Minutes of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group Meeting held on 18th November, 2009 to consider the Computer Education Plans of State Governments of Gujarat, Haryana, J&K, Mizoram, Manipur, Uttarakhand and proposals of SIET Kerala and SIET Pune under Scheme of Information& Communication Technology (ICT) in School Scheme.

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The meeting of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group (PMEG) for the Centrally sponsored scheme of 'ICT in Schools' was held on 18th November, 2009 at 1100 hrs in the Conference Room under the Chairmanship of Secretary (SE&L) to consider the Computer Education Plans (CEPs) received from the State Governments of. State Governments of Gujarat, Haryana, J&K, Mizoram, Manipur, Uttarkhand and proposals of SIET Kerala and SIET Pune. Mizoram had expressed their inability to participate in the meeting. A list of the participants is annexed.

2.   Initiating the discussion, Secretary (SE&L) stated that the ICT in Schools scheme was one of the most important schemes at the secondary stage. In the coming years, investment in the programme was likely to increase considerably and greater linkage would be established between this scheme and other programmes, such as, Vocational Education, Technical Education, etc. 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 connection. The Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojna was one such important programme, which should be optimally utilized. Secretary (SE&L) further said that monitoring of the programme, particularly, by external agencies was very important. There was need for both continuous monitoring in the short term and impact assessment in the long run.

3.   Joint Secretary (SE) briefly explained Govt. of India's perspective on computer education & skill development, particularly, in the light of India having the highest percentage of young people in the world and competency in ICT would enable them to take a lead among the global work force. A summary of his views / observations is as under:-

(i)   All Govt. and Govt.-aided secondary and higher secondary schools numbering about one lakh in the country would be covered under the scheme in the XI Plan.

(ii)   The programme is needed to be evaluated through independent agencies, such as, IITs, NITs, IIITs and Engineering Colleges and the States have been accordingly requested earlier. Satisfaction of teachers and students was crucial;

(iii)   It is important that great emphasis should be given for computer-aided learning. Appropriate e-content is needed to be developed in consultation with reputed organizations so as to make learning by students joyful and interesting.

(iv)   As the technology had become cheaper over time, it would be appropriate to introduce more innovative tools and programmes to make the learning process more effective and interesting within the budget available.

(v)   Central Institute of Educational Technology of NCERT, and State Institutes of Educational Technology need to play an important role in developing e-content and recommending usage of appropriate technology and e-content. Institutions like SCERTs, DIETs and other organizations in private sector have to be roped in for the purpose.

(vi)   The creation of a database of number of schools covered, availability of facilities like internet, power supply, e content, training of teachers, etc. is vital for the implementation of the programme, particularly for close monitoring and further expansion.

(vii)   As Internet exposes students to the world of information, every school needs to have Internet connection, preferably broadband. The Ministry of Telecommunication has assured to provide Broadband connection on priority basis to all high schools during the 11th Plan. States need to take up the matter with the D/o Telecom and BSNL.

(viii) A nodal officer should be exclusively identified to spearhead the programme in each State.

(ix)   States should also document their innovative practices and share them with each other.

(x)   Private unaided schools also need to have computer labs. CBSE has amended its affiliation bye-laws and issued necessary instruction in the matter to its affiliated schools. Similar action may be initiated by the State Boards to ensure that the recognized private unaided schools affiliated to them also follow these guidelines.

(xi)   States must make adequate provision [both Central and State share] in their State Budget to obviate any difficulty in the fund flow. The budget provision is needed to be indicated in the CEP submitted by the State Govts.

(xii)   Physical progress from the State Governments/ UTs are not being received regularly. State Govts. submit only Utilisation Certificates, which does not reflect the physical progress of works.

(xiii) State Govts./ UTs should confirm whether two educationally backward blocks in each district have been covered under the Scheme.

(xiv)   Approvals will be accorded preferably on BOOT Model. However, if State Govts. require approvals under Outright Purchase, suitable justification should be submitted for consideration by PMEG.

