

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: 12th September, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Minutes of the 1st Meeting of Project Appraisal Committee Held on 25th August, 2022 for the Grant-in-Aid (erstwhile SCA to SCSP) component of the Scheme, PM AJAY.

The Undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy of the Minutes of 1st Meeting of Project Appraisal Committee Held on 25th August, 2022 through physical mode (offline) under the chairmanship of Secretary, SJE for for the Grant-in-Aid component (erstwhile SCA to SCSP) of the Scheme, PM AJAY for information and future necessary action.

2. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.


12/09/2022

(Dharam Singh)

Section Officer(PM AJAY)

1. Representative of the following Departments/Ministries as Member of Project Appraisal Committee (PAC)
 - i. NITI Aayog
 - ii. D/o Rural Development
 - iii. M/o Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare
 - iv. M/o Panchayati Raj
 - v. M/o Textiles
 - vi. M/o MSME
 - vii. CMD, NSFDC/Member
2. Principal Secretaries, Social Welfare Department of Concerned State/Union Territories
3. PPS to Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment
4. PS to JS (SCD-B), Department of Social Justice & Empowerment
5. PS to JS & FA, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment
6. PS to DS (PM AJAY), Department of Social Justice & Empowerment

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (PAC) FOR
THE YEAR 2022-23 HELD ON 25.08.2022 FOR THE GRANTS-IN-AID COMPONENT
OF THE SCHEME OF PM-AJAY**

The 1st meeting of the Project Appraisal Committee(PAC) for the year 2022-23 set up under the Scheme of **Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jati Abhudaya Yojana(PM-AJAY)** for 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 25.08.2022 at 11.00 AM under the Chairmanship 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 mandatory for the States/UTs to upload their Annual Action Plan for the year 2022-23 on the newly devised PM AJAY Portal which was launched on 26th January, 2022 to make them eligible for appraisal and approval by the PAC.

3. However, only four complete AAPs for 2022-23 were received through PM AJAY Portal - from the State Governments of **West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh**. These AAPs were discussed in the PAC Meeting.

4. The Projects uploaded by the districts of **Kerala, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan** for 2022-23, though not submitted by the States through the portal, were also discussed in the PAC Meeting. The respective State representatives, however, presented a Power-point presentation on their projects before the PAC.

5. During the meeting, the AAP submitted by the State Government(s)/Union Territory Administration(s) were discussed in detail. The Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment reiterated the significance of project-based approach and outlined the following three (03) fundamental principles which are required to be followed by the State Government(s)/Union Territory Administration(s) while preparing their projects, finalizing the AAP and implementing the Scheme:-

- I. **Decentralization in Project Planning** – Project planning should have the *bottom-up approach* and project preparation should be initiated at District level in consultation with the stakeholders and after assessment of the local needs. Projects thus formulated, shall be appraised by the district authorities. All such projects, which are approved by the district level authorities shall further be assessed and collocated by the State authorities on merit basis before finalizing the action plan for a particular year.
- II. **Outcome Oriented Projects** – The goal of the projects shall be the *outcome* in terms of number of target vulnerable families that can be brought out of dire poverty in a sustainable manner rather than the mere *output* in terms of amount of subsidy disbursed, number of beneficiaries trained, etc. These (disbursal of subsidy or skill training of the target population) may be the part of the larger project and shall not be the stand-alone project. The idea is that the effect of the project should be long lasting and not ephemeral. Therefore, the State Government(s)/Union Territory Administration(s) should formulate the projects in a manner that could bring sustainable livelihood to the target population and, thereafter, positive outcomes in the Society. An example of milk-route project was enunciated in this regards, wherein many small projects such as farming of

cattle feeds, rearing of milch animals, storage and transportation of dairy product, opening up of dairy booth, etc. are interlinked to create an ecosystem that brings sustainable livelihood to the dairy farmers and other persons involved in different activities.

- III. NSFDC was directed to build a team of 10-12 persons to assist the States in livelihood planning through cluster development, SHG formation etc. Exposure visits will also be organised for State officials to study the successful projects in other States.
- IV. For Skill Development projects, States/UTs should adopt proper attendance system such as bio-metric or similar system to ensure identification of beneficiaries. They should also align with the Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Dakshata and Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH).
- V. **Fund Flow Mechanism** - State Government(s)/Union Territory Administration(s) has to adopt the new method of release of funds under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme(CSS) as per the guidelines stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. The crux of the guidelines is as follows:
 - a. Creation of Single Nodal Agency(SNA) and opening of Single Nodal Account in scheduled commercial bank by the State Government(s)/ Union Territory Administration(s) for each scheme
 - b. Mapping of Single Nodal Account details in the Public Finance Management System(PFMS) and also mapping of the Single Nodal Account with the accounts of the authorities in the scheme hierarchy.

The new fund flow mechanism must be adhered to and the above details must be communicated to this Department expeditiously. It was further reiterated that the Single Nodal Account and account of Implementing Agencies (IAs) should ideally be in the same bank for seamless transactions.

6. After detailed discussion of the projects submitted by the State Government(s)/Union Territory Administration(s) under their Annual Action Plans for the year 2022-23, the observations and decision taken by the Committee on the State/UT-wise AAPs are as under:

A. West Bengal:

The Annual Action Plan(AAP) submitted by the State Government was approved by the Committee. The project includes the three components viz Income Generation, Skill Development and Infrastructure development.

