

School Education



The vision of the School Education Sector is to ensure universalization of Primary, Elementary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education and to ensure quality education for Human Resource Development.

The following are the performances of School Education Department during 2011-12 :-

- **Expansion Of Education For All**

To ensure the universalisation and access of education for all the State Government has already notified the neighbourhood distance criterion so as to establish a primary school within a radius of 1 km from all human habitations located in rural areas and in case of urban areas within ½ km from such habitations. In case of Upper Primary (Class-V – VIII) our policy is to establish such schools within 2 km from all rural habitations and within 1 km in respect of urban areas. To ensure this we have completed GIS mapping of all human habitations in the State with location of schools across the State and have identified pinpointed locations where such new primary and upper primary schools need be established.

During last year i.e. 2011 – 12 we have set up 260 numbers of primary schools 452 number upper primary schools. During 2012 – 13 our target is to establish 1232 primary, 2072 number of upper primary schools so that there is total coverage of all children with in the mentioned distance criteria. Further the State Government has planned to set up 53 Model Schools in educationally backward blocks. And one Model School in each district. So far as Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools are concerned we have already upgraded 77 Junior High Schools to High Schools (Secondary Schools) and 389 Secondary Schools to Higher Secondary Schools during 2011 – 12. We intend to upgrade 500 number of

Secondary Schools to Higher Secondary Schools during 2012 – 13. At the same time the State Government has already created additional number of posts for covering these new schools or strengthening existing schools.

- **Action Taken Under RTE Act,2009**

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 has come into force throughout the country with effect from 1st. April, 2010. Govt. of West Bengal has initiated various measures to implement RTE Act in the State. The basic objective of the said Act is to bring all children in the age of 6-14 yrs in the formal educational system and to ensure their elementary education free of cost. The State Government has taken up this responsibility with all seriousness and to achieve the objective the following steps have been taken:

- o Primary school will be set up in the neighbourhood of school-less habitation within a distance of 1 km. in rural area and ½ km. in urban area. Similarly Upper Pry. School will come in place within a distance of 2 km. from the habitation in rural area and 1 km. in urban area.
- o No child or his/her guardian will be subjected to screening procedure for admission in any educational institution. He or she will get direct admission. If necessary lottery system may be followed.
- o No admission free or any other fees may be charged upon the child which may prevent his/her elementary education. An amount of Rs 240/- per month 'as development fee' may however be charged per child per annum, but if any guardian is unable to pay then same,

he/she should express his/her inability to the school authority in writing who may exempt it partly or fully.

- o Physical punishment and mental harassment to child is totally prohibited. District Magistrate and the Director of School Education shall dispose of issues, if any.
- o To maintain proper Pupil-Teacher ratio in school as per stipulation of RTE Act, 2009, necessary arrangement for recruitment of requisite number of teachers through School Service Commission and District Primary School Councils are being taken.
- o Provisions for additional class rooms on the basis of enrolment, separate toilets for boys and girls, safe drinking water in school are made.
- o Special attention has been given so that children from the families belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group are not deprived of elementary education. 25% seats in the private unaided schools have been kept reserved for them and the cost of education for such children will be borne by the State Govt. as per prescribed rate.
- o School teachers in Govt./Govt.-aided school are not permitted to run 'Private Tuition' to ensure their absolute engagement in class room teaching.
- o To enforce RTE Act, 2009 & Child Right Act, 2005 a committee viz. Right to Education Protection Authority (REPA) has been constituted by the State Government.
- o State Advisory Committee has also been constituted to advise the Government as to the proper implementation of RTE Act, 2009 in our State.
- o RTE Rules has been published.
- o The Department has planned starting of pre-primary education for children in the +5 age group in the existing Primary School and the existing teachers of the primary school will impart education.
- o In collaboration with Health Department issuing of Health Card for each student and health guide for teacher detailing precaution measures.

• **New Upper Primary Schools**

Based on the GIS maps School Education Department has set up 503 New Upper primary schools in habitations where there is no Upper Primary School within a radius of 2 km in rural areas and 1 km in urban areas during 2011-12. During 2012-13 the Department has decided to set up 2072 new upper primary schools to ensure full coverage as per the distance criterion.

