

# PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

(2016-2017)

ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATURE

REPORT (FIFTH)

ON

THE REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR  
GENERAL OF INDIA (G &SSA) OF GOVERNMENT OF  
ANDHRA PRADESH  
FOR THE YEAR 2013-14 PERTAINING TO  
WOMEN, CHILDREN, DISABLED AND SENIOR CITIZENS  
DEPARTMENT

(Presented to the Legislature on 23.03.2017)

ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATURE (PAC)  
SECRETARIAT, VELAGAPUDI-522503.

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**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**  
(2016-17)  
(Constituted on 22-04-2016)

- |      |   |   |                         |
|------|---|---|-------------------------|
| 1.   | Sri B.Rajendra Nath                       | : | <b>Chairman</b>         |
| 2.   | Sri Thota Trimurthulu                     | : | Member from<br>Assembly |
| 3.   | Sri T. Sravana Kumar                      | : | ”                       |
| 4.   | Sri B.K. Partha Sarathi                   | : | ”                       |
| 5.   | Sri Gadde Ramamohan                       | : | ”                       |
| 6.   | Sri B. Uma Maheswara Rao                  | : | ”                       |
| 7.   | Sri P. Vishnu Kumar Raju                  | : | ”                       |
| 8.   | Sri A. Suresh                             | : | ”                       |
| 9.   | Sri Dadiseti Ramalingeswara<br>Rao (Raja) | : | ”                       |
| *10. | Sri T.D.Janardhan                         | : | Member from<br>Council  |
| 11.  | Sri B.Chengal Rayudu                      | : | ”                       |
| 12.  | Sri Subhash Chandra Bose Pilli            | : | ”                       |

**LEGISLATURE SECRETARIAT:**

1. Sri K. Satyanarayana Rao, Secretary (i/c.)
2. Sri P. Balakrishnamacharyulu, Deputy Secretary
3. Sri P.V. Subba Reddy, Assistant Secretary
4. Sri K.V.V. Satyanarayana, Section Officer

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\* Vacant – w.e.f 13.01.2017

# INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts (2016-17) having been authorized the Committee to present the Fifth Report, on their behalf, do present this report on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (G &SSA) of Government of Andhra Pradesh for the year 2013-14 pertaining to **Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens Department**.

2. The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (G &SSA) for the year 2013-14 was laid on the Table of the House on 26-03-2015.

3. The Committee examined the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (G &SSA) of Government of Andhra Pradesh for the year 2013-14 pertaining to Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens Department at their sitting held on 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 27<sup>th</sup> October, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 and 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 and the Committee approved and adopted the Report at its meeting held on 08-03-2017.

4. A statement showing the Summary of Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee is appended to this Report.

5. The Committee placed on record their appreciation of the assistance rendered to them by the Principal Accountant General (G & SSA), Andhra Pradesh and their officers and staff; Secretary to State Legislature (i/c) and their Officers and Staff in examination and preparation of the Report. The Committee would like to express their thanks to the officers of Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens Department and other Officers and Staff of the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the Co-operation in giving information to the Committee.

Velagapudi,  
Dated:08-03-2017.

**B.RAJENDRANATH ,**  
CHAIRMAN,  
Public Accounts Committee.

**Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Report  
of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the  
year 2013-14 (G&SSA)**

**Government of Andhra Pradesh**

**Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens  
Department**

1. Para 4.1 Page 65 of Audit Report 2013-14

**Welfare and Protection of Girl Child**

1.1 Children are the future of the nation and they have to be nurtured in a healthy atmosphere with proper food and education. The Constitution of India through the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles protects the rights of children and directs the State to ensure that the children are protected from abuse, and are provided early childhood care and education. As defined in the Women's and Children's Institutions (Licensing) Act, 1956, a girl who has not attained the age of 18 years is a child. GoI and successive State Governments have launched several interventions for ensuring the welfare and protection of children including girl children. Apart from the above, there are some other schemes and Acts for ensuring the welfare and protection of children in general, which are not specifically aimed at the girl children but are equally applicable to them like Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act<sup>1</sup>, Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005<sup>2</sup>, Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (amended in 2000), etc.

