

CHAPTER V : STORES AND STOCK

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

5.1 Locking up of funds due to idling of stores

Procurement of material without realistic assessment led to locking up of funds to the extent of Rs.12.49 lakh.

5.1.1 Test-check (September 2000) of records of Executive Engineer (Public Health Engineering), Investigation Unit Division, Shillong revealed that 22 items of water supply materials like mild steel rod, galvanised iron pipes, hand pump, etc. valued at Rs.13.16 lakh (Appendix XXVI) were procured by the Division between March 1988 and May 1996 for stock. Records made available to Audit did not indicate any demand of such materials from the executing divisions. Between August and December 2000, materials valued at Rs.0.67 lakh only were issued for utilisation in different works and the balance materials worth Rs.12.49 lakh were lying in stock unutilised (March 2002).

5.1.2 Thus, procurement of material without assessment of actual requirement resulted in idle stock with consequent locking up of Government funds of Rs.12.49 lakh for period ranging from 4 to 13 years. Prolonged storage could have led to deterioration of stores. But no effective steps were taken for the disposal of these. The department had also not initiated action to fix responsibility for unnecessary purchases.

5.1.3 The matter was reported to Government in October 2000 and May 2002; reply had not been received (November 2002).