

Minutes of the Meeting of the Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Group held on 4.11.2008 to consider the Computer Education Plans of States under the Scheme "Information & Communication Technology in Schools"

The second meeting of Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group [PMEG] for the Centrally sponsored scheme of "ICT @ Schools" was held on 04.11.2008 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy to consider the Computer Education Plans [CEP] of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Tripura and A&N Islands for 2008-09. The PMEG also considered certain proposals of Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET). List of participants who attended the above meeting is at **Annexure- I**.

2. Secretary (SE&L) stated that the ICT in Schools scheme was one of the most important schemes at the secondary stage. The main purpose of the meeting was to understand the State's plan of action in implementing the CEP for the scheme and also to take stock of the activities that had already been undertaken. One of the important components was the availability of appropriate infrastructure, particularly, availability of electric connections. Equal emphasis should also be given to training of teachers in ICT skills. He emphasized on the need for close monitoring of the programme. He further said that proposal of the State Govts. needed to be considered keeping in view the following factors:

- i) Progress made in the implementation of the scheme approved in 2007-08,
- ii) Central share received and utilized in 2007-08, and
- iii) Budget provision made for the scheme in 2008-09.

3. Secretary (SE&L) further instructed that before sanction letters were issued, permission of the Election Commission would have to be obtained for those States (Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan) which were scheduled to have Assembly Elections and whose CEPs were being considered in the meeting.

4. Joint Secretary (SE) briefly explained about the perspective plan of Govt. of India on the role of ICT in schools. Observations were as under:-

- (i) Outlay for the scheme is Rs. 6000 crore in the 11th Plan as against Rs. 800 crore for the 10th Plan. States are required to prepare comprehensive Plan to cover all Government and Government-aided schools during the 11th Plan.
- (ii) Some of the main objectives of the scheme were:
 - a. Make all children of secondary and higher secondary stage ICT literate,
 - b. Enable computer aided teaching and learning for all subjects in all classes,
 - c. Introduce Computer Science / Information Technology as optional subjects at higher secondary stage,
 - d. Develop appropriate e-content for use in classes,
 - e. Create environment for self learning by students, and
 - f. Monitoring & Evaluation of the programme including these by independent agencies.
- (iii) As internet connectivity exposes students to the world of information, every school is needed to have internet connection in their computer laboratories. Ministry of Telecommunication has assured to provide Broadband connection on priority basis to all high schools. States needed to take up the matter with the D/o Telecom and BSNL units located in the district and sub-district levels.
- (iv) As the technology has become cheaper over time, it would be appropriate to introduce more innovative tools and programmes to make the learning process more effective and interesting.
- (v) Training of teachers in ICT skills is key to the success of the programme. States must draw a clear Plan for teacher training programme. Head master/ Principal of the school should also be imparted orientation training.
- (vi) Appropriate e-content is needed to be developed in consultation with reputed organizations so as to make classroom transactions more interesting. These should be focused on hard spots. Central Institute of Educational Technology of NCERT, and State Institutes of Educational Technology are required to play a proactive role in developing / recommending usage of appropriate technology and e-content. Institutions like SCERTs, DIETs and reputed organizations with relevant expertise in private sector needed to be roped in for the purpose also.

- (vii) The programme is needed to be monitored through independent agencies, such as, IIITs, IITs, IIMs, Engineering Colleges, etc. Students could be engaged in monitoring through their project work.
- (viii) Creation of database was vital in the implementation of the programme, particularly for close monitoring.
- (ix) Local area funds available for MPs and MLAs can be tapped to bridge the gap of infrastructural requirements.
- (x) A nodal officer should be exclusively identified to spearhead the programme in each State.
- (xi) States should document their innovative practices and share them with each other.
- (xii) CBSE has already made it compulsory for all its affiliated secondary schools to have computer lab. Similar action may be considered by the State Boards to ensure that all private secondary schools affiliated to them also set up computer labs in their schools.
- (xiii) Lastly, States must make adequate provision in their State Budget (to accommodate both Central and State shares) to obviate any difficulty in the fund flow.