(xv)   Earlier the Ministry had directed the State Governments to impart training to five teachers per school. However, with the reduction in the prices of hardware and also since the scheme is implemented by many States under BOOT Model, it is desirable that all the teachers in the school are trained to use ICT for teaching their respective subjects. The State Govts. should ensure that at least one week's training is imparted to all the teachers in the sanctioned schools. Teachers can be imparted training in batches.

(xvi)   State Govts./UTs should submit a report giving details of schools covered, software being used, number of students benefited so far, teachers trained and e content developed/procured.

4.   Thereafter the Computer Education Plans of the States and proposals of SIETs were taken up for consideration of PMEG.

5.   **Haryana**

5.1   Principal Secretary, Government of Haryana made a presentation which is summarized below:

- Expressed regret that due to elections, no officials from the State could attend the earlier PMEG meetings
- The present proposal is only for government schools.
- There are 22 lakh students in government school and 24 lakh children in private schools.
- To offset problem of dropouts a stipend is paid monthly. This has resulted in increase in the enrolment by 10% to 15%.
- State Govt. has changed teaching methods and has introduced project based learning, involving children in day to day school activities.
- Teachers are appointed only after they qualify an Eligibility Test.
- The minimum qualification of teachers has been upgraded from D.Ed. (after +2) as per NCTE norms to graduate.
- Teachers are recruited by a separate Teacher Recruitment Board, which carries out the process 2 or 3 times every year to ensure there is no backlog of vacancies.
- ICT enabled teaching constitutes an integral part In B.Ed./D.Ed courses,.
- The State Plan budget has been enhanced from Rs.110 crore in 2004-05 to Rs.1010 crore in 2009-10
- Power supply is inbuilt in the MoU entered with vendors
- Computer education has been introduced as Elective in XI and XII. Examinations are held and an add on certificate is given to the passing children. The certificate is such that it has a value in the market for job opportunities also.
- A 3-year contract (upto 2010) has been signed with Educomp and NICT for covering 1240 schools. These schools are having computers ranging between 4 to 20 computers.
- Computer teachers are outsourced and a sum of Rs.7000 p.m. is paid. Minimum qualification is 3 years diploma. However, there is a problem of monitoring
- State Govt. has identified 213 biggest senior secondary school with full inputs, including a full time computer teacher, at a cost of Rs.20 lakhs per school whereas 500 schools are being covered under GOI. The cost comes to Rs.12.40 lakhs per school, which includes Rs.2.40 lakh for lab attendant. State Govt will be funding the balance amount.
- Rs.25 crore was released to the State Govt in two installment of Rs.12.50 crore in 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively, UC for 2007-08 release is ready for submission and UC for 2008-09 would be submitted shortly.
- 1000 schools were approved in 2008-09 under BOOT model, for which no funds were released by the centre due to non-receipt of UC of previous releases
- Proposal is to cover remaining 740 Government Senior Secondary Schools and 500 Govt. High Schools totaling 1240 schools in 2009-10

5.2.   After the presentation, the following observations were made:
- Teachers should be trained not only in use of computers (computer literacy) but also to use ICT in teaching respective subjects.

- Under the scheme, each school should be equipped with a minimum of 10 computers.
- There is also no provision in the scheme for bearing the costs of a lab attendant
- The State budgetary provision was inadequate for covering 1240 schools and by the time the state Govt. gets it enhanced, it would be late for release of funds, as in the last quarter only 33% of the total budget allocation can be released as per MoF's instructions. In the absence of UCs, even if approvals are given, it will be only on paper and therefore, it was agreed that the State Govt. would submit the UCs by 15th December, 2009.

5.3   After discussion, the following decisions were taken:

- Keeping in view the budgetary provision made, 1000 schools (740 Senior Secondary and 260 Secondary Schools) were approved under BOOT model for 5 years w.e.f. 2009-10 to 2013-14.
- Release of Central share would be phased as follows:
    - 2009-10 @ Rs.1.5 lakh per school
    - 2010-11 @ Rs.1.5 lakh per school
    - 2011-12 @ Rs.1.0 lakh per school
    - 2012-13@ Rs.0.5 lakh per school
    - 2013-14@ Rs.0.5 lakh per school
- State Govt. would submit the list of these 1000 schools within one week.
- 1000 schools were earlier approved by PMEG under BOOT model in 2008-09. On the request of the State Govt this sanction was recommended to be cancelled, as no follow up action was taken.