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<sup>1</sup> To deal with juveniles in onflict with law and are in need of care and protection

<sup>2</sup> To review safeguards provided by law for protecting child rights

Based on a pilot study in the capital district of Hyderabad, seven districts were selected for detailed audit scrutiny namely Hyderabad, Adilabad, Medak, Krishna, SPS Nellore, Prakasam and Kurnool based on parameters like literacy rate of women, drop outs of girl children in Classes I to X, infant mortality rate, crime rate against girls/women, etc. Implementation of Gol and State schemes relating specifically to welfare and protection of girl child like Bangaru Talli, KGBV<sup>3</sup>, KSY<sup>4</sup>, SABLA<sup>5</sup> and GCPS<sup>6</sup> was examined in Audit. Although ICDS<sup>7</sup> and SNP<sup>8</sup> relate to both boys and girls, 42 Anganwadi centres were visited along with departmental officials viz., Child Development Project Officers (CDPO), Supervisors and Anganwadi workers to physically verify the availability of amenities and the extent of nutrition being provided to girl children and adolescent girls.

#### Para 4.3 Fund allocation and utilisation

State Government does not follow gender based budgeting. In its absence the total amount allocated and utilised for the welfare and protection of girls in the State as a whole is not discernible. However, the total allocation and utilisation of funds on specific girl child related schemes scrutinised in Audit.

Gol and State Governments have been providing funds for implementation of various schemes which have components

<sup>3</sup> Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyaya.

<sup>4</sup> Kishori Shakti Yojana

<sup>5</sup> Rajiv Gandhi scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls

<sup>6</sup> Girl Child Protection Scheme

<sup>7</sup> Integrated Child Development Services

<sup>8</sup> Supplementary Nutrition Programme

involving girls like ICDS, SNP, ICPS, etc. Allocation and expenditure under these schemes have not been included in the above chart since they are not exclusively for girls. Audit scrutiny revealed that allocated funds were not released in full by the State Government in any of the years during 2009-14 and even the short released amounts were not expended as detailed below, which impacted focused implementation of the schemes.

- (i) Out of Rs. 713.11 crore allocated for KGBV during the period 2009-14, only Rs. 567.28 crore was released and the amount expended was even less at Rs. 474.08 crore.

*In Explanatory Notes, Government replied that funds were released based on the requirement and availability of funds.*

- (ii) Though the entire allocation of Rs. 10.66 crore was released for construction of compound walls to KGBV schools during 2013-14, only an amount of Rs. 6.63 crore was expended for the purpose. Physical verification of 12 sampled KGBVs in the test checked districts revealed that six schools have no compound walls, which has a direct impact on the security and protection of girl children.

*In Explanatory Notes, Government replied that construction of 94 compound walls was in progress in the State. Further, construction of 75 compound walls was not considered due to paucity of funds after State bifurcation.*

(iii) As per SABLA scheme guidelines, for nutrition component, the sharing pattern of funds should be 50:50 between Central and State Governments. Though GoI released its share of Rs.15.19 crore under nutrition component and Rs. 4.45 crore towards non-nutrition component State Government has not released either the GoI share or its own matching share. As a result, during 2010-11 SABLA scheme was not implemented, depriving eight lakh adolescent girls of the benefit.

*In Explanatory Notes, Government stated that GoI released funds in January 2011, guidelines for implementation of scheme were communicated only in March 2011. Hence, the scheme was implemented from 2011-12 onwards.*

#### 4.4 Welfare of girl children

GoI and State Governments have initiated specific schemes for the welfare of girl children from their birth to adulthood involving provision of nutrition (including supplementary nutrition where required), access to pre-school as well as formal education and health care. Extent of provision of each of these services is detailed below.

##### Para 4.4.1 Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP)/SABLA

AWCs are to provide supplementary nutrition for 25 days a month for all 12 months in a year to children (6 months to 6 years) and women in low income and disadvantaged communities to bridge the calorific gap between the

nationally recommended intake and average intake. Growth monitoring and nutrition surveillance are two important activities that are to be undertaken in AWCs. Further, severely malnourished children are to be provided special supplementary feeding and referred to medical services.

Major programmes for enhancing nutrition to children include Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP). Under SNP, for children aged 6 months to 3 years, take-home ration in the form of Modified Therapeutic Food (MTF) is to be supplied.

Audit findings with regard to implementation of SNP in AWCs are given below:

(i) In the six test checked AWCs of Krishna district, there was no supply of food under SNP during 2009-10 (104 days) and 2013-14 (72 days).

*In Explanatory Notes, Government replied that the gaps were due to AWW dharnas and non-supply of food by the AP Foods during that period. Government also stated that it initiated new nutrition programmes.*

#### 4.4.2 Health

Major health perils faced by girl child include susceptibility to various infectious and nutritional diseases. As per SABLA scheme, out of school Adolescent Girls attending AWC have to be given two adult IFA tablets per week. Audit observed that in Adilabad district, IFA tablets were not provided to the AGs during 2012-14. Similarly in Hyderabad IFA tablets were not supplied during 2011-12.

