Minutes of the Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Group Meeting held on 1.8.2007 to consider the Computer Education Plans of States under the Information & Communication Technology in Schools Scheme
***

The second meeting of Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group [PMEG] for the Centrally sponsored scheme of "ICT @ Schools" was held on 1.08.2007 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy to consider the Computer Education Plans [CEP] of **Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Uttrakhand & West Bengal [10 States]**. List of participants who attended the above meeting is at ***Annexure***.

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 with 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 connections. The Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojna was one such important programme, which should be optimally utilized. He further said that monitoring of the programme, particularly, by external agencies was very important. Also there had to be both a continuous monitoring in the short term and impact assessment in the longer run.

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

(i)   All secondary and higher secondary schools numbering about one lakh in the country would be covered under the scheme by 2010. The State Govt. thus were expected to make avail appropriate infrastructure.

(ii)   Local area funds available for MPs and MLAs needed to be tapped to bridge the gap of infrastructural requirements.

(iii)   The programme needed to be consolidated and monitoring through independent agencies, such as, IIITs, IITs, IIMs, Engineering Colleges, etc. have to be undertaken. These students could be engaged for their project work. Satisfaction of teachers and students in the utility of Computer Education was most crucial, therefore, other than computer literacy programmes it was important that equal emphasis should be given for computer-aided learning. Appropriate e-content needed to be developed in consultation with reputed organizations [including those in the private sector] so as to enable both students and teachers find the classroom transactions more interesting. These should be focused on hard spots.

(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)   Central Institute of Educational Technology of NCERT, and State Institutes of Educational Technology, currently functioning in seven States, needed to play an important 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.

(vi) Creation of database was vital in the implementation of the programme, particularly for close monitoring. Some States had performed well in this regard and others needed to follow.

(vii) As internet connectivity expose 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.

(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) It may be explored to have computer labs similar to that of the Govt. schools also in the private un-aided schools. CBSE has passed necessary instructions in the matter to its affiliated schools. Similar action may be initiated by the State Boards to ensure that the recognized private schools affiliated to them also follow these guidelines.

(xi) 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 Gujarat

Commissioner [School Education & Mid-Day Meals], Govt. of Gujrat, made a presentation of their CEP, highlights of which were as under:-

(i) There were a total of 5123 schools [91 Govt. & 3350 Govt. aided secondary schools and 66 Govt. and 1616 Govt. aided higher secondary schools] in Gujarat. The State Govt. had proposed to cover 1000 schools at secondary & higher secondary level. Of these, 580 and 420 were secondary & higher secondary schools, respectively.

(ii) Earlier under the CLASS project, 300 schools were covered.

(iii) Under the ICT in Schools Scheme, 150 schools were approved in 2005-06 but the project could not be started.

(iv) Each of the proposed schools would be provided with the following facilities:-
 (a) Minimum 10 P4 Computers in each school,
 (b) Provision of contents based multimedia software and application software of MS Office,
 (c) Provision of computer teachers,
 (d) Provision for teacher training with state of art computer lab facilities.

(v) The programme would be implemented through Build, Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT) system model for a period of five years, starting form 2007-08.

(vi) About 2.90 lakh at secondary and 2.10 lakh higher secondary stage students were expected to be covered.

(vii) Trained teachers were available.

(viii) Browser based 3D educational software had been procured by the State Govt. and would be used in all secondary and higher secondary schools.

4.1.1 After the presentation, the Appraisal Tam made the following observations:-

 i) The budget provision for the scheme was not mentioned in CEP.

 ii) As the State Govt. had proposed to undertake the programme through BOOT model for a period of five years, the release of Central share of Rs.

5.00 lakh per school would have to be considered in a phased manner in five installments to be released between 2007-08 and 2011-12.

