

No. K-11015/11/2014/DPE
Government of India
Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Sardar Patel Bhawan, Parliament Street,
New Delhi-110001

Dated: 5th November, 2014

Subject: Minutes of the 6th meeting of Central Executive Committee (CEC) of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) held at 11:00 AM on 17-10-2014 under the chairpersonship of Secretary (PR) at Ministry of Panchayati Raj, 11th floor, LIC Building, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Ministry's Meeting notice of even number. dated 7-10-2014 on the subject cited above. A copy of the minutes of the sixth meeting of CEC of RGPSA during 2014-15 held on 17-10-2014 under the chairpersonship of Secretary (PR) at LIC Building is forwarded for information and necessary action.



(S. K. Upadhyay)

Under Secretary to Government of India
Tele. 011-23346341

To,

- (i) All members of the Central Executive Committee (CEC)
- (ii) All participants of the meeting

Copy to: Sr. PPS to Secretary (PR)
Sr.PPS to AS(AKG)
Sr.PPS to JS(RSS)/JS(SK)/JS(NS)/ JS(SM)

Ministry of Panchayati Raj

(DPE Division)

Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the Central Executive Committee (CEC), RGPSA held on 17-10-2014.

The Sixth meeting of the Central Executive Committee (CEC) of the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) was held under the chairpersonship of Shri Ashok Angurana, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj at 11:00 A.M in Conference Room of Ministry of Panchayati Raj at LIC Building, New Delhi. The outgoing Secretary, Mrs Vijay Laxmi Joshi was also present. The list of the participants is at **Annexure**.

2. Smt. Rashmi Shukla Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry and Covener of CEC briefly referred to various issues expressed by the States/UTs during previous CEC meetings and requested that the members may consider these issues and take decision.

Item No. 1: Provision of connectivity and laptops

During the various CEC meetings of RGPSA, States/ UTs had expressed the need for financial support for purchase of laptops instead of computers because of erratic supply of electricity and also because of difficulties in providing adequate security to desktops. States had also sought financial support for providing connectivity and enhancement of the the unit cost of Rs. 40000/- for computers etc.

During discussion, Dr. Meenakshisundaram was not in favour of provding laptops because of possible misuse, Mrs. Nirmala Buch was of the view that States/UTs may be allowed to purchase laptops for GPs within the ceiling cost of Rs.40,000/- per system. After deliberations, the CEC decided that the decision for purchase of desktops or laptops for GPs should be left to States within the existing ceiling of Rs.40,000/-. It was also decided that in order to prevent misuse of laptops, States should be asked to furnish resolutions passed by the concerned GPs regarding purchase of laptops to ensure that this was the more desirable option and to inform the GP about such purchase. Such resolutions could be obtained after approval by the CEC but before actual purchase. It was also decided that the decision will hold good for all the plans/proposals of the States approved since April 01, 2014 where desktops agreed to by CEC have not been purchased so far and the State was keen to purchase laptops.

Item No. 2: Encouraging non Part-IX States to participate in RGPSA for Strengthening Democratic Decentralisation

In non-Part IX areas, except for of Tripura, the essential conditions stipulated under RGPSA are not fulfilled in these areas and such areas are consequently not able to access funds under RGPSA. There has been demand from such States that funds under RGPSA be made available to support grassroots bodies such as village councils without fulfillment of the essential conditions. The CEC decided that no relaxation in the essential conditions could be allowed as the whole aim of RGPSA is to support grassroots democracy and not non- democratic bodies. However, it was decided that MoPR may make special efforts to assist the non-Part IX States to fulfill the essential conditions by organizing a special workshop with States falling in non-Part IX areas at Guwahati. In the proposed workshop, the following issues may be taken up:-

- An assessment can be made as to where these States stand with respect to the essential conditions;
- Tripura may present the measures it has taken in its non-Part IX areas to fulfil the essential conditions;
- Other States with non-Part IX areas can chalk out a Plan to democratise their village councils.

Subsequently, a meeting at the level of Ministers can also be organised to encourage the fulfilment of essential conditions in the non-Part IX areas. .