6.   **Gujarat**

6.1   The representative of State Govt. of Gujarat made a presentation, highlights of which are as under:

- Golden goal of Education Deptt. of Govt. of Gujarat is to equip all secondary and senior secondary schools with computers to provide education through computer by 2010.
- All 3650 schools approved in 2008-09 have already been covered.
- Tendering is under process for 2418 schools approved in 2009-10 under BOOT model and tender document would be finalized within a week's time.
- Proposal for 2009-10 is to obtain approval for another 489 schools out of which 240 are govt. schools recently upgraded from primary to secondary schools; 188 schools belong to Tribal Department and 61 Schools are of Social Welfare Department. The upgraded schools do not have appropriate building as yet, but is being proposed under RMSA. The TD and SW schools have sufficient space to accommodate computers.
- UC for Rs.1067 lakh out of Rs.1100 lakh released in 2007-08 has been sent.

6.2   After the presentation, the following observations were made:

- UC of Rs.1100 lakh including the State share is yet to be received. This is needed before further funds can be released.
- Total list of schools in the State along with list of schools covered and proposed to be covered to be sent to the Ministry in soft form within a week.
- Computer labs proposed to be built in 240 out of 489 schools now proposed, with funds from RMSA would take time
- Copy of Govt. order with regard to upgradation of primary school to secondary school should be sent.

- Budgetary provision was found to be inadequate and State needs to enhance the budget before funds are released as other wise State Govt. would not able to draw the funds.
- Funds have been earmarked under both Plan and Non Plan head. Funds can be released under one head only and this has been reiterated in the earlier PMEG meeting and also in writing.

6.3.   After detailed discussion, the following decisions were taken:

- 249 schools (188 schools of Tribal Department and 61 Schools of Social Welfare Department) were approved under BOOT model for a period of 5 years w.e.f. 2009-10 to 2013-14.
- Release of Central share of Rs.5 lakhs per school would be phased as under:
  2009-10 @ Rs.1.5 lakh per school
  2010-11 @ Rs.1.5 lakh per school
  2011-12 @ Rs.1.0 lakh per school
  2012-13 @ Rs.0.50 lakh per school
  2013-14 @ Rs.0.50 lakh per school

- Approval of 249 schools is further subject to following conditions:
    i)   Budgetary provision (to cater to both Central and State share) should be enhanced.
    ii)   Copy of the notification upgrading the primary schools to secondary schools should be submitted
    iii)   UC for Rs.1100 lakh released along with utilization of the State share should be submitted.
    iv)   State Govt. should submit a list of all Secondary and Higher secondary schools; list of schools approved; list of schools already covered and list of schools to be covered along with geographical details of location in soft form.

7.   **Manipur**
7.1.   Commissioner (Education), Government of Manipur, made a presentation, highlights of which are as under:

- All the 65 schools approved in 2007-08 have been fully covered.
- UC of Central share along with utilization of State share for these 65 schools has already been sent.
- 250 teachers have already been trained for 45 days and 325 teachers are proposed to be trained in batches.
- Internet facility is available with the help of BSNL and Airtel.
- Power in hilly region is a problem and generators are provided.
- In order to off set power problem, State Govt has sanctioned Rs.50 lakh for setting up a solar plant as a pilot project.
- At the existing centre in Imphal, teachers are trained on e-learning multimedia.
- A programme for training of teachers was being undertaken by Intel.
- Proposal to cover 130 schools during 2009-10 (106 Secondary and 24 Higher Secondary schools).
- Budgetary provision (Centre + State share) for implementing the scheme in 130 schools are available.
- Schools will become operational by February end.

