

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 21st December, 2022

To,

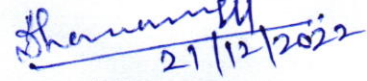
The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries in charge of Social Welfare/Scheduled Castes welfare Department in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal,

Subject: Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Project Appraisal Committee held on 7th December, 2022 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 1st Meeting of the Project Appraisal Committee held on 7th December, 2022 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,


21/12/2022

(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 2nd MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (PAC) FOR THE YEAR 2022-23 HELD ON 07.12.2022 FOR THE ‘GRANTS-IN-AID’ COMPONENT OF THE SCHEME OF PRADHAN MANTRI ANUSUCHIT JAATI ABHYUDAY YOJANA (PM-AJAY)

The 2nd 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 07.12.2022 at 11.00 AM 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/UTs and PAC Members, who attended the meeting, is attached.

2. As per the PM-AJAY guidelines, it is required for the States/UTs to upload their Annual Action Plan for the year 2022-23 on the newly devised PM AJAY Portal. The Annual Action Plans(AAPs) containing the project proposals of the Governments of Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Telangana, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh, who had uploaded their proposals on the portal, were considered in the meeting. Further, additional projects under the Infrastructure activities submitted by the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal were also considered in the meeting. Apart from attending the meeting physically by the representative of Government of Bihar, Tripura and West Bengal, the Principal Secretaries concerned of these States attended the meeting through virtual mode.

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 15th 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) Though it is good to surrender the un-utilized funds, 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 may also submit two page note detailing the backward and forward linkages of all the projects for better understanding by the PAC;

(d) 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;

(e) The calendar for uploading of projects and convening PAC meeting may be shared with the State Governments so that the meeting may be convened at the beginning of the financial year.

4. The Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser(JS&FA) briefed the State representatives about the Single Nodal Agency(SNA) system for release of funds to the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes introduced by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure for more effective cash management and efficiency in the public expenditure management system. As per this system, all the central assistance released to the State Governments and presently lying unused at any level must be deposited in the Single Nodal Accounts opened by the SNA for a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. In case, they fail to transfer this amount within the time table stipulated by the Ministry of Finance, those funds are to be refunded to the CFI immediately. He further informed that detailed procedure for refunding the unspent funds as well as interest accrued on the central assistance to the CFI has been well documented and issued to the State Governments by the Ministry of Finance. Therefore, in order to have a smooth flow of funds under the scheme to the State Governments against the approved projects, it is necessary to abide by all such instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance in this regard.

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

(A) Andhra Pradesh:

(i) The representative of the Andhra Pradesh submitted additional proposal for the year 2022-23 for an amount of Rs.8,81,48,580/-, including 4% for Administrative Expenses, for carrying out 47 projects. This includes 15 projects related to construction of CC roads, 06 projects related to CC drains, 09 projects related to drinking water facility, 08 projects related to community Halls and 09 projects related to solar lights. The details are as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	Total no. of projects	No. of estimated beneficiaries	Total project cost (in Rs. Cr.)
1.	Infrastructure Development	47	35,269	8.48
2.	Administrative Expenses (4% of the total project cost)			0.34
Total		47	35269	8.82

(ii) The PAC, in its 1st meeting held on 25.08.2022, had approved projects amounting to Rs.135.29 Cr. excluding the projects related to construction of Hostels. As at that time, the Hostels proposals were to be submitted as part of the AAPs under the Grants-in-aid components, the State had also submitted proposals for construction of Hostels. However, subsequently on de-linking submission of proposals of Hostel construction as part of AAPs, the State Governments later requested to resubmit the Hostel proposals as independent proposals under the 'Hostel' component of the Scheme. The details of break-up of Rs.135.29 Cr. are as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	Total project cost (in Rs. Cr.)
1.	Income Generation	76.14
2.	Skill Development	13.61
3.	Infrastructure Development	41.46
4.	Administrative Expenses	04.08
Total		135.29

(iii) The PAC observed that the State has unspent funds lying with regards to central assistance released during last financial year. Further, this Department has already issued instruction not to utilize central assistance in carrying out C.C. Roads. Therefore, taking into account all these aspects, the **PAC approved the State Government's additional project proposal for infrastructure activities except the projects related to C.C. roads and drains** as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	Total no. of projects	No. of estimated beneficiaries	Total project cost (in Rs. Cr.)
1.	Infrastructure Development	26	20,191	2.61
2.	Administrative Expenses (4% of the total project cost)			0.10
Total		26	20,191	2.71

The funds, however, will be released on compliance of instructions issued with regards to SNA issue.

