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This Report on the Finances of the Government of Mizoram is being brought out with a view to assess objectively the financial performance of the State during the year 2013-14. The aim of this Report is to provide the State Government with timely inputs based on actual data so that there is a better insight into both well performing as well as ill performing schemes/programmes of the Government. In order to give a perspective to the analysis, an effort has been made to compare the achievements with the targets envisaged by the State Government in Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2006 as well as in the Budget Estimates of 2013-14 and projections made by Thirteenth Finance Commission.

The Report

Based on the audited accounts of the Government of Mizoram for the year ending March 2014, this Report provides an analytical review of the Annual Accounts of the State Government. The Report is structured in three Chapters.

Chapter-I is based on the audit of Finance Accounts and makes an assessment of Mizoram Government's fiscal position as on 31 March 2014. It provides an insight into trends in committed expenditure, borrowing pattern besides a brief account of central funds transferred directly to the State Implementing Agencies.

Chapter-II is based on the audit of Appropriation Accounts and gives the grant-by-grant description of appropriations and the manner in which the allocated resources

were managed by the service delivery Departments.

Chapter-III is an inventory of Mizoram Government's compliance with various reporting requirements and financial rules.

The report also has appendices of additional data collated from several sources in support of the findings and at the end gives a glossary of selected terms related to State economy, used in this report.

Audit findings

Revenue Receipts

Revenue receipts increased by ₹ 228.11 crore (5.03 *per cent*) over the previous year mainly due to increase in Grants-in-Aid (₹ 167.89 crore). The revenue receipt (₹ 4,764.85 crore) was lower by ₹ 274.57 crore (5.45 *per cent*) than the assessment of the State Government in its Fiscal Correction Path (FCP) (₹ 5,039.42 crore).

Revenue Expenditure and Capital Expenditure

Revenue expenditure increased by ₹ 408.07 crore (9.05 *per cent*) while capital expenditure decreased by ₹ 8.15 crore (1.34 *per cent*) over the previous year. Revenue expenditure was higher by ₹ 259.37 crore (5.57 *per cent*) over the assessment made by the State Government in its FCP (₹ 4,657.61 crore) while, capital expenditure was higher by ₹ 281.19 crore (32.67 *per cent*) over the projection made by the State Government in its FCP (₹ 451.80 crore)

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The total expenditure of the State increased progressively from ₹ 3,300.44 crore in 2009-10 to ₹ 5,547.09 crore in 2013-14 at an annual average rate of 13.61 per cent and increased by 7.78 per cent from ₹ 5,146.71 crore in 2012-13 to ₹ 5,547.09 crore in 2013-14. Of the total expenditure during 2013-14, the revenue expenditure (₹ 4,916.98 crore) constituted 88.64 per cent while capital expenditure (₹ 599.40 crore) constituted 10.81 per cent and loans and advances (₹ 30.71 crore) constituted 0.55 per cent.

The breakup of total expenditure in terms of plan and non-plan expenditure during 2013-14 reveals that while the share of plan expenditure of ₹ 2,312.59 crore constituted 41.69 per cent of the total expenditure, the remaining 58.31 per cent (₹ 3,234.50 crore) was non-plan expenditure. Moreover, out of the increase of ₹ 400.38 crore in total expenditure in 2013-14, plan expenditure constituted 3.57 per cent (₹ 14.31 crore) while non-plan expenditure contributed 96.43 per cent (₹ 386.07 crore).

Fiscal liabilities

The overall fiscal liabilities of the State increased at an average annual rate of 10.92 per cent during the period 2009-14. During the current year, the overall fiscal liabilities of the State Government increased by ₹ 494.27 crore (9.66 per cent) from ₹ 5,114.20 crore in 2012-13 to ₹ 5,608.47 crore in 2013-14. The increase in fiscal liabilities was mainly due to increase in the Public Account liabilities by ₹ 495.69 crore and Internal Debt by ₹ 185.38 crore, offset by a decrease in

Loans and Advances by ₹ 186.80 crore. *The ratio of fiscal liabilities to GSDP has decreased from 63.51 per cent in 2012-13 to 54.47 per cent in 2013-14. However, the ratio of fiscal liabilities to revenue receipts increased from 112.73 per cent in 2012-13 to 117.71 per cent in 2013-14 and with respect to Own resources it increased from 1,173.12 per cent in 2012-13 to 1,322.63 per cent in 2013-14.* The buoyancy of these liabilities with respect to GSDP during the year was 0.35. However, with respect to revenue receipts it was 1.92 indicating that for each one per cent increase in revenue receipts, fiscal liabilities grew by 1.92 per cent. The buoyancy of fiscal liabilities with respect to own resources was (-) 3.54. Against the target of 79.20 per cent set by the XIII FC for the current year, the outstanding fiscal liabilities of the State at the end of the year 2013-14 stood at 54.47 per cent of GSDP.

