Minutes of the Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Group Meeting held on 8.8.2008 to consider the Computer Education Plans of States under the Information & Communication Technology in Schools Scheme
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The first meeting of Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group [PMEG] for the Centrally sponsored scheme of "ICT @ Schools" was held on 08.08.2008 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy to consider the Computer Education Plans [CEP] of **Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu & West Bengal [06 States] for 2008-09**. The PMEG also considered the Annual Work Plans of State Institutes of Education Technology **[SIETs], Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Pune & Thiruvananthapuram [04 SIETs],** and allied matters. List of participants who attended the above meeting is at **_Annexure_**.

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.   Joint Secretary (SE) briefly explained Govt. of India's perspective plan on computer education in schools. A summary of his views / observations was as under:-

> (i)   Outlay for the scheme was Rs. 6000 crore in 11th Plan as against Rs. 800 crore for 10th Plan. Thus, States needed to prepare comprehensive perspective Plan and also make avail appropriate infrastructure to cover about 1 lakh schools.
> (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,
>> 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 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 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.
> (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 needed to be developed in consultation with reputed organizations [including those in the private sector] 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 needed to play a proactive role in developing / recommending usage of appropriate technology and e-content. Institutions like SCERTs, DIETs and other organizations 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 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 needed to 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 also 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 [both Central and State share] in their State Budget to obviate any difficulty in the fund flow.

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

4.1   <u>Karnataka</u>

Commissioner of Public Instruction, Govt. of Karnataka, made a presentation of their CEP, highlights of which were as under:-

(i)   There were a total of 7402 schools [6694 secondary and 708 higher secondary] in the State.

(ii)   480 schools, approved in 2006-07, have already been covered under the programme.

(iii)   About 15000 teachers have already been trained. Microsoft and Intel have been engaged for training teachers.

(iv)   In 2007-08, 1571 Govt. secondary schools and 708 Govt. junior colleges were sanctioned but due to some litigation among the implementing agencies and Code of Conduct imposed by the Election Commission for the State Assembly election, programme could not be started. All preparatory activities were getting completed to commission the programme by 31st October.

(v)   As the schools sanctioned in 2007-08 could not be started in that year, approval may be accorded to start the programme in 2008-09 under BOOT model for a period of five years i.e. upto 2012-13.

(vi)   For 2008-09, the State Govt. has proposed 1763 Govt. secondary schools and 2633 Govt. aided secondary schools [totally of 4396 schools]. The State share in respect of the Government-aided schools would be shared between the State Government and the school concerned in the ratio of 50:50.

(vii)   Rs. 100 crore has been already provided for the scheme in the State's own budget and the same would be further augmented at the RE stage.

4.1.1   After discussion, PMEG decided the following:

i)   1571 Govt. secondary schools and 708 Govt. junior colleges, sanctioned in 2007-08, were approved for implementation from 2008-09 for a period of five years under BOOT model. Other conditions communicated earlier would remain same. As the project had been considerably delayed, the same should start positively by 31st of October.

ii)   1763 Government secondary schools and 2633 Government-aided secondary schools (totally 4396 schools) were approved for implementation under BOOT model for a five-year contract period. Central share on Rs.5.00 lakh per school would be provided in phased manner, as follows: -

a)   **2008-09:** @ Rs. 2 Lakh per school for 4396 schools.
b)   **2009-10:** @ Rs.1.5 Lakh per school for 4396 schools.
c)   **2010-11:** @ Rs.1.5 Lakh per school for 4396 schools.

Further the PMEG gave following directions:-

i) The State Govt. shall release its matching State share immediately.

ii) 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.

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

4.2 West Bengal

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

(i) There were a total of 8122 schools [4225 secondary and 3897 higher secondary].

(ii) The programme has already started in 543 higher secondary schools, approved in 2007-08. About 35750 students were benefiting from the programme.

(ii) Computer Science has been introduced as an optional subject at the higher secondary stage.

(iii) Qualified teachers with B.Tech./MCA have been engaged.

(iv) A State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC) has been constituted to monitor the programme.

(v) The proposal of the State Government for 2008-09 was for implementation of the programme in 2418 secondary schools on 'Outright Purchase Basis.'

(vi) For procurement purpose, vendor has already been selected, as such, there would not be any delay in commissioning the programme.

(vii) The total cost of the project for 2418 schools @ Rs.6.70 lakh per school was Rs.162 crore with a Central share component Rs. 120.90 crore @ Rs.5 lakh per school.

(viii) An amount of Rs.42 crore has been provided for the scheme in the State budget for 2008-09. The amount would further be augmented on the basis of the schools sanctioned in 2008-09.

