

CHAPTER-IV

4. OTHER IMPORTANT TOPICS

4.1 Irregular payments on Muster Rolls.

Rule 102 of Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Rules 2002 provides that the Secretary or any other official under him shall maintain a Muster Roll (MR) in such a form as is used by the PWD for the work executed departmentally, every payment of MR shall be made and witnessed by the official, who shall certify to the payments individually or by groups.

Scrutiny of MRs in 15 GPs revealed cases of double and doubtful payments by employing same Labourers at two places at the same time, which has resulted into double payments of Rs. 0.75 lakh (Appendix-11). The concerned GPs stated (June 2007 to March 2008) that matter would be investigated.

4.2 Blocking of funds in PLA

Panchayati Raj Department had been according sanctions for implementation of water supply and minor irrigation scheme in the rural areas to be executed by the PS under head grant in aid. The funds released by the department were to be credited to PLA account of the respective PSs. As per conditions of the sanction, the funds were to be utilised within one year from the date of sanction failing which the amount of grants required to be refunded.

It was noticed that in 12 PSs test checked (Appendix-12) there was opening balance of Rs. 48.82 lakh as on 1st April 2003 and an amount of Rs. 8.61 lakh was received between 2003-04 and 2006-07 against which expenditure of Rs. 31.75 lakh was incurred leaving unspent balance of Rs. 25.68 lakh as of March 2008. Thus, funds amounting to Rs. 25.68 lakh stood blocked and purpose for which the funds were released also remained un-achieved. PS Nichar stated (July 2007) that the details of works/scheme for which these funds were made available were being worked out and other PS stated (June 2007 to February 2008) that funds would be utilised after the approval from the house of PS.

4.3 Awaited Utilisation.

Government of Himachal Pradesh vide notification dated 17-03-1971 issued orders that the work or service for which grant-in-aid (GIA) has been received

from the Government should be utilised within a period of two years from the date receipts of GIA.

The Director Panchayati Raj has been releasing various grants to PRIs for developmental schemes and concerned institutions were required to furnish Utilisation Certificates (UCs) within two years (2004-05 Rs. 8.72 crore, 2005-06 Rs. 26.32 crore) from receipt of grants. It was noticed that UCs for Rs. 35.04 crore were awaited as of March 2008. The Department stated (March, 2008) that effective efforts were being made to collect the UCs.

4.4 Conclusion and Recommendations.

(1) Conclusion

The department has neither issued notification for technical guidance by CAG relating to exercising control and supervision over maintenance of accounts of PRIs and their audit nor accepted/approved standard draft format prescribed by CAG for data base of finance. PRI was not maintaining complete information regarding its own revenue. DPC was constituted by the State Government, but not functional except in two districts. The accounting irregularities such as un-reconciled balances, excess expenditure over allotted funds, diversion of funds, long outstanding advances and pending UCs were noticed.

(2) Recommendations.

The following measures are recommended to ensure discipline in PRIs and to improve efficiency of implementation of various developmental programmes and schemes.

- *Notification for technical guidance by the CAG of India needs to be issued on priority*
- *Standard draft format for database of finance needs to be finalised on priority.*
- *District Planning Committee need to be functional throughout the State.*
- *Internal control mechanism in the Panchayati Raj Department needs to be strengthened for effective financial management.*
- *Incomplete works needs to be given priority for completion over the new work.*

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