• **Setting Up Of Model Schools**

52 model schools have been approved by Government of India in various educationally backward blocks in the State. The construction works have been entrusted to PWD and are in progress.

• **Up Gradation Of Secondary Schools**

The School Education Department has taken a decision to upgrade all Secondary schools to Higher Secondary level within next 3 years. Pursuant to this policy 403 schools have been upgraded to Secondary during 2011-12 as compared to 317 during 2010-11. The State Cabinet has approved upgradation of 999 schools from Secondary to Higher Secondary (500 schools in 2012-13, 499 schools in 2013-14) and appointment of 4 additional teachers per schools so upgraded.

• **Up Gradation Of Upper Primary Schools:-**

Efforts have also been taken to upgrade upper primary schools (Junior high schools) to Secondary level. 88 such school have been upgraded during 2011-12 against 81 in 2010-11.

• **Opening Of Hindi Medium Schools:-**

As announced by Hon'ble Chief Minister, the School Education Department has taken special efforts to set up new Hindi Medium Schools in the tribal dominated areas in Jalpaiguri district. 17 such new Hindi medium schools have been sanctioned during 2011-12. Besides additional Hindi medium sections have been started in 63 schools in the same district. Sites for opening of 2 integrated Hindi Medium Schools at Kalchini and Matili block in Jalpaiguri district have been identified. PWD has been requested to prepare estimates.

• **Electrification Of Schools**

The School Education Department with the help of WEBREDA has taken up on an experimental basis electrification of 100 Schools in the remote areas through P.V. solar system and use of solar cookers for cooking of Mid Day Meal

• **Students Appearing In Madhyamik And Uchha Madhyamik Examinations**

As a result of establishment of new schools number of students appearing in Madhyamik and Uchha Madhyamik Examinations are rising every year. Thus about 10.5 lakhs students in 2012. Similarly about 7.38 lakhs students appeared in the Uchha Madhyamik Examination in 2012 compared to 6.37 lakhs in 2011

• **ICT Programme At Schools:-**

The school Education Department has taken special care to provide computer education in schools. Thus 2000 schools

have been covered under the ICT Programme in 2011-12 compared to 1401 schools during 2010-11. This year apart from computer hardware like PCs, printers, LCD Projectors etc. computer professionals are also being provided to impart training to the students.

- **Boundary Walls Under Ridf**

Constants efforts are being made to improve the infrastructure in schools including boundary walls dovetailing from various resources. Thus 1401 schools have been provided with boundary walls in 2011-12 under RIDF-XV compared to 653 schools covered in 2010-11.

- **Mid-day Meal Programme**

The present Government has taken a special care to increase the coverage as well as quality of the flagship programme of Mid Day Meal in schools. Thus about 84.03 lakh Primary students i.e. 96.31% of the total have been brought under the scheme in 2011-12 compared to 79.26 lakhs or 82.76 % during 2010-11. In case of Upper Primary schools 32.18 lakh or 83% of the students have been covered under the scheme in 2011-12 compared to 31.33 lakhs or 67.17% in 2010-11. At the same time the Department had also engaged Universities and reputed NGOs to monitor implementation of the scheme at the ground. Hon'ble Chief Minister has also written to Government of India for extension of this scheme to the Secondary stage covering classes IX and X.

CONSTRUCTION OF KITCHEN SHEDS IN SCHOOLS SERVING MID DAY MEALS

The State Government had decided to construct kitchen shed cum store in all schools providing Mid Day Meal. Already about 53,000 schools have been covered during 2011-12 and rest of the schools will be covered during 2012-13.

INSTALLATION OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS IN ALL PRIMARY AND UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOLS RUNNING MID DAY MEAL

In view of the fire hazards to students in schools running the Cooked Mid Day Meal programme the School Education Department had decided to install fire extinguishers in all Primary and Upper Primary schools in the State providing Mid Day Meals to the students. The State Government has already released funds for Rs. 71,42,700/- and Rs. 25,14,14,700/- in two phases to the District Magistrates for this purpose. About 73,000 Government and Government Aided schools are being covered. Installations are now in progress.

