend RMSA interventions to cover children from the areas of Tea Garden and Bodo as well as Naxal affected districts.

5.3 Online School Monitoring for tracking teacher's attendance and other school activities on daily basis has been introduced for Secondary schools through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS).

5.4 The process for accreditation of the schools through Quality Council of India has been initiated.

6. Areas of concern:

6.1 The GER at secondary level is low with 58.20% (as per table enclosed with AWP&B) in the state of Assam. Out of 27 districts in the State, 13 districts have a lower GER than state GER.

6.2 The districts of **Kamrup Metro** with a GER of 31.7%, **Karimganj** with a GER of 43.9% and **Nagaon** with a GER of 46.8% need special attention and specific intervention for improving/raising the GER.

6.3 The NER at Secondary level is also low at 28.5%. District **Baksa** shows a huge variation in the GER with a high GER of 74.8% and a low NER (28.1%) which needs to be looked into.

6.4 The Drop-out rate at the State level is 17.3% with some districts having a higher drop-out rate, **Nagaon** with a drop-out rate of 30.1%, **Dhubri** with a drop-out rate of 27.5% and **Goalpara** with a drop-out rate of 27.5% which need special intervention.

6.5 The retention rate at the state level is 84.5% but the districts having low retention rate are **Nagaon** (71.8%), **Bongaigaon** (73.2%) and **Goalpara** (76.30%).

7. Special Focus Districts (SFDs) and Convergence:

7.1 Out of the 27 districts in the State of Assam, there are **14 Special Focus Districts** (12 Minority + one ST + One ST and Minority).

7.2 There are 81 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) in the State.

7.3 In so far as ICT interventions are concerned, **there is no fresh approval for 2013-14.**

The details of physical and financial allocation out of total approvals for civil works under RMSA to SFDs are as under:

Item	Physical		Financial (Rs. in lakhs)	
	Total approval to the State	Approval in SFDs & EBBs	Total approval to the State	Approval in SFDs & EBBs
RMSA				
Strengthening – No. of schools	176	176	5268.4	5268.4

List of allocations attached at Annexure – III

8. Status of integration of Schemes

8.1 With regard to the effort to map convergence/ integration of schemes at the school level- that is – whether the school is completely covered with reference to the secondary education schemes of the MHRD (ie, RMSA, ICT @ Schools, IEDSS, VE and GH), all the 2757 Govt. Secondary schools are covered under RMSA, 1869 are covered under ICT Scheme, 60 schools are covered under VE. 615 and 94 (Scheduled Tribes) Schools has been covered under IEDSS.

8.2. The objective is to cover the schools completely in terms of available schemes- the whole school approach- where a school improvement plan makes use of the available schemes at the state and the centre – to ensure the holistic development and improvement of the school- Thus a school is ensured adequate and good quality infrastructure – compatible with the pedagogical needs of the different classes and subjects, teachers, teacher training, remedial teaching, libraries, laboratories, children with special needs, special educators, ICT facilities, vocational education / options, and linkage with Girls' Hostels. In addition, scholarships to the eligible students as well as other incentives made available by the state governments as well as the various ministries of the Central Government.

9. Progress under RMSA:

Recurring:

9.1 In the last financial year, a total outlay of Rs. 34.91 crore was approved for the State out of which, Rs.18.85 crores of the Central share was released, However, the state had not provided matching State Share. The performance of state in recurring activities for 2012-13 is not very good with a utilization of 55% only of available recurring funds.

Non- Recurring

9.2 Under RMSA, no new schools were approved for up-gradation from Upper Primary to Secondary schools. 1103 schools were approved for civil works strengthening. However, the State is still to start civil works with 0% progress in civil works.