4.2.1 After discussion, keeping in view the Central allocation for the scheme, the PMEG approved 1400 schools for implementation under 'Outright Purchase Basis' with a total project cost of Rs.93.80 crore of which Central share at the rate of Rs.5 lakh per school would be Rs.70 crore.

Further the PMEG gave following directions:-

(i) To furnish block-wise details [name, locations, etc.] of each of these 1400 schools within a period of two weeks or by 5.9.2008.

(ii) At least 2 schools located in each of the educationally backward blocks should be included in the programme.

(iii) The programme should be commissioned by 31st October, 2008.

(iv) Budget provision [both Central and State share] should be suitably augmented and the Ministry be informed immediately.

4.3 Kerala

The presentation of the State CEP, 2008-09 was made by the Director of Public Instruction, Govt. of Kerala, highlights of which were as follows: -

(i) The Programme has already started in 1016 secondary [996 Govt. and 20 Govt. aided] schools approved in 2007-08. Broadband connections have been made available to all schools.

(ii) Information Technology has been introduced as a compulsory subject for schools.

(iii) 90,000 teachers have already been trained in ICT.

(iv) M/s. Keltron, a State Govt. enterprise would be entrusted the task to implement the programme.

(v) MP/ MLA LADs funds were used for infrastructural development.

(vi) The e-content and other materials have been outsourced and the work had been entrusted to SIET, Kerala.

(vii)   For 2008-09, 3055 schools [990 Govt. and 2065 Govt. aided] have been proposed for implementation under BOOT model for period of five year i.e upto 2012-13. With this, all schools of Kerala would be covered under ICT programme.

(viii) Central share component of Rs. 30.55 crore and State share component of Rs. 10.38 crore has already been provided for the scheme in the State's own budget for 2008-09.

4.3.1 **A**fter discussion, PMEG approved 3055 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 lakh per school for 3055 schools
(ii)   **2009-10:**   @Rs. 1 lakh per school for 3055 schools
(iii) **2010-11:**   @Rs. 1 lakh per school for 3055 schools
(iv)   **2011-12:**   @Rs. 1 lakh per school for 3055 schools
(v)   **2012-13:**   @Rs. 1 lakh per school for 3055 schools

Further the PMEG gave following directions:-

i)   The programme should be commissioned by 31st October 2008.
ii)   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.

4.4   Madhya Pradesh

The presentation of the State CEP, 2008-09 was made by the Commissioner-cum-Secretary [Education], Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, highlights of which were as follows: -

i.   Altogether there were 4716 schools [2434 secondary and 2248 higher secondary] in the State.
ii.   230 schools, approved in 2006-07, have already been covered.
iii.   Teachers were trained by Bhoj Open University,
iv.   Programme in 320 schools, approved in 2007-08 under 'Outright Purchase Basis', could not be started as the State Govt. took a decision to implement the programme in all schools under BOO model,
v.   4146 schools has been proposed for coverage under BOO model for which process of selection of agencies has already been initiated,
vi.   All proposed schools have pucca rooms for computer laboratories. Schools, not having electricity, would be provided with gen set,
vii.   A provision of Rs. 1320 lakh has been made for the scheme in 2008-09,

4.4.1 After discussion, PMEG approved 1000 schools, (including 320 schools which were approved in 2007-08 but were not taken up for implementation). The programme would be implemented under BOOT model for a five year contract period. Release of Central share of Rs. 5 lakh would be phased as follows:

(i)   **2008-09:**   @Rs. 1.5lakh per school for 1000 schools
(ii)   **2009-10:**   @Rs. 1.5lakh per school for 1000 schools
(iii) **2010-11:**   @Rs. 1 lakh per school for 1000 schools
(iv)   **2011-12:**   @Rs. 1 lakh per school for 1000 schools

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)   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.
iii)   The programme should be commissioned by 31st October, 2008

4.5   **Tamil Nadu**

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

i. Altogether there were 4831 [2853 Govt. secondary and 1978 higher secondary schools] in the State.
ii. The ICT programme was already under implementation in 525 schools. From the State Govts. own budget, 1880 schools have also been covered under the ICT programme in 2006-07. Similarly, another 1000 schools have been covered under the State Govt. project in 2007-08.
iii. Computer Science has been introduced as a regular subject.
iv. Private players like NIIT, APTECH, SSI etc. have been involved in the teacher training.
v. ELCOT, a Govt. of Tamil Nadu enterprise has been entrusted with the task of supplying and hardware and software.
vi. State Govt. has proposed to cover another 400 schools in 2008-09.
vii. Sufficient infrastructure was available in the proposed schools.
viii. Rs. 26.80 crore has been provided in the State budget for the scheme 2008-09.

4.5.1   After discussion, the PMEG approved 400 schools for implementation under 'Outright Purchase Basis' with a total project cost of Rs.26.80 crore of which Central share at the rate of Rs.5 lakh per school would be Rs.20 crore.

