



Samagra Shikshana Karnataka

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
2nd EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING
OF SAMAGRA SHIKSHANA KARNATAKA (SSK)

Date: 28-01-2020

Time: 3.30p.m. - 5.00p.m.

Venue: 3rd Floor, Conference Hall
State Project Office, New Public Office Premises,
Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru – 560 001

2

The 2nd Executive Committee Meeting was chaired by Ms. Vandita Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary & Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka. The list of members who attended the meeting is annexed. Shri. H.N. Gopalakrishna, Director (Quality), SSK welcomed the Chairperson and all the members of the Executive Committee. This was followed by the introduction of the Members.

Action Taken on the 1st EC Meeting proceedings

Dr. M.T. Reju, State Project Director (SPD), SSK briefed the Committee regarding the discussions and decisions of the 1st Executive Committee meeting. Information was given that an amount of Rs. 2042.00Cr was approved by PAB which is including of the spill over of Rs.259.07Cr. Against this, an amount of Rs.1298.47 was decided as the actual project size for FY 2019-20 (Central Share: Rs.779.09Cr and State Share: 519.39Cr).

Decision: EC took note on proposals and approval received for AWP&B for 2019-20 as per the PAB proceedings received from MHRD.

Subsequently, the following agenda items were discussed:

Agenda

1. Utilisation of Committed Expenditure

The details of committed expenditure carried forward on 31/3/2019 to 2019-20 and the expenditure detail was discussed. The EC noted the details of the total financial outlay of Rs. 8709.84 lakh earmarked by SSK as committed expenditure of 2018-19 and the expenditure of Rs. 7507.48 lakh till date.

Decision: The committed expenditure was recorded by EC. The Chairperson gave directions to SSK to ensure that the balance amounts are to be fully utilized by March 2020.

2. Utilisation of funds of 2019-20

The budgetary allocations and releases from both GoI and GoK were briefed by SPD. EC discussed the agenda in detail and agreed that the release of amounts from GoI / GoK is critical to complete the key activities planned for implementation during the year. Also, the delay in release of funds will affect the completion of the ongoing programmes. SPD also mentioned placing of request to GoK for the release of 4th Instalment and GoI for the release of the remaining Rs.102.43Cr and the spill over amounts for completing the pending civil works. Secretary (Expenditure), FD expressed that fund for recurring would be difficult and suggested to explore for savings in the departments within Education Secretariat.

Decisions:

- (i) The detail of funds availability and pending fund releases was noted by EC.
- (ii) To process the file for release of funds to GoK and GoI. Chairperson suggested that Principal Secretary, Primary and Secondary Education may explore the possibilities of re-appropriation of funds from MDM / Printing, Stationary and Publications wherever there are savings, and take FD's approval.

6

3. Details of Court Cases wherein Samagra Shikshana is a party in High Court & KAT

SPD briefed regarding the status and action taken in each of the Court Cases as listed in the Agenda Notes that are pending in the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka and KAT where SSK is a party. The status was discussed in detail.

Decision: The status of the Court Cases and compliance to the directions given by the Court / Tribunal was noted by EC.

4. Performance Grading Index (PGI) ranking for Karnataka for the year 2018-19

SPD briefed regarding PGI and improvement in scores by 72 points as per the draft report of 2018-19. The Members representing Teachers' Association informed the Committee that, Karnataka is ranked 3rd as per the kannada news reports. Chairperson EC expressed appreciation for the efforts of all the stakeholders and asked to wait for the receipt of official communication.

Decision: The improvement in the PGI score in 2018-19 (778 out of 1000) over PGI score in 2017-18 (706 out of 1000) was noted by EC.

5. Developing a new website for Samagra Shikshana Karnataka

SPD briefed the Committee regarding the need and proposal for developing a new website for SSK with support from Centre for Smart Governance (CSG) of e-Governance department.

Decision: Approval was accorded by EC for developing a new website for Samagra Shikshana with the support of CSG and permission was granted to book expenditure from MMER.

6. Status of Completion of Civil Works approved in 2009-2013 and 2014-17 under RMSA

SPD explained to the EC regarding the status of civil works approved under RMSA for the years 2009-2018 and fresh works related to up-gradation and strengthening works (410 in no.) that were approved in PAB meetings of 2013-14 to 2017-18. EC noted that among 2024 Civil Works, 1915 works are completed and 109 works are on-going. Out of the 109 on-going works, 53 works are at finishing stages and remaining is at different stages of construction. The Committee was briefed in detail regarding civil works that are entrusted as packages and permission was sought to take out individual works from the package to complete the remaining civil works. Secretary (Expenditure), FD noted that if the contractor had failed to discharge the duties as per contract, such contracts may be receded. It has to be examined case-by-case, record the fact and explore options to get the works completed, if required.

