

CHAPTER XX : MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Central Social Welfare Board

20.1 Unfruitful expenditure of ₹ 1.40 crore due to encroachment of land

Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) failed to respond appropriately to Government of NCT Delhi's initiative to resolve the encroachment of land purchased by CSWB in 1990 for construction of staff quarters, rendering unfruitful the entire expenditure of ₹ 1.40 crore incurred thus far.

The Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (Ministry), had acquired three acres of land in March 1990 at a cost of ₹ 18 lakh in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi from the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for construction of staff quarters.

CSWB released ₹ 2.58 lakh to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) in December 1990 for construction of boundary wall, and paid an advance of ₹ 55 lakh between March 1991 and March 1993 for construction of staff quarters¹. While the construction of the boundary wall was completed, the construction of staff quarters could not be started as the land was encroached upon by Jhuggi dwellers in 1994.

In March 2001, CSWB deposited ₹ 46.60 lakh with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) for removal of the Jhuggis. In September 2009, the Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi decided to allot flats to Jhuggi dwellers, and in April 2012, the Rehabilitation Branch of the NCT Delhi Government informed that the eligibility list of 142 Jhuggi dwellers had been signed and directed CSWB to deposit ₹ 1.06 crore as its share. In response to CSWB's request (May 2012) to Ministry for funds, Ministry asked (November 2013) CSWB to ascertain the share of the NCT Delhi Government and also the status of interest on the amount already deposited with MCD. CSWB did not proceed further with the matter till Audit raised an observation, following which, CSWB approached the NCT Delhi Government in September 2015. Till date, CSWB has incurred ₹ 1.40 crore² on the property.

Audit further observed that CSWB has not incurred expenditure on the security of the land after March 2003. CSWB has not provided a convincing reply on the status of the land, apart from reiterating (September 2015) that the land is encroached and that it had

¹ Cost of project was estimated at ₹ 7.84 crore in October 1993

² Cost of land ₹ 18 lakh, advance of ₹ 55 lakh to CPWD, ₹ 2.58 lakh for construction of boundary wall, ₹ 46.60 lakh to MCD for removal of encroachments and ₹ 18.24 lakh on security of the land

made several efforts for removal of Jhuggis but due to lengthy procedure for obtaining approval from different authorities, the status-quo was maintained. CSWB also stated (January 2016) that it had sought clarifications from the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board regarding share of expenditure between CSWB/Government of India and Delhi government for removal of Jhuggis.

The fact remains that even after the Rehabilitation Branch of NCT Delhi Government secured an agreement with the Jhuggi dwellers in April 2012 to vacate the land, CSWB failed to respond to Ministry's queries and thus failed to have the agreement implemented. Thus, inaction of Ministry and CSWB to act on the initiative of NCT Delhi to rehabilitate the Jhuggi dwellers resulted in failure to provide staff quarters on land acquired more than 25 years ago and also led to unfruitful expenditure of ₹ 1.40 crore.

The matter was reported to the Ministry (October 2015); their reply was awaited (January 2016).