

CHAPTER XIV : MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

14.1 Non recovery of unutilised grants-in-aid

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports failed to organise the Himalayan Region Games despite release of grants-in-aid of ₹1.27 crore in March 2015 and to recover the unutilised grants-in-aid along with interest of ₹ 62.44 lakh from the State Government of Assam.

Rule 212 of General Financial Rules (GFRs), 2005¹ envisages monitoring of utilisation of the grants through the mechanism of Utilisation Certificates (UCs) containing the disclosure that the fund has been utilised for the purpose for which it was sanctioned and the amount remaining unutilised at the end of the year has been surrendered to the Government.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister, while presenting the Union Budget for 2014-15, announced (July 2014) an annual sports event to promote the unique sports traditions of the States²/Countries in the Himalayan region and to bring a vast majority of people living there on one common platform by inviting countries such as Nepal and Bhutan to participate in the sporting event.

Accordingly, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) decided to organise an annual sports event and a scheme namely Himalayan Region Sports Festival (later on renamed as Himalayan Region Games) was formulated. Under the Scheme, sports competitions were to be conducted in eight disciplines³ and Guwahati (Assam) or Imphal (Manipur) were identified for organising the HRG, annually, so that permanent sports infrastructure is created and utilised every year.

MoYAS estimated the annual requirement of funds of ₹ five crore to organise Himalayan Region Games (HRG). MoYAS decided (December 2014) to organise the games at Guwahati, Assam. Subsequently, MoYAS released (March 2015) ₹ 1.27 crore, as first instalment, under Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) to State Government of Assam (SGoA) for preparatory activities as there was no separate budget provision for HRG during the year 2014-15.

¹ Rule 239 of General Financial Rules (GFRs), 2017 contains similar provisions for providing grants-in-aid

² Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and the North Eastern States

³ Archery, Athletics, Boxing, Football, Judo, Taekwondo, Wrestling and Fencing

Further, it was planned to organise the HRG in the month of February 2016. However, it could not materialise as 12th South Asian Games were held at Guwahati during the period between 05 and 16 February 2016.


Audit noticed that the Ministry could not organise the HRG in the subsequent years also despite separate budget provisions of ₹ 21.00 crore (₹ 15.00 crore in 2017-18, ₹ 5.00 crore in 2018-19 and ₹ 1.00 crore in 2019-20) being allocated for the purpose.

Consequently, no expenditure was incurred, and ₹ 1.27 crore released in March 2015, thus, remained unutilised.

On this being pointed out (June 2018 and January 2020), MoYAS stated (June 2018 and January 2020) that due to lack of adequate response from the Indian Olympic Association, the event could not be organised in spite of dates being finalised many times. Besides, they did not demand refund of ₹ 1.27 crore from SGoA as they had been making continuous efforts to organise the event during the year 2018-19. MoYAS, however, stated (February 2020) that they had demanded (September 2019) refund of ₹ 1.27 crore along with interest thereon from SGoA, which has not been refunded so far.

MoYAS, thus, not only failed to organise the games in 2014-15 despite release of ₹ 1.27 crore, but also did not recover the same along with interest of ₹ 62.44 lakh from SGoA as of February 2020.

New Delhi
Dated: 19 February 2021


(SUNIL DĀDHE)
Director General of Audit

Countersigned

New Delhi
Dated: 25 February 2021


(GIRISH CHANDRA MURMU)
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