

3.1.13 Recommendations

Government may:

- (a) Clearly prescribe the action to be taken by the line departments to mitigate the risks of all possible disasters and ensure strict implementation of the same by all the line departments, and (b) as envisaged in the NDMA Guidelines, school safety may be given due priority in the DMPs at all levels.
- Identify equipment required to tackle various kinds of disasters and ensure that a minimum number of such equipment are available at the DDMA and the RDMC levels.
- The Government, the DDMA, the RDMCs and the GMDMA may establish a system to ascertain that timely action has been taken by the line departments on the recommendations made by the respective authorities from time to time.

Social Justice and Special Assistance Department

3.2 Functioning of Hostels for Backward Class Students

3.2.1 Introduction

The Department of Social Justice and Special Assistance (SJSAD) of Government of Maharashtra (GoM) was responsible for promoting the educational, social and economic interest of the Backward Class (BC) students and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. Amongst the schemes implemented by SJSAD, establishment¹⁵ of government hostels (GHs) for BC students¹⁶ was one of the schemes implemented since 1922.

The Secretary, SJSAD is the administrative head and is assisted by Commissioner, Social Welfare (CSW), Pune. The schemes were implemented and monitored by CSW with the assistance of Additional Commissioner, Pune and Joint Commissioner, Pune. At the field level, there are seven Regional Offices¹⁷ headed by Regional Deputy Commissioners (RDCs), Social Welfare. Assistant Commissioners (ACs) at district headquarters monitor and control the functions of GHs and Government Residential Schools (GRSs) at district and taluka headquarters. At the Zilla Parishad level, District Social Welfare

¹⁵ Establishment of Government hostels includes maintenance and providing of basic facilities to the BC students

¹⁶ BC students include Schedule Caste and Nav boudhas (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Vimukta Jati & Nomadic Tribe (VJNT), Economical Backward Class (EBC), Special Backward Class (SBC), physically handicapped and Orphans

¹⁷ Amravati, Aurangabad, Latur, Mumbai, Nagpur, Nashik and Pune

Officers (DSWO) monitor and control the functions of aided hostels at district and taluka headquarters.

Audit test-checked (between January and May 2018) records at SJSAD, Mumbai, CSW, Pune and seven RDCs. From each region, one¹⁸ AC of Social Welfare and one DSWO of Zilla Parishad were selected on the basis of highest number of GHs and aided hostels in the district covering the period from April 2013 to March 2018. The sample size included 33 GHs out of 127 GHs, all the 21 GRSs and 54 out of 523 aided hostels in the seven¹⁹ selected districts.

The audit objective was to assess whether, comprehensive plan based on identified needs was in place to create and operate the hostel infrastructure for BC students, provision and utilisation of funds was adequate and in adherence to the financial rules and budgetary procedure and functioning of the government BC hostels, residential schools and aided hostels in the State was effective to enhance the educational level of the BC boys and girls. The Audit involved scrutiny of the records, collection of data and information through questionnaires, site inspection with the department officials and collection of evidence.

Audit Findings

3.2.2 Financial Management

3.2.2.1 Under-utilisation of funds

The year wise position of available funds under Plan outlay and the expenditure incurred thereof are as detailed in the **Table 3.2.1**.

Table 3.2.1: Year wise position of available funds under Plan outlay
(₹ in crore)

Year	By Government of Maharashtra			By District Planning Development Committee (DPDC)		
	Budget	Grant released by GoM	Expenditure	Budget	Grant released by GoM	Expenditure
2013-14	621.57	527.30	326.61	14.99	14.39	12.87
2014-15	714.96	714.96	398.81	17.17	17.02	14.98
2015-16	724.00	591.62	391.73	24.07	23.87	19.59
2016-17	837.86	724.45	419.67	32.60	32.59	29.03
2017-18	1096.91	805.43	727.85	35.53	25.43	25.43
Total	3995.30	3363.76	2264.67	124.36	113.30	101.90

Source: Information furnished by SJSAD, Mantralaya

Analysis of the above table revealed the following:

- The funds released under plan heads were not utilised fully. As against ₹ 3,363.76 crore released by SJSAD during the last five years, only ₹ 2,264.67 crore (67 per cent) was spent. Thus, an amount of ₹ 1,099.09 crore was surrendered. Similarly, as against ₹ 113.30 crore

¹⁸ Amravati (Amravati Region), Aurangabad (Aurangabad Region), Ahmednagar (Nashik Region), Chandrapur (Nagpur Region), Latur (Latur Region), Pune (Pune Region) and Ratnagiri (Mumbai Region)

¹⁹ Amravati, Aurangabad, Ahmednagar, Chandrapur, Latur, Pune and Ratnagiri

released by the DPDC, ₹ 101.90 was spent resulting in surrender of ₹ 11.40 crore.

- Though the expenditure under plan heads was not commensurate with the demand and funds released by SJSAD in the last five years, the SJSAD continued to place demands on higher side every year without analysing the reasons for short utilisation of funds.

The analysis of a major head 2225-3331 (*soyi suvidha*) dealing with providing 37 basic amenities for the hostels revealed that under this head of account, the SJSAD had made excessive budget provision persistently as detailed in the **Table 3.2.2**.

Table 3.2.2: Analysis of a major head

(₹ in crore)

Year	Budget provision	Expenditure	Re-appropriation (percentage)	Surrendered grant
2013-14	125.00	17.32	(-) 82.65	25.04
2014-15	105.94	26.90	(-) 52.00	27.05
2015-16	67.00	31.02	00	35.98
2016-17	137.86	8.11	(-) 84.76	44.99
2017-18	60.00	12.63	(-) 35.37	12.00
Total	495.80	95.98 (19%)	(-) 254.78 (51%)	145.06 (29%)

Source: Information furnished by SJSAD, Mantralaya

The above statement indicated that only 19 per cent of the available funds were spent during the last five years. Remaining funds were either re-appropriated (51 per cent) or surrendered (29 per cent). Thus, the funds provided for amenities were not utilised fully. The shortfalls of amenities in the GHs are discussed in **paragraph 3.2.4.1**.

3.2.2.2 Blocking of funds

SJSAD had released funds from time to time to PWD²⁰ for the construction of GHs and GRSs. PWD, Pune had submitted (January 2017) a statement of utilisation of funds which revealed that an amount of ₹ 56.90 crore²¹ (released between the period May 2010 and May 2016) was lying un-utilised with the PWD, Pune. In the light of the statement, the CSW, Pune sought (August 2017) clarification from SJSAD regarding credit of the balance amount with Government or to be retained with CSW, Pune. The reply from SJSAD was awaited (October 2018). Though a significant period of seven to eight years had elapsed since the release of fund, the same remained unutilised with the PWD, Pune and no action was taken by the CSW, Pune to reconcile and get the refund of ₹ 42.78 crore from the PWD, Pune in respect of GHs for which even the land was not available.

The Secretary, SJSAD while accepting the facts stated (May 2018) that necessary action would be taken to obtain the unspent amount from the PWD Pune.

