

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATION RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi – 110 016.

MINUTES OF THE 142nd MEETING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

The 142nd meeting of the Finance Committee of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was held on 26.06.2020 at 3.30 p.m. in the Conference Room, 1st Floor, Zakir Hussain Block, NIE Campus, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi-110016 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Hrushikesh Senapaty, Director, NCERT through video conferencing. A list of members who participated in this meeting is attached at annexure-I.

Major Harsh Kumar, Secretary, NCERT extended a warm welcome to the Committee members, after which the agenda items were taken up with the permission of the Chair.

Item No.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of 141st Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 26.05.2020.

The Ministry of HRD vide letter F.No. 7-3/2020-Sch.4 dated 22nd June 2020 has raised following two issues in the Minutes:

- i. Requirement of 2576.87 MT of 80 GSM ISI Mark Maplitho text paper for Uttar Pradesh and Haryana states would be met out from buffer stock available (from 25% additional order placed on previous orders of 22000 MT i.e. 5500 MT; total 27500 MT). However, previous orders placed for Maplitho paper n firms, has still not been supplied. NCERT to pursue those orders as well.
- ii. Similarly, there has been a previous order of 1570 MT 220 GSM Art Card cover, An option clause of 25% additional order (i.e. 392.50 MT) has also been exercised by NCERT (as informed during the meeting). Therefore, it was discussed in the meeting that NCERT should check that no left out quality is available in earlier order including exercised 25% additional order of 220 GSM Art Card cover before going for procurement of 900 MT of 220 GSM Art Card cover.

The above points were discussed in the meeting and it was confirmed by Head Publication that left out quantity has been taken into account while calculating the requirement of Art Card for printing of books for UP, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. Details are as follows:

Total quantity purchased for the session 2020-21 (1570+392.5)	1962.5 MTs
Consumption for the academic session 2020-21	1630.8 MTs
Balance after reprint of academic session 2020-21	332.69 MTs
Consumption for UP, HP and Haryana	945 MTs
Purchase for UP, HP and Haryana	900 MTs
Buffer for the session 2021-22 (332.69+900-945)	287.69 MTs

The minutes were confirmed.

Item No. 2: Action taken on the Minutes of 141st Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 26.05.2020.

The following observations was received through e-mail by JS&FA that in ATR, it has been stated that the observations of C&AG in SAR for 2018-19 has been complied with except some observations in r/o Publication Division, which could not be done as it requires consolidation of data/information from RPCDs situated at Bangalore, Ahmadabad, Kolkata and Guwahati and due to covid-19 outbreak and lock down the same could not be done. NCERT has, therefore, prepared annual account of NCERT without taking into account the said observations on Publication Division, NCERT.

The reason for non compliance to the observation of C&AG on Publication Division of NCERT is not tenable as in this digital era it is not difficult to obtain data from offices situated at any part of the country. Moreover, the NCERT was having sufficient time to do so.

The observations of C&AG in SAR for 2018-19 on Publication Division ought to be complied with expeditiously.

It was brought to the notice of the house that since the Council has been dealing with the CAG directly in the matter of Audit and its observations, it would be time consuming if the SAR is placed for discussion before the Finance Committee since there may be so many small, single/double line observations which need detailed examination/verification of facts & figures. Hence it is requested that since the Council takes up the Audit compliance of SAR directly with the CAG, the same practice may be continued and the facts on Notes on Accounts given may be accepted/agreed. The same was agreed to.

Secretary, NCERT stated points placed by Shri Amit Cowshish, Hon'ble Member through e-mail. The same was clarified by the Head, Publication Division, NCERT in the meeting.

The ATR regarding enhancement of remuneration of all cadres viz. Academic, administrative, technical accounts and PAB staff appointed on contractual basis against the sanctioned vacant post was deliberated. However, as per the observations from JS&FA and representative of JS Institutions, MHRD it will be placed in the ensuing meeting as separated Agenda Item.

Regarding Procurement of 900MTs of 220 GSM Art Card to meet the fresh requirement of general publications for Uttar Pradesh & Haryana. The process of procurement of paper for the academic session i.e. 2020-21 through GeM is under process.

In this connection, the meeting of the purchase/Tender Committee was held and finalized the bid documents to be uploaded on GeM portal including NCERT Special Terms & Conditions (STCs). The NCERT STCs as finalized by the Committee was got approved by the Director, NCERT. The approved STC's has been forwarded to GeM for it approval and after the approval from GeM, the same will be uploaded on GeM portal as corrigendum along with the bid.

On 25.06.2020, the bid was created on GeM portal in the presence of the Committee members but the same could not be completed due to some technical glitch and the same will be rectified and the bid will be uploaded at the earliest positively on or before 29.06.2020.