4.1.2 After discussion, PMEG approved 1000 new schools [34 Govt. & 546 Govt. aided secondary schools and 29 Govt. & 391 Govt. aided higher secondary schools]. In addition, it was also decided based on the request of the representative of Govt. of Gujarat that 150 schools sanctioned in 2005-06 which were not made operational, would also be converted to BOOT model. The overall approval thus was 1150 schools in 2007-08. The programme would be covered under BOOT model for a five years contract period @Rs. 6.70 lakh per school of which the Central share of Rs. 5.00 lakh per school would be phased as follows:-

(i)   **2007-08:** Rs. 1150 lakh @ Rs. 1 Lakh per school for 1150 schools.
(ii)   **2008-09**: Rs. 1150 lakh @ Rs. 1 Lakh per school for 1150 schools.
(iii)   **2009-10:** Rs. 1150 lakh @ Rs. 1 Lakh per school for 1150 schools.
(iv)   **2010-11:** Rs. 1150 lakh @ Rs. 1 Lakh per school for 1150 schools.
(v)   **2011-12:** Rs. 1150 lakh @ Rs. 1 Lakh per school for 1150 schools.

At the end of the five-year period, the hardware and the software would be the sole property of the State Govt. for use by the school concerned.

The amount already released for 150 schools in 2005-06 will be adjusted from the first instalment to be released.

The PMEG instructed the State representative to complete the process of selection of the agency in August, 2007 itself. It further instructed that by first week of October, 2007 the programme should be made operational in all 1150 for which necessary budget provisions should be made by the State Govt. immediately.

4.2   West Bengal

The presentation of the CEP 2007-08 was made by Principal Secretary (School Education), Govt. of West Bengal. At the outset, the Principal Secretary informed that the State Govt. had decided to first cover all higher secondary schools under the programme as Computer Science as an elective subject was already introduced at that stage. The highlights of the presentation made by Principal Secretary were as follows:-

- There were altogether 8275 schools [4505 at secondary stage and 3770 at higher secondary stage]. Of these, only 42 schools [1 at secondary and 41 higher secondary stage] were Govt. schools and remaining were Govt. aided schools.
- 757 schools were covered earlier under CLASS and revised CLASS project.
- 543 Govt. aided higher secondary schools had been proposed under ICT in Schools Scheme in 2007-08. Necessary infrastructure was available in these schools.
- The programme was proposed to be implemented through outright purchase basis.
- Selection process of a vendor had already been started by an Expert Committee.
- The State Govt. had already initiated recruitment of qualified teachers.
- It had been planned to provide training to the subject teachers also.
- The programme would be monitored through a Project Committee comprising of the Joint Secretary of the School Education Department, Director of School Education and Secretaries of the two Education Boards. The Committee would meet once in a month to review the progress. The Principal Secretary would conduct a quarterly review.

- A provision of Rs. 400 lakh had been made in the State budget and the same would be augmented when the next supplementary budget was due.

    4.2.1 After the presentation, the Appraisal Team observed that the programme in 200 schools approved in 2005-06 was yet to be started. These schools needed to be covered in 2007-08. Another 343 schools may be approved in 2007-08 so as to avail 543 schools for State Govt. in 2007-08.

    Further, the Team suggested that the agency for procurement of equipments should be finalised in August, 2007 itself, and the programme should be made operational in all 543 schools by 15.10.07.

    4.2.2 After discussion, the PMEG approved a total of 343 higher secondary schools for coverage in 2007-08 [in addition to 200 schools which were approved in 2005-06 but were not covered yet] under outright purchase basis with a total project cost of 343 x Rs. 6.70 lakh of which Central share would be Rs. 1715.00 lakh.

    Further the PMEG gave following directions:-

    (i)   To furnish details [name, locations, etc.] of each of these schools within a period of two weeks.
    (ii)   Finalize the vendor by August, 2007.
    (iii)   Make the programme operational in each of the approved schools by 15.10.07.

