

MINUTES OF 150TH MEETING OF PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD (PAB)
HELD ON 16.07.2010 TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL OF NCPCR FOR 2010-11
FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF RTE CEL

The 150th meeting of PAB was held on 16.07.2010 under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary (SE&L) to discuss the revised proposal of NCPCR for the year 2010-11 on the basis of decision taken in 145th PAB meeting held on 19.04.2010.

2. A list of persons who participated in the meeting is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.
3. In the 145th meeting of PAB held on 19.04.2010 proposal of NCPCR for establishment of RTE Cell in NCPCR was considered. During the detailed discussion in that PAB, the under-mentioned points emerged:-
 - (a) The total staff strength of the NCPCR is 36, and 25-26 officials are in position;
 - (b) It was felt prima-facie that staff members proposed for RTE cell in NCPCR should be reduced;
 - (c) NCPCR may explore the possibility of involving reputed NGOs for social audit and public hearing and consider whether one district level officer for 5 blocks or alternatively one district with 5 blocks can be engaged;
 - (d) Ministry of Women and Child Development, nodal Ministry for NCPCR needs to be actively involved in the RTE unit;
4. After a detailed discussion, 145th PAB had taken the following decisions:-
 - (a) NCPCR will revise the proposal in the light of the observations of PAB and submit it to the MHRD within one week;
 - (b) On receipt of the proposal, the matter will be discussed between the Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy and Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development and a decision will be taken on the revised proposal of NCPCR.
5. The revised proposal of NCPCR was received and appraised in the Ministry. This was taken up for discussions in the 150th PAB meeting held on 16.07.2010. Ms. Kiran Bhatta of NCPCR made a presentation before the PAB on proposed for RTE division at NCPCR. A copy of her presentation is enclosed as **Annexure-II**. She made following key points:-

- (i) In the back drop of enhanced role of NCPCR under RTE Act, there is a need for providing additional human, financial and systemic resources to NCPCR.
- (ii) Towards this NCPCR has constituted expert group to advice on RTE related matters, coordination between MHRD and NCPCR will continue through meetings on case to case basis and there will be a RTE division with overall objective of :-
- To put into place a monitoring mechanism for RTE at the national level
 - To establish institutional and other arrangements at the state and sub-state level for assisting NCPCR in monitoring and grievance redressal
 - To strengthen the complaints management system at NCPCR with special focus on RTE
 - To coordinate a working relationship with MHRD for purposes of monitoring of RTE
 - To coordinate with other Ministries (ex: Tribal Affairs, Social Justice & Empowerment, Labour and PRI) as well as other National Commissions on the issue of RTE
- (iii) The major activities of RTE division will be monitored through (a) Data and Information Gathering (b) Developing Social Audit methodologies (c) Conducting Public Hearings (d) Responding to Complaints & (e) Coordinating with States, and aid to the monitoring will be (a) Publicity and Awareness Generation (b) Capacity Building and (c) Commissioning Research.

Towards this a resource centre for RTE for compilation of official data as well as data from independent sources will be collected, this will include status of children in school / out of school children / barriers to schools / schooling / admission related matters; matter related to 25% reservation in private schools; information related to complaints, social audit etc.

- (iv) As a measure of concurrent audit social audit will be undertaken in 125 panchayats across 5 selected States in 5 Blocks of 1 district. Each block would cover 125 panchayats. There will be a Block Social Animator, District Resource Person and State representative (on non paid position).
- (a) Block Social Animator will be In-charge of 5 Panchayats to put in place transparency measures, collect and compile information through out the year from schools, panchayat; undertake 1 to 3 'Jan Sunwais' for each panchayat, provide feedback and information to district as well as report to NCPCR.
- (b) DRP will coordinate with State representatives provide information to the block; support Jan Sunwai; technical support on grievances /

complaints; coordinate with CSO; link with district level officials and judicial structures; advocacy.

- (c) State representatives will be approved by NCPCR in non-paid capacity; set up and coordinate CSO. Role of State Representatives will be appointed by NCPCR in non-paid capacity. They will help in setting up and coordinate network of civil society groups in the state, sending periodic reports on status of RTE in state and issues that need intervention of NCPCR and periodically responding to specific complaints. They will also, act as resource persons for civil society groups and governments as the need arises; take up Advocate with State Government; support concurrent social audit process at district and block level; interact with the CSO involved with concurrent social audit in the state; provide resource support to DRP and Social Animators; provide information on government orders and regulations. Further they will help in organize legal support / resources; organize State Level Public Hearing; provide support to Panchayat/ Block Jan Sunwais/Public hearings; attend District Annual Review meeting and consolidate information on concurrent social audit for NCPCR.
 - (v) Complaint Section will devise mechanism for redressal on written, telephonic, suomoto complaints and towards this will be supported by call centre (supported by operator, data entry) CMS staff and NIC.
 - (vi) For publicity and support it will undertake material preparation; awareness campaign and capacity building of training of PRI, NIRs, NIPCCD and Panchayati Raj Department; training of SMCs with Civil Society Group and State representative and support to SCPCR / REPA.
 - (vii) NCPCR will undertake 2 researches - @ baseline study of capacities for teacher education and study of Out of School Tribal Children.
 - (viii) For RTE division 2 Project Coordinators, 4 Project Officers and 4 Programme Officers will be required. There will also be need of Administrative Officer (1); Accounts Officer (1). Data Entry Operators (2) and Support Staff for complaints (2).
 - (ix) Budget of Rs.5.49 crore is sought for this purpose.
6. PAB discussed issues pertaining to the proposal and following key points were made:-
- (i) Secretary (SE&L) said that research related issues such as teacher education etc. are not the primary mandate of NCPCR and questioned the need to take it up. She also stated that in case the NCPCR wants to undertake research they could approach MHRD with a specific proposal

