

No. SCA -11014/3/2022-SCA to SCSP
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Department of Social Justice & Empowerment

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 3rd February, 2023

To,

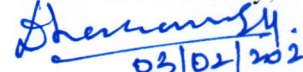
The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries in charge of Social Welfare/Scheduled Castes welfare Department in the States/UTs Bihar, Chandigarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Punjab and Tamil Nadu.

Subject: Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Project Appraisal Committee held on 24th January,, 2023 for the Grant-in-Aid (erstwhile SCA to SCSP) component of the Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jati Abhyuday Yojana (PM AJAY).

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the Minutes of 3rd Meeting of the Project Appraisal Committee held on 24th January,2023 at 3.00 p.m. through Video Conference (VC) under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment for the Grant-in-Aid component (erstwhile SCA to SCSP) of the Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jati Abhyuday Yojana (PM AJAY) for information and necessary action please.

Yours faithfully,


03/02/2023.

(Dharam Singh)

Section Officer(PM AJAY)

Copy for information to :

1. NITI Aayog
2. D/o Rural Development
3. M/o Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare
4. M/o Panchayati Raj
5. M/o Textiles
6. M/o MSME
7. CMD, NSFDC/Member

Copy to:

1. PPS to Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment
2. PS to JS & FA, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment
3. PS to JS (SCD-B), Department of Social Justice & Empowerment
4. PS to DS (PM AJAY), Department Social Justice & Empowerment

MINUTES OF 3rd MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (PAC) FOR THE YEAR 2022-23 HELD ON 24.01.2023 FOR THE 'GRANTS-IN-AID' COMPONENT OF THE SCHEME OF PRADHAN MANTRI ANUSUCHIT JAATI ABHYUDAY YOJANA (PM-AJAY)

The 3rd meeting of the Project Appraisal Committee(PAC) for the year 2022-23, set up under the Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana(PM-AJAY) to consider the projects under the component of 'Grant in Aid for District/State-level Projects for Socio-Economic betterment of SCs' {erstwhile scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan(SCA to SCSP)}, was held on 24.01.2023 through Video Conference(VC) at 03.00 PM under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. Joint Secretary(SCD-B) and Deputy Secretary(SD) were also present in the meeting. The List of representatives from States/Union Territories and PAC Members, who attended the meeting, is attached.

2. As per the guidelines of the scheme of PM-AJAY, it is required for the States/Union Territories to upload their Annual Action Plans(AAPs) for the year 2022-23 on the PM-AJAY Portal exclusively devised for the purpose. The AAPs containing the project proposals of the Union Territory of **Chandigarh**, Governments of **Gujarat, Kerala, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Punjab, Tamil Nadu** and additional projects under the Income Generation and Infrastructure activities submitted by the Government of **Bihar** were also considered in the meeting.

3. Initiating the discussion, Secretary (SJ&E) welcomed all the participants and stressed upon the following issues for a better implementation of the scheme in the State:

(a) PAC being the highest level of forum to consider the State level proposals under the Grants-in-aid component of the Scheme, there must be an appropriate level of participation by the State Governments;

(b) All the unspent funds available with the State Governments against earlier releases must be utilized by 31st January, 2023. In case, it is not possible to utilize, the unspent funds must be refunded to the Consolidated Fund of India(CFI) immediately so that the funds against the approved projects for the current financial year can be released;

(c) However, surrendering of funds is not a good practice since these funds could have been utilized by other States having better implementation of the scheme;

(d) No funds under this scheme be utilized for construction of CC Roads/drains. Presently, there is no proposal to reconsider the decision of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment on allowing the States for carrying out works related to construction of CC Roads/drains from the scheme funds;

(e) While uploading the projects on the scheme portal, States/Union Territories may also submit two pages note detailing the backward and forward linkages of all the projects for better understanding by the PAC;

(f) The quality of the works, which are being carried out of the funds released by the Department under the scheme, need to be maintained. From the next financial year 2023-24, personal interview with some beneficiaries of the projects will be conducted by the Department's representatives;

(g) Unspent amount lying with the States may be spent for development of selected villages as per the plan approved earlier by the PAC so that the plans for development of villages may not remain non-executed.

4. Thereafter, with the permission of the chair, the State Governments were requested to make presentation of their projects before the PAC.

