

## Tezpur University, Assam

### 12.15 Undue benefit to teachers

**Tezpur University, Assam allowed promotion/re-designation for higher post and granted higher pay to 10 teachers in contravention of extant regulations resulting in excess payment of pay and allowances of ₹ 99.25 lakh.**

Ministry of Human Resource Development (Ministry) revised (December 2008) the pay scales, service conditions and the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) for teachers and equivalent positions in Central universities following the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission effective from January 2006. The Ministry stated that the revision of pay scales of teachers shall be subject to various provisions of the Scheme and Regulations to be framed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in this behalf. Accordingly, UGC framed Regulations<sup>44</sup> in June 2010 and adopted the revised pay structure as prescribed by the Ministry. The revised pay structure under the CAS stipulated that incumbent Readers who had not completed three years shall be placed at the appropriate stage in the pay band of ₹ 15,600 - ₹ 39,100 with an Academic Grade Pay (AGP) of ₹ 8,000 till completion of three years of service as Readers. Thereafter, they shall be placed in the higher Pay Band of ₹ 37,400-₹ 67,000 with an AGP of ₹ 9,000 and shall be re-designated as Associate Professors. The same pay structure was also applicable for directly recruited Readers. The revised pay structure further stipulated that Associate Professors on completion of three years of service in the AGP of ₹ 9000 shall be eligible to be promoted to the post of Professor with an AGP of ₹ 10000.

Test check of records of Tezpur University (University) Assam brought out that the University re-designated (May 2009) four<sup>45</sup> of their incumbent Readers as Associate Professors from January 2006 even before completion of three years of service and extended the benefit of higher pay band with AGP of ₹ 9000 to them. The University also extended such benefit to another six<sup>46</sup> Readers who were either promoted under CAS or appointed between January 2006 and June 2010. As none of the teachers had completed three years' of service as Readers, their pay should have been fixed in the pay band of ₹ 15600 - ₹ 39100 with an AGP of ₹ 8000. Audit further noticed that University extended benefit to one of these teachers<sup>47</sup> by granting him promotion to the post of Professor under CAS

<sup>44</sup> UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations 2010.

<sup>45</sup> A.K. Mukherjee, D. Hazarika, N. Karak and R.C. Deka

<sup>46</sup> N. Das, G.A. Ahmed, D.P. Nath, D. Deka, D.C. Baruah and P. Deb

<sup>47</sup> Shri D.P. Nath

before completing the required service. This resulted in excess payment of ₹ 99.25 lakh to ten teachers towards pay and allowances during the period from January 2006 to December 2016.

While accepting the observation, the University informed (August 2017) that the action has been initiated for recovery of excess pay and allowances. This was done after Ministry of Finance, Government of India turned down (May 2017) the waiver request of the University and advised it to route the proposal through their administrative Ministry in consultation with the Department of Personnel and Training. The Ministry endorsed (September 2017) the reply of the University.

### **Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad**

#### **12.16 Irregular expenditure in procurement of books and journals**

**The Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad incurred an expenditure of ₹ 1.50 crore towards purchase of 1,830 books/journals from a non-empanelled publisher in violation of its own laid down procedure and the provisions of GFR. Out of these 1,830 books/journals, there is no receipt nor entry in Library Accession Register pertaining to 801 books and 180 journals worth ₹ 81.45 lakh which renders the expenditure doubtful.**

The Indian Institute of Information Technology, (Institute) Allahabad, had empanelled five vendors for supply of books on certain terms and conditions that are specified in the Purchase Order. The Library generally procures such book titles which are recommended by faculty members duly forwarded by the concerned Heads of Departments and approved by the Competent Authority (Director). Further, Library procures online e-journals through INFLIBNET E-SodhSindhu consortium (previously INDEST) established by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Rule 187(1) of the General Financial Rules (GFR), 2005, stipulate that, the officer-in-charge of the stores should refer to the relevant contract terms and follow the prescribed procedure while receiving materials from supplier. Further, Rule 187(3) states that the details of the materials so received should be entered in the appropriate stock register and the officer in-charge of the store should certify that he has actually received the materials and recorded it in the appropriate stock register. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer should satisfy himself that the material was actually received while making payment.

Scrutiny of records revealed that the Institute procured 1,830 books/journals (1,550 books and 280 journals) worth ₹ 1.50 crore between October 2012 and October 2013 from a non-empanelled publisher which were delivered between

## **CAG Report for the year ended March 2017**

Action Taken: Corrective measures have already been taken by the University by re-fixing the pay of the concerned 23 (twenty three) incumbents.

Recovery of the excess pay has already been completed in respect of 07 (seven) incumbents.

Recovery from another 08 (eight) incumbents is still continuing.

However, 08 (eight) incumbents have filed a writ petition in the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court challenging the decision of the University to recover the excess pay. Out of these 08 (eight) incumbents, 01 (one) incumbent has retired from the University service on attaining the age of superannuation. However, recovery could not be made from her in compliance with Hon'ble Gauhati High Court Order dated 20.09.2022 in WP(C)3969/2017 directing the University not to deduct the excess payment of salary from her retirement benefits till outcome of the aforesaid writ petition. For the other 07 (seven) incumbents, the Writ petition is still pending in the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court for a verdict.