under Committee for Approval of Research Project (CARP) which will be taken up on case to case basis. She also said that there is a need for a unified structure in the NCPCR, and any gap in staff structure of NCPCR cannot be funded under RTE as a long term measure. Currently some consultants can be engaged for looking after administration of RTE cell in NCPCR but in later years there will be need for institutionalization and steps should be taken side by side for review of NCPCR structure and this can only be taken up by MoWCD, although funding for RTE can come from MHRD.

- (ii) Prof. Govinda, Vice Chancellor of NUEPA stated that for monitoring information needs to be collated and collected from local authority / Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). He reiterated the point made by Secretary that studies such as those on teacher education should be undertaken by other organizations that are more conversant with the subject. He said NCPCR needs to focus much more on developing a mechanism on monitoring of children's participation in schools and protection of their rights in school. He also pointed out that with respect to social audit and monitoring, the NCPCR was proposing these on a pilot basis and there will be a need to see how effective this process has been for future scaling up. He noted that NCPCR has not made any attempt for developing institutional arrangements needed to monitor RTE implementation at the national level. He also pointed out that in view of institutionalization and accountability it is important that the tasks of accounts & administration are undertaken by permanent employees of NCPCR. He also stated that social audit process should result into some clear outcomes. To this Ms. Kiran Bhatta clarified that NCPCR will develop a protocol and capacity building module on social audit as an outcome of the processes.
- (iii) Shri Vivek Joshi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development stated that the Annual Report on RTE will need to be processed by MHRD. Also, he noted that interaction with PRI, State and District Administration is needed and the roles of PRI need to be specified in the RTE rules. On a query on the funding of SCPCR, it was clarified that Rs. 50/- per school has already been provided in the AWP&B of States.
- (iv) Shri Lov Verma, Member Secretary, NCPCR stated that the sanctioned posts in NCPCR are 36. However, dedicated staff on contractual basis would be needed for the efficient functioning of the proposed RTE cell. Social Audit was proposed on a pilot basis for which NGOs will be engaged.
- (v) With respect to the responsibility of Monitoring, AS (SE&L) stated that there is a meeting scheduled in Bangalore to determine the responsibilities

of various functionaries under RTE. There would then be greater clarity on which the grievance redressal authority will be formed and this will help in determining institutional arrangements for monitoring of RTE by NCPCR.

- (vi) Dir(NSR) drew attention to the appraisal comments on social audit. She said since large amount will be spent, therefore it will be important to see how effective these processes have been. Towards this NCPCR must establish baseline on certain key indicators such as access to school, out of school children, attendance, participation, instruction hours, learning level, corporal punishment, special training, etc. There should also be clear entry and exit plans.

7. After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken by the PAB:-

- (i) 2 Project Coordinators, 4 Project Officers, 4 Programme Assistants, 1 Accounts Assistant, 2 Administrative Assistants and 2 Data Entry Operators will be provided to NCPCR.
- (ii) For publicity and awareness preparation and printing of materials, transport, media, Special Gram Sabha, briefing with CSO and teacher unions at Rs. 10.00 lakh per annum was approved.
- (iii) Training of PRI officials and SMCs will be undertaken by developing modules, these will also be rolled out in panchayats in which social audit is being undertaken. In addition, NCPCR will try to collaborate such that training by District / State to SMC and PRI is not in isolation. This will help in clearing overlaps.
- (iv) One National Conference on RTE, 3 workshops on OoSC in tribal dominated districts, and 3 seminars were agreed to.
- (v) Setting up a centralised help-line connected to NIC-MIS System-Call Centre includes one Programme Analyst and 2 Data Entry Operators. However, no additional cost will be provided on follow-up of complaints and special cell for corporal punishment.
- (vi) Social audits and public hearing will be undertaken in 250 panchayats @Rs. 30,000/- per panchayat. This will include honorarium of Block Animators, transportation, Jan Sunawai etc. In these 250 panchayats, baseline on selected indicators will be established by NCPCR to assess how effective the process has been and they will develop a follow-up plan on roll-out after assessing the progress at the end of the year 2010-11.
- (vii) Funds for research can be accessed by NCPCR through CARP projects.

- (viii) NCPCR may utilize the data from States that MHRD already has, in addition to collecting additional data from other sources for its reference.
 - (ix) MHRD will write to State Education Secretaries so that the States support the needs of REPA/SCPCR.
 - (x) One of NCPCR's concerns was that there needs to be more clarity on the grievance redressal mechanism and who the grievance redressal authority is going to be at State level for the various provisions under RTE. As more clarity around this emerges, NCPCR will need to develop a framework for monitoring RTE at the State level, for which it can provide a supplementary plan.
8. An outlay of Rs.278.76 lakh has been approved by PAB for 2010-11 for establishment of RTE Cell in NCPCR. Costing sheet is enclosed at **Annexure-III**.
 9. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.