(B) Bihar:

(i) The representative of the State Government submitted Annual Action Plans for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.87.30 Cr., which includes components for skill development and infrastructure development only. The State Government further submitted that the projects under the income generation could not be uploaded on the scheme portal due to some technical reasons and this would be submitted very soon as they have sufficient proposals for carrying out activities. The details of break-up of proposals 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

(ii) PAC observed that State has an unspent amount of Rs.88.88 Cr. pending with the State which need to be either surrendered or Utilization Certificate(UC) to be furnished for these funds. It was further observed that the State is yet to notify SNA, opening of separate accounts and mapping such account with the Public Finance Management System(PFMS). It was clarified to the State that unless these issues are resolved, no funds can be released to the State despite approval of the projects by the PAC.

(iii) The State representatives informed that due to mismatch in classification of Scheme at State level, the same could not be refunded to the CFI. Now they are in process to return the entire unspent funds to CFI. With regards to opening of SNA account, the State representative assured that it would also be done very soon.

(iv) The PAC took a serious note on returning the central funds rather than utilizing the funds released for projects and directed the State Government to utilize the funds fully in future as these funds could have utilized by other deserving States who are better in scheme implementation.

(v) After going through the project proposals of the State Government, the PAC observed that some of their projects are long term projects, which would take more than a year for implementation. **PAC was of the view that such long term projects may be allowed to be implemented over a period of more than a year and feasibility of release of funds in phases may be explored. PAC approved the projects of the State Governments subject to utilizing funds under Infrastructure development within the ceiling prescribed under the scheme guidelines and also completion of SNA formalities and refund of un-utilized funds to the CFI.**

(C) Gujarat:

(i) The representative of the State Government submitted 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. They informed that the skill development training programmes would be organized by the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India as per the PM-DAKSH guidelines. Under infrastructure, they have planned to construct Anganwadi in 15 PMAGY villages. 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	1	2000	10.00
1.	Skill development	2	1900	5.00
2.	Infrastructure Development	1	5000	4.50
3.	Administrative Expenses (4% of the total project cost)			0.78
Total		4	8900	20.28

(ii) PAC observed that the activity proposed under the infrastructure component needs to be revisited to ascertain that these are not carried out by other schemes of Central or State Government and resubmit alternate plan within a week's time so that the entire proposal can be considered. The State Government also needs to provide the due UCs and utilize the earlier funds released to the State so that further assistance can be released.

(D) Karnataka:

(i) The representative of the State Government submitted Annual Action Plans for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.173.54 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	17	13,477	67.39
2.	Skill development	13	6,401	14.60
3.	Infrastructure Development	208	2,80,285	84.88
4.	Administrative Expenses (4% of the total project cost)			6.67
Total		238	3,00,163	173.54

(ii) PAC observed that the proportionate allocation for the skill development is less than the prescribed minimum limit of 10% of the total cost while the proportionate allocation is 50.87% for infrastructure development against the maximum limit of 30%. The State Government did not mention the actual works to be carried out by them under the infrastructure development. Therefore, they directed the State Government to revisit the proposals. They further directed the State officials to coordinate with SC corporation regarding Income Generation projects proposals which are to be implemented with NRLM. JS&FA observed that the treasury account has not been linked with the SNA account and if State faces any problems the same may be resolved with the help of Project Monitoring Unit(PMU) and Ministry.

(iii) The State representatives informed that the funds lying with them would be utilized very soon on which the PAC gave the time upto 15th January, 2023.

(iv) On the basis of explanations given by the representatives of the State Government, the **PAC approved their Annual Action Plan subject to the condition that they will clearly spell out the works to be carried out under the infrastructure development and no project of construction of C.C. roads/drains to be included and also the percentages of expenditure prescribed in the scheme guidelines for skill development and infrastructure development are to be strictly maintained.**

(E) Maharashtra:

(i) The representative of the State Government submitted Annual Action Plans for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.76.20 Cr. which includes components for Income generation and skill development only. No activity under infrastructure development was 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	8	11860	59.30
2.	Skill development	3	6,910	13.97
3.	Administrative Expenses (4% of the total project cost)			2.93
Total		11	18770	76.20

(ii) PAC observed that there is some issue in nomenclature of beneficiaries and, therefore, State Government need to clarify that the intended proposals are meant for development of SC beneficiaries only and also viability of the project of LIDCOM in the domain of Agriculture and Soil Conservation within a week's time. The State also need to utilize the unspent funds and furnish the UCs immediately so that future releases under this component can be released.

