

Press Brief for media

The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Compliance Audit Report for the year ended March 2021, Government of Kerala, Report No. 2 of 2022 has been laid on the table of Kerala Legislative Assembly on 28 June 2022. Audit Reports, upon their presentation to the Legislature are public documents.

The summary of the important points highlighted in the Report is given below:

Compliance Audit on ‘Implementation of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006’

- Database of Food Business Operators (FBO) maintained by the Food Safety Department was not up-to-date; over 250 FBOs not seen included in four districts audited.

(Paragraph 2.1.4.3)

- Delayed sample collection observed from anganawadis and manufacturing units.
- 3,556.50 kg of Amrutham Nutrimix and 444 kg of Bengal gram already distributed was later found to be unsafe, but secondary action such as seizure/ recall not initiated.

(Paragraph 2.1.4.10)

- Food which tested unsafe was not recalled in 35 out of 159 cases in four districts. Action remained incomplete in 106 other cases.

(Paragraph 2.1.4.11)

- FSSAI notified laboratories were inadequately equipped to test parameters for food safety; NABL accreditation yet to be obtained for several parameters.
- The laboratory at Pathanamthitta set up for testing *vazhipad* articles of Sabarimala temple, was neither notified by FSSAI nor accredited by NABL. Samples were declared ‘satisfactory’ after checking only some of the parameters specified by FSSAI.

- The label on the Aravana Prasadam container did not include several details, especially “use by date”.

(Paragraph 2.1.5)

- 21 *per cent* shortage in Food Safety Officers cadre affecting adversely the enforcement of various provisions of the Act.

(Paragraph 2.1.6.1)

- Penalty of ₹1.88 crore pending recovery as of October 2021.

(Paragraph 2.1.7.3)

Failure of oversight/administrative controls

Audit noticed instances where funds released by the Government of Kerala (GoK) for creating public assets for the benefit of the community remained unutilised/ blocked and/ or proved unfruitful/ unproductive due to lack of administrative oversight and concerted action at various levels. The details are given below.

Implementation of Projects by State Public Sector Undertakings under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

- 20 out of 50 Combined harvesters procured by KAICO for ₹10.80 crore without assessing technical feasibility were not utilised at all and utilisation of the remaining 30 ranged between 1.70 and 75.64 *per cent* during 2014-21.
- Feed Mixing Plant project at Mala sanctioned in July 2011 yet to be commissioned even after spending ₹15.36 crore. Project undertaken without proper feasibility study and marketing plan.

(Paragraph 2.2.2)

- Diversion of ₹6.75 crore RKVY Funds by two PSUs, VAFPCCL and MPI to meet working capital expenses.
- Nine PSUs submitted Utilisation Certificates totalling ₹61.18 crore when the actual expenditure was only ₹22.96 crore.

(Paragraph 2.2.3)

- MPI achieved only 13-57 *per cent* of targeted distribution of piglets against three projects. Only ₹2.26 crore out of ₹7.26 crore utilized.
- Absence of action plan for distribution of frozen semen by KLDB led to non-moving stock of 34,922 doses in two projects. Despite non-achievement of targets in earlier project, GoK sanctioned new projects.
- Out of total production of 24,032.51 litres of virgin coconut oil, KSCDC was able to sell only 873 litres (3.6 *per cent*).
- Production from 300 TPD Cattle Feed plant of KFL ranged between 14.11 and 61.39 *per cent*.

(Paragraph 2.2.5)

Failure of Higher Education Department/ Directorate of Technical Education to seek clarification about Government Order resulted in loss of ₹65.27 lakh due to short collection of testing charges.

(Paragraph 2.3)

Infructuous expenditure of ₹ five crore incurred by Karunagappally Municipality on construction of a private bus stand due to unsuitability of location and inclusion of a restrictive clause in the sale deed.

(Paragraph 2.4)

Adat Grama Panchayat failed to collect ₹1.11 crore as additional fee for additional floor area from applicants at the time of sanctioning building permit.

(Paragraph 2.6)

Failure on the part of Kerala Water Authority to adhere to the amended provisions of the Kerala Stamp Act, 1959 resulted in shortfall in stamp duty collection of ₹56.57 lakh.

(Paragraph 2.9)