PAYMENT OF SALARIES TO TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING STAFF ON THE 1ST. WORKING DAY OF EVERY MONTH AND E-PAYMENT THROUGH BANKS

One of the major decisions taken by the new Government after assumption of office was to ensure payment of salaries to about 3.5 lakh teachers and non teaching staff in Government Aided schools within the 1st working day of every month like Government employees. Earlier such teaching and non-teaching staff used to get their salaries between 5th. to 10th working day of the month or even more. Arrangements have also been made for e-Payment of such salaries.

PACKAGE OF SCHEMES FOR JUNGLE MAHAL (LWE) AREAS

As per announcement of Hon'ble Chief Minister the School Education Department had taken up a package of development schemes for the 23 Blocks situated in the Jungle Mahal or Left Wing Extremist (LWE) affected areas in the three districts of Paschim Medinipur, Bankura and Purulia during 2011-12. They include the following:

a) **Construction Of Girls' Hostels In LWE Affected Areas:-**

The Department has taken up construction of 34 Girls' Hostel in 3 LWE affected districts (Paschim Medinipur-17, Bankura-9, Purulia-8). The total estimate comes to Rs. 25.83 crores. Construction works are in progress and expected to be completed by the end of this year.

b) **Appointment Of Santhali (Alchiki Script) Knowing Para Teachers :**

Total 1171 posts of Alchiki knowing Para Teachers have been created by the Department for the 23 LWE affected Blocks to give job opportunities for qualified young people in these Tribal areas. Recruitment process has been completed in 2 of the 3 districts and is expected to be completed very shortly.

c) **Upgradation Of Secondary Schools To Higher Secondary Level:**

The Department had taken up a plan to upgrade all existing Secondary schools in the Jungle Mahal area to Higher Secondary level in during next 3 years. Thus during 2011-12 out of total 448 schools in this area 224 schools have already been upgraded.

d) Various Projects Taken Up In The Jungle Mahal (LWE Affected) Areas Under Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) :

Besides the above the Department had taken up various important projects for development of jungle Mahal areas under BRGF which are detailed below.

• Development Projects Taken Up Under Backward Region Grant Fund

The School Education Department has a comprehensive development package for the 11 backward districts in the State with Total cost of package is Rs 591.54 crores. The following projects have been taken up by this department under B.R.G.F.:-

- Construction of 105 (one hundred five) 50- seated Girls` Hostels in 11 backward districts like Bankura, Birbhum, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Malda, Murshidabad, Paschim Medinipur, Purba Medinipur, Purulia and South 24-Pgs. Out of these 80 Girls Hostels will be constructed in the Jungle Mahal areas. (Paschim Medinipur-50, Bankura-15, Purulia-15).
- Construction of 23 new integrated school buildings from class I to class XII with hostels for the students the LWE affected areas in Jungle Mahal (Paschim Medinipur-10, Bankura-6, Purulia-7).
- 6(Six) no. of new integrated schools buildings with hostels in the riverine areas of South 24-Pgs district
- 11 new integrated school buildings and hostels in 11 backward districts and
- 11 new Primary Teachers' Training Institutes (PTTIs) in the 11 backward districts.

All the sites have already been identified. The construction works have been entrusted to PWD (Construction Board) and the Hooghly River Bridge Commission (HRBC).It is expected that the construction works will be completed by the next 18 months.

CREATION OF ADDITIONAL POSTS FOR PRIMARY AND UPPER PRIMARY TEACHERS

The new Government has noted the existing severe shortage in the sanctioned strength of teachers vis-à-vis the enrolment strength of students. In many schools the sanctioned strength of teachers have been so low that a teacher is forced to take a class consisting between 100 to 150 students against the statutory norm of Pupil Teacher

ratio of 1:40 as per the provisions of the RTE Act,2009. The consequent deterioration in the quality of education had to be addressed immediately. Thus one of the major decisions taken by the new Government was to create additional posts of 5445 Primary teachers and 39,510 Upper Primary teachers for various schools in each District of the State so as to bring the Pupil-Teacher-Ratio at par with the requirement of RTE Act, 2009. School Service Commission has already issued advertisement for recruitment of these newly created posts and it is expected that the recruitment will be made by October,2012. Similarly the District Primary School Councils have also initiated the recruitment process for Primary teachers.