(A) Bihar:

(i) The representative of the Bihar submitted **additional proposal for the year 2022-23** for an amount of Rs.138.84 Cr. for carrying out activities under Income Generation activities and Infrastructure Development including 4% for Administrative Expenses. The details are as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	Total no. of Projects	No. of estimated beneficiaries	Total project cost (Rs. in Crore)
1	Income Generation Activity	1	1,00,000	100.00
2	Skill Development	0	0	0
3	Infrastructure Development component	1	13,400	33.50
4	Funds for Administration, Monitoring and Evaluation of scheme (4% of the proposed project cost)	-	-	0.534
Total		2	1,13,400	138.84

(ii) The PAC, in its 2nd meeting held on 07.12.2022, had approved projects amounting to Rs.87.30 Cr. wherein the amount under Infrastructure Development was more than the prescribed limit of 30% of the total project and the PAC directed the State to utilize the funds under Infrastructure development within the ceiling prescribed. The details of break-up of Rs.87.30 Cr. are as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	Total no. of projects	No. of estimated beneficiaries	Total project cost (in Rs. Cr.)
1.	Skill development	3	10,271	19.88
2.	Infrastructure Development	3	4,81,698	64.06
3.	Administrative Expenses (4% of the total project cost)			3.36
Total		6	4,91,969	87.30

(iii) PAC again reiterated the point which was observed during the 2nd meeting that the State has an unspent amount of Rs.88.88 Cr., which need to be surrendered and when the unspent amount is surrendered, the amount approved by the PAC will be released to the State. The State has assured that they have completed the procedure to surrender the unspent amount to CFI;

(iv) With regards to the current proposals, the PAC observed that the activities for which the financial assistance are proposed are not mentioned in some of the projects proposed under the Income Generation activity. Further, there must have a completion period of the project. In Infrastructure Development projects, the State need to discuss the design and cost of the proposed Anganwadi having all necessary infrastructure, e.g., kitchen, toilets, drinking water, etc., with the Ministry of Women and Child Development so as to avoid duplicity of funding as well as to arrive at the actual cost of one Anganwadi. They need to explore the convergence with other schemes and also to reduce the number of Anganwadis;

(v) The State representative clarified that under the Income Generation projects, there are one lakh likely beneficiaries who are exclusively women only and their identification has already been completed. For the project under Infrastructure Development, they submitted that they will resubmit the actual cost with number of Aanganwadis to be constructed;

(vi) On considering the submission made by the State Government, **the additional projects has been approved by the PAC subject to receipt of the requisite clarifications from the State Government.**

(B) Gujarat:

(i) The representative of the State Government submitted **the revised Annual Action Plans** for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.20.28 Cr. which includes components for Income Generation, Skill Development and Infrastructure Development. The details of break-up of projects are as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	Total no. of projects	No. of estimated beneficiaries	Total project cost (in Rs. Cr.)
1	Income Generation Activity	1	2,000	10.00
2	Skill Development	2	1,900	5.00
3	Infrastructure Development component	1	1,00,000	4.50
4	Funds for Administration, Monitoring and Evaluation of scheme (4% of the proposed project cost)	-	-	0.78
Total		4	103900	20.28

(ii) The PAC observed that under the Income Generation as well as Skill Development projects, the activities for which the financial assistance has been sought for has not been mentioned. It was also observed that the State has an unspent balances of previous releases made to the State. The PAC directed the State to utilize the unspent balance and also to make available the pending Utilization Certificates(UCs) by 31st January,2023; otherwise no further funds will be released to the State Government to which the State representative agreed to utilize the funds by 31st January, 2023 and also assured to submit beneficiary data for the last four years soon;

(iii) Under the Infrastructure Development intervention, the State has proposed to provide solar street light in villages selected under 'Adarsh Gram' component of the Scheme. However, on scrutiny it was found that in all such villages, the funds has already been allocated from the Gap filling funds as provided under the 'Adarsh Gram' component for this purposed;

(iv) Keeping in view the above points, **PAC did not approve the proposal of Gujarat and requested State Government to resubmit the project.**

(C) Punjab:

(i) The representative of the State Government submitted the **revised Annual Action Plans** for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.72.09 Cr. which includes components for Income generation, skill development and infrastructure development. The details of break-up of projects are as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	Total no. of projects	No. of estimated beneficiaries	Total project cost (in Rs. Cr.)
1	Income Generation Activity	99	8,163	40.66
2	Skill Development	74	11,724	23.66
3	Infrastructure Development component	1	2,940	5.00
4	Funds for Administration, Monitoring and Evaluation of scheme (4% of the proposed project cost)	-	-	2.77
Total		174	22827	72.09

