

Minutes of second meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 26th May 2011 under the Chairmanship of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Finance Minister to review implementation of Vivekananda Value Education Programme being undertaken by Ramakrishna Mission, Belur as part of commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

The second meeting of the Sub-Committee constituted in terms of the decisions taken in the first meeting of the National Implementation Committee (NIC) on 3rd September 2010 for overseeing the implementation of Ramakrishna Mission, Belur's approved Vivekananda Value Education Programme (VVEP) was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee on 26th May, 2011. Members present were Kumari Selja, Hon'ble Minister for Culture and Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Justice Ashok Kumar Ganguly, Swami Prabhananda, General Secretary, Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, Belur, Shri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture (Member Secretary) and Swami Suvirananda, Trustee, Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, Belur. Officials from Ministry of Culture present were – Dr. (Ms.) T. Kumar, Joint Secretary, Shri Kanwar Sameer Lather, Deputy Secretary and Shri Sudesh Kumar, Project Coordinator. Chairman, Sub-Committee welcomed the Members and requested Member Secretary to take up the Agenda items.

2. Member Secretary recapitulated the decisions taken in the first meeting of the Sub-Committee and presented the ATR. He stated that

by following the “one next principle”, the second instalment of funds for the VVEP, amounting to Rs 4 crores, had been released to Ramakrishna Mission, in January 2011. The EFC for approval of the Project estimates of Rs. 100 crores for the VVEP, was convened on 23rd May 2011. Its Minutes were circulated. In addition to the VVEP, the EFC endorsed the following Projects- (i) Project of the Public Service Broadcasting Trust for production of a film on Swami Vivekananda for Rs 70 lakhs and (ii) Project of ASI for renovation of four religious Monuments at an estimated cost of Rs 12.42 crores. Since the fund requirements with regard to the other Projects were not firm, these would be taken up after the NIC had given its approval, and considered individually by SFCs.

3. Swami Prabhananda outlined the salient points of the VVEP and implementation of its components across the country by utilising the first instalment of Rs 8 crores released on 5th October, 2010 and second instalment of Rs 4 crores released on 25th January, 2011. Till 31st March 2011, an amount of Rs 6,35,59,803 had been utilised. There was an unutilised balance of Rs 5,64,40,197*. The Sub-Committee advised that in future, Reports should be up-to-date and sent in advance to the Members for proper study. Audit Reports of the VVEP to be submitted by the R. K. Mission would be scrutinised closely and the next instalment released only after satisfaction of all financial

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norms and procedures. Guidelines would be issued by the Ministry of Culture in this regard, if felt necessary. The R. K. Mission may depute staff to the Ministry of Culture to resolve outstanding issues, if any.

4. With regard to conservation of four religious Monuments - (i) Pothimalar Building, Ferozepur (Rs 2.26 crores), (ii) Fatehpuri Mosque, Delhi (Rs 5.31 crores), (iii) Rachol Seminary at Goa (Rs 1.81 crores) and (iv) Koodalmanickam Temple, Irinjalakkuda in Kerala (Rs 3.04 crores). Hon'ble Culture Minister observed that she would have preferred that ASI's Monuments had been taken up rather than investing public money in privately managed Monuments. Justice Ganguly suggested that all Regions of the country should be covered, especially the East and North – East. It was agreed that the Patna Saheb Gurudwara and the Buddhist Monastery in Tawang may be included in the list. Members were unanimous that before undertaking work in respect of any of these Monuments, the State Governments ought to be consulted, in particular, Punjab, for the Ferozepur Monument. Consensus amongst the local community should also be ascertained, so that there are no social or legal complications at a later date. Further a MOU should be signed by the ASI with the owners/ Management of the Monuments, so that mechanisms were in place, to ensure proper maintenance on a self – sustained basis as per standard norms of the ASI. Maintenance Committees may be set up for this purpose for each of these Monuments.

5. Justice Ganguly raised the case of “Ice House,” now called Vivekananda House, in Chennai, where Swami Vivekananda stayed on his return to India in 1897 from an overseas tour and its long-term lease settlement (999 years) by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu to the Ramakrishna Mission. Chairman directed that this may be pursued by Ministry of Culture with the State Government for an expeditious settlement, as there was already an on – going correspondence on it.

6. With regard to spreading awareness about physical fitness among the youth, Member-Secretary informed about his discussions with Secretary, Youth Affairs. A suitable Project would be drawn up and funded by Ministry of Culture during the Swamiji’s birthday in 2013-14. Justice Ganguly suggested involvement of Ministries of HRD and of Youth Affairs and Sports in organising a major new Football Tournament – named the “Vivekananda Trophy,” from the District-level upwards in 2013 – 14. This was approved.

7. Justice Ganguly proposed that the Ministry of HRD be requested to consider including a component on “Great Thinkers of India” in the course curriculum for Schools. Chairman stated that ten eminent Indian personalities may be selected including Gandhi, Nehru, Tagore and Vivekananda. Member Secretary stated that a Note on this would be circulated among all Members seeking their views. Chairman advised that Justice Ganguly be consulted before drawing it up.

8. Justice Ganguly also suggested that, in future, meetings may be preferably held in the afternoon, so as not to clash with Court timings.

Some issues may be adopted by circulation amongst Members, instead of convening full meetings. These were accepted by the Chairman.

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

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