**Minutes of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 to consider the Computer Education Plans of State Governments of Meghalaya, Manipur, J&K, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana and proposals of SIET Hyderabad and SIET Pune under Scheme of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in School Scheme.**

The meeting of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group (PMEG) for the Centrally sponsored scheme of 'ICT in Schools' was held on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 at 1100 hrs in Conference Room under the Chairmanship of Secretary (SE&L) to consider the Computer Education Plans (CEPs) received from the State Governments of Manipur, Megalaya, J&K, Chattisgarh, Haryana, and proposals of SIET, Hyderabad and Pune.  Haryana and Manipur had expressed their inability to participate in the meeting. No officer from J&K  attended the meeting. A list of the participants is annexed.

2.  Initiating the discussion, Secretary (SE&L) stated that the ICT in Schools scheme was one of the most important schemes at the secondary stage.  In the coming years, investment in the programme was likely to increase considerably and greater linkage would be established between this scheme 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 connection.   Secretary(SE&L) 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

4.   The following points were emphasized:

(i)      All secondary and higher secondary schools numbering about one lakh in the country are proposed to be covered under the scheme in th XI Plan.  The State Govt. thus were expected to make available the basic infrastructure for implementation of the scheme.

(ii)     External evaluation of the scheme needs to be done through reputed agencies like IIITs, IITs, IIMs, Engineering Colleges, etc. The States were required to submit a report by 30.6.09 and hence Ministry should be informed of the action taken.

(iii)    Central Institute of Educational Technology of NCERT, and State Institutes of Educational Technology are currently functioning in seven States. The States were requested to support and make full use of the material developed by the SIETs.

(iv)    Creation of a database, preferably web enabled, including details of number of schools covered, children benefitted, schools with internet connectivity, teacher training, econtent, etc, should be developed, in addition to the details of funds receiveed and expenditure.

(v)     The scheme has a provision for internet connectivity to schools. 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 respective Circle coordinators of BSNL.

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

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

(viii)  States should ensure adequate provision for both Central and State share in their State Budget and indicate the same in the CEP to obviate any difficulty in the fund flow.

(ix)    The physical progress are not submitted regularly in the prescribed proforma by the State Governments/ UTs .

(x)     State Govts./ UTs should ensure and confirm that schools in at least two economically backward blocks in each district have been covered under ICT Scheme.

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

(xii)   Earlier the Ministry had directed the State Governments to impart training to five teachers per school.  However, with the reduction in the prices of hardware and also the scheme is to be implemented under BOOT Model, it is imperative that all the teachers in the school should be trained to use ICT in education. The State Govts. should ensure  that at least  one week training is given to the

teachers well before the installation of the hardware. Teachers can be given training in batches.

(xiii) Every State Govt. should have an ICT Cell in the Education Directorate for coordinating teacher training, procurement and dissemination to the schools, etc.

4. Thereafter the Computer Education Plan of the States present were taken up for consideration of PMEG.

**Meghalaya:**

4.1 Commissioner and Secretary (School Education), Government of Meghalya made a presentation which is summarized below

i) Out of 545 schools, 518 schools are govt. aided.

ii) Out of schools located in 123 educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs), schools in 22 EBBs have already been covered in 2008-09 and schools in 14 more EBBs are proposed to be covered in 2009-10.

iii) Regarding the status of 75 schools approved for coverage in 2008-09, it was intimated that due to Model Code of Conduct due to a bye election, orders have not yet been placed on vendors identified for implementation of the scheme.

iv) Installation, teachers training, etc. in 75 schools approved in 2008-09 would be completed by October, 2009.

v) As electricity is a problem, clarification was sought as to whether portable generators can be procured under the scheme.

vi) State Govt. has a separate ICT Cell in Education Department.

vii) EduSat is being used in the State

4.2. The following clarifications/observations were made by the Ministry:

i) 162 schools have been funded by NEC, 36 under EFC award and 29 under CLASS. If each of these schools has 10 PCs, the same schools should not be taken up under the ICT @ Schools

ii) Generators could be procured subject to the overall cost ceiling of Rs.6.70 lakh. However, generators can be used only as a back up, whenever electricity goes off, and not as a sole source of power. The representative of the State Govt. was advised to take up the issue with the State Electricity Department so that the schools are electrified on priority. Rajiv Gandhi Gram Vidyutikaran Yojana can be made use of for their purpose.

iii) State Govt. was advised to take up the issue of broad band connectivity with BSNL. It should provide the necessary details of location of the schools to BSNL and

request BSNL to provide broad band connectivity to all secondary and higher secondary schools in the State using USOF mechanism of Department of Telecommunications, GOI.

iv) Teachers' training should be closely monitored. In fact, the State Govt. should do an external evaluation of the type of teacher training being provided. All teachers in sanctioned schools should be trained in the use of ICT for teaching.

v) The State Govt. should evaluate the e-content being provided by the vendor before procuring it.

vi) Joint Director, CIET informed that IIT Delhi has made available open software on CD. This could be made available to all States.