5. Thereafter Computer Education Plans of the States were taken up for consideration by PMEG.

5.1 **CHHATTISGARH**

The presentation of the State CEP, 2008-09 was made by Secretary (School Education), Govt. of Chattisgarh, highlights of which were as follows :

- (i) There were 2198 secondary and higher secondary schools in the State.
- (ii) The programme sanctioned for 100 schools in 2006-07, has already been commissioned.
- (iii) Though 200 schools were sanctioned in 2007-08, the programme could not be started due to certain administrative reasons and the same would begin this year. Procurement of equipments has already been completed. The State Government, based on the expenditure incurred from its own budget, will seek reimbursement from the Ministry for these 200 schools.

- (iv) Based on the experience already gained from State Government's own programme of CSSY, it has been decided to implement the future ICT in School projects under BOOT model.
- (v) The proposal of the State Government for 2008-09 was to cover 1574 remaining Secondary and Higher Secondary schools, of which 300 schools were located in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs).
- (vi) A provision of Rs.3270 lakh (Rs.2452.50 lakh as Central share and Rs.817.50 lakh as State share) has been made in the State budget for the scheme.

5.1.1. After discussion, the following decisions were taken:

- i) Keeping in view of the time left in the current financial year, it was decided to sanction 800 schools under BOOT model for a period of five years starting from 2008-09. The CEP for the remaining schools of the State Government would be considered afresh in 2009-10.
- ii) The Central assistance of Rs.5 lakh per school would be released in the following phased manner:

2008-09	:	@ Rs.1.5 lakh per school
2009-10	:	@ Rs.1.5 lakh per school
2010-11	:	@ Rs.1.00 lakh per school
2011-12	:	@ Rs.0.50 lakh per school
2012-13	:	@ Rs.0.50 lakh per school
- iii) The project of 200 schools sanctioned in 2007-08 and the current approval of 800 schools shall start simultaneously and must be commissioned by February 2009. In no case should these spill over to the next financial year.
- iv) Since no Central assistance has been released for 200 schools sanctioned in 2007-08, based on the expenditure incurred by the State Govt., funds would be reimbursed.
- v) The State Govt. shall release its matching State share immediately.
- vi) At the end of the five year period, the hardware and software would be the sole property of the State Govt. for use by the schools concerned.

5.2. **GUJARAT**

The presentation of the State CEP, 2008-09 was made by Commissioner (School Education), Govt. of Gujarat, highlights of which were as follows :

- i) Altogether there were 5848 secondary and higher secondary schools in the State, of these 5531 schools belong to the Govt. aided sector.
- ii) 1150 schools were approved in 2007-08 for implementation under BOOT model but due to certain administrative reasons, particularly with regard to the sharing pattern on aided schools, the project could not be started.
- iii) The State Govt. had proposed to cover 4698 remaining schools of the State in 2008-09 to benefit over 2 lakh students.
- iv) A provision of Rs.4431 lakh has been made in the State budget for the scheme. A proposal to augment the requirement to Rs.10196.84 lakh has already been made to the State Finance Department.

5.2.1 After discussions, the following decisions were taken:

- i) Taking note of the fact that no progress has been made in the programme during the last two years, PMEG approved 2500 schools for implementation under BOOT model for a period of five years starting from 2008-09.
- ii) The Central assistance of Rs.5 lakh per school would be released in the following phased manner:

2008-09	:	@ Rs.1.5 lakh per school
2009-10	:	@ Rs.1.5 lakh per school
2010-11	:	@ Rs.1.00 lakh per school
2011-12	:	@ Rs.0.50 lakh per school
2012-13	:	@ Rs.0.50 lakh per school
- iii) The project of 1150 schools sanctioned in 2007-08 shall be merged with the current year's approval of 2500 schools and the Central share would be released for 3650 (2500 + 1150) schools on the basis of above phasing after taking account of the unspent balances available with the State Government for the project. The project must be commissioned by February 2009. In no case should these spill over to the next financial year.
- iv) The State Govt. shall release its matching State share immediately.
- v) At the end of the five year period, the hardware and software would be the sole property of the State Govt. for use by the school concerned.