²⁰ Public Works (Building) Division, Pune being nodal agency

²¹ Out of ₹ 56.90 crore, ₹ 14.12 crore was the balance unutilised amount after completion of constructions which were refunded by the different PW divisions to PWD, Pune and ₹ 42.78 crore pertained to non-construction of GHs and GRSs buildings due to non-availability of land at district or taluka headquarters

In the test checked ACs, irregular release of funds and blocking of fund in the following cases were observed.

- In AC Amravati, Audit observed that PWD, Pune had released (February 2007) grant of ₹ 4.42 crore to PWD, Amravati for construction of GRS at Nandgaon Khandeshwar. Due to delay in execution of work, PWD, Amravati submitted (November 2012) a revised estimate of ₹ 12.09 crore which was accorded (September 2013) sanction by SJSAD for ₹ 9.73 crore. CSW, Pune released (January 2014) additional grant of ₹ 9.73 crore to SWD, Pune which released the amount to PWD, Amravati without considering the earlier released grant of ₹ 4.42 crore. This had resulted in excess release of grant by the CSW, Pune and PWD, Pune to PWD, Amravati. PWD, Amravati completed (May 2018) the construction work of GRS building at a cost of ₹ 9.73 crore. Thus, the excess released grant amounting to ₹ 4.42 crore was lying unutilised with PWD, Amravati since January 2014. The PWD, Amravati had neither refunded the unspent grant of ₹ 4.42 crore to PWD, Pune nor CSW, Pune had obtained the utilisation certificate from PWD, Pune (May 2018).

The Secretary, SJSAD accepted the facts.

- In Latur, it was observed that CSW, Pune had issued orders (August 2014) to RDC, Latur to purchase land from Water Resources Department (WRD), Hingoli for construction of GH at Vasmat taluka and released ₹ 3.09 crore to RDC, Latur. RDC, Latur released (September 2014) the grant of ₹ 3.09 crore to AC, Hingoli for purchase of land. However, even after lapse of more than four years AC, Hingoli did not purchase the said land from the WRD, Hingoli (May 2018). RDC, Latur stated that Collector, Hingoli had communicated (October 2016) that since the land belongs to WRD, the same would be handed over free of cost. Further, necessary proposals in this regard were to be moved at Government level. However, till June 2018, no proposals in this regard were moved at Government level. Thus, the fund of ₹ 3.09 crore released for purchase of land remained blocked with AC, Hingoli.

The Secretary, SJSAD stated (May 2018) that the funds were released for purchasing the land from the Godawari Marathwada Irrigation Development Corporation. The fact remained that RDC, Latur and AC, Hingoli were not aware of the land-owner. Laxity on the part of AC, Amravati and AC, Hingoli resulted in blocking of ₹ 7.51 crore (₹ 4.42 crore + ₹ 3.09 crore) for a period of four years.

3.2.2.3 Non-imparting of computer training to the students of government hostels resulting in injudicious expenditure of ₹ 24.78 crore

The SJSAD selected (July 2012) three²² agencies for providing training in the operation of computers, personality development and banking competitive exams to 37,068 students of secondary and higher secondary schools residing in GHs for the seven regions. The agencies were to provide training²³ and payments were to be made as per the conditions²⁴ stipulated in the contract. Out of the 30 *per cent* payment scheduled to be made based on passing of examination by students, proportionate payments²⁵ were to be released to the agencies. The SJSAD had placed (August 2012) ₹ 35.40 crore with CSW, Pune.

Audit observed that the CSW, Pune had released (September 2012) an advance payment of ₹ 10.62 crore (30 *per cent*) to the agencies. As against the bank guarantee (BG) of ₹ 10.62 crore (30 *per cent*) to be obtained from the agencies, the CSW, Pune obtained BG of only of ₹ 2.79 crore from the agencies at the time of issue of work order (August 2012). Further payment of ₹ 14.16 crore (40 *per cent*) was made (between September 2012 and May 2013) to the agencies assuming that the four months' computer training was completed. Though the exams of the students were not conducted by the agencies and the CSW, Pune without ensuring the same released payments of ₹ 14.16 crore which was irregular as the payments were released contrary to the contract norms. The total payment of ₹ 24.78 crore (70 *per cent*) was released to three agencies.

In the selected districts, audit observed that in four²⁶ districts the agencies had not provided any training to the students and in three²⁷ districts the information was not made available. The CSW, Pune had forfeited (October 2017) the BG of ₹ 1.29 crore of one Agency only. The status of forfeiting of BG of remaining two agencies were not furnished by CSW, Pune. The balance grant (30 *per cent*) of ₹ 10.62 crore was surrendered (November 2014) by CSW, Pune to the SJSAD.

Thus, the total expenditure of ₹ 24.78 crore without ensuring the fulfilment of conditions resulted in injudicious expenditure. The BG of two agencies were also not forfeited though a period of more than three years had elapsed resulting in expiry of BG.

²² (i) Core Education & technologier Ltd (for Mumbai and Nagpur); (ii) Zenith Software Ltd (for Pune and Amravati region); and (iii) Birla Shloka Edutech Ltd (for Nasik, Aurangabad and Latur region)

²³ The Agencies were to provide 260 to 520 hours of training to each student on six different courses of which 260 hours training in two courses was compulsory and training in one course out of remaining four courses was mandatory

²⁴ The agencies were to be paid 30 *per cent* advance payment at the time of issue of work order, 20 *per cent* after completion of four months (300 hours) training and remaining 20 *per cent* after completion of entire training

²⁵ 10 *per cent* would be released on passing of 50 *per cent* students, 20 *per cent* would be released on passing of 60 per cent students and full 30 *per cent* would be released on passing of 80 *per cent* students

²⁶ Ratnagiri, Ahmadnagar, Chandrapur and Latur

²⁷ Amravati, Aurangabad and Pune

The Secretary, SJSAD while accepting the facts stated (May 2018) that the irregularities were noticed in implementation of training programme and a First Information Report (FIR) was lodged with Anti-Corruption Bureau and investigation was in progress.

3.2.3 Planning

3.2.3.1 Establishment of Government Hostels

i) Non-establishment of Government Hostels for Backward Class students in 128 taluka headquarters

As of 2005-06, 271 hostels were in existence in the State. Over the years the number of higher educational institutes like Diploma in Education (D.Ed) colleges, Higher Secondary Schools, Industrial Training Institutions (ITIs), Polytechnic, Agricultural, and Medical Institutes *etc.*, were opened at the taluka headquarters. SJSAD therefore decided (June 2007) to establish 100 new hostels (60 for boys and 40 for girls) with a capacity of 100 inmates covering all the taluka headquarters. However, no specific time frame for establishment of new hostels was prescribed by SJSAD. As per the norms prescribed by SJSAD for selection of taluka for establishing GHs, the talukas which had more population of Schedule Castes (SC) as per the census of 2001 and talukas which did not have a single GH was to be selected. The analysis of talukas covered and GHs established revealed that:

- Of the 271 GHs in existence as of 2005-06, 204 GHs were located in 168 talukas and district taluka headquarters and 67 GHs were located in 35 district headquarters. As such, 185 taluka headquarters remained to be covered.
- Out of 101²⁸ GHs sanctioned during the year 2006-07, 64 hostels were opened in 54 new taluka headquarters and 37 hostels were opened in the taluka headquarters where already GHs were in existence. Thus, only 54 new talukas were covered and 131 taluka headquarters remained to be covered.
- In the year 2015-16, 50 Girls GHs were proposed (December 2015) to be opened on the occasion of 125 birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, of which only 42 were established in taluka headquarters. Of these, only 13 GHs were opened in new taluka headquarters and 29 GHs were opened in talukas, instead of taluka headquarters, where GHs were in existence. As of June 2018, there were 363 talukas in 35 districts. Thus, as of September 2018, 128 talukas (118 + 10 newly created talukas) headquarters were yet to be covered despite the fact that requirements from the taluka headquarters for new GHs were received.