4.3   Goa

The presentation of CEP was made by Dy. Director (School Education), Govt. of Goa, highlights of which were as under:-

- All the 432 secondary and higher secondary schools [356 secondary and 76 higher secondary schools] had already been covered under Computer Education Programme.
- The programme had started in 2005-06 under BOOT model.
- Three agencies, namely, (i) Vision India Software Exports (P) Ltd., Pune, for North Zone, (ii) Everonn Systems India Limited, Chennai, for Central Zone, and (iii) Tera Software Limited, Hyderabad, for South Zone, had been engaged.
- Teachers had been trained and were also encouraged to undergo PGDCET Course of Goa University.
- The programme was monitored by the school Heads and monthly reports were generated and analyzed on condition of hardwares.
- At the State level the programme was monitored by the Deputy Director (Education) with the assistance of a Technical Officer and the officers of Computer Education Cell.
- A provision of Rs.600 lakh had been made in the State Budget in 2007-08.

    4.3.1 The Deputy Director further said that the State Govt., in anticipation of the approval by PMEG, had covered all the 432 schools under ICT in schools programme. The programme was started in last quarter of 2005-06. He requested PMEG to accord sanction for 432 schools from 2005-06 for a period of five years, as the State Govt. had implemented the programme as per the norms and costing parameters of the Central scheme. He further requested for reimbursement of the Central assistance from 2005-06 to 2006-07.

Joint Secretary (SE) clarified that it would not be possible to reimburse the amount for 2005-06. He said that reimbursement would be allowed for 2006-07 on actual basis subject to the condition that the State Govt. had followed the cost norms given in the guidelines in letter and spirit.

After discussion, PMEG approved 432 schools, including 230 schools approved in 2005-06 under BOOT model for a period of five year w.e.f. 2006-07. The Central assistance would be provided in a phased manner as follows:-

2006-07 : **Reimbursement of Rs.432 lakh @Rs. 1.00 lakh per school subject to actual expenditure incurred as per national norm.**

2007-08 to 2010-11: **Rs.432 lakh each year @Rs. 1.00 lakh per school for 432 schools.**

The amount already released towards 200 schools in 2005-06 will be adjusted from the releases due for 2006-07 and 2007-08.

PMEG direct the state representative to undertake evaluation through a reputed independent agency during the current year.

4.4 **Kerala**

The presentation of CEP, 2007-08 was made by the Director of General Education Department, highlights of which were as follows: -

- There were altogether 3651 schools [2424 secondary and 1227 higher secondary schools).
- All the above 871 schools were covered under CLASS project and another 125 schools under ICT in school scheme in 2005-06.
- During 2007-08, the State Govt. had planned to cover 1016 secondary schools [996 Govt. and 20 Govt. aided].
- M/s. Keltron, a State Govt. enterprise would be entrusted the task to run the programme on BOOT model.
- About 20,000 teachers had already been trained to handle the programme. Each school had an IT Coordinator, to assist teachers.
- IT was a compulsory subject in school curriculum. Steps had been taken to establish multimedia lab in each school.
- Funds of MP/ MLA LADs were used for infrastructural development.
- Parents were also involved in the programme.
- The e-contents and other materials have been outsourced and the work had been entrusted to SIET, Kerala.

4.4.1 After the presentation, the appraisal team made the following observations: -

(i) The State Govt. had not indicated the budget provision made for the scheme in 2007-08.

(ii) The Utilization Certificate alongwith the expenditure statement of the 2nd instalment released for the previous release had not been furnished.