Health and Academic Identity (HAI) cards have to be maintained at the *Welfare hostels* and *KGBVs* to record the health and academic performance related to each of the boarders. However, HAI cards were distributed in only 5<sup>9</sup> out of 14 test checked Social Welfare Hostels; 3<sup>10</sup> out of 14 test checked Tribal Welfare Hostels; 5<sup>11</sup> out of 14 test checked BC Welfare hostels and in 6<sup>12</sup> out of 12 test checked KGBVs.

#### **Para 4.4.3.2 Welfare of children above 6 years of age**

KGBV scheme was launched in July 2004, for setting up residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging predominantly to SC, ST, OBC and minority communities. As of March 2014, there were 743 KGBVs (up to 10<sup>th</sup> class) in the State. The responsibility of running these schools is primarily with Rajiv Vidya Mission. In Andhra Pradesh, 1,22,653 girls were enrolled (sanctioned strength: 1,48,600 @200 girls per KGBV) in KGBV schools as of March 2014.

#### **Infrastructure and amenities in KGBVs**

In KGBV, Reddygudem it was observed that the building was located beside a graveyard in unhygienic condition. Hostel authorities confirmed that selection of the site was not judicious.

*In Explanatory Notes, Government replied that the KGBV was constructed in site handed over by the Revenue authorities and the department had no role.*

#### **Financial protection**

##### **Para 4.5.2.1 Girl Child Protection Scheme (GCPS)**

The New Girl Child Protection Scheme was launched in April 2005 and aimed at eliminating gender discrimination, eradicating female infanticide, improving sex ratio to empower and protect the rights of girl children and women through direct investment from Government. The management of the scheme was entrusted to LIC<sup>13</sup> of India, Hyderabad. The scheme provides for risk coverage for life insurance for the girl child commencing from the age of 3 years. A single girl child is entitled to receive Rs. 1 lakh after completion of 20 years of age and in case of two girl children, both of them are entitled to receive Rs. 30,000 each after completion of 20 years of age. Project Director is the nodal officer of the scheme in the district.

#### **Variations between figures of department and LIC**

There is wide variation in the number of beneficiaries enrolled as per WD&CWD, LIC (for which demand was raised and bonds were issued) and NIC data. As per the departmental figures 5,85,351 beneficiaries were enrolled for the period from 2005-06 to 2012-13, whereas payments were made to LIC for 6,18,896 beneficiaries. Against the above, bonds were issued only in respect of 4,77,164 beneficiaries. This could have led to possible excess

<sup>9</sup> Utnoor, Asifabad, Gudur (Kurnool), Balayapalli (SPS Nellore), Darsi (Prakasam)

<sup>10</sup> Laxelipet, Kottalacheruvu, Gudur (SPS Nellore)

<sup>11</sup> Vuyyuru, Medak, Ramachandrapuram, Podalalaku, Secunderabad

<sup>12</sup> Jannaram, Talamadugu, Reddygudem, Kurnool, Narsapur, Raikoda

<sup>13</sup> Life Insurance Corporation



payment to LIC towards premium for about 33,545 beneficiaries. The department has not made any effort to reconcile the figures.

*In the Explanatory Notes, Government confirmed that total no. of beneficiaries was 618896 for which payment was made to LIC as per information provided by LIC which was in variation from departmental figures. The process of reconciliation of figures was still in progress.*

#### *Processing/disbursement of claims*

Audit scrutiny with regard to processing and disbursement of claims revealed the following:

- Claims amounting to Rs. 85.94 lakh settled by LIC and paid to the Commissioner, WD&CW for disbursement to the nominees of the insured parents, were lying with the latter as of July 2014 without disbursement.
- Against 142 claims proposed by Project Directors (PDs), 106 claims were settled by LIC and 34 claims were returned to PDs for want of information. The remaining claims were not paid due to non-availability of bank details.
- In **Kurnool**, 13 claims received during 2009-10 and 2011-12 pertaining to seven students were pending as of July 2014.
- In **Prakasam** district, claims of five death cases were not settled for want of proposals.
- In Adilabad district, seven death cases (2005-06 to 2009-10) and two maturity claims (2009-10 and 2010-11) were not paid the insured amount as the claims were not forwarded to LIC.

- Orphans enrolled in children homes and orphan homes were not being covered under the scheme in Adilabad district.

