

ongoing works. Despite such instructions, the designs of the bridges were neither reviewed nor stopped by the RD Department.

The EEs of Kendrapara-II and Jajpur-I Rural Works Divisions sought clearance of IWAI much later, *i.e.*, in April, May and June 2016. The same was turned down (June and July 2016) by the IWAI on the ground that designs of the bridges with reference to the vertical/ horizontal clearances were not as per the prescribed parameters. Consequently, the EIC, RW issued instructions for stopping the works in December 2016 and January 2017. By this time expenditure of ₹ 4.22 crore had already been incurred on these bridge works.

Thus, the EIC, RD Department did not comply with the provisions of the IWAI Act while granting technical sanction and instead proceeded with the award of construction of work. Moreover, the EIC did not heed further advisories of the IWAI to examine the designs of the bridges and continued with the construction. This established the fact that the EIC violated the provisions in place to regulate constructions over National Waterways, thereby rendering ₹ 4.22 crore spent on construction works, wasteful.

RD Department, while confirming (September 2019) the fact of receipt of intimation in August 2014 to maintain appropriate navigational clearance in the proposed bridges stated that the executed works would be incorporated in the revised design conforming to IWAI's requirement. The fact, however, remained that the RW Divisions concerned stopped the works after almost two and half years of receipt of aforesaid intimation from IWAI. Further, the General Alignment Drawing as per IWAI guidelines had not been finalised as of September 2019. Therefore, the expenditure of ₹ 4.22 crore remained wasteful.

Health and Family Welfare Department

2.12 Idle expenditure of ₹ 5.96 crore

Construction of Maternal and Child Health building without making plan for its operationalisation led to idling of the building, thereby rendering the expenditure of ₹ 5.96 crore incurred on construction of the building idle.

Under National Health Mission, 100/50/30 bedded Maternal and Child Health (MCH) wings are to be established in District Hospitals/ Sub-Divisional Hospitals/ Community Health Centre (CHC) to provide comprehensive health care services to mothers and neonates under one roof.

On scrutiny of records (January 2019) of the Chief District Medical and Public Health Officer (CDM&PHO), Puri, Audit noticed that a decision was taken (March 2013) in a meeting to review the preparedness for 'Nabakalebar'¹¹⁸ 2015', to upgrade the Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Konark to a 30-bedded hospital, which would cater to the healthcare needs during the Nabakalebar festival. Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) Department accorded (9 January

¹¹⁸ The Nabakalebara 2015 was a celebration of the ancient ritual of the Nabakalebara, associated with Jagannath Temple when the idols of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra, Subhadra and Sudarshan are replaced by a new set of idols

2014) administrative approval for construction of one 30-bedded MCH building and 10 staff quarters at Konark. The construction work was entrusted to the Executive Engineer (EE), Roads and Buildings (R&B) Division, Puri. The EE completed the MCH building and staff quarters at an expenditure of ₹ 5.96 crore and ₹ 97.63 lakh respectively. The MCH building and staff quarters were handed over to the CDM&PHO, Puri in March 2016 and May 2016 respectively.

Audit noticed that construction of the MCH building could not be completed by the time of Nabakalebar festival (*i.e.* by July 2015). Thus, the primary purpose of upgradation was not fulfilled. During the joint physical inspection (January 2019) of the constructed infrastructure, Audit noticed that out of three floors of MCH building, only the ground floor was being used for the outpatient

department of
PHC, Konark
from May 2016
and the
remaining two
floors remained
vacant. The
PHC, despite
having its own
building was
shifted to the
ground floor of
the newly



constructed building. The old PHC building was being used as meeting hall and store room. Further, out of 10 staff quarters, five staff quarters (construction cost: ₹ 57.13 lakh) had remained vacant as of February 2019.

Audit observed that an MCH was to be established at District Headquarters Hospitals/ Sub-Divisional Hospitals/ Community Health Centre as per the National Health Mission (NHM) guidelines, 2013. Hence, the decision of the Department to construct an MCH building at Konark PHC, was in deviation from the NHM guidelines, 2013 and was injudicious. Even after three years of construction of the MCH building, no initiative had been taken for upgrading the PHC to a CHC for operationalisation of the MCH building. As a result, the building remained unutilised for the intended purpose since March 2016, resulting in expenditure of ₹ 5.96 crore incurred for its construction remaining idle.

The CDM&PHO stated (February 2019) that the MCH building was proposed to be converted to Urban CHC for better health care facility. The reply supports the fact that the building is being utilised sub-optimally.

The matter has been reported (May 2019) to Government. Reply is awaited (August 2020).