4.4.2 After discussion, PMEG approved 1016 secondary schools [996 Govt. and 20 Govt. aided] to be covered under BOOT model for a five year contract period at the rate of a total project cost of Rs. 6.70 lakh per school of which the Central share of Rs. 5.00 lakh per school which would be phased in the following manner:-

(i)	**2007-08:**	Rs. 1016 lakh @Rs. 1 lakh for 1016 schools
(ii)	**2008-09:**	Rs. 1016 lakh @Rs. 1 lakh for 1016 schools
(iii)	**2009-10:**	Rs. 1016 lakh @Rs. 1 lakh for 1016 schools
(iv)	**2010-11:**	Rs. 1016 lakh @Rs. 1 lakh for 1016 schools
(v)	**2011-12:**	Rs. 1016 lakh @Rs. 1 lakh for 1016 schools

At the end of five-year period, the hardware and software would be the sole property of the State Govt. for use in the school concerned. It was also decided that the entire process of setting up of computer laboratories in all 1016 schools would be completed by 30.9.07.

4.4.3 <u>**Consideration of the proposal from State Institute of Education & Technology (SIET), Kerala**</u>

The PMEG then considered the Plan of State Institute of Education and Technology [SIET], Kerala. The Director (General Education) proposed Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 250 lakh for production of following materials:-

Sl. No.	Subject	Class	Total No. of programme (Duration 10 Minutes)
1.	Mathematics	V, VII, IX and XI	240 (60 each)
2.	Physics	V, VII, IX and XI	240 (60 each)
3.	Chemistry	V, VII, IX and XI	240 (60 each)
4.	Biology	V, VII, IX and XI	240 (60 each)
5.	Geography	V, VII, IX and XI	120 (30 each)
6.	History	V, VII, IX and XI	120 (30 each)
7.	General	For all	60
8.	English	V, VII, IX and XI	240 (60 each)
Total 1500 Nos. @Rs. 50,000/- for 3, ten minutes programmes = Rs. 250.00 lakh			

JS(SE) said that a decision has been taken during a recent Conference of SIETs, held on 26.7.07, to review the productions of contents of all SIETs, and to ensure that duplications were best avoided. It was agreed in the said meeting to first focus on hard topics in the subjects of Mathematic, Science, English and Geography. Emphasis was needed to be on multimedia production and where necessary in the animation format.

After discussion, PMEG approved the following components for Central assistance:-

(i)	Rs. 100 lakh for 600 video programmes.
(ii)	Rs. 03.00 lakh for office expenses [Stationery, postage/telephone/Internet/Fax, etc.].
(iii)	For activities such as advertisements, printing of brochures and pamphlets, conducting seminars, conferences, etc. during 2007-08, the expenditure

would be considered for reimbursement as per specific admissibility provided SIET submitted a concrete proposal for approval by PMEG.

4.5 <u>Chhattisgarh</u>

Presentation of CEP was made by the Director of Public Instruction, Govt. of Chhattisgarh, the main highlights of which were as follows: -

- Altogether there were 1884 [1804 Govt. and 80 Govt. aided] secondary schools in the State.
- Main thrust of ICT in education policy of the State Govt. was to provide computer aided learning with access to internet education and set up e-libraries
- The computer laboratories had been established at district level, each with 60 computers and other modern gadgets, to train teachers, students and other employees.
- For teaching Computer Science, 1000 teachers would be appointed on regular basis.
- For training of subject teachers in computer aided learning programme, the State Govt. had already initiated dialogue with private partners in collaboration with the SCERT.
- Adequate infrastructure was available for Computer Education Programme.
- The equipments would be procured through Chattisgarh State Industrial Corporation and the programme would be implemented through outright purchase basis.
- For 2007-08, 1000 secondary schools were proposed to be implemented the programme.

4.5.1 After the presentation, the Appraisal Team made the following observations: -

(i)   The status of 100 schools approved in 2006-07 was not clear as the State Govt. had not furnished the expenditure statement and Utilization Certificate for the first instalment of Rs.250 lakh released in 2006-07.

(ii) A provision of only Rs.300 lakh provided for the scheme in the State budget for 2007-08 was inadequate.

(iii) Implementation of the programme though BOOT model should be explored.

4.5.2 After discussion, PMEG approved 200 schools to implement the programme through outright purchase basis with a project cost of Rs.1340 lakh having Central share component of Rs.1000 lakh subject to fulfillment of following conditions: -

(i)   Utilization Certificate alongwith component-wise statement of expenditure of grant released earlier be furnished by 31.8.07.

