

## Performance audit report on 'Educational Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes'

### Highlights

- Two indicators of educational development i.e gross enrolment rate (GER) and gross dropout rate (GDR) displayed an adverse trend in respect of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe boys and girls. The gap in GDR between general candidates and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates which was 6.7 *per cent* and 15.1 *per cent* in 2001-02 deteriorated to 10.4 and 16.6 *per cent* in 2003-04 respectively.
- Underutilisation of funds, inter-state imbalances in allocation of funds, non-availing of central assistance, delayed/non/short release of funds, unspent balances lying with States/UTs, diversion of funds etc which are symptomatic of deficient financial management were observed in respect of most of the schemes.
- The schemes were not given adequate publicity resulting in poor awareness of different schemes amongst the target population.
- Large numbers of cases of short delivery and non delivery of benefits i.e scholarships, book banks, hostels, coaching classes, awards, etc in respect of most of the schemes came to notice in the audit.
- There were delays in disbursement of scholarships, establishment of book banks, construction of ashram schools and hostels etc.
- Ineligible beneficiaries including those whose parents' income exceeded the prescribed limit were recipients of benefits such as scholarships, which indicated lax internal control.
- The hostel accommodation provided to beneficiaries lacked basic facilities like drinking water, toilets, furniture and power supply etc.
- In respect of schemes operated through NGOs, deficiencies included non-adherence to ceilings/norms of schemes, inadequate facilities of coaching staff and accommodation, failure to make alternate arrangements for beneficiaries in the event of closure of projects etc.
- Funds were not recovered from NGOs who were blacklisted and assets acquired from grants-in-aid were not recovered from NGOs to whom financing was discontinued due to unsatisfactory performance.
- Failure to monitor the receipt of different reports and returns relating to the schemes, maintain databases in respect of different schemes, carry out on the spot inspections in the states/UTs/NGOs, conduct independent evaluation of schemes and inadequate internal audit rendered the internal controls weak.