

F.No.3/1/2008-PP-I
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE EMPOWERED COMMITTEE TO
CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MULTI-SECTORAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR
MINORITY CONCENTRATION DISTRICTS (HOWRAH AND NADIA) HELD AT
10.30 A.M. ON 14th OCTOBER, 2008 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF
SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

A list of members and officials present in the meeting is annexed.

The Chairman of the Empowered Committee explained the background for identification of minority concentration districts and the formulation of a multi-sectoral development programme designed to address the development deficit of such districts. The Chairman pointed out that the baseline survey not only brought out the updated position in respect of the relevant parameters used for identification of such districts, but also ranked the deficits in order of the extent of deprivation in the district. It was expected that the plans submitted by the State Governments would address the deficits in order of priority. In case a deficit, ranking higher in the order of deprivation, was not proposed to be addressed by the plan, it would be incumbent on the part of the District Level Committee and the State Level Committee to bring out the reasons for not doing so.

2. The multi Sectoral plans for the districts of Howrah and Nadia of West Bengal were considered. The conclusions that emerged after each Power Point Presentation by the District Magistrate/Additional District Magistrate concerned, clarification by the Secretary from the State Government of West Bengal concerned, comments/clarifications from the members of the Empowered Committee and the representatives of Ministry/Department are as follows:-

Item No.1: Nadia District

The fund allocated for the MSDP Plan was Rs.56.40 crore for the 11th Plan period. Percentage of household with electricity was ranked 1st in the order of deficit in the baseline survey. However, it was mentioned by the representative of the State government that the national programme for electrification of all villages by the year 2012 under RGGVY would be able to overcome this deficit. In the MsDP it is proposed to take up system improvement and capacity augmentation of Sub-Stations for releasing connections to the intending APL households also in areas having minority concentration. Besides, electrification is technical, capital intensive involving load study with long implementation time. It was however, advised that if there were stark facts in the field where intervention in some areas may be warranted, then such sector may be considered from the balance funds available. It was mentioned that projects for sanitation have not been proposed because over the last few years performance of the district has been remarkable in the matter of providing low cost sanitary latrines to the rural households and it would be

possible to cover all the remaining households of the district under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Central Rural Sanitation Programme(CRSP).

(i) Projects approved:

- (a) Additional Classrooms for high schools:** Literacy rate (total) has been identified as the 4th deficit in the district. The proposal is for providing 80 ACRs @ Rs 2.00 lakh to high schools situated in the villages of 7 highest minority concentration blocks where student classroom ratio is more than 50 for Rs.160.00 lakh. Land availability to these schools was confirmed to be available.

The proposal was approved by the Empowered Committee for construction of 80 ACRs in already existing high schools for a total cost of Rs.160.00 lakhs. Central contribution from MsDP would be Rs. 120.00 lakhs and Rs. 40.00 lakh as State share. It was agreed that 50% of the Central share would be released as 1st installment. The proposal was approved by the Empowered Committee subject to condition that the proposal is as per the norms of a new scheme called - Universalization of access to quality education at secondary stage (SUCCESS), being launched by the M/O HRD. The representative of Ministry of HRD confirmed that the new scheme permits upgradation/construction of ACRs in high and higher secondary schools. The cost sharing pattern between central and state would be the 75:25 as per SUCCESS scheme and ACRs would be provided in the schools situated in the villages of 7 highest minority concentration blocks where student classroom ratio is more than 50 as per the DISE report.

- (b) Anganwadi Centres:** It was submitted that there were 4836 anganwadi centres in the district, of which 490 are in government buildings of the balance, 1565 are functioning from open spaces, 157 in rented buildings and 1414 in primary schools. The proposal is for construction of 275 anganwadi centres @ Rs.3 lakh per centre which are functioning other than those owned by the government. Land was confirmed to be available. Empowered Committee approved the construction of 275 anganwadi centres @ Rs. 3 lakh for the total cost of Rs. 825 lakh and subject to the condition that centres would be located in villages/mouzas which have the highest concentration of minority population in all the 17 blocks @ 10-15 anganwadi centres per block. State Government was asked to provide a list of villages where these centres would be constructed.