*In Explanatory Notes, Government stated that action is being initiated against the responsible officers for not forwarding the claims to LIC in time.*

*However, there was no mention about the compliance on the observations pointed out in Audit Report.*

#### *Non-issue of bonds by LIC*

In the test checked districts, 1,01,700 applications were received during 2009-14 of which, only 49,313 (48 per cent) bonds were issued leaving a balance of 52,387 bonds yet to be issued as of July 2014. Bonds were not issued at all during the years 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Thus, lack of coordination between the department and LIC led to variation in the number of beneficiaries, giving scope for payment of premium for non-existent beneficiaries. Further, delayed payment of premium resulted in levy of penalties besides non-issue of bonds and non-coverage of beneficiaries to that extent during this period. Moreover, due to the delay in processing the claims at various levels in the department and lack of bank detail, etc., girl children were deprived of the benefit under GCPS. The non/delayed settlement of claims has thus defeated the very purpose of the scheme.

*In the Explanatory Notes, Government replied that action is being initiated to issue bonds to all beneficiaries by the end of August 2016. Government also explained that in the residuary State, a total no. of 415121 girl children were enrolled under GCPS. Out of which bonds were issued only to 383769. Issue of bonds for 31,352 beneficiaries was still under process by LIC.*

#### **Para 4.5.2.2 Bangaru Talli Scheme**

With a view to facilitating faster socio-economic growth of the girl child and to empower women, “Bangaru Talli Scheme” was launched during the year 2013-14 to provide financial incentives to girl children born after 1 May 2013 on attainment of certain milestones in life till the age of 21 years on a yearly basis.

During 2013-14, Rs.80.30 crore was provided through supplementary provision in the budget. An amount of Rs.79.19 crore was drawn and adjusted to the PD accounts of Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) (Rs.64.66 crore) and Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) (Rs.14.53 crore). An amount of Rs.39.51 crore was only utilised covering 1,58,059 beneficiaries (57 per cent) as against 2,75,674 registered beneficiaries. The implementing agency SERP diverted an amount of Rs.1.42 crore towards administrative expenses (SPMU) which was not authorised as per the scheme guidelines. Further, there was a balance of Rs.41.30 crore (SERP: PD Account – Rs.21.20 crore, Current Account Rs. 7.75 crore and MEPMA-PD Account Rs.12.35 crore) as of April 2014.

UCs were not furnished by MEPMA so far. SERP furnished (March 2014) incorrect UC for Rs.42.17 crore as against the actual expenditure of Rs.20.33 crore in respect of 81,309 beneficiaries. Commissioner, WD & CWD has been furnishing the UCs for the entire amounts released to SERP and MEPMA instead of for the actual utilisation. In respect of the releases (Rs.14.53 crore) to MEPMA, the details of beneficiaries, district-wise registrations, expenditure, UCs, etc. were not available with the Commissionerate.

*In the Explanatory Notes, Government had not furnished any explanation for submission of incorrect UCs to Government. It was further replied that SERP had incurred the scheme funds on purchase of printing, stationery, software and hardware. Government further stated that MEPMA utilized Rs.3.77 crore out of Rs.14.53 released and there was a balance of Rs. 10.75 crore in PD Account as on 31.5.2015 and the PD Account had been transferred to Telangana State.*

**Institutional mechanism for monitoring implementation of Schemes and Acts**

#### **Para 4.6.1 State Level Monitoring agencies**

Government set up several agencies for monitoring the implementation of schemes for welfare and protection of girl children as detailed below:

(i) State Supervisory Board, State Level Multi Member Appropriate Authority and State Level Advisory Committee for monitoring the implementation of PC&PNDT Act. However, these Committees have not met at prescribed intervals to discuss and follow-up, as detailed below.

Committee	Functions	Meetings to be held during 2009-14	Meetings held
State Supervisory Board	Review the activities of appropriate authorities in implementation of provisions of Act	15	1
State Level Multi Member Appropriate Authority	Enforce standards prescribed for genetic counselling centre, genetic laboratory/clinic, grant suspend or cancel registration and to investigate complaints	60	5
State Level Advisory Committee	Advise State Appropriate Authorities on the provisions of the Act in order to monitor and review the implementation	30	5

Due to non-convening meetings at regular intervals, the Board/authority/advisory committee could not review the implementation activities, enforce prescribed standards, investigate complaints and advise appropriate authorities with regard to the provisions of the Act.

(ii) Government set up a State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW) in November 2012 to assess the performance of schemes related to women and children. Since inception the SRCW has evaluated only SABLA that too only in four out of seven districts where the scheme was being implemented.

Government replied (January 2015) that all the monitoring agencies would meet periodically/at regular intervals in future and setup resource centres.