- vi) The necessary augmentation in the budget provision may be made forthwith under intimation to the Ministry.

5.3 **HARAYANA**

The presentation of the State CEP, 2008-09 was made by the Commissioner (School Education), Govt. of Haryana, highlights of which were as follows:

- i) There were a total of 3290 schools [1746 secondary and 1544 higher secondary].
- ii) Under the ICT scheme, the State Government has implemented the programme in 700 schools.
- iii) 1100 senior secondary schools have been covered under computer education programme out of State's own budget. In these schools, 4 or more computers have been provided but they are not sufficient for the students.
- iv) IT has been introduced as a subject in the State Board's syllabi.
- v) The State Govt. has decided to provide one teacher in each school for the programme.
- vi) Appropriate infrastructure were available to set up computer labs.
- vii) The proposal for 2008-09 was to cover the programme in 1000 schools (500 secondary and 500 higher secondary).
- viii) A provision of Rs.3350 lakh (Rs.2500 lakh as Central share and Rs.850 lakh as State share) has been made in the State budget for the scheme.

5.3.1. After discussions, the following decisions were taken:

- i) PMEG approved 1000 schools for implementation under BOOT model for a period of five years starting from 2008-09.
- ii) The Central assistance of Rs.5 lakh per school would be released in the following phased manner:

2008-09	:	@ Rs.1.5 lakh per school
2009-10	:	@ Rs.1.5 lakh per school
2010-11	:	@ Rs.1.00 lakh per school
2011-12	:	@ Rs.0.50 lakh per school
2012-13	:	@ Rs.0.50 lakh per school

- iii) The project must be commissioned by January 2009. In no case should it spill over to the next financial year.
- iv) The State Govt. shall release its matching State share immediately.
- v) At the end of the five year period, the hardware and software would be the sole property of the State Govt. for use by the school concerned.
- vi) At least 2 schools located in each of the educationally backward blocks should be included in the programme.

5.4. **HIMACHAL PRADESH**

The presentation of the State CEP, 2008-09 was made by the Joint Director (Education), Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, highlights of which were as follows: -

- i) Altogether there were 2086 schools (1233 secondary and 853 higher secondary schools)
- ii) The computer literacy programme was already in operation in 805 govt. senior secondary schools on self financing basis. Rs.125 per month was charged from each student. The computer lab remained open after the school hours for use by public for common services purpose.\
- iii) 50 multi media computer centres were already in operation.
- iv) Teachers have already been trained by INTEL and also by the SCERT of the State Govt.
- v) Computer literacy as a compulsory subject has been introduced at secondary stage and IT as elective subject at higher secondary stage has been introduced.
- vi) As HP had not taken any assistance under the scheme till now, the State Govt. made a proposal to cover 628 senior secondary schools in 2008-09.

5.4.1. After discussion, PMEG approved 628 schools to be covered under BOOT model for a five year contract period. Release of Central share of Rs. 5 lakh per school would be phased in the following manner:-

- (i) 2008-09: @Rs. 1.23 lakh per school for 628 schools
- (ii) 2009-10: @Rs. 1.2 lakh per school for 628 schools
- (iii) 2010-11: @Rs. 1.2 lakh per school for 628 schools
- (iv) 2011-12: @Rs. 1.2 lakh per school for 628 schools
- (v) 2012-13: @Rs. 1.2 lakh per school for 628 schools

- i) The project must be commissioned by January 2009. In no case should it spill over to the next financial year.
- ii) The State Govt. shall take immediate steps to make necessary provision in the State budget (both central and state share) for the scheme.
- iii) At the end of the five year period, the hardware and software would be the sole property of the State Govt. for use by the school concerned.
- iv) At least 2 schools located in each of the educationally backward blocks should be included in the programme

5.5. **UTTAR PRADESH:**

The presentation of the State CEP, 2008-09 was made by the Principal Secretary (School Education), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, highlights of which were as follows:

- i) There were a total of 5040 secondary schools.
- ii) 2500 secondary schools were sanctioned in 2007-08 and the finalization of the project is at advanced stage.
- iii) For 2008-09, the State Govt. has proposed another 2500 schools
- iv) A provision of Rs.5000 lakh (both Central and State share) was already available with the department. Another Rs.5625 lakh has been provided for the scheme for the new project.
- v) The State Govt. requested for shifting the project period for 2500 schools approved in 2007-08 to 2008-09.
- vi) After discussion, PMEG approved 1500 schools to be covered under BOOT model for a five year contract period. Release of Central share of Rs. 5 lakh per school would be phased in the following manner:-

- (i) 2008-09: @Rs. 1.5 lakh per school for 628 schools
- (ii) 2009-10: @Rs. 1.5 lakh per school for 628 schools
- (iii) 2010-11: @Rs. 1 lakh per school for 628 schools
- (iv) 2011-12: @Rs. 0.50 lakh per school for 628 schools
- (v) 2012-13: @Rs. 0.50 lakh per school for 628 schools

- vii) As the programme did not start in 2500 school, approved in 2007-08, it was agreed to shift the project cycle 2008-09 for a five year contract period. All other conditions conveyed to Govt. of UP would remain the same.
- viii) All efforts should be made to commission both the projects by February 2009. In no case should it spill over to the next financial year.
- ix) At the end of the five year period, the hardware and software would be the sole property of the State Govt. for use by the school concerned.
- x) At least 2 schools located in each of the educationally backward blocks should be included in the programme

5.6. **MAHARASHTRA:**

The presentation of the State CEP, 2008-09 was made by the Director of Secondary Education, Govt. of Maharashtra, highlights of which were as follows:

- i) There were a total of 17499 schools (483 Govt. and 17016 govt. aided secondary and higher secondary schools).
- ii) The programme was already commissioned in 500 schools approved in 2007-08 under BOOT model.
- iii) The proposal for 2008-09 was to cover 3000 schools under BOOT model with an estimated coverage of 13.78 lakh children.
- iv) A provision of Rs.3000 lakh (both Central and State share) has been provided in the State budget.

5.6.1. After discussion, PMEG approved 2500 schools to be covered under BOOT model for a five year contract period.

- i) Release of Central share of Rs. 5 lakh per school would be phased @ Rs.1 lakh per school per annum for a period of five years starting from 2008-09.
- ii) Utilization certificate of the central share should be immediately furnished.
- iii) All efforts be made to commission the project by February 2009. In no case should it spill over to the next financial year.
- iv) At the end of the five year period, the hardware and software would be the sole property of the State Govt. for use by the school concerned.

- v) At least 2 schools located in each of the educationally backward blocks should be included in the programme

5.7. **MEGHALAYA:**

The meeting was attended by Secretary (Education), Govt. of Meghalaya. It was informed by him that the programme in 75 schools approved for coverage in 2007-08, could not be started, due to certain administrative problems. He requested for shifting the project to 2008-09 and the same was approved by PMEG.

5.8. **RAJASTHAN:**

The presentation of the State CEP, 2008-09 was made by the Resident Commissioner, Govt. of Rajasthan, highlights of which were as follows: -

- i. Altogether there were 8427 schools [5140 secondary and 3287 higher secondary] in the State.
- ii. 100 schools, approved in 2006-07, have already been covered.
- iii. 2500 schools were approved in 2007-08 but due to non provisioning of funds in the State's own budget, the project cycle was shifted to 2008-09. The programme has already been commissioned in these 2500 schools.
- iv. For 2008-09, the State Govt. has proposed to cover 4000 schools under BOOT model benefiting 2.07 lakh children
- v. All the schools of the 8 Educationally Backward District have been proposed under the programme in 2008-09.
- vi. A provision of Rs.3333.33 lakh (Central share of Rs.2500 lakh and State share of Rs.833.33 lakh) has been made for the scheme in 2008-09

5.8.1 After discussion, PMEG approved 2000 schools for implementation under BOOT model for a five year contract period. Release of Central share of Rs. 5 lakh would be released in a phased manner @ Rs.1 lakh per school per annum for a period of 5 year starting from 2008-09.