Funds will be released subject to the condition that: -

- i. Skill Development components may be implemented as per MSDE norms.
- ii. In case of Income Generation projects, only projects sustainable for a long period may be taken up. For this, cluster based or SHG approach should be used, backward and forward linkages may be ensured;
- iii. The State is not implementing PMAGY component under PM-AJAY scheme. Secretary, SJE suggested that the State may take up projects in SC majority villages so as to ensure saturation of infrastructure and services.

AAP for 2022-23 submitted by the State Government of West Bengal was approved by the Committee, subject to filling of the minor gaps found in the proposal.

B. Odisha:

The State has not uploaded the proposal on the portal. The Secretary (SJ&E) has stressed upon some better projects especially those benefitting the coastal population. The State has sought approx. 30 more days to come with a well prepared list of projects and upload those on the portal.

C. Kerala :

The State has not uploaded the proposal on the portal. The Secretary(SJ&E) asked whether the State have identified income generated project to which the State official replied that they are exploring opportunities in income generation through service sector, the primary being the Hospitality one. The State official put an option for scholarship for studying abroad which was rejected as there is an exclusive scheme of the Ministry for this. The Secretary also focused upon those projects which are sustainable in nature. Secretary (SJ&E) emphasized on the projects which are sustainable on tourism and better understanding the slogan, “**Kerala is calling back**”. Some other projects may also be focused on like cultivation, fisheries etc. The State has sought some time to identify such projects that could be uploaded on the portal of PM-AJAY.

D. Jammu and Kashmir

The UT Administration has uploaded their projects on PM AJAY Portal for setting up of Community Service Centre(CSC), amongst others, which was quite well acclaimed by the Secretary. Besides, Solar lights for streets, smart classes and mobile library were other good projects proposed.

The Annual Action Plan (AAP) for 2022-23 submitted by the UT Administration of Jammu & Kashmir was approved by the Committee, subject to filling of the minor gaps found in the proposal..

E. Andhra Pradesh

The AAPs for 2022-23 of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh could not be uploaded initially on the PM AJAY Portal due to some technical reasons. The State brought their projects through a PPT which was shown to the PAC for consideration. Some of the projects mentioned were dry fisheries, Nurse Training, rag pickers training etc. The State assured that everything is online and no duplication of projects is there. Subsequently, the State has uploaded their AAP on their portal. **The Committee, after considering and appraising the projects of Andhra Pradesh has given his approval subject to uploading of their AAP for 2022-23 on the PM-AJAY Portal.**

The AAP for 2022-23 has been uploaded on the PM-AJAY Portal on 25.08.2022 with the help of NIC, SJE.

F. Madhya Pradesh

The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted their Annual Action Plan(AAP) for 2022-23 through the PM-AJAY Portal barring the income generation component. **The Annual Action Plan (barring the AAP of the income generation component) for 2022-23 submitted by Madhya Pradesh was approved by the Committee subject to submission of their long pending UCs and completion of SNA conditions and subject to filling of the minor gaps found in the proposal. .**

G. Gujarat

The State has not yet uploaded the project and has promised to upload it within seven days.

H. Uttar Pradesh

The projects proposed submitted on the portal have not been approved by the committee. It was observed that the details submitted have not been well drafted and it needs to be drafted as per Guidelines based on the activities linked with training and having a complete life cycle, building an ecosystem for the beneficiaries. The State official has claimed that the paucity of staff has been the reason for this and they have not been able to finalize those projects. The Secretary has praised some of the projects mentioned in the list and asked the State to come up with final projects. The State has sought time till the end of September. The Secretary, SJ&E also asked the reason for unspent pending with the States to which the State Official could not answer firmly. However, some of the UCs sent earlier by the States have been handed over in the meeting for reconciliation of their records of pending UCs.

I. Rajasthan

The State has not selected the projects and has sought till 1st September for its uploading.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

List of the Officers from State(s) Government, UT(s) administration(s) who attended the meeting :

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of Officer	Designation
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Shri S. Chinna Ramudu, IAS	VC&MD, APSCCCFC Ltd.
		Shri K. Sunil Rajkumar	General Manager
		Shri Shyam Prakash Solanki	MD, GSCDC
2	Gujarat	Shri B P Chauhan IAS	Director, SC Welfare
3	Madhya Pradesh	Shri Krishan Gopal Tiwari	Addl. Commissioner
4	Odisha	Shri Laxman Kumar Mallick	Director, SC Welfare
		Smt. Itishree Das	GM, OSFDC Ltd.
5	Kerala	Shri Prasanth. N. IAS	Special Secretary, SC&ST Development Deptt.
6	West Bengal	Shri Sanjay Bansal IAS	BCW Deptt
		Shri Atonu Chatterjee, IAS	Secretary, BCW Deptt
7	Uttar Pradesh	Smt. Sunita Yadav	GM, UPSCFDC
8	Rajasthan	Shri Sohan Lal Dhanka	GM
		Shri Pawan Kumar	Section Officer
9	Jammu & Kashmir	Ms. Sheetal Nanda	Chief Secretary, SWD

List of PAC Members who attended the meeting:

Sl. No.	Name & Designation
1	Ms. Smriti Sharan, JS ,M/o Rural Development
2	M/o Panchayati Raj, Sh. Arun Kumar Mishra, DS and Sh. Puneet Sharma, US
3	M/o Textiles , Ms. Richa Gupta, DS
4	M/o Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Sh. Pramod Kumar Singh ,
5	National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSCFDC),Sh. C. Ramesh Rao, CGM Sh. Rajneesh Kumar Jenew, CMD Sh. Rajesh Bihari, CGM
6	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Prakash Kumar Tamrakar, Director (IFD)