- (c) Sinking of Arsenic-free tube wells for drinking water:** The proposal was for the sinking of 396 Arsenic-free tube wells @ 66,000/- for drinking water. The Empowered Committee approved the installation of 396 tube wells @ of 60,000 instead of 66,000 according to the norms of ARWSP for Rs 237.60 lakh, of which Rs 178.20 lakh would be borne by the centre and Rs. 59.40 lakh as State share. The State Govt. representative clarified that the proposal for installation of hand pumps was as per the approved norms/guidelines of ARWSP and the funding ratio would be 75:25. Empowered Committee approved the installation of arsenic free tube wells subject to the condition of these pumps would be installed in the villages of 7

blocks having the highest concentration of minority population without source for safe drinking water. State Government was asked to send a statement showing quality of water pre and post installation of this type of tube well.

(d) **Indira Awas Yojana (IAY):** Households having pucca walls were ranked 2nd in the order of deficit in the baseline survey and deserved attention. The proposal was for 1130 houses at the unit cost of Rs. 35,000/-. The proposal was approved by the Empowered Committee for a total cost of Rs.395.51 lakhs. Central contribution from MsDP would be Rs. 296.62 lakhs and Rs. 98.88 lakh as State share. It was agreed that 50% of the Central share would be released as 1st installment. The approval was given on the condition that 10-12 IAY houses per villages would be distributed in top 100 villages of 7 blocks having the highest population of minorities amongst the 799 villages with more than 50% belonging to the minority population. The State Government will ensure that as provided in the IAY guidelines, selection of beneficiaries would be followed and BPL families selected from the approved waiting list. State share would be provided. The list of the villages having the highest proportion of minority population where these houses would be constructed should be furnished along with the proposal for release of fund.

(i) **Projects approved in-principle:**

(a) **Sishu Siksha Kendra(SSK) and Madhyamik Siksha Kendra(MSK):** SSK & MSK in West Bengal are not regular primary schools these are run as alternative and innovative education centre in the shape of EGS (Education Gurantee Scheme) centres and come under the purview of Paschim Banga Rajya Sishu Siksha Mission, which is government body under the department of Panchayat & RD. The proposal is for construction of 40 SSKs and 21 MSKs for Rs.492.70 lakh.

The Empowered Committee considered the proposal and accorded in-principle approval for construction of 21 Madhyamik Siksha Kendra for Rs. 95.55 lakh Central contribution from MsDP would be Rs. 62.11 lakh and Rs. 33.44 lakh as State share. Land was confirmed to be available. Representative from HRD clarified that the Government of West Bengal has not demanded funds for primary schools for last two years hence, funds for construction of SSKs on the pattern of SSA can not be supported. So far as MSKs are concerned, under SSA norms the cost of an upper primary school is Rs. 4.55 lakh and the same could apply to MSK. In-principle approval for construction of 21 MSKs @ 4.55 lakh was given on the condition that there would be no duplication with SSA, construction would be as per SSA funding and guidelines, schools located in minority concentration areas would get priority and the appraisal and comments on the detailed project profile including the funding pattern would be obtained from the Department of School Education & Literacy. The list of villages with location for construction of SSKs/MSKs should be furnished along with proposal for release of fund.

- (b) **Construction of Primary Health Centre (PHC):** It was submitted that construction of 4 primary health centres @ Rs 50 lakhs is required to fill the gap. The Empowered Committee considered the proposal and accorded in-principal approval for the construction of 4 PHCs for Rs.200.00 lakh, of which Rs.170.00 lakh would be borne by the centre and Rs.30.00 lakh as State share. It also approved for release of 50% of the Central share as first installment. The approval was given on the condition that the design and specification as per IPHS standard, NRHM guidelines would be followed and State Government would ensure that the centres are located in areas of high concentration of minority population. The list of the centres with location should be furnished along with the proposal for release of fund.
- (c) **Special health camp under NRHM:** It was submitted that special health camps with the doctors of different discipline in remote villages for health check up, treatment and generation of awareness among the rural people with is required. The fund requirement projected for holding such camps is Rs.40.00 lakh. Representative from M/o Health & Family Welfare informed that IEC is part of NRHM in which there is a normal flow of fund every year. The Empowered Committee considered the proposal and accorded in-principal approval for the special health camp under NRHM guideline subject to the condition that state government would provide the State share as per NRHM funding pattern, details about what has been done, how much fund was given to this district in previous years and what should be the content of these health mela.
- (d) **Model poultry units:** The proposal was for setting up model poultry units for SHGs. The Empowered Committee considered the proposal and accorded in-principal approval for the 55 SGSY poultry units for Rs. 125 lakh subject to the condition that the State Government would send a DPR prepared according to the norms, pattern, specification, loan and subsidy components for the SGSY scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- (ii) **Proposal requiring project details/profile for appraisal and comments of the Ministry/Department concerned if State Government desire to pursue the proposal:**

