

F.No. 25-1/2009-Sch.1  
Government of India  
Ministry of Human Resource Development  
Department of School Education & Literacy  
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New Delhi Dated 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2009

To

The Secretaries, In-charge of Secondary Education in Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh

**Subject: Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Grants in Aid Committee to consider State proposals for Model Schools scheme held on 12.11.2009**

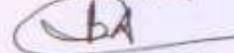
I am directed to forward herewith minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Grants in Aid Committee to consider State proposals for Model Schools scheme held on 12.11.2009 for information and necessary action at your end.

2. The State Governments are requested to furnish the necessary clarifications as mentioned in the minutes in order to enable to process the case for requisite approval. The gist of information/ clarifications required from State governments is mentioned below:

- (i) **Chhattisgarh:** A status report on implementation of the 20 schools approved in the GIAC meeting held on 19.8.2009.
- (ii) **Bihar:** Clarifications/ information as stated in para 2.2 (v) of the minutes.
- (iii) **West Bengal:** Commitment to bear the additional expenditure over and above the scheme norm as stated in para 2.3 (v) of the minutes
- (iv) **Jammu & Kashmir:** Revised cost estimates and/or commitment to bear the additional expenditure over and above the scheme norm as stated in para 2.4 (vii) of the minutes
- (v) **Gujarat:** Clarifications regarding medium of instruction.
- (vi) **Uttar Pradesh:** Clarifications/ information as stated in para 2.5 (v) of the minutes.

3. All State governments are also requested to furnish society details, bond, resolution and authorization letter immediately as per the format available on MHRD website in order to ensure speedy release of fund.

Yours faithfully



(Bhaskar Dasgupta)

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## **Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Grants in Aid Committee to consider State proposals for Model Schools scheme held on 12.11.2009.**

A meeting of the Grants in Aid Committee was held on 12.11.2009 in the Conference Room, Ministry of Human Resource Development to consider the proposals of Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh under the Model School scheme. A list of participants is **appended**.

2. The proposals from the concerned State governments were considered and the following decisions were taken.

### **2.1 Chhattisgarh**

- (i) This was the second installment of proposal from Government of Chhattisgarh. In the meeting held on 19.8.2009, 20 model schools were approved and Rs.22.65 crore as first installment of central share has already been released to the State government.
- (ii) JS(SE) enquired about the status of schools sanctioned in the first phase. Secretary (School Education), Chhattisgarh informed that the central share has just been received and the State government is in the process of selecting construction agencies etc.
- (iii) JS(SE) stated that all State governments should come out with clear and well defined action plan for setting up the schools along with their proposals so that the money does not lie idle after release. The State Governments, therefore, need to sort out issues like construction agencies quickly preferably before submission of the proposal. Secretary, Chhattisgarh submitted that the pace of construction of State PWDs is not always of desirable pace and, therefore, they are exploring the option of constructing the schools through agencies other than State PWDs. JS(SE) advised that besides state PWDs, construction through other government agencies such as Housing Boards etc. could be considered. However, the State governments need to sort out these issues immediately.

- (iv) Thereafter, Secretary, Chhattisgarh made a presentation on their proposal to set up Model Schools in 54 blocks. The following issues were discussed and clarified.
- All schools will have classes VI to XII. Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh in this connection clarified that English will be the medium of instruction in these schools.
  - It was observed that in some cases the proposed location of the schools is quite far away from the block headquarters. Secretary(SE), Chhattisgarh clarified that these schools will come up in big villages with large population and sufficient number of students will be available in catchment area.
  - He also confirmed that adequate land has been identified for each school and the same is in government possession and ownership, including in 12 blocks where ownership of land has not been indicated in State proposal.
  - In 2 blocks, namely, Udaipur and Wadrafnagar, availability of land is less than 5 acre (4.047 acres). Secretary (SE&L) stated that land should not be a problem in Chhattisgarh and, therefore, State government should make another effort to locate adequate land in these 2 blocks. However, the State government needs to ensure that no forest land is taken up for this purpose.
  - The State government representative also clarified that Gaurilla and Pendra Blocks in Bilaspur district stand for Gaurilla (I) and Gaurilla (II) in the MDM list and both these blocks are EBBs.
- (v) It was also confirmed that a provision of Rs.100 crore has already been made in the State budget to meet State share.
- (vi) GIAC recommended 52 schools, except for Udaipur and Wadrafnagar where availability of land is less than 5 acres. The release of first installment will be subject to progress of implementation of first proposal for 20 schools being furnished. A list of 52 blocks where Model Schools have been sanctioned is attached as **Annexure- I**.

- (vii) GIAC also ratified sanctioning of Rs.3.02 crore per school for 20 schools sanctioned in the first phase, instead of Rs.2.94 crore per school, which was indicated by mistake.

