

Press Brief on Audit Report (G&SS) 2018-19

In accordance with Article 151 of the Constitution of India, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) submits his Audit Reports to the Governor of State for being laid on the table of the Legislature. Accordingly, Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31 March 2019 (G&SS)-Government of Rajasthan, has been laid on the table of the State Legislature on 21.08.2020. As per procedure, the Report of the CAG stand referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

The following are some of the highlights of the Audit Report:

Performance Audit issues

Chapter II of the report contains Performance Audit of *Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin*. Brief summaries of the Performance Audit is discussed in the following paragraphs:

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) was launched on 1st April 2016 with the aim of providing a pucca house with basic amenities to all houseless households and households living in kutcha and dilapidated house by 2022. Construction of 6.87 lakh houses was targeted for the State in three years from 2016-17 to 2018-19.

Performance audit of the implementation of PMAY-G in selected districts, blocks and gram panchayats revealed that though the progress in construction of houses was good, however, various shortcomings with regard to implementation of the scheme were noticed. The failure to upload the data pertaining to 7.15 lakh beneficiaries resulted in refusal by the GoI to include them in Permanent Wait List depriving them of a Pucca house. Assistance for the Landless beneficiaries and ‘Persons with Disabilities’ was not provided to the mandated extent. Among the sampled completed houses, 31.02 *per cent* houses were not being used for residential purpose by the beneficiaries and 2.37 *per cent* houses shown ‘Completed’ in AwaasSoft, were incomplete. The objective of convergence with other schemes to ensure availability of basic amenities like toilets, electricity, clean drinking water and clean cooking fuel in the completed houses could not be achieved to the stipulated level. Interestingly, 49.15 per cent of the sampled completed houses were without toilets even though the State has been declared Open Defecation Free.

Instances of delayed transfer of Central and State shares to the State Nodal Account, delayed release of first instalment to beneficiaries, double payment of same instalment to beneficiaries, False Success/Reject cases of Direct Benefit Transfer, delay in submission of Audit Reports were also noticed.

Monitoring and Inspection of the scheme implementation was inadequate. Grievance redressal mechanism remained deficient.

(Paragraph 2.1)

Compliance Audit issues

Audit observed significant deficiencies in critical areas, which impact the effectiveness of the GoR. Some important findings of compliance audit paragraphs have been reported in Chapter III. The summary of major observations are as follows:

Unfruitful expenditure of ₹ 99.97 lakh on construction of Museum building in Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agriculture University, Bikaner owing to non-utilisation of newly constructed building even after a lapse of more than six years from its completion.

(Paragraph 3.1)

Non availability/creation of storage facilities forced the Department to dispose of garlic procured under Market Intervention Scheme, at throw away prices, resulting in loss of ₹ 231.77 crore. It was due to not initiating the steps by the GoR for developing a system of efficient marketing, non-traditional/new markets and the sales through network of retail points to avoid losses on part of State and Central Government as envisaged in the scheme guidelines.

(Paragraph 3.2)

Failure of the treasury officers to exercise prescribed checks led to excess/short/irregular payment of pension/family pension amounting to ₹ 1.47 crore. The directions of the department and recommendations of the PAC, about avoiding recurrence of such irregularities in payment of pension in future, were not followed scrupulously, which resulted in recurrence of excess/short payment of pension.

(Paragraph 3.3)

Non construction of General Nursing Midwifery school building at Baran even after lapse of nine years due to lack of initiative by District Hospital Pratapgarh and Baran and lack of monitoring by the Directorate of Medical and Health Services defeated the very purpose of the grant sanctioned by GoI.

(Paragraph 3.4)

Improper assessment of requirement and delays in execution of project resulted in non-completion of Para Medical College building even after lapse of seven years and incurring an expenditure of ₹ 3.89 crore, as well as failure in obtaining pending instalment of central grant amounting to ₹ 3.36 crore.

(Paragraph 3.5)

Non recovery of rent of ₹ 23.33 crore from the contractor for land provided by Medical College, Kota for execution of flyover work under UIT, Kota due to lack of coordination between both the agencies.

(Paragraph 3.6)

Despite the assurance given to the Public Account Committee, Super Specialty Research Hospital under RUHS remained incomplete even after lapse of 11 years and incurring an expenditure of ₹ 19.30 crore, rendering the expenditure unfruitful.

(Paragraph 3.7)

Calculation of price escalation for Ductile Iron pipes based on indices of incorrect item for steel component led to excess payment of ₹ 10.73 crore to the contractors in respect of two Regional Water Supply Schemes, two water supply projects and one pipe line work executed in Eight Project Divisions of Public Health Engineering Department.

(Paragraph 3.8)

Excess payment of price escalation to the contractors by allowing incorrect price indices for the shortfall in five water supply and pipe line works, not covered up in the subsequent time spans. Had the calculation of price escalation been done using the value of actual work done in particular time spans, the amount of price escalation payable to the contractors would work out to a negative amount of ₹ 4.89 crore but instead the contractors were paid an amount of ₹ 11.35 crore thereby giving an undue benefit of ₹ 16.24 crore.

(Paragraph 3.9)

Non-adherence to the special condition of the contract relating to recovery of compensation for delay in supply of pipe resulted in undue benefit of ₹ 10.09 crore to contractors in respect of four Project Divisions of PHED.

(Paragraph 3.10)

Labour cess to the tune of ₹ 7.05 crore was not collected by Local Authorities from the builders at the time of approval of projects as provided in the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act.

(Paragraph 3.11)