Minutes of the meeting of Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group Meeting (PMEG) held on 1st December 2011 to consider the Computer Education Plans of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, SIET, Hyderabad and NIC under the Scheme of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in School Scheme.

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The meeting of the Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Group (PMEG) for the Centrally sponsored scheme of ICT in Schools was held on 1st December 2011 at 1500 hours in the Conference Room under the Chairmanship of Secretary (SE&L), MHRD to consider the Computer Education Plans (CEPs) received from the States/ Union Territories/ Other Organisations i.e., Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, SIET, Hyderabad and Development of Web-based Management Information System for ICT in Schools by NIC. The list of participants is at **Annexure I**.

2. At the outset, Director (SE) welcomed all the members of the PMEG, representatives of the State Governments/ UT Administrations/ Organizations.

3. Thereafter, the Computer Education Plans (CEPs) of the States and the proposals of the other organisations were taken up for consideration.

ASSAM

4.1 Shri L.C. Singhi, Commissioner & Secretary, D/o Education, Govt. of Assam presented the Computer Education proposal from Govt. of Assam. The salient features are as under:

- ➢ The total number of schools in Assam is 5651 (4821 secondary schools and 830 Higher Secondary School). So far 641 schools were covered in 2007-08 and 1240 schools were covered in 2010-11. The present proposal for approval is for coverage of 2107 Secondary Schools under ICT in School Scheme in 2011-12.
- ➢ The number of composite schools in Assam is very low.
- ➢ Power and internet connectivity are major challenges for the State.
- ➢ Dedicated teacher for each school is available
- ➢ Generator sets were made available in every school as part of the scheme.
- ➢ Detailed operational guidelines covering specifications on faculty qualifications, content for teaching, exams to be conducted, teachers to be trained, mapping software for classes IX-XI etc. is being issued by the State Govt. to all schools across the State.
- ➢ Revising the course curriculum of entire content upto Class IX.

4.2 The members made the following observations:
- ➢ Regarding internet connectivity, JS(SE-I) mentioned that the issue of a focussed approach for North East Region will be taken up with M/o IT. Shri M.K. Yadav, MD, Assam Electronics Development Corporation Ltd., said that the State Govt. has already taken up the issue with M/o IT, and it would help if M/o HRD could follow up on it.
- ➢ With regard to 3rd Party evaluation, the same has been done by IIM, Indore the report of which would be sent to MHRD. Further, the Govt. of Assam proposes to hold fresh 3rd party evaluation this year and is exploring the possibility of entrusting the job to IIT, Guwahati. JS(SE-I) enquired about the major findings of the evaluation done by IIM, Indore. The State Govt. representative clarified that the major findings were poor payments to faculty and question mark on actual deliverables. However, the State Govt. is likely to issue revised guidelines in which the proposed payments to faculty would be Rs. 8000-9000.
- ➢ PMEG members raised the issue that the Assam government's list of specification for computer peripherals includes a 12 kbps modem, which is outdated as separate modems

are no longer used. The representative of the State said that they will amend the list of specifications appropriately.

➢ With regard to teacher training, it was suggested that the State Govt. should work out the details and content of teacher training in ICT in order to ensure that the objective of teacher training is being achieved. This element should not be left entirely in the hands of the vendors.

➢ Secy (SE&L) observed that the State Govt. has taken a long time to complete the target of 2007-08 (641 schools). Therefore, the question arises as to how they can manage to implement the scheme of such a huge number of 3347 schools at a time (in hand 1240 + 2107 proposed for 2011-12). It was explained that State Govt. was engaged in implementing its own computer education scheme hence there was delay in demand for release of 2nd instalment of funds for schools sanctioned in 2007-08 under ICT scheme. Now the Govt. of Assam is implementing only the CEP and the process of tendering for 1240 schools is in final stage. Further they have infrastructure available in 969 schools within the proposed 2107 schools.

4.3   After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken:

➢ PMEG recommended coverage of 969 schools under BOOT model for a period of 5 years w.e.f. 2011-12 to 2015-16 subject to submission of Utilization Certificate of previous releases.

➢ The central assistance of Rs. 5.76 lakh per school (non-recurring) would be phased out at the rate of Rs. 1.76 lakh per school per year for the first year and Rs. 1.00 lakh for the next four years.

➢ Recurring expenditure would be processed on file on reimbursement basis on submission of actual expenditure incurred and on installation of infrastructure.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

5.1   Dr. Yogesh, Joint Director, D/o Higher Education, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh made a presentation of the proposal (**Annexure II**). The salient features of the presentation are:

➢ IT Education project implemented in 968 Govt. Sr. Sec. Schools on self-financing basis (Government of Himachal Pradesh Scheme).

➢ 50 multimedia computer centres established

➢ Computer awareness programme implemented through SSA in 282 Govt. Middle/ High Schools

➢ IT lab established in 52 colleges

➢ Computer education in 25 Govt. Sr. Sec. Schools under Vocational Education.