4.3 After discussions the following decisions were taken:

i) 100 schools - 84 Secondary and 16 Higher Secondary were sanctioned under the scheme for the year 2009-10 on outright purchase basis. Funds would however be released only after the State Govt. submits Utilization certificate of funds released earlier.

ii) State Govt. should immediately take steps to identify vendors by calling tenders.

5. **Gujarat**

5.1. Commissioner (Schools), Government of Gujarat made a presentation which is summarized below:

i) Computer education has been made compulsory in Secondary schools and is an elective subject in Higher Secondary stage.

ii) Tendering for 3650 schools under BOOT model approved upto 2008-09 has been completed and orders have been placed with two vendors. The ICT facilities in these schools would be operational by October 2009.

iii) A Computer teacher will be provided by the vendor for a group of 5 schools. The teacher will be available in each school for 1 day in a week.

iv) Each school is provided with 11 computers.

v) A Computer Lab and Media Room is established in each school. Media Room is linked with Edusat.

vi) Out of 6201 schools in the State, only 1 school does not have electricity and it is proposed to it with provide solar power.

vii) 95% of the schools have telephone connection and 90% have broadband connectivity.

viii) BSNL is charging a high tariff of Rs 3000 pm for unlimited broadband connectivity. JS(SE) requested the State Govt. to take it up with BSNL as it has offered a package of Rs 10,000 per annum.

ix) State Govt. has preferred use of Open Source Operating System and Open Office in all the newly operating schools.

x)      School Management Software has been developed for each school.

xi)     Student – Computer Ratio of 10:1 is proposed to be achieved in the long run.

xii)    30% of the total cost is the committed expenditure for procurement of hardware in the first year.

xiii)   State Govt. has a mechanism to monitor the performance standard of the vendor and effect deduction in case of non-performance.

xiv)    Rs.98 crore has been provided under Non Plan as Central share and Rs.18 crore under Plan for State share in the State budget.

xv)     2481 schools are proposed to be covered under BOOT model in 2009-10. This would complete the coverage of all Govt and Govt aided secondary and higher secondary schools in Gujarat.


5.2  After the presentation, the following were clarified:

i)      On query about status of teachers training, the representative of State Govt. clarified that the training would start as soon as computer labs were established  in the schools.

ii)     The scheme needs to be evaluated by a  reputed insititution like IIM Ahmedabad.

iii)    The School Management Software should have provision of becoming web enabled.

5.3.    After discussions, the following decisions were taken:

i)      2481 schools were approved under BOOT model for 2009-10 over a period of 5 years subject to the following conditions:

a)      Funds for coverage of these schools will be released only after utilization certificate and physical progress report of earlier releases are received.

b)      Funding pattern of release of Rs.5 lakhs per school for 2481 schools will be as under:

       **2009-10** -@.Rs.1.50 lakhs per school for 2481 schools

       **2010**-**11**- @.Rs.1.50 lakhs per school for 2481 schools

       **2011**-**12**-@.Rs.1.00 lakhs per school for  2481 schools

       **2012**-**13**--@.Rs.1.00 lakhs per school for 2481 schools


6.      **SIET Pune**

6.1.    Director SIET, Pune made a presentation of the proposal which is summarized below:

i)      The number of programmes produced iover the years showed a fluctuating trend. The reasons were due to technical and administrative problems.

ii)     DD has shifted telecasting of their programmes from terrestrial to cable channel. This implies that their programmes can be seen only if there is a cable connection in the school. The programmes are telecast on DD Sahyadri from 10.30-11.00 am which

clashes with school hours. The reason for shifting of telecast of programmes of SIET from DD 1 is due to a policy decision of DD. SIET programmes are mainly in Marathi.

