

Budget Division
Ministry of Culture

As on August 2021

Item No. 21B

Pending CAG Paras in Ministry of Culture as on August 2021

Brief details of Pending Audit Paras

1. Paragraph No.3.1 of 2013 - Undue benefits to employees of Asiatic Society

Para Brief: The Asiatic Society, Kolkata, extended undue benefits of Rs.3.09 crore to its employees, which were inconsistent with the provisions of the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations and Modified Assured Career Progression Scheme. Further, it routinely extended the services of staff beyond superannuation age.

2. Paragraph No.8.1 of 2018 - Idle investment on storage system in National Gallery of Modern Art

Para Brief: 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 Rs. 3.81 crore since March 2014.

3. Paragraph No. 6.1 of 2018- Schemes for Promotion and Preservation of Cultural Heritage related to SangeetNatakAkademi

Para Brief: Under the Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India (ICH scheme), only 35 out of 324 projects sanctioned during 2013-14 to 2015-16 had been completed while 96 grantees did not furnish even the first reports as of March 2017. Akademi had reported to the Ministry of Culture (MoC) expenditure of Rs. 5.77 crore against the actual expenditure of Rs. 4.25 crore under the ICH Scheme. Grants under the Scheme of Financial Assistance to Cultural Institutions were sanctioned in violation of scheme guidelines and a majority of the project proposals were not being routed through state academies/governments and approvals were accorded without due documentation.

4. Paragraph No.6.3 of 2018- Excess contribution to employees' provident fund in Asiatic Society, Kolkata

Para Brief: In contravention of the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Scheme, 1952, the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, deposited excess provident fund contribution of Rs. 1.19 crore in respect of 160 employees.

5. Para 3.1 of 2020 – Modernization of Indian Museum

Para Brief: Indian Museum, Kolkata awarded the modernisation work on nomination basis and executed the work without any conservation plan or preparation of Detailed Project Report and proper planning. Major works pertaining to providing modern storage system, fire-fighting, fire detection and prevention and HVAC were not taken up though sanctioned. It also did not ensure financial safeguards and failed in monitoring of the quality of work in the initial phases. Works sanctioned at a cost of ` 83.66 crore were executed for ` 105.70 crore, with works estimated to cost ` 25.76 crore not awarded at all. Proper conservation processes were also not followed during renovation resulting in damage to priceless artefacts.

Pending PAC Para

Para No. 21 of Report No. 118 on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations Recommendations of the PAC contained in their 39th Report of 16th Lok Sabha on “Preservation and Conservation of Monuments and Antiquities”

Para No. 21: The Committee are distraught to note that while the Ministry have already claimed to have expedited the establishment of NMA and appointment of members therein during evidence before the Committee, there still remains two vacant posts of Whole Time Members and five of Part Time Members in the NMA since the last three years. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry may furnish a detailed explanation for such an inordinate delay, and a note explaining *inter alia* as to why such a lapse should not be construed as misleading to Parliamentary Committee. They also recommend that the remaining vacant positions may be expeditiously filled by convening the Selection Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary at the earliest, and in no case later than two months from the presentation of this Report to Parliament. The Committee in no uncertain words reiterate their earlier recommendation for the Ministry to evolve.