Further analysis revealed that the population of Scheduled Castes in the 128 talukas ranged between 1,146 and 1,23,203 as per 2001 Census. However, SJSAD selected those talukas which were having less SC population as per

²⁸ As against the proposal of 100 GHs, 101 GHs were actually sanctioned and taken up at the time of execution

Census 2001 ranging between 803 and 1,00,053. No specific reasons were found on records.

The Secretary, SJSAD accepted the facts and stated (May and September 2018) that it had established GHs based on the 2001 Census. Further, it was stated that opening of GHs in notified talukas was not possible due to non-availability of land. Consequently, the demands of local representatives and the requirements of boys and girls were taken into account and GHs were opened in other than the notified talukas. However, the department would establish the GHs in other taluka headquarters considering population as per 2011 Census in second phase.

The fact remained that the SJSAD failed to identify the talukas having no GH and to establish GHs in 128 taluka headquarters having large SC population as per 2001 Census. This has resulted in depriving the BC students of these talukas from the GHs facilities.

ii) Delay in enhancement of sanctioned intake capacity

Out of the 271 old GHs, 164 GHs were running in rented premises and the remaining in old Government buildings as of May 2018. Audit observed from the records of the CSW, Pune that 37 GHs out of 164 GHs which were having intake capacity of 75-80 students per hostel were shifted between the period 2011 and 2016 to newly constructed premises having intake capacity of 100 students. The CSW, Pune had forwarded (July 2016) a proposal for increasing the sanctioned intake capacity of these hostels to SJSAD. However, the SJSAD did not accord sanction for revision of the sanctioned intake capacity of these hostels till June 2018. No reasons for non-sanction by SJSAD were found on record. An analysis of the applications received in the 37 GHs located in ten districts revealed that 47,378 and 21,144 applications were received for admissions during the year 2016-17 and 2017-18, against the overall vacancies of 8,255 and 6,288 seats respectively. In the test checked three²⁹ districts, during the year 2016-17 and 2017-18 as against the vacancies of 293 seats and 173 seats in ten hostels, 1,823 and 602 applications respectively were received. Thus, the demand for the admissions in the hostels was considerably on the higher side. However, failure to increase the sanctioned intake capacity (of 20-25 BC students seats) in these GHs resulted in 905 BC students seats remaining vacant every year. Further, 10 GHs in four³⁰ test checked districts, were shifted to new premises between the period 2010-11 and 2016-17. Of these, two GHs were shifted during the year 2016-17. However, the proposal forwarded by CSW, Pune in July 2016 did not include the two GHs shifted during the year 2016-17.

Thus, the total seats remaining vacant in these 39 GHs worked out to 955 seats since their shifting to the new premises.

The Secretary, SJSAD, stated (September 2018) that, proposals in this regard have already been submitted (March 2017) to the Finance Department of GoM for approval. The approval was awaited (June 2018).

²⁹ Amravati, Latur and Pune

³⁰ Amravati, Chandrapur, Latur and Pune

The reply may be viewed in light of the fact that the intake capacity should have been increased as soon as the hostels were shifted. Further, delay in enhancement of sanctioned strength resulted in deprivation of benefits to the BC students.

iii) Non-adherence to the stipulated norms of admissions led to deprivation of admissions to Scheduled Caste students in Government Hostels

SJSAD had prescribed (May 1984) the district wise norms³¹ of percentage of seats of Scheduled caste (SC), Scheduled tribe (ST), Vimukta Jati & Nomadic tribe (VJNT) students to be admitted in the 271 existing GHs every year. Further, to maintain uniformity in admission process in all the GHs, SJSAD revised (May 2012) the norms of admission of seats to 80 *per cent* for SC and 20 *per cent* for other categories³². Though the revised norms were implemented from 2013-14 onwards, the same were not applied to the admission process in respect of existing 271 GHs. The SJSAD allowed the 271 GHs to follow the old norms only for the year 2013-14. As such, the old GHs were required to follow the revised norms from 2014-15 onwards. In the test checked 81 GHs (out of 271 GHs) in the seven districts, the admissions of SC students done during the year 2014-18 are detailed in the **Table 3.2.3**.

Table 3.2.3: Analysis of admissions done during the year 2014-18

Year	SC Students to be admitted as per new norms (80 <i>per cent</i>)	SC Students actually admitted	Short fall due to non-adoption of revised norms
2014-15	5540	2741	2799
2015-16	5540	2900	2640
2016-17	5540	2974	2566
2017-18	5540	3021	2519
Total	22160	11636	10524
<i>Source: Information furnished by CSW, Pune</i>			

Thus, a total of 10,524 seats meant for SC students were filled up by students of other categories thus depriving 10,524 admissions to SC students. The data of applications received for admissions to the hostels were not readily available with the CSW, Pune. The SJSAD stated (September 2018) that during the period 2016-18, as against 42,923 vacancies in a year, 95,465 applications in 2016-17 and 53,967 applications in 2017-18 were received. It was also confirmed that the number of applications received during the period 2013-16 was not available. Further, it was stated that to compensate the students who were not provided with hostels, the scheme of swadhar was launched.

iv) Under-utilisation of seats in hostel running in rented buildings

As of June 2018, 435 GHs were established by SJSAD of which 205 GHs were functioning in rented buildings. Audit observed that 71 GHs out of 205 GHs which had the sanctioned intake capacity ranging between 75 and 250 were utilising only 5,007 seats as against the total sanctioned seats of

³¹ District wise norms for SCs ranged between 11 *per cent* and 85 *per cent*

³² Three *per cent* for ST, five *per cent* for VJNT, five *per cent* for EBC, two *per cent* for SBC, three *per cent* for physically handicapped and two *per cent* for orphans

7,585. Thus, due to opening of GHs in rented buildings with lower capacity, 2,578 students were deprived of admissions in the GHs every year.

The SJSAD in reply stated (September 2018) that the lands are generally acquired for construction of hostel. However, in cases where lands are not readily available, rented premises were identified considering the intake capacity of the hostel.

The reply is not tenable as the intake capacity of 71 hostels were not considered while hiring the buildings. The reply was also silent on the action being initiated by the SJSAD to plug the shortfall in admission of students in hostels due to hiring of buildings with less intake capacities.

