

## CHAPTER VIII : MINISTRY OF CULTURE

### National Gallery of Modern Art

#### 8.1 Idle investment on storage system

**Failure of Ministry of Culture to fill up key posts in the National Gallery of Modern Art for over a decade resulted in failure to relocate 16,582 works of art to a new state of the art storage system, leading to idling of investment of ₹ 3.81 crore since March 2014.**

As the existing arrangements for handling, storage and retrieval of art works in its collection were inadequate, the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) proposed (October 2011) to set up<sup>1</sup> a State of the Art Storage System in a building constructed in 2009. The Ministry of Culture approved (July 2013) the proposal, and the work was completed (March 2014) for ₹ 3.81 crore. Till date (December 2016), NGMA has not shifted the 16,582 works of art in its collection to the new storage system.

NGMA attributed (February 2016) the failure to shift the collections to the fact that the posts of Deputy Curator and Curator of the art collection were lying vacant for the past ten years. NGMA further informed (August 2016) that the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) had inspected (May 2016) the security arrangements and its report was awaited.

Audit further observed however, that though NGMA had filled up the posts of Curator and Deputy Curator in August/September 2016, and the CISF security report has also been received (August 2016), NGMA/Ministry has taken no decision on the security report and the art collection has not been shifted to the new storage system till date (December 2016).

The matter was reported to the Ministry in July 2016; their reply was awaited as of January 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> At the dedicated area in the basement of new wing of Jaipur House.

## Tagore Cultural Complexes Scheme

### 8.2 Blockage of funds and loss of interest due to non-adherence to financial rules

**Failure of Ministry of Culture to monitor a project and incorporate suitable clause as stipulated in the financial rules, resulted in blocking of ₹ 2.14 crore and loss of interest of ₹ 0.86 crore on unutilised grant in aid released to Government of Goa under the Scheme for Tagore Cultural Complexes.**

Rule 209 (6) (xi) of the General Financial Rules (GFR) stipulates that the clause regarding refund of the amount of grant in aid, with interest thereon, should be brought out clearly in the letter sanctioning the grant.

Ministry of Culture released grant in aid (March 2012) of ₹ 2.14 crore to Government of Goa towards a project to beautify the Rabindra Bhawan Complex at Margao under the Scheme for Tagore Cultural Complexes, with the requirement that the project was to be completed in six months. Ministry, however, failed to monitor the project. The State Government finally informed (September 2014) that due to technical difficulties, it could not utilise the fund and refunded the grant (March 2016). Since Ministry had failed to incorporate the interest clause in the grant sanction letter, interest of ₹ 0.86 crore could not be levied.

Thus, failure of Ministry to monitor the project and to incorporate interest clause in the sanction order as stipulated by the GFRs resulted in blockage of ₹ 2.14 crore for four years and loss of interest of ₹ 0.86 crore.

Ministry informed (July and September 2016) Audit that necessary provisions regarding interest would henceforth be incorporated. Ministry is however required to put a system in place for better monitoring of projects for which grants have been released, so that funds are not unnecessarily blocked.