7.2   After discussions, 130 schools were approved for coverage under outright purchase model.

8.   **Jammu & Kashmir**

8.1   The representative of State Govt. made a presentation, highlights of which are as under:

- Schools approved earlier had not been covered so far due to lack of budgetary provision by the State.
- State Govt. has now made the requisite budgetary provision (Centre + State share) amounting to Rs.1340 lakhs
- 42 EBBs out of 97 EBBs in the State are proposed to be covered.
- Out of 12,000 students to be benefited, 4650 are girl students.
- Some schools have been provided only with 6 computers.
- 400 in-service teachers are proposed to be trained.
- Revalidation of Rs.603 lakhs released earlier was sought.

8.2.   After the presentation, the following observations were made:

- all schools need to have a minimum of 10 computers each under the scheme.
- State Govt. should devise a plan to train all the teachers
- State Govt. has still not submitted the location of the schools required for onward transmission to Deptt. of Telecommunication for provision of broad band connectivity.

8.3   After detailed discussion, the following decisions were taken:

i)   200 Schools earlier approved in the year 2007-08 for coverage under outright purchase would now be covered in 2009-10.
ii)   Rs 200 lakhs released for coverage of 200 schools in 2007-08, which have already been revalidated in 2008-09, would be revalidated for a second time for utilizing in 2009-10. No further revalidation would be granted.
iii) State Govt. would submit a written communication about the availability of budgetary support before revalidation is agreed to.
iv)   In the event of State Govt. not being able to utilize Rs.603 lakhs released earlier during the current financial year, i.e. 2009-10, State Govt. would refund the entire amount, and the sanction given for 200 schools would also be cancelled.

9.   **Uttarakhand**

9.1   Director, School Education, Govt. of Uttarakhand, made a presentation, highlights of which are as under:

- State Govt. has made a budgetary provision of only the State share and the Central share would be done after getting formal approval from GoI.
- State Assembly is scheduled to be held in December, and the budget would be enhanced at that time.
- Regarding 100 schools sanctioned in 2007-08, expression of interest has been invited by vendors.
- Financial assistance has been sought for establishment of IT Academy and E-libraries @ one library per block.
- Teacher training was being imparted with the help of Microsoft and Intel.
- All senior teachers undergo 18 days training in addition to 10 days training in DIET.

9.2   After the presentation, the following observations were made:

- State Govt. should make the budgetary provision at the start of the financial year instead of awaiting for formal approval from GoI.

- As per GOI records, State Govt. has intimated that 100 schools sanctioned in 2007-08 have already been covered and UC has been given. However the Director, Directorate of Education, Govt. of Uttarakhand informed that the money has only been transferred to the implementing agency and actually no work has commenced. These schools were sanctioned under Outright purchase with corresponding funds having been released. However the State proposes to carry out the works under BOOT system now. This is highly irregular.
- As State Govt. has proposed to implement the scheme under BOOT model, maintenance cost is not allowed.

9.3.   After discussion, the following decisions were taken:

i)   The State Govt should refund to GOI the amount released in 2007-08 for 100 schools, as there has been no progress in implementation. A letter will be sent from GOI to bring the issue to the notice of Chief Secretary for taking further necessary action.

ii)   500 schools approved in principle in 2008-09 were cancelled

iii)   500 schools now proposed are approved to be implemented under BOOT model for a period of five years w.e.f. 2009-10 to 2013-14.

iv)   Release of Centre share of Rs.5 lakhs would be phased in the following manner:
        2009-10 @ Rs.1.5 lakh per school
        2010-11 @ Rs.1.5 lakh per school
        2011-12 @ Rs.1.0 lakh per school
        2012-13 @ Rs.0.50 lakh per school
        2013-14 @ Rs.0.50 lakh per school

vi)   Funds would be released only after the State Govt. indicate budget provision.

10.   **UT Chandigarh**

10.1   The representative of UT Administration made a presentation, highlights of which are as under:

- Approval has already been given to all the 87 schools earlier by PMEG and hence the proposal submitted is wrong.
- Funds have not been released for covering all these schools.
- UC for Rs.100 lakh has been sent, which includes Rs.35.20 lakh released in 2007-08 for coverage 67 schools.
- A budget provision of Rs.125.10 lakh has been earmarked for implementing this scheme.