5.8.2. Further the PMEG gave following directions:-

- i) At the end of the five-year period, the hardware and software would be the sole property of the State Govt. for use by the school concerned.
- ii) The programme should be commissioned by February 2009.
- iii) Utilization certificate for the grants released earlier should be immediately furnished.

5.9. **TRIPURA:**

PMEG was informed that the State Education Secretary could not attend the meeting due to indisposition. DEA (School 5) made a brief presentation on the CEP of the State, highlights of which were as follows: -

- i. Altogether there were 682 [400 Govt. secondary and 282 higher secondary schools] in the State.
- ii. Of the 400 schools approved under BOOT model, the programme has already begun in 200 schools. For the remaining 200 schools the State Govt. has completed the tendering process. It was not however clear as to why the State Govt. had implemented the programme in two phases of 200 school each.
- iii. For 2008-09 the State Govt. has proposed to cover the remaining 282 schools under BOOT model.
- iv. Rs. 2397 lakh (Rs.2157.30 lakh as Central share and Rs.239.70 lakh as State share) has been provided in the State budget for the scheme in 2008-09.

5.9.1. After discussion, PMEG approved 282 schools for implementation under BOOT model for a five year contract period. Release of Central share of Rs. 5 lakh per school would be phased in the following manner:-

- (i) 2008-09: @Rs. 2.03 lakh per school for 282schools
- (ii) 2009-10: @Rs. 1 lakh per school for 282 schools
- (iii) 2010-11: @Rs. 1 lakh per school for 282 schools
- (iv) 2011-12: @Rs. 1 lakh per school for 282 schools
- (v) 2012-13: @Rs. 1 lakh per school for 282 schools

5.9.2. Further the PMEG gave following directions:-

- i) At the end of the five-year period, the hardware and software would be the sole property of the State Govt. for use by the school concerned.
- ii) The programme of 200 schools approved in 2007-08 and 282 schools approved in 2008-09, should be commissioned by February 2009. At no stage should it be spilled over to the next year.
- iii) Utilization certificate for the grants released earlier should be immediately furnished.

5.10. **A&N ISLANDS:**

The presentation of the UT CEP, 2008-09 was made by the Deputy Education Officer of UT Administration, highlights of which were as follows: -

- i) Altogether there were 85 [42 Govt. secondary and 43 higher secondary schools] in the UT
- ii) 12 schools, approved in 2006-07, could not be covered under the scheme as the Ministry's sanction amount of Rs.32.30 lakh allowed for utilization was actually not drawn by the UT Adm. The sanction amount, thus, had been lapsed. There was no central assistance available with the UT administration to implement the project in 12 schools.
- iii) For 2008-09, the UT Admn. has proposed to cover 14 schools under Outright Purchase basis.
- iv) Rs. 10 lakh has been provided in the UT budget in 2008-09.

5.10.1. After discussion, PMEG approved coverage of 14 schools on Outright purchase basis with Central assistance to be released in two installments.

Further the PMEG gave following directions:-

- i) At least 2 schools located in each of the educationally backward blocks should be included in the programme.
- ii) The AMC should cover a period of 5 years from 2008-09.
- iii) All activities including teachers training should be completed by Feb. 2009

iv) UT Administration should enhance its budget provision to accommodate both Central and State shares

6. **Proposals of Central Institute of Technology (CIET) of NCERT.**

Prof. V.B. Gupta of CIET gave a presentation on the various proposals of C.I.E.T. CIET is the nodal agency for content development in association with the State Institutes of Education Technology [SIETs]. Keeping in view of the activities being undertaken, CIET is also being proposed for playing a lead role in content assessment and review, assessment of technological needs of SIETs, identification of Learning Objects (LOs) in various subjects.

6.1. It was informed that with the technological advancements, multi media e-content needed to be developed replacing the current system of video productions.