(ii) The PAC, after going through the Annual Action Plan for 2022-23, observed some discrepancies in the proposal submitted by the State like missing activities under Income Generation Intervention, Name of the training partners in the Skill Development intervention and name of place where the activities mentioned in the projects have not been mentioned by the State. It has also been observed that under Infrastructure Development projects, the State Government has proposed to provide solar street lights in villages selected under the 'Adarsh Gram' component of this scheme. Therefore, the State Government need to provide the details of activities proposed to be carried out under Income Generation activity, Name of Skill Development trades as well as training partners and places under Skill Development projects and undertaking that no funds are being provided for solar street lights from the Gap-filling funds of 'Adarsh Gram' component;

(iii) **PAC approved the projects of the State of Punjab subject to receipt of the requisite clarifications as observed by the PAC.**

(D) Chandigarh:

(i) The representative of the Administration of Union Territory of Chandigarh submitted the Annual Action Plans for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.0.84 Cr. which includes components for Income Generation and Skill Development interventions. No projects under Infrastructure Development intervention has been uploaded by the UT. The details of break-up of projects are as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	Total no. of projects	No. of estimated beneficiaries	Total project cost (in Rs. Cr.)
1	Income Generation Activity	1	20	0.02
2	Skill Development	29	790	0.79
3	Infrastructure Development component	0	0	0
4	Funds for Administration, Monitoring and Evaluation of scheme (4% of the	-	-	0.03

	proposed project cost)			
Total		30	810	0.84

(ii) After going through the projects submitted by the UT Administration of Chandigarh, PAC observed that under the Income Generation intervention, the detail of work has not been mentioned as to for which project/activity the assistance/subsidy of loan would be provided. Under Skill Development intervention, the name of training partner is not mentioned and the amount of stipend is not mentioned while it is mentioned that the training is free of cost and central assistance has been sought under the scheme;

(iii) The PAC did not approve the projects submitted by the UT of Chandigarh since it is not as per the Guidelines and directed the UT to resubmit the Annual Action Plan for 2022-23 as per the Guidelines. In order to have a good project, they may consider consulting with other States/UTs whose plans contain good projects and have been approved;

(iv) The PAC also directed the UT to submit either the UC for the unspent amount of Rs.152.63 lakh lying with them or refund the amount to the CFI.

(E) Odisha

(i) The representative of the State Government submitted Annual Action Plan for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.20.26 Cr. which includes components for Income Generation, Skill Development and Infrastructure Development. The details of break-up of projects are as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	Total no. of projects	No. of estimated beneficiaries	Total project cost (in Rs. Cr.)
1	Income Generation Activity	79	790	3.43
2	Skill Development	29	1,830	10.00
3	Infrastructure Development component	117	89,599	06.05
4	Funds for Administration, Monitoring and Evaluation of scheme (4% of the proposed project cost)	-	-	0.78
Total		225	92,219	20.26

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amount of Rs.43 Cr. lying with them to the CFI and if UC is not submitted by the State, no further release will be made to the State;

(iii) The projects under the AAP submitted by Odisha were discussed in details by the PAC and found that under the Infrastructure Development activity, majority of the projects are for construction of CC drains apart from a few projects for construction of CC Road and Community Centre. As a policy decision has already been taken for not to fund construction of CC Roads under this scheme, the **projects related to CC Road are not approved**. Likewise, as the Department has already been implementing a separate scheme for construction of community hall under Dr. Ambedkar Utsav Dham (DAUD) components of the Central Sector Scheme namely, Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes :

Anusuchit Jati Abhyuday Yojna(DAPSC:AJAY), the proposal for construction of community hall need to explored from this component. The NSFDC is already interacting with the State Government in this regard, the State Government need to submit proposal to the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation(NSFDC) immediately. On the issue of construction of CC drain, this would be taken up with the appropriate authority for taking a policy decision as to whether to allow the State Government to carry out this activity under this scheme;

(iv) In Income Generation projects, the activities for which the financial assistance has been sought need to be mentioned against each of the projects. Likewise, under Skill Development activity, the name of trade to be provided as well as name of skill partner need to be mentioned against each of such projects. The State representative submitted that they would provide this information within a week;

