

Minutes of the Third meeting of the Grants in Aid Committee to consider State proposals for Girls' Hostel scheme held on 13.11.2009.

A meeting of the Grants in Aid Committee was held on 13.11.2009 in the Conference Room, Ministry of Human Resource Development to consider the proposals of Gujarat, Chhatisgarh, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh under the Girls' Hostel scheme. A list of participants is appended.

2.The proposals from the concerned State Governments were considered and the following decisions were taken.

2.1 West Bengal

- (i) State Project Director for Girls' Hostel scheme made a presentation on the proposal of the State Government to set up 62 Girls' Hostel in as many EBBs. 46 hostels have been proposed in KGBVs and 16 hostels within the campus of higher secondary schools. The scheme for the time being will be implemented by the Paschim Bangra Sarva Shiksha Mission society. Unit cost for construction of the hostel is Rs.42.50 lakh. He was confident that the construction of the hostels would be completed within one year of the date of sanction.
- (ii) It was observed that all the hostels have been proposed in private land. Even KGBVs are constructed in the aided school complex and consequently the ownership of the land is with the management of the school. State Government representative clarified that in West Bengal there are only 44 Government schools, more than 99% of the secondary schools being aided schools. Historically this has been the case in the State where Government school were mainly of the pre-independence day vintage and the entire education system resting mainly on the grants-in-aid structure. These schools are regulated through the statutory acts of the State Government and the school management for all practical purposes is under the control of the State Government where land belonged to the school society, salary of teachers, teacher appointment and all other expenditures are borne and controlled by the State Government. There is no possibility of the school management diverting the use of hostel building to any other purpose without the expressed permission of the State Government. He, therefore, requested for approval of the proposal to set up hostels in aided school complex.
- (iii) The relevant provision of the scheme (Para 5.4) was examined, which reads as under,

‘5.4.1. It is proposed to construct one hostel with the capacity of 100 girls in each of the 3500 educational backward blocks. Wherever there is space in KGBV compound, the hostels would preferably be constructed there. Such hostels would be under the administrative control of concerned KGBV. Students passing out of KGBV will be given preference in admission in hostel. In case, there is no spare space in the KGBV compound or in the blocks where no KGBV has been sanctioned, the hostel may be constructed in the compound of a secondary/ higher secondary school selected by the State/UT Government. The hostel will be under the administrative control of

the Headmaster/Principal of concerned school. However, students of neighbouring schools will also be eligible for staying in the hostel.’

- (iv) It was observed that the scheme does not prohibit construction of hostels in aided school complex, under private management. In fact as per the scheme, locations in KGBVs are to be preferred. Secretary (SE&L), therefore, suggested that the provisions of the scheme may be interpreted liberally. However, at the same time the intention of the scheme is to set up the hostels under the government ownership, and therefore, it is imperative to ensure that the hostels and access to the building remain under the effective control of the State government.
- (v) Secretary (SE&L), therefore, desired that West Bengal government should enter into a legally binding agreement with the Managing Committees of the schools ensuring full control of the State government over the hostels. West Bengal Government will prepare a draft agreement for this purpose and send the same for approval of the Ministry.
- (vi) Subject to a legally binding agreement being entered to, 62 hostels in as many EBBs were recommended by the GIAC. A list of blocks where hostels have been approved, in principle, is at Annexure –I.
- (vii) The State government representative also clarified that they have already revised the hostel design to ensure sufficient per boarder space as per the provision of the scheme and a copy of the building design will be sent to the Central government.