Item No. 3: Identification of National Resource Organisations for poor performing States

The issue of providing hand holding support to States with extremely poor awareness and institutionalization of Panchayati Raj by those States which had moved forward in institutionalising Panchayati Raj through a National Resource Organization was discussed. On the above issue, Secretary MoPR, Shri A.K. Angurana, informed that for improving the CB&T activities of States with poor CB&T resources and institutional structure, the entire gamut of literature stands developed in the earlier MoPR-UNDP CDLG Project needs to be revisited.

Item No. 4: Support to State Finance Commissions

In some of the CEC meetings some States had sought financial support for strengthening infrastructure of SFCs. While RGPSA provides funds for strengthening the SECs, it does not provide funds for strengthening SFCs. The issue was considered by CEC and decided that it will not be appropriate to provide financial support towards recurring and non- recurring expenditure for SFCs. However, technical support to strengthen SFCs in the form of seminars, workshops and funds for studies may be provided.

Item No. 5: Financial Assistance to Panchayats that Lack the Capacity to Raise Adequate Revenues

One of the components of the RGPSA is to provide financial assistance to the States for Panchayats that do not have sufficient capacity to generate/augment their resources. Financial assistance is provided upto the limit of Rs. 50,000/- per Panchayat. During various CEC meetings, it had not been possible to

approve proposals of some States in this regard, as they were not able to identify such Panchayats. It is, therefore, necessary to lay down clearer criteria for the operationalization of this component. The criteria developed by the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala for financial support to weak resource Panchayats were discussed in the meeting. The criteria adopted by Kerala for identifying the weak resource Panchayats i.e. those GPs which are not able to meet their establishment cost and obligatory expenses (for which government funds cannot be used) with their own revenue plus general purpose grants was found appropriate. It was agreed that these criteria would be circulated to States to guide them to develop their own criteria. However, it was decided that financial support to the maximum limit of Rs.50,000/- would be given for two years in the first instance for low revenue base Panchayats to 5% of the total Panchayats in the State. Further, these low revenue base Panchayats would have to generate 5% of the amount in the first year and 10% in the following year. It was also decided that the Central Steering Committee may consider increasing the amount by 25%.

Item No. 6: Infrastructure for State Election Commissions

RGPSA has a component for providing financial assistance for strengthening SECs upto a total amount of Rs. 2 crore during the entire plan period per State/UT. In some of the Annual Plan proposals, States had asked for funds for infrastructure related expenditures such as construction of building of SEC, furnishing of offices, provision of vehicle, preparation of voters' list etc. It was discussed in the meeting that RGPSA has been launched with the aim of strengthening the PRIs and financial assistance for strengthening SECs should also be regulated in such a way that the SECs contribute to the actual strengthening of the Panchayati Raj system. The financial assistance for this component should advisably be given for the sensitization of people/voters in the area and enlightening them against the malpractices involved in the election process for ensuring an accountable and transparent governance system in Panchayats, making ERs conscious of gender issues etc. The CEC decided that financial support would be provided to the States primarily for voters awareness and in some cases for purchase of EVMs on merits only.

Item No. 7: Support for DPC secretariat

There is no provision at present for providing financial support to the District Planning Committees under RGPSA which often function without staff and facilities. It was considered whether financial assistance should be provided for strengthening DPCs and if so, then for what activities. CEC decided that measures could be taken to provide financial support for manpower for computers for the DPCs.

Item No. 8: Hand held devices, tablets and APPs

The demands made by some States for financial support for hand-held devices & tablets along with Annual Plan Proposals were discussed by CEC and it was decided that no funds can be given towards the above items.

Item No. 9: Supplementary training plans for the areas suffering from ineffective, weak and

incomplete training strategy

The fact that many State plans did not have a robust approach to CB & T was discussed. The CEC decided that States should be advised that in their CB&T component they must focus on training on thematic issues, sanitation, e-Governance, social audit etc. in a phased and speedy manner. Specific attention should be paid to the CB&T of ERs of marginalized groups including women. Besides, reports should be obtained from ERs and Panchayat functionaries deputed on exposure visits outside their States as to what they have learned & experienced. There should be special focus on capacity building in PESA areas.

