

F. No.13-41/2014-JS (P)
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education
BP & Copyright Division
BP Section

4th Floor, Jeewan Deep Building,
Parliament Street, New Delhi 110 001.
Dated the 19th January, 2015.

Subject: Record of Discussions of the meeting held with the Vanche Gujarat team in the Chamber of Secretary (HE) on 9th January, 2015 at 7.30 P.M.– regarding.

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith a copy of Record of Discussions of the meeting held with the Vanche Gujarat team in the Chamber of Secretary (HE) on 9th January, 2015 at 7.30 P.M. for information and taking further necessary action.

TS-9547

S. K. Gupta
19.01.2015
Section Officer (BP)

Encl.: As above.

To

Dir (Secy)

All Members as per the list attached.

CC
21/1/15
US/Secy

DE
22/1/15

SK
22/1/15

SO [S. K.]

213/S. K. Gupta
30/1/15

F.No. 13-41/2014-JS(P)
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education

Dated the 15th January, 2015

Record of Discussions of the meeting held with the Vanche Gujarat team in the Chamber of Secretary (HE) on 9th January 2015 at 7.30 PM.

Secretary (HE) had a meeting with the team of Vanche Gujarat which was attended by the following:

- (i) Ms Vrinda Sarup, Secretary (SE&L)
- (ii) Mr Rakesh Ranjan, Joint Secretary (BPCR)
- (iii) Mr Mahadev Desai
- (iv) Mr Chamu K. Shastry
- (v) Mr Awadhesh Kumar Singh

2. A brief introduction of Vanche Gujarat and the possible alternatives to go ahead was presented by Mr Rakesh Ranjan, Joint Secretary. He mentioned that National Book Trust (NBT) could be used for backup support only, as it does not have the wherewithal to conduct an all India campaign at the scale which is required for introducing reading habits all over the country. NBT and National Council of Education, Research & Training (NCERT) have books which can be used in the campaign. NCERT also has some infrastructure at State level in the form of SCERTs. NBT has only some regional centres. He mentioned that a similar scheme was launched in Chattisgarh to inculcate reading habits where State Literacy Mission Authority (SLMA) was the nodal agency. A similar model may be thought of for other States involving NLMA/SSA/RMSA's infrastructure and resources.

3. Secretary (SE&L) suggested that SSA has library books at school level which can be properly utilized for building a reading habit. Preraks of Literacy Campaign can work as catalyst for building reading habits in villages with adult literacy centres. She strongly felt the NBT's role in promotion of reading and supply of good quality books should be utilized and they have in the past held excellent book fairs for children books in decentralised manner at district levels, which were very successful.

4. Secretary (HE) requested the team of Vanche Gujarat to submit a brief write up of not more than 2-3 pages. He also stated that the scheme should not involve any purchase of books and that existing resources should be used to the extent possible.

5. Mr Mahadev Desai mentioned that some Government expenses might be required for organizing training camps and for distribution of prizes. He mentioned that, in many schools, books provided to teachers are not used for the fear of audit objection, in case the books are damaged or lost. In order to encourage usage of books, Government of Gujarat had issued an order clarifying that teachers would not be held responsible in such cases if books were distributed for their proper use. He submitted that other State

governments might also be requested for issuing similar orders. Mr Mahadev Desai's suggestion of aligning the launch with the academic calendar was noteworthy.

6. After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken:

- (i) The stewardship for encouraging reading habits has to be provided by the State Governments.
- (ii) Agencies like NBT, NCERT, Sahitya Academy etc can play a catalytic role. Other agencies which could be involved in it are CBSE, UGC, Libraries of Ministry of Culture/State Governments, NUEPA etc.
- (iii) A brief write up of 2-3 pages will be submitted by the Vanche Gujarat team.
- (iv) As far as possible, existing resources available with SSA/RMSA should be used.
- (v) While deciding the funding of the scheme, it may be kept in mind that prizes are not generally encouraged in the schemes and more so if the prize money has a major share in the total cost of the scheme.
- (vi) It was agreed that a brain-storming meeting to work out some contours for the programme should be held first with essential experts/stakeholders.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.


(Rakesh Ranjan)
Joint Secretary

Copy to:

1. Mr. Satyanarayan Mohanty, Secretary (HE)
2. Ms Vrinda Sarup, Secretary (SE&L)
3. Mr Mahadev Desai
4. Mr Chamu K Shastry
5. Mr Awadhesh Kumar Singh

Copy also to: Ms Satbir Silas Bedi, Joint Secretary (SE-II).