**1.2 Initiating discussion on the Audit paragraph, the** Committee was informed that the Performance Audit on 'Welfare and protection of Girl child' was conducted with coverage of seven districts in the composite State of Andhra Pradesh, out of which four districts i.e., Krishna, Kurnool, Prakasam and SPS Nellore covering the period of five years from 2009-14.

1.3 With regard to non-utilisation of funds in School Education Department, the Committee noted that out of Rs.713.11 crore allocated for KGBV during the period 2009-14, only Rs.567.28 crore was released and amount expended was even less at Rs.474.08 crore.

1.4 The Chairman questioned as to why the funds were not utilised in full. In response, the Joint Secretary, KGBV replied that this was due to release of funds at the fag end of the year, difficulties in identification of sites for construction of hostels and delay in construction of hostels which were taken up.

1.5 The Chairman noted that there was a huge gap between the allocations, releases and opined that an effective management system should exist at the level of Principal Secretary to follow up the funds allocated and released from Gol.

1.6 The Committee opined that the Gol also releases funds to the States on its effective performance of spending the funds. The Committee expressed its serious concern over lack of seriousness of the department in putting efforts to get the funds from Gol.

1.7 The Committee, while observing the gap between allocations and expenditure, decided to recommend that effective financial management system should be adopted to allocate the funds on realistic estimates and releases and expenditure should also be in accordance with the allocations. Effective monitoring mechanism should also be evolved to monitor the funds flow in every phase for each individual scheme.

1.8 The Committee noted that a KGBV School building was constructed beside a graveyard in Reddygudem, Krishna district and questioned that in what way the girl students could be encouraged to join in KGBV schools when those were constructed nearby graveyards. Committee further opined that action should be taken on the officers responsible for selection of the site for construction of school building beside the graveyard.

1.9 The Chairman pointed out that there was some flaw in design, quality specification and supervision in construction of KGBV schools when compared with other buildings and stated that KGBV buildings develop cracks very soon after construction.

1.10 The Committee discussed about the construction of kitchen sheds in schools and highlighted the issue of non-clearance of bills to contractors even after completion of construction. Committee also pointed out the issue of closing of schools under the name of rationalization. The schools with sufficient students were also being closed based on the reports, with deflating figures, presented by the concerned school teachers who are not inclined to teach at the schools situated at faraway places.

1.11 The Committee was informed that Health and Academic Identity (HAI) cards have to be maintained at all the welfare hostels and KGBVs to record the health and academic performance related to each of the boarders. However, HAI cards were not being maintained in all the test checked BC, SC and ST welfare hostels and KGBVs.

1.12 The Committee observed that non-maintenance of the HAI cards was a grave mistake as there was no financial implication in it and it was merely a duty oriented issue; and indicates the negligence of the responsible officials in performance of their duties and the responsibility of maintenance of the cards should be fixed on the hostel warden.

1.13 The Committee observed that though the entire allocation of Rs.10.66 crore was released for construction of compound walls to KGBV schools during 2013-14, only an amount of Rs.6.63 crore was expended for the purpose. Physical verification of 12 sampled KGBVs in the test checked districts revealed that six schools have no compound walls, which has direct impact on the security and protection of girl children.

1.14 The Committee questioned the department as to why the entire amount of Rs.10.66 crore was not spent on the intended purpose.

1.15 In response, the Deputy Executive Engineer, SSA replied that the funds had lapsed due to non-completion of the works before the end of March 2014. Government proposed to raise the green fencing instead of compound wall around the KGBV hostel buildings.

1.16 The Committee viewed the lackadaisical approach of the department on construction of compound walls very seriously and expressed dissatisfaction over the proposal of the Department to set up green fencing with high raise plantation of ashoka trees around the Hostel buildings as a protection measure to KGBV students instead of construction of compound wall.

1.17 The Chairman opined that the proposal of green fencing was good but not sufficient for protection of girl students and strongly affirmed that compound wall is a most important part of any building, especially in schools and more specifically in case of schools meant for girls. Government should immediately take up this issue as a priority subject and allot the funds for completion of compound walls to all the KGBVs.

1.18 The Committee observed that non-completion of compound wall despite availability of funds was a clear lapse on the part of the Engineering department.

1.19 On discussion of hardships being faced by the girl students, Chairman opined that all school going girl children have to be provided with sanitary pads with a view to address the health concerns of girl students. Committee also recommended that a woman watchman should be appointed at each and every hostel as protection measure.

1.20 While expressing concern over the amenities provided to the students in KGBVs and welfare hostels, the Committee opined that facilities like mosquito repellent machines, sufficient number of wash rooms, toiletries, sanitary pads etc should be provided in all the girls' hostels and KGBVs. The pocket money should also be increased for the hostel boarders.