10. Issues:

- 10.1 Against the Government of India releases, the State has a shortfall of Rs 785.9 lakh.
- 10.2 An unspent balance of Rs. 84.9 lakh against the preparatory funds released in 2009-10 need to be refunded by the State, or adjusted against the recurring funds release.
- 10.3 The state has no policy/ strategy defined on provision of access to Secondary Schools in low access habitations. The State has not, till date, proposed for opening of new schools, or for upgradation of Upper Primary Schools to Secondary Schools in areas where there is no access. There has been no attempt at the state level to analyze need for extending access/ opening schools using GIS or distance -matrix mapping.
- 10.4 The district offices need to be strengthened and capacity building of the district functionaries may be looked into.
- 10.5 As per UDISE, a surplus teacher portion is indicated in the State with a PTR of 19 in the state. It seems as if there is a need for rationalization of teachers.
- 10.6 Progress of civil works is very slow. The State needs to take up immediate action towards the construction of works as per earlier approvals.



11. Thereafter, the state government made a presentation on the proposal along with educational scenario, progress made under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Secondary Education. A copy of the presentation is at **Annexure-IV**.

Annual Work Plan and Budget of 2013-14:

12. Thereafter, the intervention-wise discussion was held and the following decisions were taken:

Sl. No.	Activities
	NON RECURRING
1.	New Schools
	No proposal from State for New Schools since inception of the scheme apart from the State provincializing existing government aided schools and Strengthening of provisionalized schools . The issue was discussed and the State was asked to do mapping of un-served habitations and take the benefit of RMSA scheme to address the issues relating to Access.
2.	Strengthening of existing Govt. schools:
	The State Government had proposed for strengthening of 1846 existing Government Schools. Out of 1846 schools proposed for strengthening, 1654 schools are eligible but considering the fact that the progress in respect of earlier approvals is 0%, only 176 schools in the blocks with low access as well as schools commonly located in SFDs & EBBs were approved. The list is attached. However, actual fund release will be made only after the State confirms of completion of at least 50% of earlier approvals, by December, 2013.
3	Strengthening of existing Govt. aided schools
	State proposed for strengthening of 2346 Govt. aided schools and the same was not approved as RMSA norms does not cover civil works and infrastructure in Govt.

	aided schools.
4	Other Civil Works –
4.1	Teachers Quarters (40% of 1452 schools)
	The State's proposal for 580 Teacher Quarters @ 1 quarter for Head teacher in 580 schools without undertaking the actual requirement mapping was not approved. The State has been advised to re-do the exercise and proposal after mapping the requirement.
4.2	Major Repair
	The proposal for Major Repairs in 80 schools was not approved as no exercise for need assessment was done. The estimates were also not given.
5	OTHER NON RECURRING
5.1	EDUSAT HUB at State
	The proposal for setting up of Satellite Interactive Terminals at district level was not approved as not covered under norms.
	RECURRING
6.	Additional Staff for existing Schools (2013-14)
	The State Govt. proposed for total 46908 additional teachers (for English ,Maths ,Science ,Social Studies and MIL teachers) and 33084 lab attendants and 33084 Office Assistant (MTSS) @ 12 months. This was not approved as the state needs to rationalise the secondary school teachers first in the light of the PTR being 1:19 in the state. .
7.	School Grant:
	School Grant to 2257 schools is approved. However school grant to 182 New Govt. schools was not approved, since this number has been matched with UDISE number.