Investment and Returns

As of 31 March 2014, Government had invested ₹ 22.27 crore in Government Companies and Co-operative Bank, Societies, etc. out of which an amount of ₹ 4.92 crore was invested in Government Companies and ₹ 17.35 crore was invested in Co-operative Bank, Societies, etc. During the current year, the State Government invested ₹ 97 lakh in Government Companies and ₹ 11.92 lakh in Consumer Co-operatives. No dividend was received during 2013-14. *The average return on this investment was Nil in the last five years while the Government paid an average interest rate ranging from 2.60 per cent to 7.02 per cent on its borrowings during 2009-14.*

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Debt sustainability

During the current year, the sum of quantum spread and primary deficit remained positive indicating that the debt-GSDP ratio is stable. The sum of quantum spread and primary deficit increased considerably by ₹ 561.54 crore from ₹ 127.09 crore during 2012-13 to ₹ 688.63 crore during 2013-14, which was attributable to increase in quantum spread (quantum spread increased due to increase in the growth rate of GSDP) in 2013-14 to ₹ 1,153.25 crore as compared to quantum spread of ₹ 419.82 crore in 2012-13. This indicated improved debt stability *vis-à-vis* GSDP during the current year (mainly due to high growth rate of GSDP in 2013-14) compared to the previous year and hence the debt-GSDP ratio would eventually be falling in the upcoming years if the growth rate of GSDP is sustained at the current level.

Widening of the resource gap from a (-) ₹ 102.27 crore during 2012-13 to () ₹ 168.63 crore during 2013-14 indicates depreciating capacity of the State to sustain the debt from the non-debt receipts in the medium to long run. This also meant the State had to depend on borrowed funds for meeting current revenue and capital expenditure.

Cash Balances

Cash balance of the State Government at the end of the current year decreased by ₹ 10.49 crore from ₹ 262.52 crore in 2012-13 to ₹ 252.03 crore in 2013-14. There was also a difference of ₹ 57.43 crore (net credit) at the end of the accounting year 2013-14 between the Cash Balance as worked out

by the Principal Accountant General and as reported by the Reserve Bank of India. This difference is mainly due to erroneous reporting by the accredited banks to the Reserve Bank of India, Nagpur which is responsible for maintaining the Cash Balance of the State Government.

Fiscal Imbalances

Due to increase of ₹ 400.38 crore in total expenditure in 2013-14 over the previous year, the position of both fiscal deficit and primary deficit also deteriorated. While fiscal deficit increased by ₹ 168.63 crore, primary deficit had increased by ₹ 172.28 crore over the previous year.

Financial Management and Budgetary

Control: The estimates of receipts and expenditure under Consolidated Fund, Contingency Fund and Public Account were prepared without adequate and due diligence in observing prescribed budgetary regulations.

Non-maintenance of Budget calendar, poor verification of departmental figures *etc.*, indicate absence of financial control. Besides, failure to put in place control mechanisms, huge excess expenditure over budget provisions, non-utilisation of budget provisions and persistent savings *etc.* were noticed.

During 2013-14, an expenditure of ₹ 6,613.50 crore was incurred against the total grants and appropriations of ₹ 8,055.81 crore, resulting in savings of ₹ 1,442.31 crore. The overall savings of ₹ 1,442.31 crore were the net result of savings of ₹ 1,942.42 crore

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which was offset by excess of ₹ 500.11 crore. The excess requires regularisation under Article 205 of the Constitution of India. Moreover, it was seen that at the close of the financial year 2013-14, there were six grants/appropriations in which savings of ₹ 3.08 crore (0.16 per cent of the total savings) occurred but no part of the available savings was surrendered by the concerned Departments.

Out of the total provision amounting to ₹ 1,793.58 crore in 62 Schemes, an amount of ₹ 1,653.59 crore was surrendered which included 100 per cent surrender in 32 Schemes amounting to ₹ 1,157.84 crore.