3.2.3.2 Establishment of Government Residential Schools

The SJSAD decided (June 2006) to establish GRSs in each of the 353 taluka headquarters with intake capacity in each GRS of 200 students. The SJSAD in the first phase considered construction of 100 GRSs with a budget provision of ₹ 442 crore against which SJSAD released an amount of ₹ 327.08 crore initially in March 2007 to CSW, Pune for construction of 74 GRSs. The funds were deposited with the Public Works (Building) Division, Pune (being the Nodal agency) by the CSW, Pune time to time as per the requirements. The taluka was to be selected considering the maximum population of SC and Nav Boudhas in the talukas, their literacy percentage and the requirement for opening GRS as may be determined by the Committee³³. Further, the model plan of Amravati pattern³⁴ (April 2007) was to be adopted in the construction of GRSs.

The SJSAD initially planned to start the GRS from the academic year 2007-08 onwards. However, due to non-construction of GRSs in time, the SJSAD decided (June 2011) that the GRSs would be started in the newly constructed Government buildings from the academic session 2011 onwards.

Audit observed that:

- SJSAD as of June 2018, had constructed and started only 80 GRSs. In respect of remaining 20 GRSs, four GRSs were completed but were not handed over by the PWD, the construction work was in progress in Seven GRSs in seven taluka headquarters, in two GRSs tender process has been initiated by the PWD, proposals of three GRSs was pending at Government level for administrative approval, in two cases revised approval was pending and in two cases land acquisition was in progress. Thus, even after a lapse of seven years, the objective of SJSAD to commence 100 GRSs from the academic session of 2011-12 in Government owned building could not be achieved.

³³ A Committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, GoM, Principal Secretary SJSAD, Principal Secretary, School Education and Sports Department, Director of Education (primary), Pune, Director, Social Welfare, Pune as members

³⁴ The pattern finalised (April 2007) by SJSAD consisted of construction of 'ground floor for residence of boys/girls, first floor for school education and second floor for other activities as determined by SJSAD. Apart from this, there should be open a play ground, parking place and cycle stand *etc.* There should be residential facilities for Warden as well as Head Master in the GRS'

The Secretary, SJSAD confirmed (May 2018) the facts.

- The locations of GRSs of 23 taluka headquarters were changed by the SJSAD from one taluka place to another taluka headquarters within the district or from one district to another district without obtaining the approval of the committee. Further, in 14 taluka headquarters, the location of GRS was changed without assigning any reasons for the change, whereas in nine taluka headquarters, the reasons for change of GRS were attributed to non-availability of land. The Secretary, SJSAD attributed (May 2018) the reasons for change of taluka headquarters to a) non-availability of land in the notified taluka headquarters, b) demand from public representative and c) availability of land at other taluka headquarters.

The reply is not acceptable as 14 GRSs were transferred only on the demand from public representatives contrary to notification issued by the committee based on SC and Nav Boudhas population, literacy percentage and need for opening GRS. Further, the reply was silent on the issue of non-obtaining the approval from the Committee for transfer of GRSs from one taluka place to another.

- The GRS of AUSA Taluka of Latur district was constructed in a small village Lamjana which is approximately 20 kilometers from AUSA taluka. The selected site was in the outskirts of the village and adjacent to an open crematorium. Thus, wrong site was selected for construction of GRS at Lamjana village instead of AUSA taluka. The Secretary, SJSAD stated (May 2018) that due to non-availability of land in AUSA taluka, the GRS was shifted to Mouza Lamjana of AUSA taluka. Necessary instructions would be issued to AC, Latur to shift the open crematorium to another place through Tahsildar of AUSA taluka concerned.

The reply is not acceptable as establishment of GRS in concerned village was contrary to the decision of SJSAD.

3.2.3.3 Construction of Hostels at Regional Level

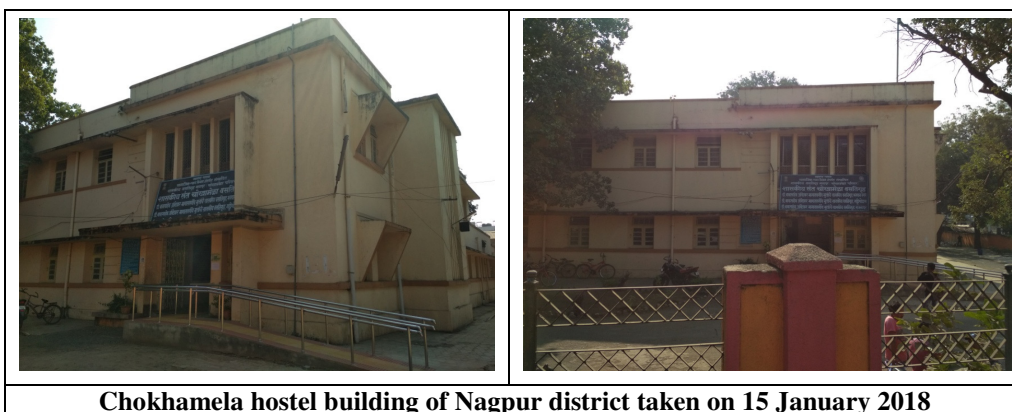
The SJSAD had also constructed hostels at regional levels to accommodate 1,000 students (four units of 250 capacities each) in each region. The observations of Audit in the establishment of these hostels are detailed in succeeding paragraphs.

i) Improper planning in construction of hostel building at Nagpur

The administrative approval for ₹ 24.61 crore was accorded (February 2007) for the construction of 1,000 capacity hostel building in Nagpur. CSW, Pune accorded (April 2009) sanction for demolishing the existing building of Sant Chokhamela Hostel complex for construction of new hostel building at Nagpur. The Nagpur Improvement Trust (NIT) was appointed (June 2012) as an agency for execution of work. The existing Sant Chokhamela Hostel

complex housed four hostels³⁵ in two buildings. The NIT submitted (January 2016), the revised estimate of ₹ 58.42 crore to the SJSAD to which High Power Committee³⁶ (HPC) accorded (March 2016) approval and thereafter funds were released by CSW, Pune to AC, Nagpur. Audit observed that the HPC was not apprised of the fact that existing hostel building was to be demolished while obtaining approval.

The Secretary, SJSAD during his visit to the site in March 2016 observed that the existing Chokhamela hostel building was in good condition. The Secretary also expressed (April 2017) that, if the SJSAD was to construct a new hostel building for 200 or 225 students it would cost at least ₹ 15 crore. Further, the old building with some renovation could be put to use for an extended life. The Superintending Engineer, PWD, Nagpur was directed to finalise an estimate for renovation or repair of these two buildings. During Joint field visit (15 January 2018) of the said buildings audit observed that the condition of these buildings was good as shown in the photographs.



The work of construction of new hostel was not commenced (September 2018). The SJSAD had opened four hostels (August 2012) in rented buildings having lower capacity (150 against sanctioned 250) and incurred an expenditure of ₹ 3.32 crore on rent till February 2018. The SJSAD released (March 2016) grant of ₹ 58.42 crore to AC, Nagpur for construction of hostel building in Nagpur. The amount was lying with the AC, Nagpur till February 2018 and was subsequently transferred (February 2018) to the NIT, Nagpur. This led to deprivation of benefits of hostel building facilities to 1,000 students of Nagpur region and unnecessary blocking of ₹ 58.42 crore.

