

CHAPTER IX : MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Films Division

9.1 Wasteful expenditure on pay and allowances

Films Division did not transfer eight surplus staff members to other offices of the Ministry or the surplus cell of the Department of Personnel and Training which resulted in wasteful expenditure of Rs. 32.67 lakh between 1999-2000 and 2004-05 on the pay and allowances of the surplus staff.

The office of the Deputy Chief Producer, Films Division, Delhi region had eight tea makers, wash boys and girls who were being utilised in the four tiffin rooms of the unit offices of the Films Division located at Tolstoy Marg, Pandara Road, Pushpa Bhawan and Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi. The first three unit offices were shifted to Soचना Bhawan, New Delhi during 1998-99.

Audit examination revealed (May 2005) that apart from the Films Division, the Soचना Bhawan and Paryavaran Bhawan buildings housed other offices also and had a central canteen. The Films Division was not provided with any separate space in these buildings for running its tiffin rooms. Consequently, the eight staff members earlier engaged for tiffin rooms became surplus. The Deputy Chief Producer, Delhi Region brought (July 1998) these facts to the notice of the Chief Producer, Films Division, Mumbai and requested him to take up the matter with the Ministry and explore the possibility of absorbing these surplus employees in other canteens. However, no response was received despite his reminders of November 1998 and December 1999. Audit did not notice any evidence in the records produced and examined to show that the Films Division, Mumbai had taken up the matter with the Ministry. In the meanwhile, the Films Division did not transfer these surplus staff either to the other offices of the Ministry or to the surplus cell of the Department of Personnel and Training for posting to other offices or canteens. The surplus staff were paid Rs. 32.67 lakh as pay and allowances during 1999-2000 to 2004-2005 though they were not engaged in any work nor was there any work for them in the tiffin room. This payment was continuing at the rate of Rs. 0.60 lakh per month.

Thus, the failure of the Films Division to transfer eight surplus tea makers, wash boys and girls to other offices resulted in wasteful expenditure of Rs. 32.67 lakh during 1999-2000 to 2004-05 on the pay and allowances of idle staff. The wasteful expenditure was continuing @ Rs. 7.20 lakh per annum.

The matter was referred to the Ministry in October 2005. Reply was awaited as of February 2006.