Thereafter the action taken was noted.

Item No 3. To consider and approve the Annual Accounts of the Council for the year 2019-20

The observations of JS&FA were received through e-mail which is as under:

The Current Asset of NCERT in FY 2019-20 has been reported as Rs. 1106.89 crore which is about 5 times the Current Asset in FY 2018-19 of Rs. 228.87 crore. The main reason of this increase is due to Term Deposit of Rs. 668.00 crore in Banks in FY 2019-20. The Academic Development Fund has also increased from Rs. 48.64 crore in FY 2018-19 to Rs. 120.44 crore in FY 2019-2020.

The expenditure of NCERT on Staff Payment & Benefits (Establishment expenses) has increased from Rs. 349.41 crore in FY 2018-19 to Rs. 601.50 crore in FY 2019-20. This appears to be mainly due to the payment of retirement and terminal benefits.

The expenditure on Posts and Stationary has also increased substantially from Rs. 74.72 lakh in FY 2018-19 to Rs. 1.33 crore in FY 2019-20.

The expenditure on Electricity and Power has increased from Rs. 86.24 lakh in FY 2018-19 to Rs. 6.93 crore in FY 2019-20.

Just reverse to that the expenditure on Water charges is Rs. 9.02 crore in FY 2018-19 and Rs. 1.74 crore in FY 2019-20.

There were some other issues raised by Shri Amit Cowshish Hon`ble Member through e-mail. The CAO and Chartered Accountant of NCERT explained the details to the Committee and thereafter the accounts were recommended to EC for approval so as to get the same audited within the time frame as prescribed under GFR Rule 237.

Item No.4: Proposed Utilization of Budgetary Allocation for the Current Financial Year 2020-21.

The JS&FA, MHRD observed that NCERT is required to utilize the grants-in-aid in accordance with the budget allocation provided under BE (2020-21). It is also pointed out that, in the current FY, instructions have been received from M/o Finance asking this Department to restrict the expenditure is 30% of the BE in the first 6 months of FY 2020-21. NCERT is required to exercise necessary austerity measures so as to curtail the expenditure in FY 2020-21.

The 7th CPC has been extended to NCERT with the condition that 30% of the additional financial impact arising out of the implementation of revised pay, allowances, pension and pensionary benefits shall be met out from the IRG of NCERT. It is to be implemented scrupulously.

The expenditure of Rs.550.00 crore proposed to be incurred by NCERT in the current FY from its IRG seems to be much higher in comparison to the actual expenditure of Rs. 343.39 crore in the last year. NCERT is required to exercise austerity in respect of its IRG also.

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343.39 crore in the last year. NCERT is required to exercise austerity in respect of its IRG also.

NCERT has further allocated the Capital Grant of Rs. 30.00 crore as per BE (2020-21) to the projects in RIE Ajmer, RIE Bhopal, RIE Bhubaneswar, RIE Mysore, PSSCIVE Bhopal, CIET and HQ. It is expected that all these projects have been duly approved in the past and the further expenditure is within the approved cost of the each project.

There was also some points from Shri Amit Cowshish Hon'ble Member through e-mail that a provisional allocation of Rs 56.50 crore may be made under the 'Revenue (General) Head (ii) Funded out of Council's Misc. Receipts' to bridge the gap under 'Revenue (General) Head (i) (GIA)' if additional funds are not allocated at the RE stage. This will require some adjustment in the allocation proposed for various objects of expenditure under 'Revenue (General) Head (ii) Funded out of Council's Misc. Receipts'.

The above was discussed in detail and the Committee recommended the estimates of Budgetary Allocation of the Council for the Financial Year 2020-21 for approval by the Executive Committee.

Item No.5: To consider the proposal regarding Procurement of text and cover paper for the Academic Session 2021-22 .

The Secretary, NCERT placed the comments/observations received JS&FA, MHRD and some other Hon'ble Members before the Committee. Prof. A.K. Rajput explained the proposal in detail to the Committee. It was also proposed by Head Publication Division, NCERT to change the requirement in round figures to 22000 MTs in place of 21325. Thereafter the proposal for procurement of text and cover paper for the Academic Session 2021-22 as mentioned at Sr.No.1-4 in the agenda was agreed subject to:

- i) the specifications for the Papers and Art Card are exactly as per the approved norms;
- ii) the quantity of papers proposed to be procured has been assessed properly;
- iii) the unspent quantity of Papers/Art Cards from the previous year has been duly taken into account for deciding the requirement for the current year;
- iv) adherence to all decisions taken in past by FC with regard to procurement of papers/Art Card; and
- v) procurement is done through GeM portal following all relevant provisions of GFR-2017.