(ii) List of 200 schools alongwith their location be furnished by 31.8.07.

(iii) All efforts be made procure the equipments and set up the computer laboratories by 30.09.2007.

(iv) Provision in the State budget be augmented before the 2nd instalment proposal was made to this Ministry.

4.6 <u>Uttrakhand</u>

The presentation of CEP was made by the Educational Advisor of the State Govt., main highlights of which were as follows: -

- The State Govt. has planned to implements the programme in all 1251 [965 Govt. and 286 Govt. aided] secondary schools in a phased manner.

- Computer aided learning was the main emphasis at secondary and higher secondary stage.
- The proposal for 2007-08 was to cover 100 secondary schools.
- State Govt. had launched a programme called Aarohi in May, 2002 to enable students of secondary stage and inter-college in computer literacy skills. A total of 1711 Govt. and Govt. aided institutions were covered in six phases. An annual Aarohan award was also launched for teachers & students.
- DIETS with support of Intel-India were training teachers in computer education programme.
- The procurement of equipments would be done through M/s. HARTRON, a State Govt. enterprise.
- A provision of Rs. 200 lakh had been made in the State budget and they would be augmented in first supplementaries

4.6.1 Appraisal Team commented that the budget provision of Rs. 200 lakh was inadequate, thus State Govt. would have to augment the same at the earliest.

4.6.2 After discussion, PMEG approved 100 secondary schools for which computers and other equipments purchased on outright basis with a total project cost of Rs. 670 lakh to be shared in the ration 90:10 between centre and the State as Uttrakhand being Special Category State.

The PMEG directed the State representative to complete all codal formalities to ensure that the programme get started by 30.9.07.

4.7   **Jharkhand**

The presentation was made by the Principal Secretary (IT) along with the Director of Secondary Education of the State Govt. Main highlights of the presentation were as follows:-

- The prime objectives of implementation of ICT in Schools Scheme in the State was to provide computer literacy and computer aided learning to students of classes IX-XII.
- Of a total of 1074 secondary schools, the State Govt. had planned to implement the programme in 574 schools in 2007-08, in addition to 500 school sanctioned in 2006-07.
- The programme would be implemented through BOOT model for a five year period. The selection of the agency had been initiated.
- It had been planned to train two teachers of each school for a period of 30 days at Training Centres established in each district.
- A scheme to reward teachers was under consideration.
- A project Monitoring Board would be set up under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary.
- A provision of Rs. 6000 lakh has been made in the State budget in 2006-07.

4.7.1 After the presentation, the Appraisal Team commented that the agency for implementation of the programme through BOOT model needed to be finalised immediately without awaiting receipt of the Central share. The list of schools alongwith their location should be furnished immediately.

4.7.2 After discussion, the PMEG approved 574 secondary schools to be implemented through BOOT model for a period of five years with following conditions:-

(i)   As the programme in 500 schools approved in 2006-07 had not started yet, the same should be clubbed with 574 schools approved for 2007-08 to

make a total approval of 1074 secondary Schools. Funds already released would accordingly be adjusted.

(ii) Agency to implement the programme be finalised by 31.8.07 and the programme should be operational in all the sanctioned schools by 15.10.07.

(iii) At the end of five year period, the hardware and software would be the sole property of the State Govt. for use in school concerned.

4.8   Madhya Pradesh

Commissioner, Public Instructions of Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, made a presentation of CEP, highlights of which were as under:-

- Altogether there were 9121 [4684 secondary and 4437 higher secondary] schools.
- The plan was to cover 939 schools with a minimum of 2 schools for each of 185 educationally backward blocks.
- The State Govt. had planned to implement the programme on outright purchase basis as BOOT model implemented earlier had resulted in dissatisfaction among parents as the agency was charging computer fee from students.
- A programme called 'Head Start' for elementary level children had been introduced and the same had received much appreciation from students and their parents.
- Bhoj Open University would be given the task of training of teachers.
- A provision of Rs. 1200 lakh had been made in the State budget in 2007-08

4.8.1   Appraisal Team commented that the budget provision for the programme to cover 939 schools was inadequate which needed immediate step up in case the same was approved.

