

***INDIAN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT***

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT GENERAL (AUDIT),  
HIMACHAL PRADESH, SHIMLA-171003**

**press release on**

**AUDIT REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF  
INDIA – GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH**

**PERFORMANCE AUDIT ON DRINKING WATER SERVICES IN  
HIMACHAL PRADESH -**

Report no. 01 of the year 2023 of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India - on Drinking Water Services in Himachal Pradesh has been prepared for submission to the Governor of the State under Article 151(2) of the Constitution of India. The Report was forwarded to Government of Himachal Pradesh on 27 March 2023 and laid on the table of the Vidhan Sabha on 05 April 2023.

Performance Audit on Drinking Water Services in Himachal Pradesh was conducted for the period 2016-21 to assess the supply of adequate and safe drinking water to the people.

Some of the major findings included in the Report are as under:

- State Water and Sanitation Mission, State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee and District Water and Sanitation Missions conducted fewer number of meetings than required and decisions taken in these meetings were also not addressed/implemented. Services of State Technical Agency were not utilised as no Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) were sent to it for vetting. Village Water and Sanitation Committees had not participated in the activities including planning, monitoring, implementation and operation and maintenance of rural water supply schemes.
- The State did not formulate any long-term comprehensive water security plans at state level and village action plans at village level, signifying absence of bottom-up approach and community participation in the planning of schemes. Besides, water supply schemes had not been transferred to communities and Panchayati Raj Institutions for their management and augmentation.
- Funds were seen withdrawn without immediate requirement and funds received from Deputy Commissioners and Municipal Councils/ Corporations were lying unspent in deposit head for a period of five to 79 months. Besides, funds received under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Jal Jeevan Mission and National Rural Drinking Water Programme were diverted outside the scope of the programmes.
- Water charges of ₹ 9.35 crore had not been recovered from consumers as of March 2021 in test-checked divisions. In one division, embezzlement of ₹ 27.42 lakh was noticed in Audit. Also, ₹ 12.02 lakh of water charges were lying deposited in a current account instead of crediting the same in receipt head of the

government account. In another instance, ₹ 8.55 crore of water charges from Municipal Council, Palampur, was to be recovered.

- In areas of nine lift water supply schemes in five test-checked divisions, against design of supply of 70 litres per capita daily (lpcd) in rural areas and 120 lpcd in semi urban areas, water supply ranging between 22 and 67 lpcd was being provided for rural areas. In semi urban areas 73 lpcd was being supplied to beneficiaries.
- Component-wise deficiencies were noticed in the sources of water and water treatment plant of completed test-checked schemes such as construction of borewell/ percolation well in the middle of the *Khad*, non-construction/ utilisation of intake chamber, percolation well and pump house, supplying of water without filter media, non-repair/ utilisation/ cleaning of sedimentation tank.
- There were several deficiencies relating to pumping machinery, rising/ gravity main and distribution network of the schemes in some of the test-checked divisions, such as out of order pumping machinery, non-functional schemes due to non-connection of electricity meter, non-installation of Auto Transformer Starters and non-operation of water supply schemes upto their optimum capacity. Also instances such as non-laying of gravity main/ distribution network, non-construction of anchor thrust block, non-construction of underground reservoir/ tank and leakage in distribution network were noticed.
- The State has not operationalised its own State laboratory as of March 2021. In the other 59 water testing laboratories (district laboratories: 14 and sub-divisional level: 45) in the State, National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories accreditation was not obtained for 16 sub-divisional laboratories. The laboratories did not have sufficient infrastructure and equipment which affected their testing capabilities. Besides, 98 *per cent* of the samples that were required to be re-tested by State laboratory during 2019-21, were not tested by the Department.
- The targets of bacteriological and chemical tests of water sources in the State were not commensurate with the quantum of tests required to be conducted during 2016-21. Remedial action was not taken for failed bacteriological/ chemical tests. Also, fictitious reporting of tests was found in Kullu division. Accuracy of water sample test could not be assured as variation was seen in tests conducted for same water sample at two labs in district Chamba.
- Residual chlorine levels were not tested through chloroscopes to monitor the bleaching of the drinking water. Also, bleaching powder was issued for chlorination after their useful life.
- There was shortfall of staff in the department ranging between 11 *per cent* and 24 *per cent* while in the laboratories there was huge shortage of staff ranging between 73 *per cent* and 74 *per cent*.
- Vigilance and monitoring committees were not set up at the State, District and Village levels to monitor the functioning of the department and status of execution of schemes. Review committee at apex level was not formed to review the progress

of the works costing ₹ 5.00 crore and above. Third party inspection was not conducted before releasing of payments to contractors.

- Huge numbers of water supply complaints were outstanding as of March 2021 and proper records of noting and redressing of complaints were not maintained at the departmental level.