After detailed discussions and keeping in view the above observations the proposal was approved

Item No.6: Construction of Auditorium at NCERT Campus, New Delhi.

The observations of JS&FA were received through e-mail which are as under:

The proposal to construct an Auditorium at NCERT HQ is stated to have been placed earlier in FC in 2012 with tentative cost of Rs. 42.00 crore but due to shortage of Plan funds under Capital head provided by the Government, it did not materialize. Now the estimated expenditure has been indicated as Rs. 34.33 crore.

Though, the NCERT has proposed to undertake a project for construction of an Auditorium with the government's capital grants, it does not appear that the approval/consent of the administrative Bureau of MHRD has been obtained. The project needs to be appraised

and approved by the competent authority. M/o Finance, D/o Expenditure has suspended the administrative power delegated to Ministries/Departments in respect of SFC upto cost of Rs. 500.00 crore for the current FY. M/o Finance, D/o Expenditure has also restricted the expenditure of MHRD to 30% of the BE (2020-21) for first six months of 2020-21. M/o Finance, D/o Expenditure has asked Ministries/Departments to exercise greater discipline and control on expenditure and only mandatory expenditure needs to be incurred in FY 2020-21. Therefore despite the BE of Rs. 30.00 crore, no capital fund has been released to NCERT in the first quarter.

In view of the above may not agreed to.

The observations of Shri Amit Cowshish, Hon'ble Member were also received through e-mail in which he states that:

The details provided in the brief are insufficient to consider this agenda item. The rough estimate came down from Rs 42 crore in 2012 to Rs 34 crore in 2019, apparently on account of a substantial reduction in the seating capacity. The reason for this is not known. The estimate may already be outdated. No rough sketch of the proposed auditorium/convention centre is available for examination. It is not clear whether the Administrative Approval has been accorded for the project and any MoU signed with the CPWD, without which no money can be released to them. The purpose for which the money is to be released is not clear. There are several other such issues which require clarity.

It is suggested that a self-contained statement of case be prepared, keeping in view the provision of the General Financial Rules 2017 and Manual for Procurement of Works 2019, and presented in the next meeting of the FC for consideration.

The position with regard to procedure being adopted in the NCERT was explained which was deliberated in detail by Director, NCERT too, it was informed to the Finance Committee that any proposal for construction required at NCERT Headquarter or received from any constituent units of the Council are first placed before the Building and Works Committee of the Council and after those proposals are approved by the Building and works committee, the action taken is reported to Executive Committee of the Council too.

However, at the time of construction of Girls Hostel at each RIEs, the proposals for construction of girls hostels at each RIEs were approved by the Buildings and works and in its meeting held on 3.4.2018. When the proceedings of the Building and Works committee held on 3.4.2018 were placed before the 104th meeting of Executive Committee it was suggested that the Minutes of the B&W Committee meeting under additional item No. 1 (Construction of Girls Hostel at each RIEs) may be placed in the FC in the NCERT. Accordingly the same were placed in 138th FC meeting held on 18.04.2018 and the FC approved the proposal of B&W meeting held on 03.04.2018.

In the instant case, the same procedure has been adopted and the same was explained before all the members of the committee. The committee after taking into all discussion held in detail, agreed to approve the above proposal subject to the condition about restriction of the expenditure of MHRD 30% of the BE (2020-2021) for the first six months of 2020-21.

The Honorable member Shri Amit Cowshish through e-mail suggested that the committee after taking into account all discussion held in detail, agreed to recommend the above proposal for consideration and approval by the Executive Committee subject to the condition that, if approved by the Executive Committee, the expenditure will be restricted to

30% of the BE (2020-21) during the first six months of 2020-21. Accordingly the same is approved.

As per the comments from JS&FA and representative of JS Institutions, MHRD, the item is deferred for the time being due to austerity measures.

Item No.7: To consider to waive off an outstanding amount of Rs.52,179/- in respect of Late Dr. MVS Prasad, Assistant Professor, Department of Curriculum Studies (DCS), NCERT.

The Secretary, NCERT read out the observations received through e-mail from JS&FA, MHRD and also from other Hon'ble Members and inform the Committee that NCERT have made every best effort to collect books back from the family of deceased but it Could not be traced. After detailed discussions the Committee approved to waive off the amount of Rs.52,179/-.

Item No.8: To consider and approve the enhancement of the delegation of Financial Powers to Joint Directors, CIET & PSSCIVE and Principal of Regional Institutes of Education in respect of "Purchase and Repair of Fixtures & Furniture" from Rs.2,00,000/- (existing) to Rs. 10,00,000/- regarding".

Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi expressed that the financial powers may be recommended subject to procedures followed. The representative of Joint Secretary, Shri T.S. Rautela stated that it should be placed before the Executive Committee of the Council for approval.

