

CHAPTER IX : MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

9.1 Recovery of an amount of excess release of grants, at the instance of Audit

Failure of the Ministry to exercise due diligence while releasing grants to the State Governments resulted in excess release of ₹ 3.45 crore. This was subsequently recovered at the instance of Audit.

As per the guidelines of the Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls– ‘Sabla’, nutrition to adolescent girls¹ at the rate of 600 calories per day, for 300 days in a year (25 days per month) was admissible. The scheme guidelines provided for sharing of the cost of nutrition with the State Government to the extent of 50 *per cent* of the admissible amount of ₹ 5 per beneficiary per day.

Audit noted (June 2011) that the Ministry made errors in calculating the actual amount of funds admissible to Rajasthan. The Ministry adopted the number of days when nutrition was supplied to the girls as 67 as against 55 days admissible for the period 24 January 2011 to 31 March 2011. This resulted in excess release of funds amounting to ₹ 1.81 crore. In three other cases during 2010-11, the Ministry adopted incorrect figures for the number of beneficiaries for calculating admissibility of funds, resulting in excess release to three States, as detailed below:

(₹ in lakh)

Name of State	Actual no. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries adopted for calculation	Admissible release	Actual release	Excess release
Bihar	1305200	1403311	1957.80	2104.97	147.17
Himachal Pradesh	90016	98974	168.78	185.58	16.80
Sikkim	8783	9116	10.98	11.40	0.42
Total			2137.56	2301.95	164.39

Thus, the failure of the Ministry in exercising due diligence in working out the entitlements of the State Governments resulted in excess release of ₹ 3.45 crore.

¹ Age group 11 to 18 years

On this being pointed out (June 2011) by Audit, the Ministry recovered (September 2011) the excess amount of ₹ 3.45 crore from the subsequent releases made to the concerned States during 2011-12.

9.2 Irregular release of Central share under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme

The Ministry of Women and Child Development released grants twice under two Central schemes viz 'Programme for Juvenile Justice' in February 2008 and the Integrated Child Protection Scheme in December 2010, totalling ₹ 1.08 crore, for construction of two observation homes at Ambala and Hisar.

During the Seventh Five-Year Plan, the Ministry of Women and Child Development initiated a 'Programme for Juvenile Justice', in accordance with the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act 1986. The programme aimed at care, protection, development and rehabilitation of neglected and delinquent children in all the districts of the country, except for Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the norms of the scheme, the Central share of grants for construction of an observation home for 50 inmates was to be ₹ 9.03 lakh. The remaining expenditure for construction of the homes was to be met by the State Governments from their own budgets.

The Government of Haryana submitted (August and November 2007) proposals for construction of two observation homes at Ambala and Hisar at estimated costs of ₹ 1.45 crore and ₹ 1.86 crore respectively. The Ministry intimated (December 2007) the Government that they were in a position to sanction Central share of grants of ₹ 18.06 lakh only for construction of the two homes as per the norms of the scheme. The Ministry authorised (February 2008) the State Government to utilise ₹ 18.06 lakh as the Central share with the condition that the balance amount would be met from the budget of the State Government. The State Government had spent ₹ 3.82 crore over and above the Central share for construction of these homes as of August 2009.

It was noticed in audit that the Ministry, with the approval (February 2009) of the Cabinet, introduced a new Centrally sponsored scheme viz. the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) to create a solid foundation for protective environment for children. Audit observed that the State Government of Haryana submitted (September 2010) a proposal under ICPS for release of grants for the construction of the same observation homes at Ambala and Hisar mentioned earlier. The Ministry accepted the proposal and released (December 2010) the Central share of ₹ 89.58 lakh to the State Government

for construction of the homes, without linking the fact that these homes were already being funded under another Central scheme. The action of the Ministry to release funds of ₹ 89.58 lakh under ICPS for the construction of the observation homes at Ambala and Hisar was irregular, as both the homes were already being financed under the 'Programme for Juvenile Justice'.

The Ministry admitted (February 2012) that the grants for the same homes had been given twice and stated that the excess amount would be deducted appropriately from future grants to the State Government.

It was noted that the Ministry acknowledged the lapse only on confirmation of the facts including the status of construction of the two homes from the State Government. This indicated that the Ministry did not have a system of exercising due diligence while releasing the grants and did not maintain proper records regarding utilisation of the same.

The Ministry may, thus, institute a suitable mechanism to avoid release of grants under different schemes for the same purposes. Regular follow-ups may also be done with the State Governments to derive assurance that the funds released to them are utilised for the intended purposes.