The Secretary, SJSAD while accepting the facts stated (May 2018) that instructions would be issued to carry out the structural audit of the existing hostel building. Further, Department did not furnish progress in regards to renovation work.

The fact remained that the final decision on whether the existing building was to be demolished and new hostels to be constructed was still pending.

³⁵ Sant Chokhamela Hostel (120 students), Bhagwan nagar hostel (75 students), Gaddigodam hostel (150 students) and Rajnagar hostel (75 students)

³⁶ HPC consists of Principal Secretary, SJSAD; Secretary, PWD and Deputy Secretary, Finance Department

ii) Non-construction of hostel building in Mumbai

The construction of hostel building at Mumbai was decided (June 2006) to be taken up on the land³⁷ belonging to Women and Child Development Department (WCDD) which was in the compound of Beggars' home of Chembur, Mumbai. It was also decided to develop the said land through privatisation on Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis by Public Works (Building) Division, Mulund, Mumbai. For the purpose, a plan was prepared and the project was approved (August 2007) by the Cabinet Committee for Infrastructure Development. As per project report, out of the total available land of 1,81,249.08 square meter, 40,000 square meter land was allotted to the contractor for construction of commercial and residential buildings, in lieu of construction of government buildings on the remaining land of 1,41,249.08 square meter. The Executive Engineer, World Bank Project Division, Mumbai issued (June 2008) work order to M/s Zeal Ventures, Mumbai with stipulated period of 42 months for completion of work.

Audit noted that the selected land reserved for Beggars' home was de-reserved in April 2010, and hence PWD had to give first extension to the contractor upto December 2011. However, as the local people created obstacles during April 2010 to December 2014, PWD had to give second extension to the contractor up to December 2017. Further owing to cutting of trees and other miscellaneous reasons, the work remained held up till August 2017.

As against the scope of work, the contractor started (September 2017) the work of one unit of 250 girls hostel building and executed it only upto first floor slab (September 2018). The contractor failed to start the remaining work of boys hostel even after lapse of ten years period. The PWD had submitted (December 2017) another proposal to the Government for extension upto December 2020, approval for which was awaited (September 2018).

The photographs of the girls hostel building (taken on 06 February 2018) executed by the contractor are as under:



Incomplete Girls' hostel at Chembur, Mumbai taken on 06 February 2018

Thus, due to awarding work to the contractor by PWD, Mulund without ensuring clear title of land, execution of hostel building could not be taken up till September 2017. Non-construction of hostel buildings in Mumbai city, deprived 1,000 backward class students, coming for higher education from every nook and corner of the State, of hostel facility for a whole decade.

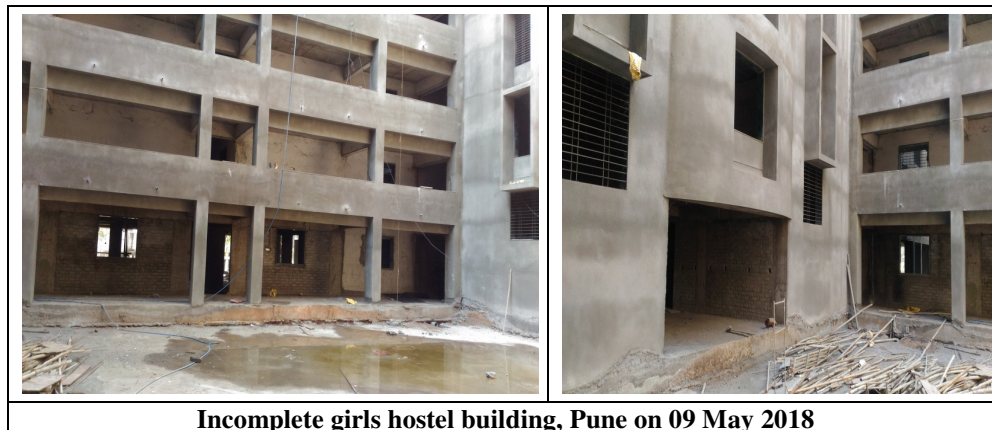
³⁷ Out of the total area of 1,41,249.08 squares meter, 25,450.14 square meter land was to be utilised by WCWD, 33,635.97 square meters by the SJSAD for construction of hostel buildings, 77,892.08 square meter for Administrative Building and remaining 4,270.88 square meter for Rest House building

The Secretary, SJSAD accepted the facts and stated (September 2018) that the construction work of girls hostel building was in progress.

The fact remains that the contract for construction of hostel building was awarded in absence of clear title as envisaged in PWD manual and due to lack of co-ordination between PWD, Mulund and SJSAD, the details of the works executed by the contractor, copy of agreement and work order issued to contractor and the current status of the work are not available with the SJSAD and CSW, Pune.

iii) Cost overrun in the construction of hostel building in Pune

The construction of hostel building at Pune was taken up on the land of Central Jail, Yerwada, Pune which was made available (May 2008) by the Home Department. Audit observed that the SJSAD handed over (February 2009) the identified land to PWD, Pune without ascertaining that the said land was clear from encumbrances. However, the CSW, Pune pointed out (August 2009) to SJSAD that the said land was reserved for the purpose of construction of primary school and development of park. The clearance of reservation on the said land took four years from the date of taking over possession of the land. PWD, Pune issued the work order (February 2012) for first phase building and for second phase (October 2013) building after a lapse of three years with stipulated period for completion of work as 24 months (first phase) and 18 months (second phase) respectively. However, due to delay in clearance of reserved land the cost of the work escalated from ₹ 24.61 crore to ₹ 53.60 crore. Audit observed (May 2018) that an up to date expenditure of ₹ 30.69 crore was incurred and the contractor had not completed the buildings though a period of six years had elapsed. The status of girls hostel building is shown in the photographs taken during joint field visit on 09 May 2018.



Thus, failure on the part of CSW, Pune to verify the title of the land before handing over the land to PWD resulted in delay in execution of work and cost overrun ₹ 28.99 crore. This also deprived the students of the intended benefits.

The Secretary, SJSAD accepted (May 2018) the facts.

iv) Unfruitful expenditure on construction of one unit of girls hostel

GoM accorded (March 2007) sanction for construction of a hostel at Latur as per the approved model plan of Amravati pattern³⁸. GoM subsequently had issued (June 2007) a resolution wherein it was directed to construct independent four separate units. However, the work order for construction of hostel complex consisting of two buildings was issued (September 2008) ignoring the June 2007 directions and the hostel was constructed as per the model plan and handed over to SJSAD (August 2011) at a cost of ₹ 37.87 crore. Audit observed that out of the four units, only three units meant for boys were being utilised. The portion of the hostel constructed for girls' students was lying unutilised since August 2011. Further, it was observed that the 250 girls admitted for the hostel were housed in a nearby constructed vacant ITI hostel building. Due to the non-utilisation of the girls unit, the flooring of the rooms of the unit also got damaged. Thus, the infrastructure created at a cost of ₹ 9.47 crore for girls students remained unfruitful.