(v) On careful consideration, **the AAP for 2022-23 submitted by the State of Odisha have been approved by the PAC except the projects related to CC Drains, CC Roads and Community Halls under Infrastructure Development.**

(F) Kerala:

(i) The representative of the State Government of Kerala submitted the Annual Action Plan for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.14.29 Cr. which includes components for Income Generation, Skill Development and Infrastructure Development. The details of break-up of projects are as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	Total no. of projects	No. of estimated beneficiaries	Total project cost (in Rs. Cr.)
1	Income Generation Activity	9	2,507	10.74
2	Skill Development	34	1,725	2.11
3	Infrastructure Development component	5	13,800	0.89
4	Funds for Administration, Monitoring and Evaluation of scheme (4% of the proposed project cost)	-	-	0.55
Total		48	18,032	14.29

(ii) The projects submitted by the States were discussed by the PAC with the State and PAC asked for one page details of the projects like the name of location where the project is being implemented and beneficiaries under Income Generation in distribution of calf rearing for SC beneficiaries and regarding Skill Development partners, etc.;

(iii) **The PAC approved the projects of AAP for 2022-23 submitted by Kerala Government.**

(G) Manipur:

The representative of the State Government of Manipur submitted the Annual Action Plan for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.14.29 Cr. which includes components for Income Generation, Skill Development and Infrastructure Development. The details of break-up of projects are as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	Total no. of projects	No. of estimated beneficiaries	Total project cost (in Rs. Cr.)
1	Income Generation Activity	7	570	0.65
2	Skill Development	9	840	02.73
3	Infrastructure Development component	1	200	02.00
4	Funds for Administration, Monitoring and Evaluation of scheme (4% of the proposed project cost)	-	-	0.22
Total		17	1,610	05.60

(ii) The PAC discussed the unspent balance lying with the State of Rs.159.55 lakh in the single nodal account of their Single Nodal Agency(SNA) and also pending Beneficiary data;

(iii) **The PAC approved the AAP of Manipur subject to submission of documents related to UC, SNA, and the name of the place where their projects will be implemented along with the condition that the State would restrict their expenditure under Infrastructure up to 30% of the released amount as per Guidelines of the Scheme.**

(H) Rajasthan:

(i) The representative of the State Government of Rajasthan submitted the Annual Action Plan for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.43.61 Cr. which includes components for Income Generation and Skill Development. No projects under the infrastructure development have been submitted. The details of break-up of projects are as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	Total no. of projects	No. of estimated beneficiaries	Total project cost (in Rs. Cr.)
1	Income Generation Activity	312	7,921	37.43
2	Skill Development	1	3,000	4.50
3	Infrastructure Development component	0	0	0
4	Funds for Administration, Monitoring and Evaluation of scheme (4% of the proposed project cost)	-	-	1.68
Total		313	10,921	43.61

(ii) After going through the projects submitted by the State Government of Rajasthan, the PAC observed that no project has been received under Infrastructure Development intervention. Under Income Generation intervention, the details of activity/ project are not mentioned. Under Skill Development intervention, only one project has been submitted wherein the name of training partner and name of the training are not mentioned;

(iii) The PAC also observed that there is an unspent balance of Rs.44.00 Crore lying with the State Government and unless the same is utilized or refunded to the CFI, no funds will be released to the State. The State representative submitted that necessary action is being taken for the same.

(iv) The representative of the State Government mentioned that they would respond to the observations by 31st January, 2023. On considering the same, **the PAC approved the projects of the State Government subject to receipt of the requisite clarifications/details.**

(I) SIKKIM:

(i) The representative of the State Government of Sikkim submitted the Annual Action Plan for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.14.29 Cr. under Skill Development component only. No projects under Income Generation activity and Infrastructure Development have been submitted. The details of break-up of projects are as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	Total no. of projects	No. of estimated beneficiaries	Total project cost (in Rs. Cr.)
1	Income Generation Activity	0	0	0
2	Skill Development	24	153	0.94
3	Infrastructure Development component	0	0	0
4	Funds for Administration, Monitoring and Evaluation of scheme (4% of the proposed project cost)	-	-	0.04
Total		24	153	0.98

(ii) After going through the projects submitted

by the State of Sikkim, it is observed that the name of training partner has not been mentioned in some of the projects and also there is replication of projects. The PAC directed to submit the details of training partners as well as name of skill for which the financial assistance has been sought;