2.2 Rajasthan

- (i) The representative of the Rajasthan government made a presentation on their proposal to set up 49 Girls’ Hostels. It was mentioned that 27 hostels in the first phase had already been approved in Rajasthan and Rs.5.16 crore as first installment of central share has been released.
- (ii) Out of the 49 hostels proposed in the 2nd phase, 49 hostels are proposed in KGBVs and the remaining 4 in other locations. The scheme will be implemented by Rajasthan Council of Secondary Education.
- (iii) The State government representative clarified that the Silora block in Ajmer district figures in EBB list under the name ‘Kishangarh’.
- (iv) So far as the Mundwa and Ladnun blocks are concerned, co-educational schools are available in the vicinity of the proposed location of the hostel.
- (v) As regards Srinagar block in Ajmer district and Degenia block in Nagaur district, State government will find out alternative locations.
- (vi) As regards the building design, the modal adopted for the 27 hostels approved in the first phase will also be used for hostels sanctioned in the second phase. State government representative clarified that adequate per boarder space has been ensured in the hostel design.

- (vii) GIAC recommended a total of 47 hostels in as many EBBs. A list of blocks where hostels have been recommended is at Annexure – II.

2.3 Gujarat

- (i) A presentation was made regarding the proposal of the State government to set up 78 hostels. The scheme will be implemented by Gujarat Council of Secondary Education. None of the hostels has been proposed in the KGBV compound. Instead Gujarat government has taken a decision to set up Model schools and Girls Hostels together in single locations, for which separate land has been identified in all EBBs. A total of 6 acre of land has been identified for each Model School, of which one acre will be set apart for the hostel.
- (ii) The State government representative also clarified that recognized Girls' secondary school is available in the vicinity of hostels. The confusion in the appraisal note was because the State government has erroneously reported distance to government secondary schools. As most schools in Gujarat are aided schools, the distance to the nearest school has been reported as unusually high.
- (iii) The State government was advised to furnish a fresh statement indicating distance to nearest recognized girls/senior secondary school from the proposed location of each hostel.
- (iv) The State government representative also clarified that a minimum living space of 40 sq. ft. per boarder has been ensured in the hostel and no bunker bed in the dormitory has been proposed.
- (v) GIAC recommended 78 hostels (List of blocks at Annexure III) in principle subject to
 - State government furnishing statement indicating distance to nearest recognized girls/ co-ed secondary/senior secondary school from the proposed location of each hostel.
 - Ensuring minimum availability of 40 sq.ft. living space per boarder in hostel.
- (vi) Besides, it was observed that so far 43 Model Schools have been recommended by GIAC in Gujarat. Since the State government has planned to construct Girls' Hostels and the Model Schools together, the State government was advised to take up construction of Girls' Hostels only on those sites where Model Schools have also been sanctioned.

2.4 Chhattisgarh

- (i) A presentation was made regarding the proposal of the State government to set up 36 hostels in as many EBBs. This is the second installment of the proposal from Chhattisgarh. 33 Girls' Hostels were approved in the first phase and Rs.6.31 crore as first installment of central share has been released.

- (ii) Of the 36 hostels proposed in the second phase, 35 have been proposed in KGBVs and one hostel in other school compound. The scheme will be implemented by Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission Society.
- (iii) Secretary (School Education), Chhattisgarh clarified that Gourella I block of EBB list is same as Gourella Block, whereas Gourella II of EBB list is the Pendra block in State government proposal.
- (iv) As regards the 5 blocks (Keshkal, Bhopalpatnam, Kasdol, Baloda Bazaar & Bhatapara), where hostels have been proposed in temporary KGBV locations, he clarified that recognized girls schools are available in the vicinity of the location.
- (v) As regards Keshkal, Takhtapur, Pathalgaol, Pali and Mahendragarh blocks, where no girls school is available within the 3 KM radius of the hostel, Secretary. Government of Chhattisgarh informed that State government has decided to shift the location of these hostels to the Model School site. In all cases, adequate land is available in Model School complex for construction of the hostels. Similar decision has been taken in respect of 5 blocks where hostels were not sanctioned during the last GIAC due to non-availability of girls'/ co-ed secondary schools in the vicinity of the proposed locations. These 5 blocks are, (i) Bastanar (Bade Kilepal), (ii) Darbha, (iii) Lohandiguda, (iv) Katekalayan and (v) Konta. He requested for sanctioning of hostels in these 10 blocks.
- (vi) Secretary (SE&L) stated that constructing the Girls' Hostels along side the Model Schools is a good idea provided sufficient land is available for the hostel. However, constructions for the hostels should start only after Model School for the location has also been sanctioned.
- (vii) GIAC approved 41 hostels in the State including the 5 hostels not sanctioned due to non availability of girls' secondary schools in the vicinity of the proposed location in the last GIAC. A list of 41 blocks where hostels have been approved is at Annexure – IV. With this, Girls' Hostels are sanctioned in all 74 EBBs in the State.