(iii) **The PAC approved the projects of the State Government subject to the condition that they must ensure that the targeted beneficiaries belong to Scheduled Castes only and the appropriate agency is engaged for the projects under respective domains.**

(F) Punjab:

(i) The representative of the State Government submitted Annual Action Plans for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.75.14 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	101	8,518	42.44
2.	Skill development	77	12,084	24.81
3.	Infrastructure Development	1	2,940	5.00
4.	Administrative Expenses (4% of the total project cost)			2.89
Total		179	23,542	75.14

(ii) PAC observed that many projects are common in Income generation as well as skill development making it difficult to consider these projects. It was also observed that in most of the projects, the projects details are missing along with backward and forward linkages of the projects. After considering all these issues, the PAC directed State Government to **resubmit** the projects with 15 days after rectifying the same for consideration.

(G) Telangana

(i) The representative of the State Government submitted Annual Action Plans for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.24.10 Cr. which includes components for Income Generation Activity, skill development and infrastructure development. The details of break-up of proposals are as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	Total no. of projects	No. of estimated beneficiaries	Total project cost (In Rs. Cr.)
1	Income Generation Activity	3	1,933	9.67
2	Skill Development	5	500	7.50
3	Infrastructure Development component	1	300	6.00
4	Funds for Administration, Monitoring and Evaluation of scheme (4% of the proposed project cost)	-	-	0.93
Total		9	2,733	24.10

(ii) The State Government made a detailed presentation on their activities and the PAC found the skill activities as well as income generation activities to be quite good. The State Government was requested to make a compilation of success stories of skill development activities.

(iii) The PAC further observed that State has an unspent amount of Rs.25.20 Cr. pending with the State which needs either to be surrendered or UC to be provided for these funds. It was

clarified to the State that unless these issues are resolved, no funds can be released to the State despite approval of the same by the PAC. After considering the proposals, the **PAC approved the proposals of the State Government of Telangana subject to compliance of SNA issues by the State.**

(H) Uttar Pradesh:

(i) The representative of the State Government submitted Annual Action Plans for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.78.28 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	7	9,522	20.71
2.	Skill development	8	12,522	35.46
3.	Infrastructure Development	1	3,000	19.10
4.	Administrative Expenses (4% of the total project cost)			3.01
Total		16	25,044	78.28

(ii) The proposals of the State Government were discussed at length and it was suggested to ensure quality of skill so that desired results are seen. It was also suggested to ensure that there should not be duplication of beneficiaries in order to utilize the resources appropriately.

(iii) With regards to proposal for setting up of Bio-Toilets at prominent tourist spots in the States, it was informed by the JS&FA that a similar scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Tourism as Swadesh Scheme where assistance is provided for similar kind of activities. For every project, they have the Detailed Project Reports(DPRs) where from these projects may be verified to avoid multiple financial assistance. He further directed State Government to liaise with the NSFDC for loans to the woman cab drivers. These drivers may also be given proper linkages for generating more business by them.

(iv) The State Government submitted that these projects will be carried out in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism and there will be no duplication of beneficiaries. Further, the women cab drivers would be attached with the Tourism Ministry website for booking, etc., for getting more business.

(v) After considering the proposals, the **PAC approved the proposals of the State Governments. However, the release of funds would be subject to compliance of SNA issues by the State.**

(I) Tripura:

(i) The representative of the State Government submitted Annual Action Plans for the year 2022-23 for a total project cost of Rs.46.31 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	354	13202	16.47
2.	Skill development	142	4379	7.89
3.	Infrastructure Development	121	176470	20.17
4.	Administrative Expenses (4% of the total project cost)			1.78
Total		617	194051	46.31

(ii) The PAC observed that the projects description has not been provided appropriately for the activities proposed under income generation and skill development along with backward and forward linkages of the projects leaving no scope for the PAC to examine the projects. It was also observed that large amount is lying unspent in respect of earlier releases made to the State Government.