6.2. Item wise agenda were then taken up for consideration.

6.3. **Preparation of Multi Media Learning Objects:**

PMEG was informed that as per the guidelines of the scheme, the Committee is competent to effect certain modifications in the scheme. Para 10 of the guidelines states that "*PMEG shall be empowered to effect modifications in the scheme based on the feedback received and depending upon changes in the technological environment. As the shift in technological parameters is rapid, this would ensure that the scheme is able to adapt itself to changing conditions and requirements. Financial norms and budgetary outlays shall, however, be strictly adhered to.*"

6.3.1. PMEG noted that earlier SIETs were only developing audio and video programmes, whereas the present e-learning environment calls for use of multimedia and of interactivity in learning objects. Therefore, PMEG approved the production of interactive learning objects as per the recommendations of CIET and approved a unit cost of Rs.40,000 per programme on non-interactive learning objects with 2 animations (2D graphics) of about 15 frames and unit cost of Rs.50,000 per programme on interactive learning objects with 2 animations (2D graphics) of about 15 frames.

6.4. Release of grants to CIET for capacity building activities for development of Learning Objects:

PMEG approved Rs.1.81 lakh towards expenditure already incurred by CIET in holding a Workshop during 5-7 May, 2008 to select subject specific Learning Objects to be developed by it and by SIETs.

It further approved Rs.1.95 lakh to hold the 2nd Workshop on the Instructional Designs.

PMEG further instructed that all such activities of CIET would henceforth be booked under the NCERT budget.

6.5 Requirements of essential equipments for each SIETs and

6.6 Development of a Multi Media Lab in CIET

As specific provision for replacement of equipments available in SIETs and establishment of a new infrastructure are not covered under the present scheme, PMEG decided that the same may be mooted through an SFC Memorandum.

6.7. National Award for Teachers and Teacher Educators for "Using ICT for innovations in Teaching Practices" across all Govt. schools.

As there is no specific provision for the above proposal under the present scheme, PMEG decided that the same may be mooted through an SFC Memorandum

7. GENERAL

Under the ICT Scheme two models viz. outright purchase and BOOT were followed, PMEG decided that the following methodology be adopted for release of Central share: -

- (i) For outright purchase basis Central assistance may be released in two equal instalments subject to the progress of expenditure during the year. For release of 2nd instalment during the same year, only statement of expenditure be insisted upon and not the Utilization Certificate.
- (ii) In the case of BOOT model, since implementation is staggered over a period of 3-5 years, Central assistance may be released in one instalment per year at the beginning of the year for the requirement of the entire year subject to the progress of expenditure in the previous year.

- (iii) At the time of selecting agency, it should be ensured that the equipments were covered under a warranty period of a minimum five years.

PMEG further directed State Govt. representatives to: -

- (i) Create appropriate mechanism to maintain the assets created under the scheme sanctioned for Govt. aided schools.
- (ii) Establish monitoring system at all levels.
- (iii) Conduct at least one impact assessment study through reputed independent agency.

8. Concluding the discussion, Secretary (SE&L) urged State representatives to start implementing the scheme in a time bound manner and lay timelines for each of the activities involved. Information required by the Ministry should be furnished immediately. State budget should be suitably augmented. States should make all measures to have close monitoring of the programme. The Ministry would separately institute external monitoring system also. Appropriate content should be developed for computer aided learning and modules for training of teachers.

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

**Permissible Central Assistance to CIET and SIET for Developments of
Learning Objects**

Expenditure limit

a) Video Programme –Outdoor for 10 min.- Single camera :

- a. Rs. 40,000/- per programme on panel discussion documentary.
- b. Rs. 60,000 for full fledged drama

b) Multimedia programme (10 min.)

- Rs. 40,000/- per programme on non interactive with 2 animation (2D Graphics) about 15 frames.
- Rs. 50,000/- per programme on interactive with 2 animations (2D Graphics) about 15 frames.

c) Audio Programme for 10 min. :

- Rs. 10,000/- per programme on simple two people talk show,
- Rs. 25,000/- per programme on full fledged drama.