2.5. Jammu & Kashmir

- (i) A presentation was made on the proposal of the State government to set up Girls' Hostels in 21 EBB. 4 Hostels have been proposed in KGBVs and remaining 17 hostels in other schools. The scheme will be implemented by the Ujala society. The Unit cost of construction has been projected as Rs.46 lakh as against the scheme norms of Rs.42.5 lakh.
- (ii) The State government representative informed that he has ascertained ownership of land in Kangan, Poonch & Ramban blocks, and it is confirmed that land in all 3 cases is under the ownership of the government. He therefore, requested for approval in respect of hostels proposed in these blocks.
- (iii) He also stated that the State government will ensure a building design, providing for 40 sq.ft. of living space per boarder.

- (iv) As regards Arnas and Bani blocks, State government will make an effort to identify land in vicinity of secondary girls' schools.
- (v) GIAC approved 19 hostels (list of blocks at Annexure V) subject to State Government confirming ownership of the land for Kangan, Poonch & Ramban blocks.

2.6 Orissa

- (i) The State Government submitted a fresh proposal in respect of 15 blocks along with the clarifications requested by MHRD earlier. Half acre or more land is available in each case except for Kankadahada block where availability of land has been stated to be 10,000 sq. ft. Girls' secondary schools is available within 3 KM of each hostel. It was also confirmed that the construction cost of the hostel will be within the scheme norm of Rs. 42.5 lakh.
- (ii) The building design developed by the State Government was discussed. JS(SE) stated that the building plan clearly indicating the accommodation plans of the girls should be received from the State Government within a fortnight. He advised the State Government not to have large dormitories, but to have smaller rooms or partitions within the dormitory to ensure atmosphere for study. The minimum space norm per boarder also needs to be ensured. He also advised the State Government to pay due attention to locational planning of the hostels.
- (iii) GIAC approved 15 hostels subject to submission of building design by the State Government. A list of blocks where hostels have been approved is at Annexure VI.

2.7 Uttar Pradesh

As requisite clarifications are awaited from the State Government, GIAC deferred consideration of the proposal. State Government representative assured that requisite information will be submitted at the earliest.

3. General Issues

- (i) **Building design:** JS (SE) advised all State Governments to pay adequate attention to the designing of the hostel. He suggested that instead of going for large dormitories, smaller rooms or partitions in the dormitories may be planned to ensure good study atmosphere for the inmates. The scheme stipulates minimum 40 sq. ft. of living space per inmate which is a very conservative norm. He stated that designing aspects need to be attended to at the beginning, and it would not have any major cost implication if such matters are sorted out in the initial stage. Secretary (SE&L) also stated that the scheme has a very attractive sharing pattern of 90:10 and therefore the State Governments should put in a little bit of extra money if required to build a good hostel.
- (ii) **Constitution of Society:** JS(SE) stated that it might not be feasible for the SSA society in major States to implement RMSA, Model School and Girls' Hostel schemes. At the very least there should be a separate society for

RMSA, which may be given the responsibility for Model School and Girls' Hostel schemes provided the no. of EBBs in the State is not very large. For States with large no. of EBBs like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, it might be a good idea to set up dedicated society for Model School and Girls' Hostel schemes. States need to plan accordingly as no. of sanctioned hostels and schools will increase over time.

4. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of participants for the GIAC meeting on Girls' Hostel Scheme held on 13.11.2009

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