

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Working of Indian Council for Cultural Relations

Indian Council for Cultural Relations was established with the primary objective of establishing, reviving and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries. To achieve this objective, the authorities of the Council comprising General Assembly, Governing Body and Finance Committee formulated policy and programmes. Audit observed that these authorities did not meet in accordance with the prescribed frequency, nor was any annual plan of action prepared.

The Council failed to provide adequate publicity to ICCR Scholarship Scheme. As a result, there was sub-optimal utilisation of slots and skewed representation of countries under the programme. The Council allocated 25 *per cent* slots under Cultural Exchange Programme Scholarship Scheme to countries with whom there were no Cultural Exchange Programme agreement.

Three Indian Cultural Centres were opened and run by the Council without the required approval of the Ministry of External Affairs. The Council had been operating the posts of Director, ICC in various countries without obtaining the requisite approval from the Ministry of Finance. The Council did not formulate any guidelines for appointment of external persons to the posts of Director ICC. As a result these posts were being filled up by the Council in an arbitrary manner.

There were major deficiencies in the procurement process adopted by the Council. The Council incurred significant expenditure on procurement of services from private firms without following the provisions of General Financial Rules.

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Functioning of University of Allahabad

The University of Allahabad is one of the oldest universities in India and was established in September, 1887. It was registered as State University under the

Uttar Pradesh State Universities Act, 1973. The Government of India declared the University of Allahabad to be an institution of national importance and granted status of a Central University in July, 2005.

The performance audit of University of Allahabad, covering the period from 2006-2012 revealed significant shortcomings in its functioning. The University could not utilise its resources efficiently as there was critical shortage of teaching staff and the teacher student ratio was more than the prescribed norms. The University opened only seven inter disciplinary centres out of the 15 centres required to be opened as per its ordinance.

There were significant shortfalls in the utilisation of funds for research projects. The University could utilise only about 33 per cent of funds received for various research projects. The hostel allotment was marked by inefficiency as there were unauthorised occupancy of the hostel accommodation coupled with waiting list for hostel allotment. The fund management in the University was poor. As a result, unutilised funds of the University increased from ₹ 64.80 crore in the year 2006-07 to ₹ 97.15 crore in the year 2011-12. The University in violation of MHRD directions, diverted maintenance grant for payment of interest on GPF accounts of its employees.

Functioning of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow was established by the State Government in 1989 for imparting post graduate, doctoral/post-doctoral studies and research in Science & Technology. The University was notified (January 1996) as Central University and renamed as Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow under Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University Act, 1994.

Performance audit of the University revealed that the University did not achieve its objective in respect of opening of Schools and Departments as prescribed in the Academic Ordinance, 2004. The University was functioning with critical shortage of infrastructure, teaching staff and other amenities viz. hostels, sports complex, health centre. The utilisation of funds by the University was poor. As a result, the amount of un-utilised funds increased from ₹ 2.56 crore during 2006-07 to ₹ 54.30 crore during 2011-12.