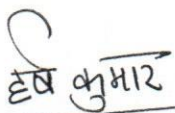
As per the comments from JS&FA and representative of JS Institutions, MHRD, the item is deferred for ensuing Finance Committee .

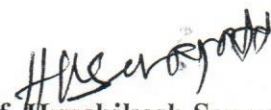
Item No.9: Revision of Honorarium and Conveyance Charges to Non-NCERT Participants/Resource Persons/Programme Directors as well as Working Lunch, Tea/Coffee/Snacks /Stationary, etc. for NCERT programmes.

Secretary, NCERT placed the observation of JS&FA in which it was stated that "due to austerity instructions and various restrictions in expenditure in the current FY, it is not appropriate to consider any increase at this moment".

As per the comments from JS&FA and representative of JS Institutions, MHRD, the agenda item was not agreed to.

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


(Major Harsh Kumar)
Secretary


(Prof. Hrushikesh Senapaty)
Director

LIST OF MEMBERS AND SPECIAL INVITEES/OTHER PRESENT ATTENDED THE 142nd
' FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26th June, 2020.

1. Prof. Hrushikesh Senapaty
Director, NCERT,
New Delhi – 110016. Chairperson
2. Ms. Darshana M. Dabral
JS & Financial Advisor
Ministry of HRD,
(Department of School Education & Literacy),
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 Member
3. Shri T.S. Rautela
Deputy Secretary
Representing
Joint Secretary (Institutions)
Ministry of HRD
(Department of School Education & Literacy),
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 Member
4. Shri Amit Cowshish
Additional Secretary (Retd.)
Ministry of Defence
578, Sector 'A'
Pocket 'C'
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070. Member
5. Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi
Professor and Chairperson
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
B-21, Qutab Institutional Area
New Delhi Member
6. Maj. Harsh Kumar
Secretary
NCERT
New Delhi-110016 Member-
convener

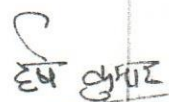
Dated: 30th June, 2020

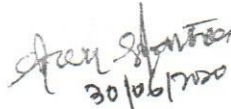
Subject: Approval on the Minutes of the 142nd Finance Committee meeting held on 26.06.2020.

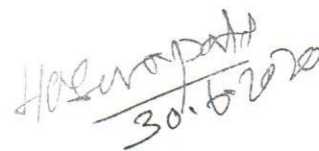
The 142nd Meeting of the Finance Committee of the NCERT was held on 26.06.2020 to consider various important proposal such as Annual Accounts of the Council for the year 2019-20 and procurement of Paper for publishing NCERT Textbooks for Session 2021-22. After the recommendations of the Finance Committee, the minutes were circulated to members, the comments received have been incorporated. The accounts are to be approved by the Executive Committee which, as per Rule 39 of the Rules of the Council "shall have under its control the management of all the affairs and funds of the Council and shall have authority to exercise all the powers of the Council". It is further mentioned that the Executive Committee of the Council, in its 90th meeting held on 08.02.2006, while approving the Annual Accounts for the year 2004-05 authorized the President, NCERT, to approve the accounts after they had been recommended by the Finance Committee, so that the same could be submitted to the C&AG for commencing the audit.

Accordingly, enclosed please find herewith a copy of the final minutes of the said meeting duly approved by the Chairperson of the Committee. There is some important proposal in the Finance Committee which are to be implemented urgently but being a standing Committee of the Executive Committee of the Council the recommendations made by the Finance Committee requires the approval of Executive Committee.

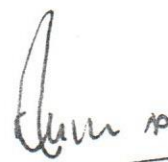
The last meeting of the Executive Committee was held on 05.01.2019 and is not expected to be convened shortly. Therefore the Hon'ble HRM/ President, NCERT being Chairman of Executive Committee is requested to approve the minutes of the 142nd meeting of the Finance Committee of the NCERT held on 26.06.2020 so that the action could be initiated. These minutes would be got ratified in the Executive Committee of the Council as and when convened.


(Major Harsh Kumar)
Secretary

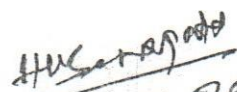
Joint Director 
30/6/2020

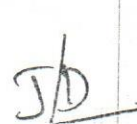
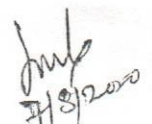
Director 
30.6.2020

Hon'ble HRM
(President, NCERT), MHRD
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi


30-7-2020

Director (NCERT)


7.8.2020

 
7/8/2020

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JOINT DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
DY. NO. 1665
07/08/2020

Sent to
C&P on 10/8/2020
for ratification
10/8/2020

7/8/2020
10/8/2020