

# **CHAPTER II**

## **SOCIAL SECTOR**



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### 2.1 Introduction

This Chapter of the Audit Report deals with audit findings on functioning of the Government departments falling under Social Sector.

The names of the Government departments, total budget allocation and expenditure of the Government under Social Sector during the year 2019-20 are given in the table below:

**Table 2.1: Departments, budget allocation and expenditure under Social Sector during 2019-20**  
(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Department	Total Budget Allocation	Expenditure
1	Culture Department	25.55	24.46
2	Ecclesiastical Affairs	24.10	23.56
3	Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs	40.03	22.69
4	Health Department	479.95	432.60
5	Education Department	1,277.03	1,198.54
6	Labour Department	5.63	5.82
7	Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare	276.67	202.38
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,128.96</b>	<b>1,910.05</b>

Besides the above, the Central Government had been transferring funds directly to the implementing agencies under the Social Sector. The major transfers for implementation of flagship programmes of the Central Government are detailed below:

**Table 2.2: Major transfers for implementation of flagship programmes of the Central Government**

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Department	Name of the Scheme/Programme	Implementing Agency	Funds transferred during the year
1	Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare	Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes.	Muyal Liang Trust (MLT)	21.79
2	Cultural Department	Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana	Human Development Foundation of Sikkim, GRBA Road Chongey Tar, Gangtok, East Sikkim	8.68
4			Himalayan Heritage Research and Development Society	3.38
5	Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare	Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse Establishment Expenditure – AYUSH National AIDS and STD Control Programme	Association for Social Health in India	18.55
			SMPB Sikkim	281.89
			Sikkim State AIDS Control Society	554.19
6	Education Department	Atal Innovation Mission	Greendale Senior Secondary School	12.00
			Sadam Senior Secondary School	12.00
		Beti Bachao Beti Padhao	District Collector, BBBP, North Sikkim	47.50

Sl. No.	Name of the Department	Name of the Scheme/Programme	Implementing Agency	Funds transferred during the year
		Establishment	Ash Bahadur Subba	0.19
		Expenditure Higher Education	Mrs. Jyotshna Mayee Patra	0.40
		National Service Scheme	Sikkim State NSS Cell	166.35
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>1,132.18</b>

Source: Finance Accounts

## **2.2 Planning and conduct of audit**

Audit process starts with the assessment of risks faced by various departments of Government. The assessment is based on expenditure incurred, criticality/complexity of activities, level of delegated financial powers, assessment of overall internal controls, etc.

After completion of audit of each unit on a test check basis, Inspection Reports (IRs) containing audit findings are issued to the heads of the departments. The departments are to furnish replies to the audit findings within one month of receipt of the IRs. Whenever replies are received, audit findings are either settled based on reply/action taken or further action is required by the audited entities for compliance. Some of the important audit observations arising out of the IRs are processed for inclusion in the Audit Reports. The Audit Reports are submitted to the Governor of the State under Article 151 of the Constitution of India for laying on the table of the Legislature.

Test audits were conducted involving expenditure of ₹ 485.99 crore (including expenditure of ₹ 13.63 crore of previous years) of the State Government under Social Sector. The details of year-wise break-up is given in *Appendix 2.1*.

This Chapter contains one Compliance Audit Paragraph.

## COMPLIANCE AUDIT PARAGRAPH

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## 2.3 Unfruitful expenditure due to non-utilisation of asset

*Due to indifferent approach of the Department for construction of residential buildings and other facilities for Government College, the infrastructure created at a cost of ₹ 4.05 crore remains un-utilised.*

To mitigate the problem of residential accommodation faced by the Principal, other faculty members, staff and students of the Government Degree College, Kamrang, South Sikkim, and provide other infrastructure, the Education Department (Department) submitted (May 2006) to the Government a proposal for “ Construction of Residential Buildings, Hostels and Approach Roads and Compound Fencing for the College<sup>5</sup>”. The proposal was approved (June 2006) by the Cabinet for ₹ 485.62 lakh which was later revised to ₹ 504.45 lakh in March 2007. The work was sanctioned under Accelerated Development of Less Developed Areas (Plan) under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna (RSVY).

The Civil Work was awarded (June 2006) to the lowest bidder at a cost of ₹ 392.33 lakh (30 per cent above estimated value) with stipulated completion period of eighteen months *i.e.* by January 2008. The work was revised (March 2007) to ₹ 504.45 lakh.

Scrutiny of records (February 2021) revealed the following observations in audit.

- The work was completed in August 2013 at a cost of ₹ 404.84 lakh with a delay of more than four years and the completed buildings were handed over to the College authority on October 2013 after full inventory check as per approved plans and specifications.
- Despite completion of the work on August 2013 and its satisfactory hand over to the College authorities in October 2013, the financial closure of the work was not done due to fund constraint. Further, due to absence of copy of revised work order, record of the issuance of the same in the file, the revised work order was approved/ issued (January 2018) *ex-post facto* with total work value of ₹ 406.08 lakh after a delay of more than four years of completion.
- The College authority, however, have not yet utilised the assets despite lapse of more than eight years. This was despite the fact that the handing/taking over note had clearly mentioned that works were completed as per the approved plan and specification and that inventory and sanitary items were thoroughly examined. The buildings were in dilapidated condition and were unfit for occupation as seen in the following photographs:

<sup>5</sup> One Unit Principal's quarter, 12 Units Lecturers' quarter and 12 Units Class III & IV quarters.



- The reasons attributed by the College Authorities for non-occupation of these residential buildings over the period were:
- Water connection was not proper, rust had developed in GI pipes, there was no connection of waste pipe for wash basin and Sintex tanks required replacement.
  - Electrical wiring was done in haphazard manner, most of the switches were non-functional, there were breakage of electrical wire.
  - Civil works were of sub-standard quality and within very short span of constructions; the cracks had appeared in the building as can be seen from photograph above.
  - Due to leakages during the monsoon and dampness, the paints had withered out.

The reasons put forward by the College authorities do not seem logical as the buildings were taken over after full inventory check and the certification that the construction was as per approved plan and specification. In view of the above, these points of defect appear to be an afterthought.

The authorities have carried out (September 2016) repair and renovation of Girls and Boys Hostel by incurring an expenditure of ₹ 11.99 lakh. Now, the College Authorities (April 2022) requested the Department for further repair and renovation works at an estimated cost of ₹ 20 lakh, to make the facility habitable.

Thus, the overall expenditure of ₹ 4.17 crore incurred for construction and repairs of these facilities was rendered wasteful as the students were deprived of hostel facilities and the faculties and staff of the college were denied government residential facilities. Simultaneously, the Government has been paying substantial amount as House Rent Allowances since the last eight years despite availability of Government accommodation.

The matter was reported to Department; their replies is awaited (April 2022).

***Recommendation:*** Department may fix the responsibility for non-utilisation of the assets created and may take necessary action to utilise the same in a time bound manner.