The Secretary, SJSAD while accepting the facts stated (May 2018) that from the point of view of security, girls students were temporarily shifted to ITI hostel building.

The reply is not acceptable as the directions of GoM of June 2007 was ignored by RDC, Latur and consequently the students were housed in the ITI hostel since the taking over of the new hostel building in August 2011. Further, the reply was silent on the action proposed for utilising the vacant hostel building.

3.2.3.4 Non-disbursement of financial assistance of ₹ 119.21 crore under Swadhar Yojana

SJSAD had observed (January 2017) that due to steady increase in the commercial and non-commercial schools, the applications from the Schedule Caste and Nav Boudh (SC & NB) students after 10th class for admission into these schools was increasing. These SC & NB students also applied for hostels. However, considering the shortages of hostels and the time lag in constructing new hostels, the Government formulated a scheme of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Swadhar Yojana (scheme). The scheme sought to provide financial assistance to a student so as to compensate the expenses of room rent, meals and travelling expenses to the extent of ₹ 60,000, ₹ 51,000 & ₹ 43,000 respectively to those students who studied in Metro cities³⁹, cities with 'C' class Municipal Corporations and other districts and who could not be provided with hostel facilities by the State Government. A Government Resolution (GR) was issued (January 2017) for implementing the scheme with retrospective effect from 2016 onwards. According to the GR, a target of 15,000 students were to be covered during the year 2016-17 and 25,000 students from 2017-18 onwards.

The GR also laid down the procedure for the mode of applications, scrutiny of applications, and selection of beneficiary students based on 15 parameters.

³⁸ A hostel complex consisting of two hostel buildings having four units (In one building two units for boys and in another building one unit for boys and one unit for girls) in one premise

³⁹ Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Nagpur

The SJSAD made a budget provision of ₹ 209.09 crore. The Finance Department released (September 2017) ₹ 148.23 crore to SJSAD with the stipulation that no further funds would be released in future for new constructions of hostel buildings. CSW, Pune disbursed these funds to seven Regional offices of the State.

Audit observed that due to ambiguity in the GR which stipulated options to be given by the students, either to opt for hostel facility or for financial assistance under the scheme, the RDCs could not implement the scheme properly. The year-wise details of application received and students provided with the benefit of the scheme were as detailed in the **Table 3.2.4**.

Table 3.2.4: Year-wise details of application received and students provided with the benefit

Year	Total Applications		Benefits extended to students		Amount disbursed (₹ in crore)	
	Received directly for getting the benefit under the Scheme	Received for admissions to hostels	Scheme benefit availed	Admitted in Hostels	Scheme	Hostels
2016-17	19,633	95,465	2,562	37,928	29.02	-Nil-
2017-18	16,151	50,344	5,825	29,075		

Source: Information furnished by CSW, Pune

As against the target of 15,000 students, the benefit was extended only to 2,562 students during the year 2016-17. In the year 2017-18, as against the target of 25,000 students, only 5,825 students were extended benefits under the scheme.

Thus, during the year 2016-17, 57,537 applications and 21,269 applications of 2017-18, were not considered for hostels admission. This was also due to the fact that out of ₹ 148.23 crore released to seven RDCs, only ₹ 29.02 crore could be incurred on the scheme and the balance amount of ₹ 119.21 crore was surrendered.

After Audit pointed out (May 2018) the ambiguity in the GR, the SJSAD issued (June 2018) a revised GR which enabled the students to be eligible for both options *i.e.*, admission for hostel facility and for benefit under the Swadhar scheme in the event of non-allotment of hostel facility.

The fact however remained that the students of 2016-18 were deprived of the benefits due to ambiguity in the GR.

3.2.3.5 Non-revision of food allowance (Pariposhan Aahar) to students of aided hostels

The SJSAD revised (May 2008) the food allowance to be paid to the aided hostels from ₹ 600 to ₹ 630 per month per student to all the 2,388 aided hostels in the State. Further, the rates were to be revised every year considering the consumer price index (CPI). The SJSAD again revised (December 2011) the rates after three years from ₹ 630 to ₹ 900 per month per student. Thereafter, the food allowance was not revised till June 2018. The SJSAD decided (March 2016) to form a Committee consisting 13 members headed by Chief Secretary to revise the rate of food allowances from ₹ 900 based on CPI. According to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the CPI of February 2011 was at a record low of 86.81 index

points and reached an all time high of 138.60 index points in June 2018. The CPI in India averaged 116.25 index points from 2011 until 2018. However, even after lapse of more than seven years period the rates of allowance were not revised by the Department.

The Superintendents of the test checked 54 aided hostels confirmed that due to increase in the rate of commodities since last five years, the food allowances provided to the students of aided hostels was insufficient and therefore the institutions were unable to provide the morning breakfast, quality and healthy food to the students of aided hostels. Thus, non-revision of food allowances by the Department led to deprivation of students from getting quality, healthy and sufficient food.

The Secretary, SJSAD stated (May 2018) that, a Committee was already formed under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary for submission of proposal to increase in food allowance paid to the students of aided hostels. It was also stated that to increase the rates of food allowance, four meeting were already conducted; after the decision of the committee, action would be taken. Further, it was not expected to increase the rates of food allowance every year.

The facts remained that as the Government Resolution (GR) of December 2011 clearly indicated that the decision to revise the rates every year based on CPI was taken in the GR of 2008 and the same was to be continued and the rates were not revised resulting in deprivation of quality food to the students housed in aided hostels.

3.2.4 Working of GHs and GRSs

3.2.4.1 Shortfall in supply of basic Amenities in GHs and GRSs

The Government resolutions issued by the Department in May 1984, July 2011 and December 2015 stipulated provision of amenities such as iron cots, beds, blankets, electric and solar water heaters *etc.* The shortfall in the supply of basic amenities to GHs and GRSs are detailed in succeeding paragraphs.

a) Non-supply of iron cots and other basic amenities to the students residing in GHs

In the selected seven districts, there were 127 GHs. Out of these in 42 GHs no iron cots were provided to the students since its opening. In the test checked 33 GHs, audit observed that iron cots were not provided to the students in 17 GHs. The students were forced to sleep on the floor as shown in the photograph taken on February 2018.



GH, Ratnagiri (12 February 2018)



GH, Chembur (06 February 2018)

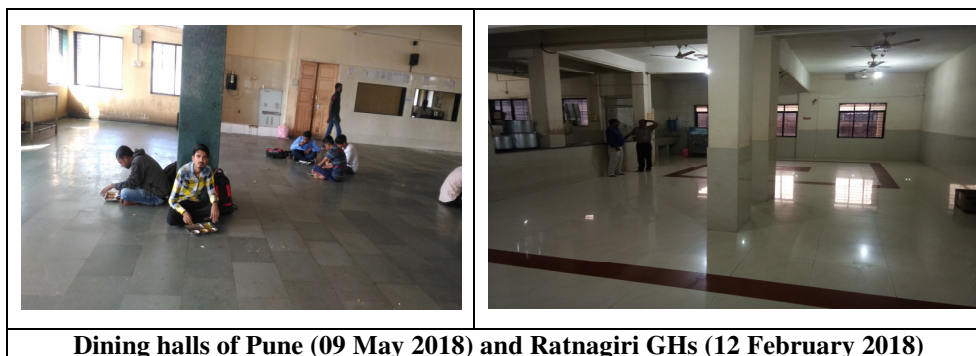
In 108 GHs, the SJSAD had not provided the following other basic amenities as detailed in the **Table 3.2.5**.