For the following projects, the State Govt. would be required to provide project details/profile for appraisal and comments of the Central Ministry/Department concerned:-

- (a) **Computers and Lab equipment to high schools:** The State Govt. was advised to make out a detailed project report as per the guidelines of Department of School Education & Literacy in this regard, so that it could be considered in another meeting.
- (b) **Re-vitalization and energisation of minor irrigation installation:** The State Govt. was advised to make out a detailed project report as per the guidelines for

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme of the Department of Water Resources in this regard, so that it could be considered in another meeting.

(iii) **Proposals declined by the Empowered Committee as they were not identified as priority items in the baseline survey/not envisaged in the programme:**

- (a) **Centre of Excellence:** This was not considered as the required details and clarification were not given by State Government.
- (b) **Free coaching centres:** There is a separate scheme for coaching namely Free Coaching and Allied Scheme of the Ministry of Minority affairs. The scheme may be availed.
- (c) **Construction of community hall:** This was not considered a priority item in terms of development deficits identified by the baseline survey.
- (d) **Financial assistance to pregnant women for first two child births:** State Government was advised to approach Ministry of Health and Child Welfare as they have sufficient resources to fund under their existing scheme.
- (e) **Mobile dispensary:** This was not considered a priority item in terms of development deficits identified by the baseline survey. It should be taken up with the normal funding given to the State Govt. for NRHM.
- (f) **System improvement and capacity augmentation of sub-station:** Representative from Ministry of Power clarified that the plan for Nadia district under RGGVY has already been approved.
- (g) **Re-excavation of Beels for pisciculture development:** This scheme could be sent to the Department of Animal Husbandry/Dairing and Fishery.
- (h) **Economic rehabilitation:** This scheme could be sent to the NMDFC, a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- (i) **Road Sector:** The projects proposed include construction of rural roads which entails high investment of resources and are technical. The construction period is long and preparation of project includes detailed study and survey. Such proposals could best be sourced from the Ministry dealing with such projects.

(iv) Summary of projects of Nadia district approved by the Empowered Committee:

Sl. no.	Name of the project for Nadia district (West Bengal)	No. of units	Unit cost	Central share	State share	Total cost	1 st installment amount to be released of 50%
Rupee in lakh							
Administrative Approval							
1.	Additional Classrooms in high schools	80	2.00	120.00	40.00	160.00	60.00
2.	Construction of Anganwadi Centres	275	3.00	825.00	-	825.00	412.50
3.	Sinking of Arsenic-free Tube wells for drinking water	396	0.60	178.20	59.40	237.60	89.10
4.	Indira Awas Yojana	1130	0.35	296.62	98.88	395.51	148.31
In- Principle Approval							
5.	Construction of Madhya Siksha Kendra	21	4.55	62.11	33.44	95.55	31.06
6.	Infrastructure development for Primary Health Centres under resources of NHRM programme	4	50.00	170.00	30.00	200.00	85.00
7.	Special health camp under NRHM pattern	-	-	34.00	6.00	40.00	17.00
8.	Model Poultry Units for SHGs under SGSY scheme	55	-	93.75	31.25	125.00	46.88
Total				1779.68	298.97	2078.66	889.85

Item No.2 Howrah

The fund allocated for the MSDP Plan was Rs.28.90 crore for the 11th Plan period. It was mentioned that projects for rural electrification and sanitation have not been proposed because funds allocation under RGGVY and TSC are sufficient to address the deficit. Houses with pucca walls have been proposed for destitute/divorcee women. It was however, advised that if there were stark facts in the field where intervention in some areas may be warranted, then such sector may be considered from the balance funds available. Similarly, it was felt that some allocation could also be given to improve the condition of about 25% of anganwadi centres which are not functioning in government buildings. With the balance funds available, augmenting the number of houses to be constructed under Indira Awas Yojana could be considered as well as economic activities under SGSY.