1.21 The Committee noted that though the GoI released its share of Rs.15.19 crore under nutrition component and Rs.4.45 crore towards non-nutrition component under SABLA scheme during 2010-11, State Government had not released either the

GoI share or its own matching share during that period. As a result the scheme was not implemented in the State during 2010-11 depriving eight lakh adolescent girls of the benefit.

**1.22** When the Committee sought to know the scheme modalities, the Joint Director, Women Development & Child Welfare (JD) replied that under this scheme, every adolescent girl in the age of 11-18 would be provided Nutritious food, Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation, Health check-up and Referral services etc.,. The details of all the school going and non-school going children are maintained by the Anganwadi worker in the respective village.

**1.23** The JD also stated that the SABLA scheme was initially introduced in seven districts as a pilot project in the composite State of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2010-11. In respect of the residuary Andhra Pradesh, Ananthapuramu, Chittoor, Visakhapatnam and West Godavari districts were covered under this scheme.

**1.24** When the Chairman sought explanation over non-release of the matching State share under SABLA scheme, the JD replied that the GoI had released the funds at the fag end of the year 2010-11 and the State Government released the funds in the next year, hence the project could not be commenced in the year 2010-11.

**1.25** Chairman expressed serious concern over non-implementation of SABLA scheme during 2010-11 and opined that Government should have taken initiation to get the funds from GoI on time.

**1.26** Principal Secretary replied that the GoI had announced the guidelines in the month of December 2010. GoI released funds in January 2011 and the State share in February 2011.

**1.27** The Committee noted that the Department had stated that there were no releases in 2010-11 under SABLA scheme and furnished different dates in the explanatory notes on the issue of guidelines by GoI.

**1.28** The Chairman expressed anguish over the negligent manner of the Department in furnishing the information to the Committee with wrong figures and stated that in the Explanatory notes, department had initially stated that there were no releases in 2010-11. However, after exhibiting the Audit evidence documents on releases, a revised Explanatory Notes was submitted stating that guidelines were received on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011 and finally stated that the guidelines was received in December 2010.

**1.29** The Principal Secretary, while admitting the fact of furnishing of wrong information, stated that this was due to lot of disturbances in the department during the State bifurcation and was not intentional.

**1.30** The Committee took a serious view of the negligent manner in which the Department had submitted the explanatory note to the Committee with the wrong information and wrong figures. The Committee opined that the Principal Secretary who signed the explanatory note should take responsibility and ensure that the information furnished to the Committee was correct.

1.31 While expressing serious concern over non-implementation of SABLEA scheme during 2010-11, the Chairman opined that Government should have taken initiation to get the funds from Gol on time and follow up mechanism should be adopted at the departmental level for getting the funds with regard to each scheme.

1.32 When the Committee enquired on present status of supply of nutritious food to children in Anganwadi centres, Principal Secretary stated that nutritious food to children was supplied by the AP foods in the combined State of Andhra Pradesh with the scheme titled 'Balamrutham'. After bifurcation of the State, the AP foods stopped supply of food. Consequent on bifurcation of the State, a scheme called 'Gorunuddalu' is being implemented in the State.

1.33 When the Chairman enquired as to whether any difference was there between 'Gorunuddalu' and 'Balamrutham', Principal Secretary stated that the former one was in the form of food and latter was fortified with some vitamins and more nutritious to children.

1.34 Knowing that 'Balamrutham' is the best nutritious food for children, the Chairman asked the Principal Secretary as to whether any proposal was there to procure food from neighbouring States or to start production in the State itself.

1.35 In reply, Principal Secretary stated that since 'Balamrutham' scheme was not being implemented in any other State, it has been decided to start own production in

Visakhapatnam on PPP mode and the TATA company had evinced interest in this programme.

1.36 The Committee opined that a food unit for supply of nutritious food should be established in the State immediately.

1.37 The Committee noted that the number of beneficiaries enrolled under Girl Child Protection Scheme (GCPS) was 585351 whereas payments were made to LIC for 618896 beneficiaries and bonds were issued only in respect of 477164 beneficiaries.

1.38 The Principal Secretary submitted that based on the NIC data, the number of beneficiaries was 6.18 lakh and the department had now reconciled the data with the LIC.

1.39 The Committee expressed anguish over inefficiency of the department in reconciliation of figures with LIC. The Committee also quoted the experiences faced by the Hon'ble members during visits to villages regarding complaints from the beneficiaries over non-receipt of LIC bonds. The Committee further stated the Hon'ble members of the Committee had witnessed many incidents of the poor beneficiaries running around the Government offices to get their bonds.

