

No.13-4/2024-IS.1(R/Gen)
Government of India
Ministry of Education
(Department of School Education & Literacy)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi,
Dated: 25/03/2025

To

The Accounts Officer,
Principal Accounts Office,
Ministry of Education,
Department of School Education & Literacy,
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Subject: Release of 3rd Installment (Recurring expenses) for implementation of the STARS Project during the year 2024-25 to the State Government of HIMACHAL PRADESH -reg.

Sir,

I am directed to convey the sanction of the President of India for release the amount of **Rs. 786.76000 lakh [Rupees Seven Crore Eighty Six Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Only]** to the **Government of HIMACHAL PRADESH as 3rd Installment of GoI share under General Head for General Component** for implementation of interventions approved/estimated by the Project Approval Board (PAB), by the DoSE&L, Government of India as per Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) of STARS Project for year 2024-25.

2. The sanction has been accorded subject to the terms and conditions contained in the Financial & Procurement Manual for Samagra Shiksha formulated/issued by this Ministry and to the adherence of procedures stipulated therein and the provisions of General Financial Rules 2017. Further, the State/UT must have already taken the necessary action for opening up of joint signatory savings bank accounts for Scheduled Castes Component, Scheduled Tribes Component and General Component separately for General Head and Capital Head at the State/district/block level.

3. The STARS Project is to be implemented through State Implementation Society at the State level. Under the new Scheme, it has been approved that the central share would be released to a single State Implementing Society (SIS). The amount sanctioned will be released to the State Government of HIMACHAL PRADESH, who will disburse the funds through PFMS to the bank account of the designated Single Nodal Agency (SNA) of STARS Project, in compliance of the para 2 above immediately but not later than 15 days.

4. **These grants shall be further subject to the following conditions:-**

- (i) **State should ensure that release of fund is only routed through SNA to IAs opened under the guidelines of MoF dated 23.03.2021.**
- (ii) It shall be drawn during the current financial year before 31st March 2025.
- (iii) The State/UTs Government shall release their corresponding share (294%) as per the existing fund sharing pattern against the Central releases to the designated SNA of STARS within one month of receipt of central share.
- (iv) The SIS of HIMACHAL PRADESH shall disburse the amount to the districts/implementing agencies immediately on receipt of the grant from Central and State government in the accounts opened in compliance of the Para-3 above to ensure smooth implementation of the programme.
- (v) States have to make arrangements for creating a separate budget head (Externally Aided Project(EAP) for receipt of the additional funds for STARS from GOI and making sufficient provision for matching state share in state budget.
- (vi) The grantee will submit annual progress report of the project within one month from the closure of the financial year.
- (vii) An annual statement of accounts along with a certificate of utilization of the grant for the approved programme duly signed by a chartered accountant and the authorized signatory of the Project-In-charge in the State will be submitted within nine months from closure of the financial year.
- (viii) The accounts and other records of the Project Officer and Implementation Institutions shall be open to inspection by an Officer of the Ministry of Education or any other person deputed by the Ministry for this purpose.
- (ix) The grantee shall follow strictly all instructions issued by the Government of India from time to time with regard to implementation of the Scheme.
- (x) No permanent posts shall be created under the STARS funds. Project positions for implementation of STARS would be temporary, up to the duration of the project only.
- (xi) From FY 2020-21 onwards, States will be funded based on the score of the State calculated on the basis of SIG Manual, as per the results achieved by the States.
- (xii) The grantee shall not entrust the implementation of the approved project to another organization/programme and shall not divert the grant to the latter organization. The grant shall also not be utilized for purposes other than the one for which it is mentioned in the Scheme of STARS. Failure to do so will render the grantee liable to refund to the President of India, the sanctioned grant in full with interest @ 10% per annum thereon.

hm

लक्ष्मण प्रसाद/Lakshman Prasad
अवर सचिव/Under Secretary
भारत सरकार/Govt. of India
शिक्षा मंत्रालय/Min. of Education
स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग/DtO School Education and Literacy
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली/Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

(xiii) The accounts of all grantee Institutions or Organizations shall be open to inspection by the sanctioning authority and audit, both by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India under the provision of CAG (DPC) Act 1971 and Internal Audit by the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry of Education or Department of School Education & Literacy, whenever the Institution or Organization is called upon to do so and a provision to this effect should invariably be incorporated in all orders sanctioning grant-in-aid.

(xiv) The Scheduled Castes Component, Scheduled Tribes Component and General Component-wise details need to be incorporated in the utilization certificate separately for General Head and Capital Head.

(xv) State should ensure compliance of Department of Expenditure OM dated 23-03-2021, 23-03-2022, 20-04-2022 and all other Orders issued by Department of Expenditure in this regard from time to time.

5. The expenditure of Rs. 786.76000 lakh [Rupees Seven Crore Eighty Six Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Only] will be debited to Demand No. 25 -Department of School Education and Literacy, 3601 (Grant-in-aid to State Govts.-Major Head); 06 (Centrally Sponsored Schemes-Sub Head); 102 (Externally Aided Projects-Grants for Centrally Sponsored Schemes-Minor Head 102); 34 (Strengthening Teaching Learning And Results for States-STARS-Sub Head 34); 34.00 (Detailed Head 00); 34.00.31 (Grant-in-aid General) 3601.06.102.34.00.31-EAP.

6. The amount of grant-in-aid is finally adjustable in the books of Principal Accounts Officer, Ministry of Education, Department of School Education and Literacy, D-Wing, Ground Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 115. On receipt of sanction letter, the Principal Accounts Officer may issue an advice to the Reserve Bank of India (Central Accounts Section), for affording credit to the balance of the State Government. The Principal Accounts Officer may forward a copy of the advice to undersigned in the Department of School Education & Literacy. State Government shall send intimation regarding receipt of grant-in-aid to Principal Accounts Officer, Ministry of Education, Department of School Education and Literacy, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.

7. This sanction issues in exercise of the delegated powers in consultation with Integrated Finance Division vide their Dy. No. 507/2025/IFD/DoSE&L dated 12/03/2025 and the availability of funds have been certified by IF.II section vide their Dy. No. 654/2025-IF.II Dated 24/03/2025.

8. The grantee is located in the HIMACHAL PRADESH Circle of Accounts.

9. U.C. up to 2023-24 has been issued and hence no U.C. is pending in respect of the grantee Society.

Yours faithfully,



(Lakshman Prasad)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Copy forwarded to:

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of HIMACHAL PRADESH.
2. The Principal Secretary (SE), Government of HIMACHAL PRADESH.
3. The Secretary, Finance Department, Govt. of HIMACHAL PRADESH. **It is requested that funds released through this sanction letter may be transferred to the Education Department immediately.**
4. State Project Director, HIMACHAL PRADESH.
5. Office of the Director General of Audit-I, Central Revenues, OAD-II Section, AGCR Building, I.P. Estate, New Delhi- 110 002.
6. AGCR (Special Cell), New Delhi
7. Principal Accountant General (A&E), HIMACHAL PRADESH.
8. Accountant General, HIMACHAL PRADESH.
9. IF-II Section, IFD,
10. Guard file

लक्ष्मण प्रसाद/Lakshman Prasad
अवर सचिव/Under Secretary
भारत सरकार/Govt. of India
शिक्षा मंत्रालय/Min. of Education
स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग/DtO School Education and Literacy
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली/Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Yours faithfully,



(Lakshman Prasad)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

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