## **2.2 Bihar**

- (i) The representative of Government of Bihar made a presentation on their proposal to set up 106 schools. All schools will be from Classes VI to XII. The medium of instruction has been stated as 'English and Hindi'. At least 5 acres of land is available in each case.
- (ii) JS (SE) stated that State governments are free to set up schools in any medium. However, if the medium of instruction is the regional language, the schools should have only secondary classes (from IX to XII). This would also help the State Government to reduce cost as fewer number of class rooms would be required. If the schools are set up in English medium, the classes should be from VI to XII, as students would not be able to switch to a different medium at a later stage such as class IX.
- (iii) JS(SE) also advised the State government to consider setting up separate societies for RMSA, Model Schools and Girls' Hostel schemes; considering the very large number of EBBs (530) in the State. The representative of the State government stated that so far the decision was to implement all 3 schemes through a single society, registration of which was under process. However, in view of the advice of the Government of India, State government would revisit the issue.
- (iv) Although land has been identified in each case, specific location (Survey No. etc.) has not been indicated. State government was advised to furnish the same.
- (v) GIAC recommended 105 schools in as many blocks (except for Khutauna block in Madhubani district which is not an EBB) subject to,
- Details of specific location (survey No. etc.) being furnished by the State government.
  - Provision for State share in the State budget being clarified.

- Medium of instruction being clarified by the State government. Schools in Hindi medium can have only classes from IX to XII.
  - Additional cost beyond scheme norm to be borne by the State government.
- (vi) List of 105 blocks where Model Schools have been sanctioned is given in **Annexure-II**.

### **2.3 West Bengal**

- (i) State Project Director (SSA), Government of West Bengal made a presentation on the proposal to set up 24 Model Schools in as many blocks. He stated that State government has carried out detailed preparation for construction of schools and a building plan is ready. He was confident that schools would be completed within 12 months of sanction. RMSA society has been notified and is in the process of being registered. Registration details will be given by the end of November, 2009. This society will also implement Model Schools and Girls' Hostel schemes for which separate cells and accounts will be opened. Provision for State share has also been made in the State budget.
- (ii) It was observed that project cost of construction of school is Rs.3.70 crore as against the scheme norm of Rs.3.02 crore. JS(SE) clarified that the additional cost over and above the scheme norm would have to be borne by the State Government.
- (iii) It was also observed that availability of land in 4 blocks, namely, old Malda, Manik Chalk, Chopra and Goalpokhar II is less than 5 acres. Representative of State government stated that they had requested all districts administrations to identify 5 to 7 acres of land with good connectivity and having electricity and water connection. However, in spite of sustained effort, 5 acres of land could not be identified in these blocks. He further stated that these blocks are in Malda and North Dinajpur districts which are extremely fertile with multiple crop cultivation and it is extremely difficult to find 5 acres of contiguous land with good connectivity in such blocks. These blocks are also in border

districts and have huge minority population with low girls' literacy. Girls' Hostels are indeed needed in such blocks. He, therefore, requested that as a special case these schools may be approved.

- (iv) He also confirmed that the 3 blocks where the land has been donated, the ownership has already been transferred to State governments.
- (v) GIAC recommended 20 schools in 20 blocks having more than 5 acres of land subject to additional expenditure over and above the scheme norm being born by the State government. A list of these blocks is at **Annexure-III**.
- (vi) As regards the remaining 4 blocks with less than 5 acres of land, the State government was advised to make another effort to find at least 5 acres of land, and send a letter with detailed justification in case the same is not possible. This will be decided on file.

## **2.4 Jammu & Kashmir**

- (i) The representative of State Government made a presentation for setting up of 24 schools in as many blocks. 17 schools have been proposed as new schools, and 7 as converted. The projected unit cost for the new school is Rs.6.18 crore. Among the new schools, in 3 cases the availability of land is less than 5 acres. All new schools will be having classes from VI to XII, with English as medium of instruction. The schools will be affiliated to J&K State Education Board. The implementing agency for the time will be Ujala Society, which is also implementing the SSA scheme.
- (ii) JS (SE) stated that it might be difficult for one society to implement RMSA, Model Schools and Girls Hostel scheme in addition to SSA. State government representative intimated that a separate society is being constituted and will be in place within one month.
- (iii) It was observed that the unit cost is on the high side and the State government is required either to revise the estimate or to meet the additional financial burden. The State representative informed that estimates will be

revised so as to bring it within the scheme norm of Rs.3.02 crore.