8.	<p>Minor Repair:</p> <p>Minor Repair to 2257 schools is approved for Government secondary schools as per UDISE data. However minor repair to 182 New Govt. schools was not approved, since this number does not tally with UDISE numbers.</p>
9	<p>Quality Improvement</p>
9.1	<p>Teacher Training:</p> <p>A. 5 day training for 5103 Head Masters (HMs) / Principals was restricted to 4173 HMs/ Principals as per UDISE data @ Rs. 300/- per day per HM for 5 days</p> <p>B. 5 day in service training for 45607 existing Teachers at district level (Govt. & Govt. aided) was restricted to 36486 existing Government Teachers as per UDISE @ Rs. 300/- per day per Teacher for 5 days</p> <p>C. 15 days State level Residential Induction Training for 3909 New Teachers was not approved as no new teachers was sanctioned.</p> <p>D. Training for 120 Key Resource Persons (KRPs) was approved as proposed @ Rs. 300/- per day per KRP for 5 days subject to routing this activity through NCERT</p> <p>E. Training of 3890 Master Trainers was restricted to 2033 @ 2 MTs for each group of 40 teachers for 5 days @ Rs. 300 per day per Teacher subject to routing the activity through NCERT</p> <p>F. 5 day training of Laboratory Attendants was not approved as there is no norm under RMSA.</p> <p>G. 2 day training for environment educators (teachers) on environment issues for 2757 teachers was approved as proposed @ Rs. 300 per day per teacher.</p> <p>H. 5 day orientation camp for 2757 total govt. teachers on Gender & Life skill issues at state level was approved @ Rs. 300 per day per teacher for 2 days</p> <p>I. English language competency assessment and skill building for 4270 teachers was approved @ Rs. 300 per day per teacher for 2 days</p> <p>J. Management Training of 135 Head Masters was approved.</p>



10.	Quality Interventions:
10.1	Excursion Trips
	A. The interventions i.e., excursion trip for 108405 students within the state was approved. However the study tour for students outside the state and excursion trip for teachers within and outside the State was not approved since these interventions would have meant exceeding the budgetary allocation to the state.
10.2	Conduct of Science Exhibition in 27 districts was approved as proposed by the State and @ Rs. 1 lakh per district as per norm.
10.3	Conduct of Book fair in 27 districts was approved as proposed by the State and @ Rs. 1 lakh per district as per norm.
10.4	The Proposal for Competency Assessment test for new entrants in Class IX & X students was not approved as details were not provided. Further, it was felt that this is the responsibility of the teachers and this can be done in-house.
10.5	The proposal for Remedial Teaching for 86638 class IX students (20% of Govt. and Govt. aided schools), the approval is restricted to 20% of class IX enrolment i.e. 55178 students (as per UDISE data) @ Rs 500/child.
10.6	The proposal for Project work on Heritage mapping was approved for 50 schools @ Rs 20,000 per school in 10 districts as proposed.
10.7	The proposal for Organisation of Art/ Craft/ Culture workshop at school level was proposed for 200 schools @Rs 20000/school. This activity may be converged with the heritage mapping activity.
10.8	The proposal for Science & Maths kit to the IX-X students in 4408 schools is restricted to 50% i.e., 2204 schools @ Rs. 1500 per kit. (10 kits per school)
10.9	The proposal for State to explore for Monthly Health & Hygiene day celebration was not approved. The PAB suggested that this activity be converged with AEP programme of the NCERT & NRHM's School Health Programme.



10.10	The proposal for Mock preparatory Examination for class - X students was not approved as this is part of Pre Board exam and is the responsibility of the teachers and the State board.
10.11	The proposal for Quarterly Science Magazine (10 per school) was not approved. This activity may be carried out from funds available under School Grant.
10.12	The proposal for Nature Awareness & Species Identification Camp at secondary level was approved for 1500 children @ Rs. 1000 per child.
10.13	The proposal for Operationalisation of school library by students was not approved. This may be supported through School annual grant
10.14	The proposal for Finance & Banking simulation activities to school student (Shansay) need to be part of regular teaching and life skills education which are to be integrated in the social science stream . This was not approved as a separate activity.
10.15	The proposal for Assam Mathematical Olympiad was not approved as NCERT is already conducting such activities.
	The proposal of sharing best practices with the teachers was not approved separately. This may be done during the training session or through ICT platform. AMTRON or the agency implementing ICT@ Schools may be given the responsibility of establishing an ICT Platform for teachers and all teachers to be facilitated to engage on that platform.
10.16	Flood Risk Reduction activities through school need to be converged with National Disaster Management Activities.
11.	Guidance and Counselling:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal for Salary for 5 Coordinators and 27 Research Assistants was approved for 1 month. But salary will be released only after state government informs the Ministry of their positioning in place and details of their activities , responsibilities and their calendar of activities . The proposal for Literature & display materials was approved @ Rs. 50,000 per state as per norm