➢ 628 schools were covered under ICT 2008-09.

➢ 618 schools were covered under ICT in 2010-11 and implementation of Ph-II has started

➢ 5 smart schools are being established

➢ Educational content will be procured from NCERT /CIET /BOOT operator in consultation with CIET and State level evaluation committee will be formed to assess e-content

5.2   During discussion with the PMEG members, the following clarifications were provided:

➢ Exclusive ICT Cell in the District was recently established

➢ State Govt. assured provision and release of state share of funds.

➢ A request was made to NIT & IIT for undertaking of 3rd Party evaluation. Response from them is awaited.

➢ The details of SC/ST/Genl. category students in the schools will be provided shortly.

- The State is not in a position to develop e-content but has purchased software on 600 including those relating to classes IX & X.
- With regard to internet access, in 968 schools IT Education is implemented and BSNL has provided connection in around 600 schools. The rest of the schools do not at present have internet connection.
- Since the IT project is outsourced at present, teaching is also being provided by the operator. The Govt. has decided to engage regular teachers for IT/Computer Education.
- Vendor for 618 schools has not yet been identified. Joint Director, Govt. of H.P. informed that the Service Level Agreement is being modified. JS(SE-I) suggested for sharing with the Ministry the Service Level Agreement entered into with the earlier vendor.
- Director (SE) said that teacher training is an area which needs much greater effort on the part of the State governments, rather than leaving everything to the vendors. JS (SE) suggested that Teacher Training content devised by CIET needs to be shared with the States. Secretary (SE & L) suggested that content development should be on need based rather than merely digitising the syllabus.
- With regard to Teachers' Training, it was agreed that the Education Department shall take responsibility for the training content.

5.3   After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken:

- PMEG recommended coverage of 848 Higher Secondary schools under BOOT model for a period of 5 years w.e.f. 2011-12 to 2015-16 subject to submission of UC of previous releases, submission of progress report and State govt. making adequate budget provision.
- The central assistance of Rs. 4.8 lakh (non-recurring) would be phased at the rate of Rs. 1.00 lakh per school per year for the first 4 years and Rs. 0.80 lakh for the 5th year.
- Recurring expenditure would be processed on file on reimbursement basis on submission of actual expenditure incurred and on installation of infrastructure.

TAMIL NADU

6.1   Dr. Sridhar, Additional Chief Secretary, School Education, Govt. of Tamil Nadu made a presentation on the proposal (**Annexure III**). The salient features of the presentation are as under:

- The total number of schools is 6954 (4743 Govt schools + 2211 Govt. aided Schools).
- 1999 schools are proposed for approval for coverage under ICT@ School Scheme in the year 2011-12
- The State has signed an MoU with Microsoft to impart "Project Shiksha" i.e., comprehensive Computer Training to Govt. School Teachers
- The State has also signed an MoU with American India Foundation on 23rd July 2008 to impart "Computer Aided Learning" in 150 schools in 9 coastal districts
- Adequate budget provision is made available in 2011-12

Proposed reforms:

- Monitoring the attendance of 3 lakh teachers working in 50,000 Primary, Middle, High and Higher Secondary Schools through SMS on daily basis
- Tracking of child's overall progress through SMART Card which willinclude health details of the student.

- Supply of free laptops to 8 lakh Higher Secondary Students (class XI and XII starting with Class XII)
- Establishment of EMIS System to update the statistical information regarding schools, teachers and students periodically
- Constitution of State level ICT Monitoring Cell by hiring technically competent persons.

6.2 The issue of identifying agencies for undertaking evaluation was also discussed. It was mentioned that agencies are being identified on the lines of SSA scheme wherein cost implication is also available. Secy(SE & L) observed that local Institutes of Technologies can also be approached. The representative from TN mentioned that such institutions are not responding to the Department's request.

6.3 JS(SE) observed that for 3rd Party evaluation in Tamil Nadu, Elcot should not be doing the evaluation since they will not be the 3rd Party.

6.4 It was observed that there is a vacuum in the area of teachers' training in ICT and in the absence of a module, ready-made packages are being used. JS(SE) suggested that a generic ICT teacher training module can be devised by CIET indicating the deliverables. Govt of TN also emphasized that this is an area where support is required from the Centre.

6.5 After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken:

- PMEG recommended coverage of 1999 schools (1625 Secondary school and sections at Higher Secondary + 374 Higher Secondary) under the scheme, under BOOT model for a period of 5 years w.e.f. 2011-12 to 2015-16. The actual fund release in the year 2011-12 would be subject to availability of funds.
- The Central assistance of Rs. 4.8 lakh (non-recurring) would be phased at the rate of Rs. 1.00 lakh per school per year for the first 4 years and Rs. 0.80 lakh for the 5th year.
- Recurring expenditure would be processed on file on reimbursement basis on submission of actual expenditure incurred and on installation of infrastructure.
- With respect to 2341 schools already approved earlier, the Department will release the 1st instalment and the State Govt. can go ahead with further formalities.

