

2. Major Audit Findings

2.1 Prevention and Control of Pollution

- *Statutory provisions of obtaining Consent to Establish were not followed in 88 per cent of the units test checked and in 68 per cent of the units Consent for Operation was not obtained. Periodical renewal of consent under Air Act and Water Act was not obtained in 15 units and 16 units respectively. (Para 2.1.1)*

- *Conditions attached with consent remained largely unfulfilled in 11 workshops and nine sheds out of 23 workshops and 21 sheds (45 per cent) which were granted Consent for Operation. (Para 2.1.3)*

- *Air pollution control equipments such as wet scrubber, fume extractors, dust collectors etc. were not provided in 30 workshops and 65 sheds (69 per cent). Control equipments were not in working condition in production units such as CLW/Chittaranjan and DLW/Varanasi. Out of 23 workshops and 21 sheds which obtained Consent for Operation, only seven workshops and six sheds conducted air quality check. In three workshops and three sheds, the shortfall in conducting air quality check ranged between 25 and 99 per cent. (Para 2.2.1 and 2.2.2)*

- *Initiatives of IR in maintaining noise level check were inadequate. Noise level was beyond the tolerance limit in 387 out of the 1,105 locations where the quality of noise was monitored. Out of 30 workshops and 60 sheds having DG set, stack height was found less than the prescribed height in seven workshops and seventeen sheds. Acoustic enclosures for noise reduction in DG sets were provided only in 22 workshops and 37 sheds checked (66 per cent). (Para 2.2.3 and 2.2.4)*

- *There were no specific instructions/guidelines for installation of ETP at workshops, sheds and production units. ETP was not available in 26 workshops and 57 sheds (60 per cent of the units test checked). In 20 workshops and 33 sheds where ETP was provided, sources of effluents were not connected to the ETP in six workshops and two sheds. Quality of discharge was monitored only in seven workshops and eight sheds. ETP sludge was disposed off in open area leading to contamination of ground water. (Para 2.2.5)*

2.2 Conservation of Resources

- *There is no system in place at the RB level to monitor or initiate corrective action on the shortfall in achieving targets related to conservation of energy by the Zonal Railways. Efforts of Workshops and sheds to conduct energy audit and implement their recommendations were slow and inadequate resulting in non-achievement of projected savings. Initiatives of workshops and sheds to generate and use solar energy were insignificant. There was no system to quantify savings due to implementation of energy conservation measures.*

(Para 3. 1, 3.1.1 and 3.1.2)

- *Despite clear instructions by RB, recycling of water through WRP was provided only in one depot. RWH system was not provided in 39 workshops and 73 sheds over 13 Zonal Railways. In three Zonal Railways, RWH was provided in five workshops and three sheds.*

(Para 3.2.1 and 3.2.2)

2.3 Waste Management

- *Authorization from the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) for handling hazardous wastes was obtained by only 15 workshops and 17 sheds (23 per cent). Complete records of hazardous wastes were not maintained in 13 workshops and 12 sheds out of 32 (78 per cent) workshops and sheds test checked. Only nine workshops and three sheds submitted the requisite return regarding handling of hazardous wastes.*

(Para 4.1.1 and 4.1.3)

- *Environment Impact Assessment was conducted only in two workshops and two sheds out of 15 workshops and 17 sheds authorised for handling hazardous waste.*

(Para 4.1.5)

- *Statutory provisions relating to maintenance of records, submission of returns to SPCBs, handling and disposal of used batteries were not complied.*

(Para 4.2)

2.4 Health and Safety

- *Layout plan of the workshops and sheds was not approved by the Director/Inspector of Factories in respect of 23 workshops and 47 sheds .*

(Para 5.1)

- *Periodical inspection by doctors was carried out only in nine workshops and nine sheds (13 per cent) over eight Zonal Railways. Monitoring of implementation of the recommended safety measures was done only in 10 workshops and 7 sheds (12 per cent) over seven Zonal Railways.*

(Para 5.2)