(iii) On considering the position, the PAC directed the State Government to submit two page details indicating backward and forward linkages for income generation projects. Along with this, the project details of all the projects in both these activities may also be provided for better understanding of the projects. **The PAC, however, considered their Annual Action Plans and approved the projects subject to the condition that the projects proposal must be within the framework of the scheme guidelines with priority grading of the projects for consideration of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment towards release of central assistance depending on availability of funds.**

(J) West Bengal:

(i) The State Government submitted an additional AAPs for the year 2022-23 under infrastructure activities for construction of 630 smart classrooms in 315 existing secondary and higher secondary schools having considerable SC enrolment (more than 50%) of 22 Districts of the State with a total project cost of Rs.29.74 Cr.

(ii) They further informed that this platform would be used in future for imparting career counseling, entrance examination coaching and remedial online education to SC students.

(iii) The PAC observed that it has already approved an amount of Rs.105.68 Cr. for carrying out various activities under all the three intervention while considering the AAPs for the year 2022-23 in its meeting held on 25.08.2022 subject to rectification of certain defects as communicated during the said meeting. The details of break-up of the approved projects are as under:

Sl. No.	Intervention	No. of estimated beneficiaries	Total project cost (in Rs. Cr.)
1.	Income generation	27061	47.38
2.	Skill development	11750	21.80
3.	Infrastructure Development	482695	33.25
4.	Administrative Expenses (4% of the total project cost)		4.10
Total		25,044	106.53

(iv) It has been observed that based on the above approval, the State has already crossed the upper limit for carrying out activities under the infrastructure component of the scheme. Further, the activities now proposed for consideration of the PAC are not in the list of approved activities permitted to be carried out under the scheme. After considering the position, the **PAC directed that the proposal of the State Government may be considered by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in due course, subject to availability of funds.**

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 from the State Government may be submitted immediately by the respective State Governments 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.

7. Thereafter, the meeting concluded with thanks to the chair.

2nd PAC meeting held on 07-12-2022 at 11 A.M. under Grant-in-aid component of the scheme, Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana(PMAGY)

List of the Participants

1. Smt. Anjali Bhawra, Secretary,
Department of Social Justice & Empowerment
2. Smt. Kalyani Chadha, Joint Secretary, (SCD-B),
Department of Social Justice & Empowerment
3. Sh. Sanjay Pandey JS & FA, 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:

Ministry of Rural Development

1. Mr. S.B.Tiwari, Under Secretary

Ministry of Panchayati Raj

1. Mr. Puneet Sharma, Under Secretary

National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation

1. Mr. Rajnish Kumar, Managing Director
2. Mr. C. Ramesh Rao, CGM
3. Mr. Rajesh Bihari, CGM

Ministry of Textiles

1. Dr. Janardan Rao, Deputy Director

States

Karnataka

1. Dr. Rakesh Kumar(IAS), Commissioner,
2. Dr. N.R. Purshotthama, Joint Director

Andhra Pradesh

1. Smt. G. Jaya Lakshmi(IAS)
2. Shri S. Chinna Ramudu (IAS)
3. D. Shyam Sunder Rao, PMU

Telangana

1. Shri B. Anand Kumar, Special Officer/ Executive Director

Bihar

1. Shri Naval Kishore, Director, SC Welfare Department
2. Shri Indrajeet Mukherji, Assist. Director

Uttar Pradesh

1. Shri Sameer Verma, Secretary
2. Sunita Yadav, Deputy Director

Gujarat

1. Sh. D.S. Sharma, Deputy Director
2. Sh. P.L. Solanki, Managing Director

Punjab

1. Sh. Raj Bahadur Singh, Director cum Joint Secy.
2. Smt. Livpreet Kaur, Research Officer
3. Sh. Kamaljeet Singh, Technical Asstt .

Maharashtra

1. Sh. Savane, Deputy Secretary
2. Sh. Prashant Gedam, G.M
3. Sh. Prashant Wagh, Desk Officer
4. Sh. Vishal Pagare, Managing Consultant

Tripura

1. Sh. Santosh Das, Additional Secretary
2. Sh. Kapil Dasgupta, IT Nodal Asstt.