MIZORAM

7.1 Smt. Laldawngwani Chawnuthu, Joint Director, SCERT Govt. of Mizoram made a presentation of the proposal (**Annexure IV**) for establishment of Smart Schools in Mizoram. The salient features of presentation are as under:
- The total number of schools is 377 (337 secondary and 40 higher secondary) in Mizoram
- Four Smart Schools are proposed for approval to be covered under the Scheme
- Monitoring mechanism in the State is:State level: Director of SCERT, District level: District Coordinator, Sub-Division level: Principal/ Headmaster ofthe school. State Level Monitoring Team visits all the schools once in a year and conducts physical verification as well as academic inspection.
- Textbook based e-content is being prepared.
- Hard spots are being identified by SCERT with teachers and text book writers and are forwarded to expert committee for approval.
- Evaluation Team from Mizoram University has been set up who will conduct the evaluation within three months
- Internet connectivity is available in district headquarters and villages close to the State capital but not in remote areas.

➢ State Govt. has made adequate provision in the budget.

7.2   The method of training of teachers under the programme was also discussed.

➢ The State representative informed that DOEACC and IT.Deptt of Mizoram are providing training on Windows Explorer, MS Word, Excel, Power Point Presentation & its preparation and usage of internet. It was felt that generic guidelines on Teacher Training in ICT with respect to content of training need to be prepared & shared with States.

7.3 After discussions, PMEG recommended coverage of 4 Smart Schools as per norms.

DEVELOPMENT OF WEB-BASED MIS FOR ICT@SCHOOL SCHEME

8.1   Ms. Pratibha Singh, Sr. Tech. Director, NIC made a presentation (**Annexure V**) on development of web based MIS for ICT@School Scheme.

8.2   Secy (SE & L) observed that since the scheme of ICT is likely to be subsumed in RMSA, the proposal needs to be widened to include all aspects of the RMSA. The details should be spelt out in Software Requirement Specification (SRS), the scope being planning, monitoring & generation of reports. It was observed that a prototype is needed to be done for better understanding. All stakeholders will need to be consulted. Another important aspect is to ensure compatibility of operation.

Decision:
8.3.   At the conclusion of the discussion, it was agreed that SRS for the entire RMSA portal needs to be finalised prior to deciding on developing a Web-based MIS system, which NIC has agreed to do.

State Institute of Educational Technology (SIET), Hyderabad

9.1   Shri P. Prabhakar Rao, Director, SIET, Hyderabad made a presentation (**Annexure VI**) on the proposal for financial support to Programme Production. The salient features of the presentation are:

➢ The proposal is based on resolution adopted in the 21st meeting of the Executive Committee and Governing Body of AP, SIET, Hyderabad on 29.6.2011
➢ The proposal covers production of 100 Educational Video programmes, 100 Educational Audio Programmes and 100 Interactive Multi Media Learning Objects.
➢ Financial support for purchase of Library Books, periodicals etc., maintenance of central AC plant, electricity charges and other office expenses are also proposed

9.2   Secretary (SE&L) observed that the timings of telecast/broadcast of the programmes isusually in the morning hours during which the children are in school. Thus the question is how far the programmes reach the children and what is the mechanism to assess the results / reach of programmes to children. The PMEG was informed that TRP ratings are the only source of information as to the reach of the programmes. However, TRPs are usually not conducted on these programmes. JD, CIET commented that there does not exist any formal assessment mechanism and assessment is based only on letters received from students.   PMEG Members observed that this is an area of concern which CIET needs to address and come up with suggestions to improve the reach of SIET's programmes.

Decision:

9.3 At the conclusion of the discussion, PMEG agreed for coverage of following activities subject to SIET, Hyderabad providing data base of existing programmes and also ensuring that there is no duplication:

i) 100 Educational Video Programmes (50 Outdoor and 50 Indoor) @ Rs. 60,000/- for each programme

ii) Rs. 25 lakh for 100 Audio Programmes (full-fledged drama)

iii) 50 Interactive Multimedia Learning Objects @ Rs. 50,000/- per programme

iv) Rs. 1 lakh for books, periodicals, CD Roms, software and furniture for library

v) Rs. 13.08 lakh for conducting six orientation cum workshops

vi) Rs. 5 lakh towards Office Expenses

vii) Separate provision for the items of maintenance of Central AC Plant and Electricity and HT Installation Charges was not agreed to since these items are part of office expenses and are not admissible separately under the scheme.

10. Since there was no representation from the States/ UTs of Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Lakshadweep, consideration of the proposals from these States was deferred.

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