Decisions:

- (i) EC noted the status of civil works approved under RMSA for the years of 2009-2018 as detailed in the Agenda Notes.

- (ii) EC suggested examining the contracts case-by-case and to put up a proposal to Principal Secretary for permission to call for fresh tenders.
- (iii) Separate proposals may be sent to FD seeking for support & concurrence to complete pending civil works and to take the approval of the Cabinet.

7. Seeking post facto approval for Audit Report 2018-19 of Samagra Shikshana

The Audit Report of SSK for the year 2018-19 was placed before the Committee. The observations made by the Audit team were discussed.

Decisions:

- (i) The audit report of 2018-19 of SSK for the FY 2018-19 is approved.
- (ii) SPD SSK and CPI to ensure that the funds released to districts including salary are fully utilized by 31st March, 2020.
- (iii) To ensure the routine practices like verification and recording of all physical assets to be completed by the end of March, 2020 every year.
- (iv) CAO SSK (a) to guide DSERT to maintain books of accounts by utilizing the services of Auditors – Internal/External (b) to train the concerned officers/officials and (c) Plan for training and implement one day training for HMs and SDMCs through satellite mode / Video Conference.
- (v) DSERT may seek assistance of Auditors of SSK / hire a Chartered Accountant for ensuring internal control and regular maintenance of records.

8. Seeking post facto approval for Annual Report 2018-19 of Samagra Shikshana

The Annual Report of 2018-19 was placed before the Committee for approval. Principal Secretary, Primary and Secondary Education suggested that the Annual Report to be placed in the legislature.

Decisions:

- (i) The annual report of 2018-19 of SSK for the FY 2018-19 is approved by EC.
- (ii) The Committee suggested that the Annual Report of SSK should be made available in Kannada, English and Hindi languages and to be placed in the legislature.

9. Seeking post facto approval for appointment of External and Internal Auditors for the FY 2018-19 & 2019-20

SPD briefed the details of this agenda. Further, the process of selection of appointment of External and Internal Auditors through tender was explained by CAO SSK.

Decision: EC approved the appointment of External and Internal Auditors for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20.

10. Seeking post facto approval for the appointment of Samagra Shikshana Fellows during 2019-20

SPD briefed about the process of selection of two SSK Fellows/Policy Consultants, their job role and tasks being performed. Principal Secretary, Primary and Secondary Education suggested that their expertise may be used for analysis which would help in informed decision making.

Decision: EC accorded post facto approval of selection process of the two SSK Fellows / Policy Consultants Ms. Rohini K and Mr Vijeth Acharya for two years.

11. Meeting additional contingency expenses for Block Resource Centres' (BRC) and Cluster Resource Centres' (CRC) from the Management Costs identified for SSK for the year 2019-20

SPD explained the costing provided as per PAB 2019-20 for meeting the contingency expenses at BRCs and CRCs. Further, went on to explain the demand from BRCs and CRPs and the need for additional contingency expenses at both BRC and CRC. Members representing Teacher Association too raised this issue. Permission was sought from EC for approval for permission to meet the expenses for an estimated amount of Rs.6.5Cr from available funds in MMER.

Decision: EC accorded permission to provide additional contingency amounts @ Rs. 20,000/- per block for BRCs and Fixed Travel Allowance for functional CRCs @ 500/CRP/month for 12 months during 2019-20 from the funds available under MMER.

12. Empanelment of Advocates for SSK for next two years

SPD explained to the Committee the urgent need for having a panel of competent advocates who would be able to guide SSK and the LCO in handling Court cases. The cost implication on empanelling advocates was also explained.

Decision: EC accorded approval for empanelling 2 to 3 advocates for a period of two years through a walk-in interview, offering Rs. 10,000 per month as retainer fees and Rs. 10,000 for handling each case.

13. Seeking permission for sourcing the services of a Communication expert

SPD explained the proposal of sourcing a communication expert for improving the communication channels, their job profile, proposed selection process and remuneration per month to be met from MMER. While agreeing to the proposal, EC Chairperson suggested that the services may be hired for remuneration up to Rs.50,000 based on his / her expertise for a period of one year. Selection of the communication expert should be done as per the prescribed norms of GoK.

Decision: EC accorded approval to source the services of a Communications Expert for SSK through a selection process with a remuneration maximum of Rs 50,000 per month based on his/her expertise for a period of one year. The selection should be done as per the prescribed norms of Government of Karnataka.



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14. Rewarding the Computer programmers who develop and maintain applications like Teacher Development Software (TDS), TTMS (teacher transfer management system) RTE admission application, Vidyavahini etc.