4.8.2   After discussion, PMEG approved 320 higher secondary schools for implementation under outright purchase model with a project cost of Rs. 2144 lakh having Central share component of Rs. 1600 lakh. The PMEG further directed the State representative to undertake the following:-

(i) The agency for procurement and installment of equipment should be finalised by 15.9.07.

(ii) The programme should start in all sanctioned schools by 15.10.07.

(iii) The programme approved for 230 schools in 2006-07 be made operational immediately and a compliance report sent to the Ministry.

(iv) Utilization Certificate along with statement of expenditure of earlier project be furnished by 31.8.07.

4.9   Rajasthan

Deputy Director of School Education, Govt. of Rajasthan made a presentation of the Computer Education Plan (CEP), highlight of which were as under:

- Computer Education had been introduced in Rajasthan with the objectives to:
  o Impart computer literacy and computer aided learning
  o bridge the digital divide, and
  o make the children globally competitive.

- There were altogether 6558 [3871 Govt. and Govt. aided secondary, and 2687 Govt. & Govt. aided higher secondary] schools.
- District Training Centre equipped with 40 computers each had been established in 32 districts.
- Computer aided learning was imparted through Edu-SAT.
- Computer education was a compulsory subject at secondary and higher secondary stage.
- Teacher training was provided through a model of Public Private Partnership with Intel and Microsoft.
- Project called GRACE [Girls of Rajasthan And Computer Education] had been introduced under which 170 girls schools were covered.
- Funds provided for 100 schools sanctioned under the project in 2005-06 had actually been utilized for 170 schools, though some of these schools did not have 10 PCs each.
- In 2007-08 the proposal was to cover 2500 schools under BOOT model [which would include atleast 2 schools in each of 186 educationally backward blocks].
- Rs.1000 lakh has been provided in the State budget for 2007-08.

4.9.1 The Appraisal Team made the following observations: -
(i) List of name of schools along with their location be immediately furnished.
(ii) Utilization Certificate alongwith statement of expenditure of the previous project be sent immediately.

JS(SE) mentioned that as per the guidelines of the scheme, a minimum number of 10 PCs per school was a must if a computer laboratory for a class of minimum 40 students was to be operated.

4.9.2 After discussion, PMEG approved 2500 schools for implementation of the programme under BOOT model for five years @ Rs. 6.70 per school for which Central assistance of Rs. 5.00 lakh per school would be phased in following manner:-
(i) **2007-08:** Rs. 2500 lakh @Rs. 1 lakh per school
(ii) **2008-09:** Rs. 2500 lakh @Rs. 1 lakh per school
(iii) **2009-10:** Rs. 2500 lakh @Rs. 1 lakh per school
(iv) **2010-11:** Rs. 2500 lakh @Rs. 1 lakh per school
(v) **2011-12:** Rs. 2500 lakh @Rs. 1 lakh per school

The PMEG also approved 70 schools for implementation on outright purchase basis, so that 170 schools partly covered during last year could be fully covered with 10 PCs each.

The PMEG directed the State Govt. representative to take following actions: -

(i) All efforts be made to finalize the implementing agency under BOOT model by 31.08.2007.
(ii) The programme should be started by 31.10.2007.
(iii) Utilization Certificate alongwith statement of expenditure of the previous project be sent by 31.08.2007.
(iv) List of schools along with their location be furnished to the Ministry on priority.