Item No. 10: IEC Activities

Under RGPSA, financial assistance is provided to the States for undertaking activities under IEC component and the amount admissible is to the tune of 1% of the total plan size. Of late, while considering the demand under this component, CEC has been expressing the view that certain activities may be identified which the concerned State must undertake. The CEC advised that to give better focus to these activities, workshops with States may be organised so that they are able to come out with a focused IEC strategy.

Supplementary Agenda

Item 11 About IT related training to ERs and Panchayat Functionaries of PRIs through

National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)

One of the component of RGPSA scheme is e- enablement of Panchayats which includes capacity building and training of ERs and Panchayat functionaries in a comprehensive manner. Ministry has committed to train about 1,00,000 ERs and about 50,000 Panchayat functionaries in 2014-15. In this regard, a proposal to offer IT related training to ERs and PFs was called for from the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT). The proposal was discussed threadbare. NIELIT had proposed a total outlay of Rs.45,50,58,000/- (Forty Five Crore Fifty Lakh and Fifty Eight Thousand) only for undertaking the trainings on the following pattern:-

1 30% candidates will opt for Basic Computer Course (BCC) (36 hrs. duration) and

2 70% candidates will opt for BCC with orientation to e-Governance & e-Panchayat MMP.

A representative from NIELIT also made a brief presentation before the CEC in this regard.

The CEC considered the proposal and directed NIELIT to re-do the proposal based on the following points:

1. 1. Revise the cost for the following mix of trainings i.e. 90% candidates opting for BCC course and 10% candidates opting for BCC with orientation to e-governance and e-Panchayat MMP.
2. 2. Revise the costs based on the previous prices offered to the Ministry (i.e. Rs 1800 per candidate).
3. 3. Provide alternate training course for candidates having reading and writing skills but not having any formal education.

Item 12 Additional issues raised by a Member of CEC

Dr. Meenakshisundaram also stated that MoPR should create National Level Monitoring system under RGPSA on the lines of NRLM system functioning in MoRD to have full knowledge and assessment of the assets created in the States utilising RGPSA funds. In this regard, JS (SK) informed that the physical assets developed can be mapped through Satellite. A presentation in this regard was made. The CEC directed that a comprehensive monitoring plan for mapping system of assets created under RGPSA funds through Satellite may be developed.

The meeting ended with votes of thanks to the chair.

List of participants

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Smt. Vijaylaxmi Joshi	Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (OUT GOING)
2.	Sh. A. K. Angurana	Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj
3.	Sh. A.K. Goyal	Additional Secretary, MoPR
4.	Smt Rashmi Shukla Sharma	Joint Secretary, MoPR
5.	Sh. Sushil Kumar	Joint Secretary, MoPR
6.	Dr. Rajan Khobragade	Secretary, LSGD, Govt. of Kerala and Member, CEC
7.	Sh. Dilip Kumar	Director, IFD, MoPR
8.	Shri Maha Bir Pershad	Director, RGPSA
9.	Shri Sanjay Kumar Upadhyay	Under Secretary, RGPSA
10.	Shri Subhash Sangwan	Section Officer, RGPSA
11.	Dr. Indu Patnaik	Joint Advisor , Planning Commission
12.	Dr. Mahi Pal	Director, MoRD, New Delhi
13.	Sh. P. Ahilan	Dy. Secretary Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC)
14.	Mrs. Sandhya Singh	Joint Director, MoDWS, New Delhi
15.	G. Balasubramanian	Dy. Adviser, MoDW&S, New Delhi
16.	Dr. K Jayalakshmi	Prof. CPR NIRD, Hyderabad-500030
17.	Sh. Manoj Rai	Director PRIA
18.	Smt. Nirmla Buch	President, Mahila Chetna Manch, Bhopal
19.	Dr. Meeakshisundaram	Vice Chairman, MYRADA, Bangalore
20.	Adv. P. P. Shyamala Devi	President, District Panchayat, Kasargoda
21.	Sh. Bhupender	Sarpanch, Goonga Kheri, Baghpat, Uttar

		Pradesh
22.	Sh. Sanjay Gupta	Director (T), NIELIT, New Delhi
23.	Ms. Sangita Verma	Jr. Asstt., NIELIT, New Delhi