(i) Projects approved.

- (a) Anganwadi Centres:** Construction of 30 anganwadi centres @ Rs.3.00 lakh per centre has been proposed. Land was confirmed to be available. The Empowered Committee considered the proposal and approved for construction of 30 anganwadi centres for Rs. 90.00 lakh @ Rs.3.00 lakh per centre. The Empowered Committee agreed to release 50% of the approved cost. The approval was given on the condition that the State Government would ensure that the centres are located in villages with highest concentration of minority population and water supply and toilet facilities would be provided from State's own sources. The list of the centres with location should be furnished along with the proposal for release of fund.
- (b) Installation of hand pumps:** Drinking water facilities have been identified as 5th deficit in the baseline survey of the district. Installation of 300 hand pumps at a total cost of Rs.210.00 lakh in SSKs, MSKs and the areas inhabited by minorities having no source of drinking water has been proposed. The State Government representative clarify that the approved cost of hand pumps in Howrah as per ARWSP norms is Rs. 70,000/-. It was pointed out that hand pumps installation for the district of Nadia has been approved at the rate of Rs.60,000/- per unit and per unit cost uniformity should be maintained. The Empowered Committee considered the proposal and approved for installation of 300 hand pumps for Rs. 180.00 lakh @ Rs. 60,000/-, of which central share would be Rs. 135.00 lakh and State share Rs. 45.00 lakh on 75:25 Centre and State sharing basis as per the ARWSP. This proposal was approved by Empowered Committee subject to the condition that these hand pumps would be installed in the villages of 9 blocks which have at least 25% population belonging to minority communities and do not have adequate source of drinking water. The pumps would be maintained by the gram panchayats. The Empowered Committee agreed to release 50% of the Central share. The list of the villages where these hand pumps is to be installed with location should be furnished along with the proposal for release of fund.

- (c) **Primary Health Sub-Centres:** It was submitted for construction of 6 PHSCs @ Rs 6.00 lakhs is required to fill the gap. The land and personnel were available. It was pointed out that the rate approved by the State Government was Rs.8.50 lakhs as per the NRHM pattern and the same would need to be applied. The Empowered Committee approved the construction of 6 PHSCs for Rs.51.00 lakh, of which Rs.43.35 lakh would be borne by the centre and Rs.7.65 lakh as State share. It also approved for release of 50% of the Central share as first installment. The approval was given on the condition that the State Government would ensure that the centres are located in areas having the highest concentration of minority population, NRHM norms in construction, design, specification would be followed and the State share would be provided. The list of the centres with location should be furnished along with the proposal for release of fund.
- (d) **Providing teaching aid to SSKs/MSKs:** Proposal was made for providing teaching aids to 40 SSKs/MSKs @ Rs 5000/-. Representative from M/o HRD informed that there is a provision for teaching aids in the SSA scheme. The Empowered Committee considered the proposal and approved for Rs. 2.00 lakh, of which Rs. 1.30 lakh would be borne by the centre and Rs. 70,000/- as state share. It was also approved for release of 50% of the central share as first installment. The approval was given on the condition that the State Government would ensure that teaching aid would be provided in the minority concentration villages of 9 blocks and SSA norms for teaching aid would be followed.

(ii) **Projects approved in-principle:**

Additional Class Rooms (ACR) in SSKs and MSKs: It was submitted for the construction of 30 Additional Class Rooms (ACR) in SSKs @ Rs.2.50 lakh and 10 ACR in MSKs @ Rs.10.00 lakh for the total cost of Rs. 175.00 lakh. The rate proposed for the construction and maintenance of ACR in SSKs and MSKs were higher than the rate proposed for Nadia of Rs. 2.00 lakh per unit. It was stressed that the per unit cost in the State has to be uniformed and at the rate approved by the State Govt. The Empowered Committee considered the proposal and accorded in-principle approval of Rs. 80.00 lakhs @ Rs. 2.00 lakh per unit for construction of ACRs in SSK/MSK subject to the condition that construction, design and specification would be as per SSA guidelines, per unit cost as per the schedule of rates of the State Government, uniformity in per unit cost for the construction of ACRs should be maintained throughout the state, schools located in minority concentration areas would get priority and the State Government would provide its share. The list of villages with location of MSKs where ACRs is to be constructed should be furnished. The Empowered Committee agreed to release 50% of the approved cost.

