

CHAPTER XVIII

Follow-up on Audit Reports (Commercial)

Audit Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) represent the culmination of the process of scrutiny starting with initial inspection of accounts and records maintained in various offices and departments of PSUs. It is, therefore, necessary that appropriate and timely response is elicited from the Executive on the Audit findings included in the Audit Reports.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat requested (July 1985) all the Ministries to furnish notes (duly vetted by Audit) indicating remedial/corrective action taken by them on various paragraphs/appraisals contained in the Audit Reports (Commercial) of the CAG as laid on the table of both the Houses of Parliament. Such notes were required to be submitted even in respect of paragraphs/appraisals which were not selected by the Committee on Public Sector Undertakings (COPU) for detailed examination. The COPU in its Second Report (1998-99-Twelfth Lok Sabha), while reiterating the above instructions, recommended:

- setting up of a monitoring cell in each Ministry for monitoring the submission of Action Taken Notes (ATNs) in respect of Audit Reports (Commercial) on individual Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);
- setting up of a monitoring cell in Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) for monitoring the submission of ATNs in respect of Reports containing paras relating to a number of PSUs under different Ministries; and
- submission to the Committee, within six months from the date of presentation of the relevant Audit Reports, the follow up ATNs duly vetted by Audit in respect of all Reports of the CAG presented to Parliament.

While reviewing the follow up action taken by the Government on the above recommendations, the COPU in its First Report (1999-2000-Thirteenth Lok Sabha) reiterated its earlier recommendations that the DPE should set up a separate monitoring cell in the DPE itself to monitor the follow-up action taken by various Ministries/Departments on the observations contained in the Audit Reports (Commercial) on individual undertakings. Accordingly, a monitoring cell is functioning in the DPE since August 2000 to monitor the follow up on submission of ATNs by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments. Monitoring cells have also been set up within the concerned Ministries for submission of ATNs on various Reports (Commercial) of the CAG.

Further in a recent meeting of the Committee of Secretaries of Government of India (June 2010) it was decided to make special efforts to clear the pending ATNs/ATRs on CAG Audit Paras and PAC recommendations within the next three months. While conveying this decision (July, 2010), the Ministry of Finance recommended institutional mechanism to expedite action in the future.

A review in Audit revealed that despite reminders, the remedial/corrective ATNs on the transaction audit/compliance audit paragraphs/reviews contained in the last five years' Audit Reports (Commercial) relating to the PSUs under the administrative control of various Ministries, as detailed in *Appendix-III*, were not received by Audit for vetting. No ATN has been received in respect of 24, 17, 31, and 27 transaction audit/compliance audit paragraphs/reviews contained in Audit Reports (Commercial) of 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 respectively.

For Audit Reports (Commercial) of 2009-10 which were presented to Parliament in August, 2010, ATNs on 53 out of 100 transaction audit/compliance audit paragraphs/reviews were awaited from various Ministries as of 7 March 2011.

Out of 152 paras/reviews on which ATNs were awaited, 62 paragraphs related to PSUs under the Department of Telecommunications, 18 paragraphs related to PSUs under the Ministry of Finance (Banking and Insurance Division) and 9 paragraphs related to PSUs under the Department of Defence production and supply.



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