In 19 cases, as against savings of ₹ 285.13 crore, an amount of ₹ 295.94 crore was surrendered resulting in excess surrender of ₹ 10.81 crore. Injudicious re-appropriation proved excessive or insufficient and resulted in savings/excess of over ₹ 10 lakh and above in 30 sub-heads.

Financial Reporting: At the end of March 2014, an amount of ₹ 2,774.19 crore remained outstanding for want of Utilisation Certificates. The annual accounts of Mizoram Khadi & Village Industries Board (MKVIB) for the year 2011-12 have been furnished. In the absence of the annual accounts, proper account/utilisation of the grants and loans disbursed to the above mentioned Autonomous Bodies remained unverified. In spite of repeated comments about the arrears in preparation of accounts of two Commercial Undertakings by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in previous State reports, no improvement has been reported by the undertakings. In the absence of timely

finalisation of accounts, the investment of the Government remained outside the scrutiny of Audit/State Legislature. Consequently, corrective measures, if any, needed for ensuring accountability could not be taken in time.

Recommendations

Revenue Receipts: *The State Government should mobilize additional resources both through tax and non-tax sources by expanding the tax base and rationalizing user charges. It should also make efforts to collect revenue arrears. Efforts should also be made to increase tax compliance, reduce tax administration costs, etc. so that deficits are contained. The State Government should ensure that the Government of India releases all grants due to the State by taking timely action on all conditionalities that are pre-requisite to the release. There is an urgent need to improve collection of tax and non-tax revenues so that dependence on borrowed funds could be reduced.*

Prioritisation of Expenditure: *The Government should also focus on expenditure management to bring about qualitative improvement in the public spending. The State Government should initiate action to restrict the components of non-plan revenue expenditure by phasing out implicit subsidies and resort to need-based borrowings to curb interest and principal payments. In view of the improvement achieved in revenue surplus and reduction of fiscal deficit, the State Government should put in place more stringent fiscal reforms measures to maintain a sustainable space to provide scope for*

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fiscal stability. As such there is an urgent need to apply due prudence in expenditure pattern so that the resource gap remains within manageable controls of the fiscal capability of the State. The increasing revenue expenditure should be curtailed as it poses a threat to the State Government's capability to maintain revenue surplus and to build up the accumulated revenue surplus for financing the capital investment. In order to meet the yearly increments of revenue expenditure, the Government has to generate its own resources.

Debt Sustainability: *Recourse to borrowed funds in future should be carefully assessed and managed so that the recommendations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission to bring Fiscal Liabilities-GSDP ratio to around 25 per cent could be achieved by 2014-15. Maintaining a calendar of borrowings to avoid bunching towards the end of the fiscal year will ensure that market borrowings are sourced optimally. A clear understanding of the maturity profile of debt payments will go a long way in prudent debt management.*

Government Investments: *A performance-based system of accountability should be put in place in the Government Companies/ Statutory Corporations so as to ensure profitability and improve efficiency in service. The Government should ensure better value for money in investments by identifying the Companies/Corporations which are endowed with low financial but high socio-economic returns and justify the use of high cost borrowed funds for non-revenue generating investments*

through a clear and transparent guideline. The Government should have a re-look on the re-structuring of the loss-making Companies so as to curb the increasing debt burden of the Government.

Market Borrowings: *Strict monitoring and proper accounting by the Government is required to check the utilisation of market borrowing for generating capital assets.*

Financial Management and Budgetary control: *Government should put in place an effective mechanism to ensure financial discipline and prepare realistic budget. Budgetary controls should be strengthened in all the Government Departments where savings/excesses persisted for the last three years. Issuance of Re-appropriation/ surrender orders at the end of the year should be avoided. Provision of funds through supplementary provisions should be used as an instrument to fine-tune the flow of expenditure and should be applied in a judicious manner so that budget provisions and actual expenditure are convergent to each other as nearest as possible.*

A close and rigorous monitoring mechanism should be put in place by the DDOs to adjust the Abstract Contingent Bills within thirty days from the date of drawal of the amount.

Financial Reporting: *Finance Department should ensure strict compliance of codal provisions as well as its own instructions to honour Public Finance Accountability norms. The State Government should undertake regular monitoring and issue*

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necessary instructions to the concerned Departments for furnishing timely Utilisation Certificates. The Heads of Departments should ensure that the departmental undertakings prepare proforma accounts and submit the same to the Principal Accountant General for audit. Departmental inquiries in misappropriation/loss cases should be expedited to bring the defaulters to book. Internal Controls in all organisations should be strengthened to prevent such cases in future.