1.40 The Principal Secretary while admitting the inordinate delay in issue of bonds stated that there were about 16000 applications pending in the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh and promised to complete the process by November 2016.

1.41 The Chairman, while quoting the assurance given by the officials attended during the previous meetings to settle the issue by August, aggrieved with the reply of the Principal Secretary to issue the bonds by November. The Chairman also stated that it was a very serious issue that although the premium was paid to the LIC, nobody had put in any effort to follow up even after two years.

1.42 The Principal Secretary, while regretting the delay in issue of bonds, stated that this was due to lack of review by the Department and also stated that she had directed the Special Commissioner to review the issue on regular basis. The Principal Secretary also stated that the GCPS was introduced in 1996-97 and over a period of next 15 years, the scheme witnessed a number of changes. Thereby, there was some confusion in implementation of this programme.

1.43 The Committee is not satisfied with the reply of the Principal Secretary and stated that action should be initiated against the officials responsible for the lapses.

1.44 With regard to processing and disbursement of claims under GCPS, the Committee noted that although the LIC had settled claims to the tune of Rs.85.94 lakh and had paid the money to the Commissioner, WD&CW for disbursement to the nominees of the insured parents, the claims were not settled by the Commissioner. Further, Committee also observed that some claims were not settled for want of proposals and non-availability of bank details etc.

1.45 The Principal Secretary submitted that they had reviewed all the cases and would submit the details of all the cases to the Committee. The Principal Secretary also stated that after bifurcation of the State, the claims amounts were distributed during the period from August to October 2014.

1.46 The Chairman expressed anguish that in the explanatory notes submitted to the Committee, it was stated that efforts were being made to settle the claims and no details were submitted in respect of the claims settled or to be settled.

1.47 The Committee expressed its displeasure over non-reconciliation of the Departmental figures of the beneficiaries in respect of whom the Government had paid the premium to LIC with the figures of LIC.

1.48 The Committee with regard to observations on implementation of 'Bangaru Talli' scheme, noted that the funds under the scheme were not utilized fully and incorrect Utilisation Certificates for Rs.42.17 crore as against the actual expenditure of Rs.20.33 crore were furnished.

1.49 When Chairman sought reasons for not spending the entire funds and submission of incorrect UCs, the Director, SERP replied that the funds could not be utilized due to election code during 2014. As the scheme was closed, all the remaining funds in PD account and current account had been transferred to Women Development & Child Welfare department.



**1.50** The Chairman expressed dissatisfaction over non-utilisation of funds fully under Bangaru Talli scheme though registered beneficiaries as well as funds were available. The Chairman opined that action should be initiated on the responsible so as not to recur such lapses in future. Effective monitoring mechanism should be evolved to monitor the funds flow in every phase for each individual scheme and an internal audit system should also be set up for all the departments.

**1.51** The Secretary, Finance also reiterated the Chairman's opinion and stated that internal audit should be strengthened in administrative departments which have the schemes of the nature with crores of funds to ensure the fruits of labour should reach the genuine beneficiaries. Secretary, Finance also opined that no single individual should miss anything as one individual means one family.

**1.52** Regarding institutional mechanism for monitoring implementation of Schemes and Acts related to protection of Girl children, the Chairman enquired as to whether wanting of male child in preference to girl child has reduced to some extent.

**1.53** Principal Secretary, Health, Medical & Family Welfare Department replied that the child sex ratio (CSR) is dropping in the State and termed it as an indication that people are selectively aborting pregnancy in case of female children. The national average of female and male ratio is 914:1000 whereas it was 936:1000 in the State.

**1.54** The Chairman opined that education of mothers-in-law is very important and they play a key role in the matter of pregnancy of daughter-in-law.

**1.55** Adding to the discussion, Director, Health & Medical stated that action initiated to implement Pre Conception & Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act firmly so as to ensure that a qualified radiologist or a gynaecologist and obstetrician can only do the sonography tests. In this regard, eligibility examination to allow the doctors to conduct sonography tests was conducted twice. In the examination, 85 *per cent* doctors got through and the rest of the doctors have to undergo training for six months to get the eligibility to conduct sonography tests.

**1.56** The Committee noted that various monitoring agencies set up at State level for monitoring the implementation of PC&PNDT Act have not met at prescribed intervals. As a result, these agencies could not review the implementation activities, enforce prescribed standards, investigate complaints and advise appropriate authorities with regard to the provisions Act.

**1.57** The Committee felt unhappy with the functioning of the monitoring agencies set up at State level to monitor the implementation of PC&PNDT Act and recommended to convene meetings at prescribed intervals, investigate complaints and advise appropriate authorities with regard to provisions of the Act.