(iii) **Proposal requiring project details/profile for appraisal and comments of the Ministry/Department concerned, in case the State Government desire to pursue the proposal:**

- (a) **Pipe line water supply:** The State Government was advised to provide a detailed project report for appraisal and comments of D/o Drinking Water Supply.
- (b) **Construction of work shed for ready made garments:** The State Government was advised to provide a detailed project report for appraisal and comments of the Ministry of Textiles.
- (c) **Development of Slums:** The State Government was advised to provide a detailed project report for appraisal and comments of M/o HUPA. It may be proposed as per BSUP scheme.
- (d) **Construction of mini RLI schemes with delivery pipes for irrigation:** The State Govt. was advised to make out a detailed project report as per the guidelines for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme of the Department of Water Resources in this regard, so that it could be considered in another meeting.

(iv) **Proposals declined by the Empowered Committee as they were not identified as priority items in the baseline survey/not envisaged in the programme:**

- (a) **Modernisation of Madarsa/other formal/informal education related schemes:** The proposal for providing computer, additional rooms for computer, additional class rooms, providing teaching aid and laboratory equipment to all 28 to recognized madarsas was considered and State Government was advised to first seeks financial assistance under the revised scheme to provide Quality Education to Madarsas and infrastructure development scheme for minority institutions, of the D/o SE&L, Ministry of HRD, Government of India. As regards the proposal for construction of 2 Muslim girls hostels was declined as the multi-sectoral programme is envisaged only for rural areas. Construction of NCEC/CEC, providing furnitures to 200 schools, publication of books for legal literacy for women, construction of information centres and village information centre, construction of new buildings for the selected unrecognized madarsas and MSKs, construction of kitchen shed, providing electricity in schools/MSKs and development of 5 other minority institutions recognized by government was also declined as these are not priorities identified by the baseline survey.
- (b) **Construction of new set up primary/upper primary/high schools:** This proposal was declined as representative from M/o HRD informed that the Government of West Bengal has not ask for any funds in last two years under the SSA scheme.
- (c) **Skill development training:** State Government was advised that M/o labour and Employment has a scheme for training in employment exchange and this should be accessed.
- (d) **Infrastructure development:** The proposal for repairing of schools is not envisaged in the plan. Improvement of link road, construction of culvert and Construction of drain may be done under the existing schemes of CSS and State plan funds. Development of infrastructure for rural/urban libraries and book

purchase are not considered priority items in terms of development deficits identified by the baseline survey. Household electricity for non BPL families and street light may be done under RGGVY.

- (e) **Housing for destitute/divorcee women:** Ministry of Women and Child Development has a scheme for destitute women and this should be assessed. It may not be possible to deviate from IAY guidelines.
- (f) **Providing ambulance:** This project was not considered as it would entail recurring expenditure and is already covered by NRHM.
- (g) **Agriculture and allied activities:** The schemes regarding development of rural and primary markets were declined as it is not a priority item identified by the baseline survey.

(v) **Summary of projects of Howrah district approved by the Empowered Committee:**

Sl. no.	Name of project for Howrah district (West Bengal)	No. of units	Unit cost	Central share	State share	Total cost	1 st installment amount to be released of 50%
Rupee in lakh							
Administrative Approval							
1.	Construction of Anganwadi Centres	30	3.00	90.00	-	90.00	45.00
2.	Installation of Hand pumps	300	0.60	135.00	45.00	180.00	67.50
3.	Construction of health sub-centres	6	8.50	43.35	7.65	51.00	21.68
4.	Providing teaching aid to 40 SSKs/MSKs@ Rs. 5000/-	40	0.05	1.30	0.70	2.00	0.65
In- Principle Approval							
1.	Additional class rooms in SSKs	30	2.00	39.00	21.00	60.00	19.50
2.	Additional class rooms in MSKs	10	2.00	13.00	7.00	20.00	6.50
Total				321.65	81.35	403.00	160.83