Table 3.2.5: Other basic amenities not provided in the GHs

Amenities	Number of GHs
Cotton beds	35
Blankets	20
Invertors	12
CCTV Cameras	12
Solar water heater or electric water heater	42
Drinking water facility, solar lamps at the time of load shading in taluka headquarters, lightning arrester on hostel building, dining tables, chairs, fire extinguishers	80
<i>Source: Information furnished by field offices</i>	

b) Non-supply of dining tables and chairs in the dining hall

Though, GHs buildings were provided with dining halls for the students, the required furniture like dining tables and chairs were not provided in the dining halls in six out of 33 GHs. As such, the students were found taking lunch and dinner sitting on the floor as shown in the photograph.



Dining halls of Pune (09 May 2018) and Ratnagiri GHs (12 February 2018)

c) Non supply of laboratory equipments and other furniture in GRSs

CSW, Pune had released (January 2017) grant of ₹ 80 lakh for purchase laboratory equipments, materials, furniture, exhaust fans, electrification, water pipelines, gas connection, fire extinguishers required in Laboratories for the students of X class of 80 GRSs (₹ one lakh per GRS) to the respective RDCs. Audit observed in the test-check RDCs, that the funds were not utilised by the RDCs and surrendered (March 2017) the entire grant of ₹ 80 lakh to the CSW, Pune.

The Secretary, SJSAD accepted the facts and stated (May 2018) that the Public Accounts Committee had raised several objections on earlier purchases made by the SJSAD. Action on the various points thereof could not be complied by the SJSAD. As a result, the funds provided could not be utilised and supply of amenities and facilities to the GHs and GRSs could not be done by the SJSAD since 2013-14 onwards. Audit noted that issues relating to irregularities in purchases was pointed out in the Report of CAG for the year ended March 2013. The recommendations of PAC on the issues raised therein was awaited.

The reply is not acceptable as compliance to Public Accounts Committee cannot be treated as a reason for non-purchase of amenities for the GHs and

GRSs. The failure of the SJSAD to take corrective action to improve the system of procurement resulted in depriving the benefits to the students.

3.2.4.2 Lack of proper infrastructure in the girls hostels opened on the eve of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti

The SJSAD had opened as of June 2018, 42 girls hostels⁴⁰ out of the proposed 50 hostels. All the 42 GHs were opened in rented buildings of which 12 hostels were found running with less intake capacity than the sanctioned intake capacity. Further, the prescribed norms⁴¹ regarding providing sufficient space to each student of all 42 hostels were not followed.

Audit also observed that though a period of more than two years had elapsed, the SJSAD has not provided the key staff⁴² in these 42 Government girls' hostels. Further, the posts required for these 42 GHs were not got sanctioned from High Power Committee till June 2018. The hostels were managed through additional charges.

The Secretary, SJSAD stated (May 2018) that the proposal for sanction of staff for these girls hostels was submitted (July 2016) to HPC and Finance Department, the approval was still awaited (August 2018).

3.2.4.3 Discrimination in providing meals to the students residing in old GHs and in new GHs

The SJSAD had in May 1984 prescribed the diet norms and standard of meal for each student which was followed by 271 hostels. The norms in respect of few items are shown in **Table 3.2.6**:

Table 3.2.6: Diet norms

Name of Item	Quantum fixed for Boy student (In Gram)	Quantum fixed for Girl student (In Gram)
Wheat, Jawari and Bajari	400	300
Rice	100	100
Dal / Sprouts	130	130
Leafy Vegetables	300	250
Milk	200 ml.	200 ml.
Mutton, Fish or Eggs (Once in a month)	125 or 2 eggs	125 or 2 eggs
<i>Source: Government Resolution of May 1984</i>		

These old hostels had the post of cook and helpers for preparing food as per the norms prescribed by SJSAD. However, SJSAD revised (July 2011) the earlier norms and introduced a list of 37 items of facilities and amenities to be provided to the students staying in all the GHs. The list of 37 items included provision of unlimited meal to the students of all the GHs. Audit observed that in 146 GHs out of these 271 GHs, the cooks and helpers were preparing and serving the food.

In the test checked seven selected districts, it was observed that in 88 GHs out of 127 GHs, the catering services was given on contract basis to the private agencies which were providing unlimited meals to the satisfaction level of the

⁴⁰ five at district level and 37 hostels at taluka level

⁴¹ Minimum 24 square feet and maximum 40 square feet per student

⁴² House Masters (for strength above 250 students), Wardens, Sr. Clerks, Jr. Clerks and Peons

students. In the remaining 39 old hostels, limited meals were being provided to the students. Joint physical inspection of eight out of 39 GHs in four⁴³ districts and the data collected through questionnaires from the students, revealed that the meal served to students was limited/fixed quantity and insufficient. Further, the quantity of the food diet fixed for each student *i.e.*, from 7th standard student to the medical and engineering students was same. Thus, the revised norms were not followed in these cases and were also not ensured by the concerned ACs, RDCs and CSW, Pune.

The Secretary, SJSAD while accepting the facts stated (May 2018) that, the necessary follow-up action would be taken with all the Regional Offices.

3.2.4.4 Functioning of GHs and GRSs without key posts

According to the norms (May 1984) fixed by SJSAD, the wardens of the hostels were required to stay in the premises of their respective hostels for effective implementation and smooth functioning of GHs and GRSs. Audit observed that out of 377 sanctioned posts of wardens in 435 GHs, only 279 posts were filled and 98 posts were vacant. As such, in the deficit GHs, additional charges were allotted to the wardens of the other GHs by the RDCs of the concerned districts.

In the test checked ACs, out of 127 hostels, 37 GHs were found functioning with additional charges of the wardens. It was also observed that the distance between the two GHs where the wardens were given additional charge ranged between three and 90 kilometers.

Similarly, for 100 GRSs, 85 posts of wardens were sanctioned. However, only 83 GRSs were opened. Out of the 85 sanctioned posts of wardens, only 49 posts were filled and 36 posts were vacant (May 2018). Further, in the test checked 21 GRSs, no wardens were appointed but additional charges were allotted to the Headmasters.

Thus, the very objective of effective and smooth functioning of GHs and GRSs was defeated.

The Secretary, SJSAD while accepting the facts stated (May 2018) that due to the ban imposed (June 2015) by the Finance Department of GoM, the posts of wardens were vacant, due to which, additional charges were given to the Wardens of the other GHs. The proposal for filling of vacant posts of GHs and GRSs was submitted (September 2017) to General Administration Department. However, the same was not approved till date.

The fact also remained that, absence of wardens in the hostels could adversely affect the smooth functioning of the hostels.