SPD explained the proposal of rewarding the Computer Programmers and sought EC approval. Secretary (Expenditure), FD suggested that the criteria for this should be for Computer Programmers those who are involved in design and development, rolling out & training and maintenance of the software. EC agreed for re-designating the four Computer Programmers working at the State Project Office, SSK as 'Project Managers', Software Development Centre and to provide additional amount of Rs.5000/- per month from January, 2020.

Decision: EC accorded approval for re-designating the posts of computer programmers at State office, SSK who are involved in design, development, rolling out, training and maintenance of computer applications/programs, as 'Project Managers', Software Development Centre and to provide an additional amount of Rs 5,000/- per month from January, 2020.

15. Issues with the Employment Provident Fund contributions of DPEP workers

SPD explained about the pending issue and status of delayed EPF payments to EPFO with respect to the 155 DPEP employees.

Decisions:

- (i) EC took note of the fact of the issues pending with EPF Court and suggested to consult a 'Tax Consultant' for solution on this matter.
- (ii) If the final decision is against SSK, then SSK may seek an appeal before the EPF Appellate Tribunal (EPFAT) as per the provisions of the EPF act.

16. Repeated requests for salary hikes

SPD explained this agenda. Since there is no specific policy, persons are hired at various points of time through different tenders. EC suggested that SSK shall ensure that the salaries are not less than minimum wages and it is to be taken care by the outsourced agency. Also, the EC suggested ensuring the same for those who are directly appointed through SSK society.

Decision: EC noted the fact and suggested to ensure that the salaries are not less than Minimum Wages as per Minimum Wages Act.

17. Seeking approval of revised cost of 36 buildings under erstwhile SSA

SPD explained the agenda and the reason for placing in EC. Approval of EC was sought for revised cost of construction of 36 buildings which were approved under the erstwhile SSA scheme.

Decision: EC recommended sending a proposal to Government for seeking administrative approval of revised cost of Rs. 37.22 Cr., including the additional cost for Work Slip(WC) & Extra Item Rate List and Price Escalation for Rs 5.27crores.

18. Additional Works in Urban deprived residential school in Agumbe

SPD explained the need for taking up few additional works in the Special Category Residential School Agumbe, Shivamogga District to make it functional. The agenda was discussed in detail and SPE mentioned that the Contract Rate for Agumbe is Rs. 149.76 Lakhs. It was suggested that as per procedure 25% of the works can be entrusted to the same contractor up to an amount of Rs.36 Lakhs and is within SPD administrative powers. Chairperson suggested to send the proposal to Government.

Decision: EC recommended that the proposal may be sent to Government.

19. Approval for the broad priorities for 2020-21

SPD mentioned to the EC that the Annual work Plan & Budget of Samagra Shikshana of 2020-21 will soon commence.

Decision: EC noted and agreed to the broad priorities for 2020-21 (a) Supporting Integrated Schools and Special Schools (b) Conducting School Census and School Based assessments and (c) Improving the engagement with the Community. EC suggested that a final decision from Government may be obtained for the following issues:

- (a) Expansion and Strengthening pre-primary education
- (b) Training of teachers to handle English medium sections.

20. Other discussions with permission of the Chair:

The Members also expressed their views and some of the highlights are as below:

- Teachers' Association: (a) Need to analyse the roles and responsibilities assigned to the Head Teachers of Primary and Secondary Schools in KPS of the State and revise if required. (b) Need to confirm the availability of teachers as per PTR norms in KPS. (c) Closing of schools where enrolment is less than 10 and to persuade the parents to send their wards to nearby KPS schools. If need be, transport arrangements need to be made. Chairperson suggested that study may be taken up to understand the changes / improvements and systemic changes required before further expansion of KPS schools.
- Seva in Action: Inclusive Education should go beyond medical rehabilitation, providing aids and appliances and to look at their learnings in the classroom; Should look at Learning Assessment for these children; Training of BIERT; Vocational Education for children with developmental disabilities and intellectual disabilities; Focus on SRPCs.
- Akshara Foundation: Broader perspective on quality initiatives needs to be defined.
- Azim Premji Foundation: (a) There are lots of programmes being implemented by school education department in Karnataka and efforts are being made to improve them. It may be better to define 5-6 priority areas as per the feedbacks and then track them over a period of time. Chairperson EC suggested that it can be done area wise and drilled down up to the school level.

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Chairperson EC suggested having 3-4 slides on quality initiatives/learning achievement in the next EC meeting and once again congratulated the efforts of all the stakeholders.

The meeting concluded thanking the Chairperson and Members present.



(Vandita Sharma)

Additional Chief Secretary &
Development Commissioner &
Chairperson
Executive Committee, SSK