6.2    After the presentation, the following observations were made:

i)      A suggestion was made to telecast educational programmes produced by SIET Pune through DTH of DD and also on Gyan Darshan channels.

ii)     Joint Director CIET informed that Tarang produced by CIET is being telecast on DD I from 10.00 – 10.30 am. However DD has also directed CIET to share their timings with IGNOU,the implication being that programmes of CIET can be telecast only twice a week.

iii)    Secretary (SE&L) advised that a letter to DG Doordarshan be written highlighting these issues. A letter has lareeady been sent by the Bureau to Secretary (I&B).

iv)     JS (SE) suggested that the methodology of dissemination of the educational video programmes should be changed to an offline mode through production and distribution of CDs/DVDs also so as not to rely solely on television timing.

v)      It was felt that the production of audio programmes should not be done away totally as it has its relevance, especially for the visually impaired children. Hence they may be produced, subject to a diveristy of topics being covered extending to beyond the curriculum also.

vi)     SIET was directed to give a copy of the programmes produced last year to CIET for a central repository as well as evaluation of content and quality.

vii)    CIET was asked to coordinate the conduct of third party evaluation of the activities of all the SIETs.

viii)   Regarding the criteria for arriving at the cost of development of Learning Objects (LOs), Joint Director, CIET clarified that criteria has already been fixed by a Committee for 'Interactive' and 'Non Interactive' LOs and funds can be released to SIET based on this criteria for producing LOs. The unit cost fixed is Rs 40,000 for non interactive LO and Rs 50,000 for interactive LO.

ix)     CIET is going to conduct a Workshop of 3 days from 31st August to 3rd September, 2009, for training of Teachers in instructional design. A suggestion was made by Director SIET that the staff of SIETs should also be trained.

x)      It was recognised that digitization of selected programmes produced in the past was required.

xi)     SIET does not have a mechanism for distribution of programmes being produced. It was suggested that SIET may have stronger links with the State and also make such high quality programmes that the State schools prefer to procure them from the SIETs. JS (SE) also suggested that SIETs may also take up production of programmes for other Departments on a payment basis and move towards becoming self sustaining.

xii) It was strongly felt that the equipment provided to the SIETs at the time of their creation needs to be upgraded. A study had been carried out by CIET and proposal of Rs 84 lakhs for each SIET had been submitted. It was informed that attempts would be made to incorporate this component in the new scheme presently under revision.

6.3 After discussions the following decisions were taken:

The project proposals of SIET was considered by PMEG and the following was approved:

| S.No. | Activities | Amount (Rs. In lakh) |
|-------|-----------|----------------------|
| 1. | Production of 100 Video programme, | 30.00 |
| 2. | Production of 100 audio programme | 10.00 |
| 3. | Development of 100 Learning Objects | 45.00 |
| 4. | Library books, periodicals, etc. | 0.50 |
| 3. | Office Expenditure | 3.00 |
| | Total | 88.50 |

i) Digitization of programmes can be done from own funds of SIET.

ii) Funds for water proofing; building maintenance will be approved on file on submission of the proposal by SIET along with PWD/CPWD estimates.

iii) "In principle" approval was given for holding the workshop on instructional design to be organised by CIET. Funds for organizing this and other workshops in the year would be approved on submission of detailed proposal by SIET.

**7. SIET Hyderabad**

7.1 Shri Seetapati Rao, Deputy Education Officer from SIET Hyderabad made the presentation on behalf of the Director, who could not attend:

i) SIET has its own website (www.ieg.gov.in/siet) and 2000 video programmes developed has been placed on its website.

ii) A request was made for equipments for upgradation of SIETs

iii) SIET Hyderabad had taken up the issue of payment of broadcast/telecast fees with DD, but to no avail and had sought for funds for payment of the same.AIR has stopped broadcast whereas DD is telecasting the programmes but pressing for the fee. In addition the shift of the programmes from terrestrial to cable will also decrease the number of viewers.

iv) Director SIET proposed central assistance to the tune of Rs.3.25 crores for content development and other activities in 2009-10.

v)      There was a request for reimbursement of Rs.11,22,200 on PWD rates already incurred by SIET Hyderabad on maintenance of building in 2008-09

7.2    After the presentation, the following observations were made:

i)      The cost of dubbing proposed by SIET appears to be on the higher side. CIET was directed to develop norms to be followed by all the SIETs

ii)     Secretary (SE&L) suggested revisiting the concept of production of  only curriculum based programmes by SIET.

iii)    Upgradation of equipments of SIETs would be taken up after approval of the revised scheme.

iv)    The issue of payment of broadcast/telecast fees had already been taken up with Ministry of I&B and would be taken up further with DG, Doordarshan. SIET was also advised to explore other options like Gyan Darshan and SAPNET of the State.  No funds would be released for this purpose.

v)      JS (SE) enquired as to whether State MANA channel could allot more time for broadcast of the programme as currently only half an hour is allotted.  SIET informed that it is to be raised to 1 hour shortly.

vi)     All SIETs should build and share a database of the audio and video programms produced so far.

vii)    Request for ex-post-facto approval of 50 extra video programmes without the approval of the Committee was not  agreed to.