1.58 The Committee was informed that State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW) set up in November 2012 to assess the performance of schemes related to women and children had evaluated only SABLA scheme since inception.

1.59 The Committee expressed displeasure over the poor performance of the SRCW and observed that it had not been active in evaluating all the schemes related to women and children as prescribed.

1.60 While concluding the discussion on the paragraph, the Committee expressed anguish over the poor implementation of schemes related to welfare and protection of Girl child and recommended the following:

1.61 The Committee, while observing the gap between allocations and expenditure, recommended to adopt effective financial management system to allocate the funds on realistic estimates and releases and expenditure should also be in accordance with the allocations. There should be time bound mechanism on the lines of 'Disha' (which was being implemented by the GoI to monitor the implementation of schemes and programmes to promote synergy and convergence for greater impact) for effective monitoring of the funds flow in every phase for each individual scheme.

1.62 Government should follow scientific approach in selection of site and make the officials of the indenting department involve in selection of its suitability, particularly in respect of Educational institutions / Welfare hostels. Committee also recommended that the schools and hostels should be nearer to the town and recommended to extend guidelines framed for selection of site for Model schools and Navodaya schools for framing modalities for selection of site for construction of buildings for schools / welfare hostels.

1.63 Government should identify the number of compound walls that remained incomplete and reasons for non-completion. Government should take action to construct compound walls to all the KGBV schools on priority basis. Action should be taken against the Engineering officials who had failed in follow-up of works of construction and contractors in cases where the tendering of works was completed but the works were not commenced or the works were left incomplete.

1.64 The Committee recommended that all school going girl children have to be provided with sanitary pads with a view to address the health concerns of girl students and a standard mechanism should be adopted for disposal of sanitary pads in all the hostels, particularly in villages. Committee also recommended that a woman watchman should be appointed at each and every hostel as protection measure.

1.65 While expressing concern over the amenities provided to the students in KGBVs and welfare hostels, the Committee recommended that facilities like mosquito repellent machines, sufficient number of wash rooms, toiletries, sanitary pads etc. should be provided in all the girls' hostels and KGBVs. The cosmetic charges should be enhanced to 150 per month for the hostel boarders.

1.66 The Committee recommended that action should be initiated against the persons responsible for not maintaining the HAI cards. The Committee also recommended that Government should issue orders immediately to maintain Health and Academic Identity Cards in all the Social Welfare / Tribal Welfare / BC Welfare hostels and KGBV schools without fail.

1.67 The Committee, on furnishing the incorrect information, recommended to fix the responsibility on the officials who furnished incorrect information and take appropriate action.

1.68 Government should take necessary steps to establish a food unit immediately in the State for supply of nutritious food to children without any obstruction.

1.69 The Committee took very serious view over non-issue of LIC bonds to all the beneficiaries even after so much of time and recommended that immediate action should be taken to issue the bonds to all the beneficiaries identified under GCPs and premium paid to the LIC.

1.70 While expressing anguish over abnormal delay in processing and disbursement of claims of the GCPs beneficiaries, the Committee recommended that Government should take initiation to settle all the claims immediately. Responsibility should be fixed on the Officers responsible for the delay in settlement of claims in respective districts and disciplinary action should be taken against them. The Committee also recommended that an effective system should be established to review the cases monthly and to see the cases are settled at the earliest.

1.71 The Committee recommended that a Standard Operating Procedure specific to the programme should be designed in respect of each scheme implemented by Government and the implementation should be

monitored periodically to ensure that the benefits intended under the scheme reach the beneficiaries at appropriate time.

1.72 The Committee expressed serious concern over not spending the funds released under Bangaru Talli scheme fully and took serious view of submission of UCs for the entire releases without spending the money. The Committee recommended that accountability should be fixed against the officials responsible for not spending the funds although there were registered beneficiaries and the funds were available.

1.73 The Committee noted that the State Level Monitoring agencies set up for monitoring the implementation of PC&PNDT Act was also not functioning effectively and recommended to convene meetings at prescribed intervals, investigate complaints and advise appropriate authorities with regard to provisions of the Act.

1.74 The Committee felt unhappy with the performance of the State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW) by knowing that it had evaluated only one scheme since inception (2012) and recommended that SRCW should function actively and evaluate all the schemes related to women and children as prescribed. The Committee also recommended that functioning of SRCW should also be reviewed seriously.

Summary of observations and recommendations:

1. Para 4.1 Page 65 of Audit Report 2013-14

Welfare and Protection of Girl Child

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