4.10   **Nagaland**

The presentation of the CEP, 2007-08 was made by Director, SCERT of Govt. of Nagaland. The main highlights were as under: -

- Computer education had been introduced from Class V onwards.
- Experts had been involved in developing educational software.
- There were altogether 484 (125 secondary & 359 higher secondary) Government schools in the State.
- In 2005-06 & 2006-07, 53 schools and 147 schools respectively were sanctioned.
- In 2007-08, 200 schools had been proposed.
- It had been proposed to implement through outright purchase basis.
- The agency had been identified.
- As power supply was erratic, the State Government had planed to purchase generators.
- Internet connectivity had been provided in the urban schools.
- Teachers were involved in the development of e-content.
- Rs. 1340.00 lakh would be provided for the programme in the State budget.

4.10.1 The Appraisal Team commented that flexibility was already available in the scheme regarding purchase of equipments which should be need based. Items like generators, etc. could be purchased but the Ministry should be informed well in advance. The team further stated that the State Government had not made any budget provision for the scheme, through had assured that Rs.1340.00 lakh would be provided through supplementaries.

4.10.2 After the discussions, PMEG enquired from the State representative about their capability to cover all the remaining 284 schools during 2007-08, instead of 200 schools as proposed in their Plan. Upon confirmation from the State representative, the PMEG approved 284 schools for coverage of the programme in 2007-08 on outright purchase basis with total project cost Rs.1902.80 lakh having a Central share of Rs.1712.52 lakh in the ratio of 90:10.

The PMEG further directed the representative of State Government the following:
(i)   Necessary budget provisions be made before the 1st installment is released by the Ministry.
(ii)   An impact assessment study should be carried out for the schools covered during 2005-06 & 2006-07 under the programme. The study should be complemented by December before release of the 2nd instalment.

5.   **General**

Under the 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 for the requirement of the entire year subject to the progress of expenditure in the previous year. This would be also applicable for the States whose CEPs have already been approved in the 1st meeting of PMEG held on 11.07.2007.

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

6.   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.

***

List of participants, who attended the meeting of Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group (PM&EG) was held on 1.8.2007 at 10:00 hrs. in Conference Room, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

1.   Shri Champak Chatterji, Secretary, Department of SE&L: Chairman

2.   Shri S.C. Khuntia, Joint Secretary (SE).

3.   Shri R.K. Sharma, Director (Fin), Department of School Education & Literacy.

4.   Dr. Gautam Bose, Dy. D.G., NIC, Ministry of Information Technology.

5.   Dr. Utpal Mallik, Jt. Director, CIET, NCERT.

6.   Shri D.K. Karla, Senior Scientific Officer, Department of Information Technology.

7.   Dr. V.V.S. Murthy, Sr. Tech., NIC, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.

8.   Mrs. Sunaina Tomar, Commissioner [School Education & Mid-Day Meals], Government of Gujarat.

9.   Shri R.S. Sharma, Principal Secretary, IT, Government of Jharkhand.

10.   Shri S.N. Mishra, Commissioner, Public Instruction, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

11.   Smt. Nandita Chatterji, Principal Secretary, Secondary Education Department, Government of West Bengal.

12.   Shri Manohar Pande, Director, Public Instructions, Government of Chhattisgarh.

13.   Shri M. Siva Sankar, Director of Public Instruction, General Education Department, Government of Kerala.

14.   Shri Anil V. Powar, Dy. Director of Education, Directorate of Education, Government of Goa.

15.   Shri V. Rama Rao, Education Advisor, Government of Uttarkhand.

16.   Shri D.K. Sinha, Project Officer, JAP-IT (IT Department) Government of Jharkhand.

17.   Shri S.C. Vijay, Dy. Director, School Education, Government of Rajasthan.

18.   Shri Vipralhou K., Director, SCERT, Government of Nagaland.

19.   Shri P.K. Mohanty, Dy. Educational Advisor, Department of School Education & Literacy.

20.   Shri M. Dilip Kumar, Under Secretary (Sch-5), Department of School Education & Literacy.

****