3.2.4.5 Failure to conduct structural audit of old GHs

As per the provisions of Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils (Fifth Amendment) Act, 2008, published (14 January 2009) in the GOM Gazette, every owner or occupier of a building in respect of which a period of thirty years had lapsed, shall cause such building to be examined by a Structural Engineer registered with the Corporation for the purpose of

⁴³ Chandrapur, Ratnagiri, Ahmadnagar and Pune

certifying that the building is fit for human habitation and submit the certificate issued by Structural Engineer to the Commissioner. The Structural Stability Certificate shall be submitted within one year from the expiry of a period of thirty years and every ten years thereafter or such earlier period as the Commissioner may determine.

Out of the 271 old GHs, 138 GHs⁴⁴ were more than 30 years old. The walls in the test checked GHs were found to have developed cracks. Audit observed that in one case of GH⁴⁵ at Pune the third floor of GH collapsed in August 2016. As the students were not present in the hostel building a major tragedy was averted. However, SJSAD had not taken any concrete efforts to plug such incidences in future by taking up structural audit of old hostel buildings.

The Secretary, SJSAD while accepting the facts stated (May 2018) that necessary instructions would be issued to all the RDCs of the regions to conduct the structural audit of all the GHs.

3.2.4.6 Non-refilling of fire extinguishers supplied to the hostels

The SJSAD sanctioned (February 2012) supply and installation of fire extinguishers for safety and security of the students in all the GHs and GRSs. The work was awarded (April 2012) to M/s. Reliable Fire Engineers, Thane for supply and installation of 9,690 fire extinguishers @ ₹ 1,525 per unit in 374 GHs, 57 GRSs, three regional level hostels and offices and kitchens located in all the identified GHs, GRSs and regional hostels. The contractor was paid (November 2012 to August 2014) a total amount of ₹ 1.63 crore. However, no annual maintenance contract was entered for refilling and maintenance of these fire extinguishers, thus, the very purpose of installation of fire extinguishers had been defeated.

The Secretary, SJSAD stated (May 2018) that the status of refilling of extinguishers supplied and installed would be called for from CSW, Pune and comments thereof would be submitted to Audit.

3.2.4.7 Non-coverage of insurance of the hostellers under Rajiv Gandhi Bima Yojana.

The SJSAD issued a Government Resolution in July 2011 for bringing the students of the GHs under Rajiv Gandhi Bima Yojana (RGBY) to extend financial assistance and benefits to the students in the form of insurance against any physical disabilities caused due to any accidents. Audit observed that none of the GHs had taken the insurance for the students admitted in the respective GHs under the RGBY.

The Secretary, SJSAD accepted the facts and stated (May 2018) that instruction would be circulated to all regional offices.

⁴⁴ 107 GHs located in Government building and 31 GHs were in rented buildings
⁴⁵ Sant Gyaneshwar Boys Hostel, Pune

3.2.4.8 Non-production of inspection reports of Taluka and District Coordination Committee

The SJSAD had issued (December 1996) orders for formation of Co-ordination Committee at district and taluka level. At the district level, the Co-ordination Committee was to be formed under the chairmanship of Collector along with three government officers and two non-government persons. At taluka level, the committee was to be formed under the chairmanship of Local MLA. Further, the above committees were required to visit and conduct the inspections of the GHs once in three months as well as the aided hostels once in two months. The said reports thereof were to be forwarded along with necessary recommendation and suggestions to the CSW, Pune.

Audit observed that out of seven selected districts, in six districts the committees were formed. However, the reports and recommendations given by the committee were not made available to audit.

The Secretary, SJSAD stated (May 2018) that, the reports of the working committee would be reviewed and the action and recommendations taken thereon as per Government GR would be intimated to the Regional Offices for implementation.

3.2.5 Conclusion

The scheme of opening new Government Hostels for BCs in all the taluka headquarters was envisaged in 2005-06. However, even after lapse of 10 years the Government hostels in 128 talukas were not opened. The population norms for opening of Government hostels in taluka headquarters were also not strictly followed. The intake capacity of the hostels shifted to new premises was also not revised and sanctioned resulting in deprivation of benefit to students. As against 100 Government Residential Schools to be opened, only 83 schools were opened. There was short utilisation of funds against the grants released. Though, the expenditure under plan heads was not commensurate with the demand and funds released by SJSAD in the last five years, the SJSAD continued to place demands on higher side every year without analysing the reasons for short utilisation of funds. Failure to ensure the fulfilment of conditions resulted in unfruitful expenditure of ₹ 24.78 crore due to non-imparting of computer training to the students. The hostels at Regional levels having capacity of 1,000 students taken up in Nagpur, Mumbai and Pune remained incomplete. One unit of girls hostel at Latur though constructed in 2011 remained un-utilised. There was shortfall in supply of basic amenities in the Government Hostels and Government Residential schools. 42 girls hostels opened on the eve of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti were found short of proper infrastructure. The structural audits of the hostels which were more than 30 years old were also not undertaken. The rate of 'Pariposhan Aahar' payable to aided hostels was not revised commensurate with Consumer Price Index since 2012 onwards. There was discrimination in providing meals to the students residing in old Government Hostels and in new Government Hostels.

3.2.6 Recommendations

- The SJSAD may formulate a plan to ensure availability of hostels and residential schools in all the taluka headquarters;
- The SJSAD may place justified demands for funds commensurate with the past expenditure and ensure that the funds released are utilised in full.
- The SJSAD may ensure provision of adequate infrastructure, amenities and staff for effective functioning of the hostels and schools.
- The SJSAD may devise adequate mechanism to monitor the progress of completion of the hostel buildings and residential schools.

Revenue and Forest Department**3.3 Management of leases of Government land given to Gymkhanas in Mumbai**

Despite directions by the Government, lease agreements of 10 Gymkhanas were not renewed for a period of nearly 12 to 48 years and lease rent of ₹ 1.27 crore for the year 2017 remained unrealised.

Based on comments/recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee of the Maharashtra Legislature, the Revenue and Forests Department (R&FD) of Government of Maharashtra (GoM), directed (August 2006) that the District Collectors in Mumbai should scrutinise annually, the reports regarding leases of Government land and while submitting the report to Government for renewal, a scrutiny note on violations of conditions *etc.*, of Government land, if any, should be included.

R&FD resolved (February 1983 and May 1984) that lease rent leviable for lease of Government land to private institutions *etc.*, would be eight *per cent* of 50 *per cent* of the full market value of the land prevalent as on 1 February 1976 which was subsequently revised (September 2003) by R&FD to one *per cent* of 15 *per cent* of the market rate of the land prevalent as on 1 January 1999. However, the said order was stayed (April 2004) by the Hon'ble High Court of Mumbai with a direction that till the issue was finally resolved, the lease rent may be paid at the pre-revised rates.

Accordingly, R&FD framed (June 2017) a lease rent policy applicable from 1 January 2017 for Gymkhanas situated on government land. As per the revised policy, all the Gymkhanas were classified into three categories on the basis of area *viz.*, Class A (more than 20,000 square metres of area), Class B (from 10,000 square metres to 20,000 square metres of area) and Class C (less