

PRESS RELEASE

Dated: 9/3/2016

A criminal case had been registered at Sikkim Vigilance Police Station on a complaint received from Department of Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare stating that some officials in the Account Section of Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) had committed forgery for the purpose of cheating and used the forged documents to cheat the department to the tune of Rs. 15.52 lacs.

2. The case was taken up by Vigilance and after painstaking investigation including checking of bank account, records/registers maintained by ICPS office, it surfaced that 8 nos. of cheques had been forged and Rs. 15.52 lacs drawn out.

3. The investigation revealed that one Sonam Wangchuk Bhutia, Accountant, ICPS had been the main culprit and had indulged in forging different cheques by inserting figures and words in between the actual figures after getting cheques signed by the concerned officer. He misappropriated the excess amount drawn for his personal gain.

4. In one instance by adding a figure 5 a cheque of Rs. 24,303/- became Rs. 5,24,303/-, another instance Rs. 90,000/- by adding figure 2 became Rs. 2,90,000/- and in another instance by adding a figure 2 Rs. 80,000/- became Rs. 2,80,000/-.

He would also add figures in the amount column to be filled in words in these cheques.

5. Vigilance Department after gathering sufficient evidence against the accused Sonam Wangchuk Bhuita, Accountant, ICPS has arrested him on 8th March evening on charges of Criminal Breach of Trust, Forgery for the purpose of cheating and for using the forged documents as genuine and Criminal conspiracy.

6. The accused has been produced before the court of Magistrate by the Investigating Officer and 4 days Police remand in order to interrogate the accused has been granted.

7. Vigilance Department requests that if any Govt. Deptt has unearthed any cases of cheating/forgery, by the Govt. Official in their Department, then a formal complaint may be lodged to Sikkim Vigilance Police for taking up necessary investigation.

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