- (iv) The land availability of 3 blocks (Khag, Ramsu and Mahore) was discussed in detail. The State government representative submitted that the topography of these blocks being hilly in nature, it is very difficult to identify 5 acres of contiguous land. He requested for approval of Model School proposed in these blocks as a special case. Considering the topography of these blocks GIAC approved schools in these 3 blocks as a special case.
- (v) As regards the 7 schools proposed to be converted, it was observed that more than 5 acres of land is available in 2 schools (Pattan and Zansakar block). The State government was advised to consider opening of new schools in these blocks as adequate land was available. State government representative informed that Secretary Education, Jammu & Kashmir, has authorized him to inform GIAC that new schools will be opened in these 2 blocks.
- (vi) As regards the remaining 5 schools proposed to be converted, State government was advised to make another effort to locate adequate land for new schools. State government representative informed that being hilly blocks, it may not be possible to locate 5 acres of contiguous land and GIAC may permit the State government to locate land in the separate but nearby location for a school. Considering the special topography of these blocks, GIAC approved this request.
- (vii) GIAC recommended 19 new schools in J&K except for the 5 blocks where State government is to make effort to locate suitable land for new schools. A list of these blocks is at **Annexure –IV**. The approval is subject to either the State government revising the cost estimates to bring it within the scheme norm or bearing the additional expenditure over and above the scheme norm.

## **2.5 Uttar Pradesh**

- (i) It was observed that out of the 479 proposals submitted by the State Government, land has been identified only in

14 blocks. Even among the 14 blocks, the quantum and title of the land are not clear in some cases. JS(SE) stated that there is a need for more concerted effort by the State government to prepare a viable proposal and the information furnished by the blocks needs proper scrutiny at the State level.

- (ii) Representative of the State government stated that although they have written to district administration for identification of location, the same has not been done in most cases.
- (iii) On the question of implementing society, the State representative informed that the scheme will be implemented by the UP Sabhi Ke Liye Shiksha Pariyojana Parishad. JS(SE) stated that it might be difficult for this society, already entrusted with the responsibility of implementing SSA, to implement RMSA, Model School and Girl's Hostel scheme. It will be necessary for the State government to set up a separate society.
- (iv) Secretary (SE&L) directed that considering the slow progress in planning and implementation of the project, a letter may be sent to Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh to expedite the process.
- (v) GIAC, in principle, approved 8 schools in as many blocks (list at **Annexure – V**) with clear ownership and more than 5 acres of land subject to,
  - i. State government indicating details of locations (Survey No. etc.)
  - ii. Confirming ownership of land with State government.
  - iii. Commitment to bear expenditure over and above of the scheme norms and Rs.3.02 crore.

## 2.6 Gujarat

- (i) The representative of Gujarat presented the proposal for 43 schools in as many EBBs. It was mentioned that Model Schools and Girls' Hostels will be constructed together, and for this purpose adequate land (6 acres) has been identified for all the schools. The schools will have classes

from VI to XII, and both Gujarati and English have been proposed as medium of instruction in most cases.

- (ii) JS(SE) stated that mixed medium of instructions might be difficult to operate unless teachers capable of teaching in both mediums are found. State governments have the flexibility to choose any medium of instruction. If the medium is the regional language, the schools should have only secondary classes (IX to XII), whereas English medium schools should start at a lower level (class VI) as it would be difficult for the students to switch over to a different medium at a later stage.
- (iii) State representative informed that most schools will be set up in English medium except for the schools in Amreli and Junagarh districts, where these would be in Gujarati medium. The state government was advised to clarify their position in writing. It was also clarified that a lower cost norm (Rs.2.55 crore) would apply to schools with classes IX to XII as number of classrooms required will be less.
- (iv) GIAC recommended 43 Model Schools in as many EBBs subject to State government clarifying medium of instruction in each school. A list of blocks where Model Schools have been approved is at **Annexure-VI**.

**3. General Issues:** The following issues were also discussed in the meeting:

**(i) Medium of instruction:** As per the provision of the scheme, medium of instruction is to be decided by the State Governments (**Para 4.3 of the scheme**). However, it also stipulates that if the schools are from class VI to XII, they will be in English medium, and if schools are having classes from IX to XII, they will be in regional medium.

Some of the State Governments have proposed more than one medium in the same school (one section in regional medium and another section in English medium). This is creating some difficulty in approval of the proposal.

JS(SE) clarified that as per the scheme the State government is free to set up the schools in any medium. These schools are envisaged as secondary schools, and therefore, should have classes from IX to

XII. This would create no difficulty if the school is set up in regional medium. However, if the school is set up in English medium, starting the school at class IX might make it difficult for many students studying in regional medium up to class VIII, to suddenly switch over to English medium. This is why the scheme envisages that schools in English medium should have classes from VI to XII, and schools in regional medium may have classes from IX to XII.

JS(SE) also stated that having two or more mediums in the same school might be difficult to operate unless teachers capable of teaching in more than one medium are available.

**(ii) Building design:** The Model Schools have been envisaged in KV template and therefore all State governments were advised to ensure adherence to KV space norms and specifications in construction of schools buildings. These specifications are available on MHRD website.

**(iii) Submission of Bond, Resolution etc.:** It has been observed that release of fund is often held up/ delayed due to non-receipt of bond, resolution etc. Just to give an illustration release of fund to Himachal Pradesh approved in July, 2009 is still held up due to non-submission of bond etc. State govts were therefore, again impressed upon the importance of timely submission of society details, bonds, resolution, authorization letter etc. as per the format already available on MHRD website.

4. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.