(iii) The PAC further observed that there is pendency of unspent balance of Rs.510.47 lakh and asked the State Government about the pendency. The State replied that the projects for the pending unspent balance are under implementation and for the pending amount the UC will be submitted by 5th February, 2023;

(iii) On considering, **the PAC approved the AAP of Sikkim subject to submission of necessary clarifications as observed above.**

(J) Tamil Nadu:

The representative of the State Government of Tamil Nadu submitted the Annual Action Plan for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.422.09 Cr. which includes components for Income Generation only and they have not submitted by projects under Skill Development and Infrastructure Development. The details of break-up of projects are as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	Total no. of projects	No. of estimated beneficiaries	Total project cost (in Rs. Cr.)
1	Income Generation Activity	872	83,696	405.86
2	Skill Development	0	0	0
3	Infrastructure Development component	0	0	0
4	Funds for Administration, Monitoring and Evaluation of scheme (4% of the proposed project cost)	-	-	16.23
Total		872	83,696	422.09

- ii. After going through the projects submitted by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, the PAC observed that the backward and forward linkages in respect of activities proposed under the Income Generation projects has not been provided. Further in some projects, the state has used the phrase “*guide budding SC/ST Entrepreneur with potential project in their respective districts by preparing through in a detailed survey and documenting list of potential project which has scope in each districts*” which seems to be ambiguous;
 - iii. It has also been observed that there is a huge unspent balances lying in the SNA account and therefore the PAC requested for plan of utilization from the State Government;
 - iv. **PAC directed the State to revisit their AAP clearly mentioning their project activities and assuring that the projects of other schemes may not be funded from the funds approved for the scheme of PM-AJAY.** The State has been given a target date to resubmit their revised Plan by 10th February, 2023.
6. Finally, The PAC reiterated that the scheme guidelines provide that the expenditure related to Skill Development should not be less than 10% and expenditure for Infrastructure Development should not be more than 30% of the released funds. Hence, the release of funds will be regulated accordingly. The States are also required to adhere to these ceilings.
7. Concluding the meeting, the Joint Secretary(SCD-B) informed that the necessary clarification, including the information on project locations, as asked by the PAC, may be submitted immediately by the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administration so that their proposals may be considered and funds could be released, as almost three quarters of the financial year has expired. Those State Governments, whose proposals have been approved, were requested to submit all the due UCs which are yet to be submitted and utilize the central assistance by 15th January, 2022 to enable the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment to release funds against the approved activities for the current financial year.
8. Thereafter, the meeting concluded with thanks to the chair.

Annexure

Name and Designation of Officers from the States who attended the 3rd PAC meeting through VC on 24-01-2023 at 03:00 PM.

List of the Participants

1. Smt. Anjali Bhawra, Secretary, - In Chair
Department of Social Justice & Empowerment
2. Smt. Kalyani Chadha, Joint Secretary, (SCD-B),
Department of Social Justice & Empowerment
3. Sh. Prakash Kumar Tamrakar, Director, Department of SJ&E
4. Sh. Surajit Dutta, Deputy Secretary, Department of SJ&E
5. Sh. Deepak Kumar Sah, Under Secretary, Department of SJ&E

Department/Ministries:

National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation

1. Mr. C. Ramesh Rao, CGM

States

Bihar

1. Shri Naval Kishore, (IAS), Director, SC Welfare Department

Chandigarh

1. Smt. Seema , CFO
2. Smt. Rajni Gupta, Comp. Secy

Gujarat

1. Sh. Paresh Kothari, Director & M.D

Kerala

1. Shri Prasanth, (IAS), Special Secy.

Manipur

1. Sh. Bhogender Singh, Director (OBC & SC)
2. Sh. Roman, Chief Finance Officer
3. Sh. Santosh Km. Chongtham, Dy. Secy.

Odisha

1. Smt. Roopa Roshan Sahu, IAS, Secretary
2. Sh. Mallick, M.D
3. Sh. Pradhan

Rajasthan

1. Sh. Rajesh Verma, M.D
2. Sh. Shish Ram Chawla, G.M
3. Sh. S.L. Pahadia, J.D.

Sikkim

1. Sh. Kishore Pradhan, Addl. Secy.

Punjab

1. Sh. Ramesh Kumar Ganta, IAS, ACS, SJ&M
2. Sh. Raj Bahadur Singh, Joint Secy., DJEM

Tamil Nadu

1. Sh. T.R.Kandaswamy, IAS, MD, TAHDCO