

Received on

D. 17/6/17

F.NO.13011-9/2016-Vig.
Government of India
Ministry of Culture

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated, the 31 May, 2017

To

Shri Alok Kumar Verma
Director,
Central Bureau of Investigation
Plot No.5-B, 6th Floor
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi – 110003

Subject: Request for conducting investigation into unfruitful expenditure of Rs.7.02 crore on renovation of Koothambalam project of Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai

Sir,

The Kalakshetra Foundation (KF), an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture was declared as an Institution of National Importance by an Act of Parliament in 1993. In 1985, KF constructed Bharat Kalakshetra Auditorium known as Koothambala for conducting staging performances. In 2005-06, the upgradation and renovation of Koothambalam theatre was initiated. In May, 2009, Governing Board of KF constituted a Works Committee to assist the management in incurring expenditure of capital nature. In August, 2009, M/s CARD was selected as Consulting Architect. A brief background note on the matter has been attached by the concerned administrative division of this Ministry vide its letter No.11-4/2014-Akad. Dated 11.5.2017 enclosed below.

2. It is mentioned that M/s CARD, who were delegated the power to receive, analyse and advice on appointment of contractors as per the agreement between KF and M.s CARD, called limited quotations and recommended grant of award to M/s Chennai Engineers for civil works, M/s Kevin Electrical for electrical works and M/s Unimech for HVA works. The management appointed the contractors based on the recommendation of Works Committee. GFR norms for calling open tenders were stated to be not adhered to. On the recommendation of Works Committee, the management appointed the consultants for sound works, stage lighting and Architect also.

3. It is also mentioned that in August, 2011 the CAG audit raised the following objections in their Report:

- a) Lack of formal sanctions of the GB and FC for the works undertaken under the project
- b) The procedure for engagement of the Consulting Architect
- c) The award of tenders by the Consulting Architect and the manner and placement of orders for audio and lighting works by the Foundation.
- d) Inclusion of items into the scope of work which were not originally in the tender.

4. On the basis of Audit Report, the Governing Board stopped the project in April, 2012 and directed to submit the detailed report of expenditure incurred to the tune of Rs.7.02 crores.

5. KF in its fact finding report had observed that GFR provisions have not been followed for the different works like appointment of Architect, Consultants and for awarding works under Koothambalam project. However, the specific name of the officials liable for lapses in the project had not been mentioned in the report.

6. On the request of the Ministry of Culture, the work of Koothambalam Project was technically examined by a team of CVC during April, 2016. A vigilance team of this Ministry had also visited KF for detailed investigation of Koothambalam project. The matter was discussed in the GB of KF wherein it was pointed out by the Ministry that KF needs to initiate action against those responsible for the lapses in the execution of the Project.

7. KF has furnished its investigation report on lapses in execution of Part-A of renovation of Koothambalam Project and concluded that laid down procedures of GFRs/Manual of Policies, employment of consultant, award of work orders & placing supply order for equipment were not followed. After perusal of investigation report, it has been decided that the matter may be referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation for a more comprehensive investigation.

8. You are, therefore, requested to get an investigation conducted in the matter and take further necessary action under intimation to the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,



(Shefali Shah)

JS&CVO

Tel.No.23381198

Copy for information to:

1. JS(Akademi), (Kind Attn: Shri ^{Arunab Ach} Under Secretary, Ministry of Culture
2. Director, Kalakshetra Foundation, Thiruvannamipur, Chennai – 600041 with the request to provide the relevant documents to the officials of CBI, as and when required by them.