10.2   After discussion, UT Administration, Chandigarh was advised to reconcile receipt of utilization certificate for the funds earlier released. The representative withdrew the request for sanction of new schools as all existing schools have already been covered.

11.   **SIET Kerala**

11.1   Director, SIET Kerala made a presentation, highlights of which are as under:

- Director SIET proposed central assistance to the tune of Rs.3.32 crores for content development and other IMMLO for Secondary and Higher Secondary students in various subjects like English, Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, which will be produced in Malayalam language.
- DVDs of this IMMLO would be supplied to schools and students at a nominal price.
- Other SIETs can re-dub the content in their mother tongue
- SIET has conducted a Film Festival for Children recently.

- There should be a clear cut guidelines at the start of the financial year to decide the content to be produced by each SIET so as to avoid duplication. For this CIET should clearly issue instructions.

After the presentation, the following were the observations/clarifications given:

- Representative from CIET stated that a scrutiny of the Learning Object (LO) submitted by SIET Kerala earlier was more of animation rather than content and did not have a firm story line. SIET Kerala was advised to rectify this

- Director SIET clarified that the present proposal has already been cleared in their Executive Board, wherein Joint Director, CIET was also present.

- Annual plan should be scrutinized first by CIET before placing in the PMEG even if a representative of CIET was present in the EB meetings of SIETs. CIET should also hold quarterly meetings of SIETs as had also been instructed by JS (SE) earlier. CIET should finalise SIET wise content plan to avoid duplication.

- On a query by JS(SE), Director SIET clarified that audio programmes are essential to be produced as IGNOU has already confirmed allotment of 2 hours in the proposed FM Radio of IGNOU to be started at Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi.

- All programmes generated as well as the websites should be disabled friendly and should follow W3C standards.

11.3. After detailed discussion, the following decisions were taken:

i) SE Bureau should submit the project proposals received from SIETs to CIET immediately on receipt, even if Joint Director, who is one of the Members on Board of Executive Board, has attended the SIET Board meeting.

ii) Chairperson directed that Joint Director CIET should attend PMEG meetings regularly.

iii) The project proposal of SIET was considered by PMEG and the following was approved:

S.No.	Activities	Amount Proposed (Rs. In lakh)
1.	Production of 500 Lesson Educational TV programme @ Rs.20,000/- each	100.00
2.	Production of 500 audio programme @ Rs.6000/- each	30.00
3.	Development of 100 Multi media Learning Objects @ Rs.30,000/- each	30.00
4.	Office Expenditure	3.00
5.	Library books, periodicals, etc.	0.50
	Total	**163.50**

12. SIET Pune

12.1 The representative of SIET Pune presented a proposal for financial assistance, based on PWD estimates, towards civil construction, duly approved by its Executive Committee.

12.2   The project proposal of SIET was considered by PMEG and the following was approved, subject to strict adherence to PWD norms:

S.No.	Activities	Amount Proposed (Rs. In lakh)
1.	To remove the tar felt and to construct new coba, plaster the parapet of the roof area 604 sq.mtrs. @ Rs.700/- per sq.m.	4.22
2.	To carry out painting of the building	2.19
3.	Repairs of doors, windows, water supply, drainage, flooring, compound wall, etc.	5.87
4.	Acoustic ceiling and welding	6.43
	Total	**18.71**

13.   **Other Issues**

- A communication should be sent to all State and UTs to submit list of secondary and higher secondary schools covered under the scheme along with latitude and longitude of each school so that the details of location could be plotted on a GIS alongwith the online reporting and monitoring system to be developed by NIC.
- Each State should constitute a committee for monitoring and evaluation of each school covered under the scheme. The Committees should be put in place by 15.12.2009 and the report submitted in two months time
- The Ministry should also constitute a committee, to be housed in CIET, for evaluation of the programme in each State. The report should be submitted within 3 months of the notification of the Committee.
- Ministry should issue orders for constitution of an expert committee
  i)   To evaluate the various e content being presented to the Ministry by various private companies
  ii)   To put in place an access mechanism for these private companies
  iii)   To chalk out a Request for Proposal (RFP)

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

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