7.3.    After discussions the following decisions were taken:

i)      The proposal of reimbursement of Rs.11,22,200 already incurred by SIET Hyderabad on maintenance of building in 2008-09 was approved "in principle" subject to scrutiny on file.

ii)     The project proposals of SIET was considered by PMEG and the following were approved:

| S.No. | Activities | Amount Proposed (Rs. In lakh) |
|-------|------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Production of 100 Video programme | 30.00 |
| 2. | Production of 100 audio programme | 10.00 |
| 3. | Development of 100 Learning Objects | 45.00 |
| 4. | Library books, periodicals, etc. | 0.50 |
| 3. | Office Expenditure | 3.00 |
| | Total | 88.50 |

iii)     Funds for organizing Workshops will be approved on file on submission of detailed proposal from SIET

8.     **Chattisgarh**

8.1     Secretary, (School Education), Government of Chattisgarh made a presentation :

i)     2500 teachers have been trained so far. The training of teachers is conducted at District Centres.

ii)     All 1100 schools proposed have electricity connection. However, telephone connections are not available in all these schools, though available in the villages.

iii)     Tendering process for 800 schools has been initiated and 3 months from now, all installation would be completed in these 800 schools.

iv)     1 teacher would be provided by the vendor for each school

v)     Computer Science has yet not been included as Elective Subject in Classes XI and XII

vi)     1100 schools are proposed to be covered under ICT scheme in 2009-10 under BOOT model.

8.2     After the presentation, the following observations were made:

i)     State Govt. should immediately take up the issue of telephone connection and approach BSNL for providing broad band connections to all secondary and higher secondary schools

ii)     State Govt. should ensure that computer science is included as an elective in Classes XI and XII to make full use of the ICT infrastructure.

iii)     It is essential that a dedicated teacher is appointed in each school when computer science is introduced as an elective.

iv)     The Operating system is pre loaded in the PCs and there should be no cost to be paid to vendors.

v)     At the time of entering into MoU with vendor, it should be ensured that all teachers are adequately trained under the arrangement.

vi)     The State has got the IPR for the software installed. Govt of Chhattisgarh may send furhter details on this for sharing with other States also.

8.3     After detailed discussions, the following decisions were arrived at:

i)     1100 schools were approved under BOOT model for 2009-10 over a period of 5 years subject to the following conditions:

a)     Funds for coverage of these schools will be released only after utilization certificate and physical progress reports of earlier releases are received.

b)       Funding pattern of release of Rs.5 lakhs per school for 1100 schools will be as under:

**2009-10** - @.Rs.1.50 lakhs per school for 1100 schools

**2010**-**11**- @.Rs.1.50 lakhs per school for 1100 schools

**2011**-**12**-@.Rs.1.00 lakhs per school for  1100 schools

**2012**-**13**--@.Rs.1.00 lakhs per school for 1100 schools

**9.       Action Taken report on other decisions of PMEG in the meeting held on 4.9.09**

9.1 Preparation of model bidding document

The meeting of the Committee could not be held due to the Chairman, Dr Bose, DDG, NIC being away on leave and the inability of Dr Murthy, NIC, appointed as Chairman in the absence of Dr Bose, to convene a meeting of the committee constituted for the purpose. Secretary advised that a meeting could be convened by Dr Rajaram Sharma, member secretary of the committee so that some headway is made in the matter

9.2 E content for schools

Jt Director, CIET informed that the content developed by CIET would be posted on their website and CDs sent to the States

9.3 Preparation of guidelines by CIET for teacher training and curriculum

Jt Director, CIET informed that the work has been started and a report would be given by September 2009.

9.4 Development of template by NIC for web based monitoring of the scheme

No progress has been reported by NIC

9.5 Third party evaluation of the Scheme

All States were advised during the Conference of State Education Secretaries on 31st August 2009 to have the evaluation conducted and submit the report at an early date

9.6  Preparation of a proforma for submission of CEPs by the States

The proposal was submitted by Head, Computer Education and Technolgy, NCERT. Secretary advised that the contents may be redrafted into a web enabled proforma so that the action to be taken under 9.4 above could be completed simultaneously.

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

The meeting of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Group was held on 19<sup>th</sup> August at 1100 hrs in Conference Rom to consider the Computer Education Plans (CEPs) received from the State Governments of Manipur, Megalaya, J&K, Chattisgarh, Haryana, and proposals of SIET, Hyderabad and Pune, for financial assistance under the ICT Scheme.

2.      Based on the discussion held, minutes of the meeting has been attempted and is placed below for consideration for approval.


( M.Dilip Kumar)
Under Secretary
20.8.2009


**Dir(AB)**