

PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER & AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA 10, BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG

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CAG Holds Brainstorming Session with Central Ministries on Audit

An interactive session was organised by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) with some of the important Ministries of the Government of India here today to identify the schemes, projects and activities of the government of India that the Ministries would like C&AG of India to evaluate and provide audit opinion and assurance on their implementation, outputs and outcome. This session was a part of the process of the audit planning exercise carried out by the C&AG annually.

This value addition exercise, through sharing of ideas and concerns, was organised at the behest of the Prime Minister India who at a conclave held on 16 November 2021, marking the first Audit Diwas, had appreciated such session held on 10th February 2020 and expressed the hope that more such sessions would be held in the future for developing greater synergies between the Government and C&AG.

While setting the tone of the session, Shri Rakesh Mohan, Dy. Comptroller & Auditor General (RC) pointed out that audit process is the shared constitutional responsibility of the CAG and the Ministries. The government representatives were briefed on the structure of audit, approach, criteria and types of audit reports, jurisdictions of various offices under C&AG and positive outcomes of previous audit reports on governance in India. The outcome of previous interactive sessions was also discussed and useful impacts of such interactions were highlighted upon.

Shri K. Sriram, Dy. Comptroller & Auditor General (CRA) & Chief Technical Officer highlighted the need for real time data sharing between the auditor and auditee for correct opinion of the auditor on the financial statements of the Ministries. The issues critical to audit such as delay in submission of approved accounts by Central Autonomous Bodies(CABs) to Audit, critical delay in receipt of reply to audit

observations and draft paras to C&AG and entrustment of audit of CABs were put forth. Huge savings and surrender of the funds at the fag end of the financial year was also highlighted. Ministries were also briefed about the recent subject matter selected by the PAC from the CAG's Audit Report.

Ministries shared their concerns and constraints and sought advice from C&AG on various issues pertaining to accounting, governance and building synergy between CAG and the executive bodies. Both Audit and the Ministries recognised the functional utility of constitution of Standing Audit Committees in the Ministries to address Action Taken Notes/Action Taken Reports on the recommendations of the PAC, improvement in accounting and financial reporting and prompt response to audit queries.

It was agreed that a synergetic approach between the auditor and auditee would go a long way to present a correct, true and fair view of the financial health of Ministries, CABs, Authorities and Corporations of the Government of India.

Senior officers from C&AG including Deputy C&AGs and DGs (Audit) responsible for audit of central Ministries were present at the interactive session. The Session was attended by Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Chief Controllers of Accounts and Directors from 18 Central Ministries.

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