CREATION OF ADDITIONAL TEACHING POSTS FOR HIGHER SECONDARY SECTION:-

The new Government had to also ensure that all upgraded Higher Secondary schools are given adequate strength of HS level teachers to look after the HS students. Accordingly the Cabinet has created 2000 HS teaching for 2012-13 and 1999 posts for 2013-14. It has also been decided that 50% of these newly created posts will be in science subjects so as to prepare the students with the requirement of the modern age. In this also the School Service Commission has already initiated the recruitment process for 2012-13.

CONSTITUTION OF EXPERT COMMITTEE FOR REVISION OF CURRICULUM AND SYLLABI

The School Education Department has set up an Expert Committee to go into the existing curricula, syllabi and texts and to recommend how this can be changed not only in accordance with the Right of Children to Free & Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act, 2009) as well as the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) – 2005 & 2009, but also to ensure fullest physical and mental development of every child. The Expert Committee has already submitted their report and the State Government has accepted most of their recommendations regarding the change of the curricula, syllabi and texts. The respective Boards / Council have been advised to immediately reconstitute their Syllabus Committee. At the same time the School Education Department has taken steps for revamping of existing in service training of the school teachers to ensure that such training are meaningful and are reflected in the actual class room transactions in accordance with the recommendations of the Expert Committee as well as the report of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta.

REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The State Government has already engaged Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata for review of the entire school management system and the role played by various stakeholders and to suggest structural improvements to strengthen the system of administration for proper implementation of the RTE Act in the State. The Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata has already submitted its report. Action is being taken for bringing about structural changes in the existing management system of school education.

PENSION OF TEACHERS AND NON-TEACHING EMPLOYEES

The new Government has given importance to release of pension to the teachers and non staff of schools within one month from the date of retirement. A State level committee has also been formed to monitor and settle disputes relating to complicated pension cases.

e-GOVERNANCE

The department has taken up steps for computerization of bio data of teaching and non-teaching employees and their service books for better management and planning. Information on infrastructural status of all Government and Government aided schools including sanctioned strength of teachers have been compiled and put on the Departmental portal and is being regularly updated. All tenders of the Department have been put on e-tender through web portal. Monitoring of Mid Day Meal is also being done through use of SMSs and compilation of the same is being done using the web portal of the Department. All Notifications of the Department are regularly placed on the web portal of the Department.

• Construction Of Toilet

Apart from construction of toilets under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and the National Sanitation Mission the Department have also taken up construction of boys and girls toilets from the State Plan funds in 74 Primary Schools @ 50,250/- each and a sum of Rs. 99.55 lakhs have been released.

• Library & Laboratory Grants

A sum of Rs 51.00 lakh and Rs 80.00 lakh has been

released for infrastructure development of Libraries and Laboratories of 160 upgraded Higher Secondary schools @ Rs 50,000 /- per school.

• Incentive to Girl students from BPL families (class IX-X)

The Department is providing special incentive to girls students from BPL families to continue their studies at Secondary (Class IX and X) level. Rs 9,10,13,000/- has been released as incentive to 1,42,001 poor girls students under the scheme during 2011-12.

• Vocational Education

The School Education Department in association with the Technical Education & Training Department is trying to revamp the vocational training courses in Secondary and Higher Secondary Classes in line with the National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF). This year 93 schools have been selected to come under NVEQF. Similarly the Department has decided to start separate stream of vocational education at Higher Secondary level from 2013

• Nationalised Textbooks:

Free text book distribution among the students of classes I to VIII of the recognized institutions is an ongoing incentive programme of the Govt. of W.B. Total text book printed for class-I to V are 5,15,00,000 and 1,88,90,723 for class-VI to VIII during 2011-12.

• Science Education

Along with school curriculum the Department has also taken steps for making the students aware of the modern developments in science and technology. Under the Learning Enhancement Programme (LEP) the Department in association with Birla Industrial and Science Museum has organized science camps for students. The students have also been encouraged to take part in national level science competitions like INSPIRE and National Science Talent. School children from the State have done extremely well in such national competitions.

• School Sports

The Department is regularly organizing both Primary and Secondary school sports meets. The Department has also taken up restructuring of the School Sports Academy at Banipur with the help of Sports Authority of India (SAI). Building up sports training facilities in the districts have also been taken up.