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 programme should be commissioned by 31st October, 2008.

4.6   **Punjab**

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

i) Altogether there were 3085 [1365 Govt. secondary and 1720 higher secondary schools] in the State.
ii) 200 schools, approved in 2006-07, have already been covered.
iii) Microsoft and Intel have been engaged for training of teachers.
iv) 2000 schools [893 secondary and 1107 higher secondary schools] have been proposed for coverage under BOOT model in 2008-09.
v) Proper rooms for computer labs with electricity connection were available in the proposed schools and an independent agency called Centre for Computational Engineering of Punjab Engineering College has already carried out a third party evaluation of the furnishing work of labs.
vi) Two firms namely, HCL Info System and Gemini Communication Ltd. have been short listed to implement the programme.
vii) Rs. 1188.44 lakh has been provided in the State budget in 2008-09.

4.6.1 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 phased as follows:

(i) **2008-09:**   @Rs. 1.5 lakh per school for 2000 schools
(ii) **2009-10:**   @Rs. 1.5lakh per school for 2000 schools
(iii) **2010-11:**   @Rs. 1 lakh per school for 2000 schools
(iv) **2011-12:**   @Rs. 1 lakh per school for 2000 schools

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) 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.

iii) The programme should be commissioned by 31st October 2008.

iv) Budget provision [both Central and State share] should be suitably augmented and the Ministry be informed immediately.

5. Request of Govt. of Rajasthan to start the project 2008-09 which was approved in 2007-08.

PMEG accepted the request of Govt. of Rajasthan and agreed that the implementation of the scheme in 2500 schools which were earlier sanctioned in 2007-08 under BOOT model, could start from 2008-09. The project shall continue for a period of five years starting from 2008-09. All other conditions communicated to Govt. of Rajasthan would remain same.

PMEG further directed that Govt. of Rajasthan to complete all formalities quickly and commission the project by 31st October, 2008.

6. Consideration of Annual Work Plan of State Institutes of Education Technology [SIETs]:

6.1 SIET, Kerala

The Annual Work Plan of SIET, Kerala was presented by the Director of the Institute. He informed that the E TV programmes were telecast through Victors EDUSAT channel. The institute had also prepared CD ROMs on various topics of Science, Maths, English, Environment Science etc. CDs were also made available in market for students at highly subsidized rate.

The Director informed that the institute had a plan to produce a mix of regular video alongwith animated programmes in 2008-09.

After discussion, PMEG approved the following:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No	Item / Activity	2008-09
1	Production of 300 Video programmes @ Rs. 20,000 per production	60.00
2	Office expenses	3.00
3	Library books, periodicals, CD ROM etc.	0.50
	Total	**63.50**

6.2 SIET Hyderabad

The Annual Work Plan of SIET, Hyderabad was presented by the Director of the Institute. He outlined a project proposal of Rs. 243.06 lakh.

After discussion, PMEG approved the following:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No	Item / Activity	2008-09
1	Production of 100 Video programmes @ Rs. 30,000 per production	30.00
2	Production of 100 educational Audio programme @ Rs. 10,000 per production	10.00
3	Office expenses	3.00
4	Library books, periodicals, CD ROM etc.	0.50
	Total	**43.50**

6.3   SIET, Pune

The Annual Work Plan of SIET, Pune was presented by the Production Incharge of the Institute, inter alia, on the activities undertaken in 2007-08. The ETV programmes produced by the institute were telecast through EDUSAT.

After discussion, PMEG approved the following:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No	Item / Activity	2008-09
1	Production of 150 Video programmes @ Rs. 30,000 per production	45.00
2	Office expenses	3.00
3	Library books, periodicals, CD ROM etc.	0.50
4	Conduct of workshop etc.	3.6
	Total	**52.10**

6.4   GIET Ahmedabad

The Annual Work Plan of GIET, Ahmedabad was presented by the Senior Producer of the Institute. Outlining the activities undertaken by the institute the representative of the institute informed that the programmes were telecast both through EDUSAT and Doordarshan.

After discussion, PMEG approved the following:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No	Item / Activity	2008-09
1	Production of 150 Video programmes @ Rs. 30,000 per production.	45.00
2	Office expenses	3.00
3	Library books, periodicals, CD ROM etc.	0.50
4	Grants to conduct of workshop, training of teachers etc.	0.60
	Total	**49.10**

7.   Proposal for reimburse Rs. 1,95,260 to Central Institute of Education Technology [CIET] for having conducted a workshop to identify learning objects for production.

The subject was deferred.

8.   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 Certification.

(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.

9.   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 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 be developed for computer aided learning and modules for training of teachers.

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

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