

CHAPTER – VI

OTHER DEPARTMENTAL RECEIPTS

6.1 Results of Audit

Test check of records of concerned departmental offices conducted in audit during the year 2002-03 disclosed short realization/loss of revenue of Rs. 213.11 crore in 232 cases which fall under the following broad categories:

(Rupees in crore)

Sl.No.	Categories	No. of cases	Amount
	FOREST DEPARTMENT		
1	Loss of revenue due to departmental irregularities	7	1.12
2	Non-recovery of royalty	20	6.22
3	Loss of revenue due to non-registration of saw mills	2	0.0005
4	Non/Short levy of penalty	8	0.99
5	Irregularities in collection/disposal of tendu leaves	3	26.06
6	Non-realisation of lease rent	6	2.09
7	Other irregularities	142	174.26
	Total	188	210.74
	PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT		
1.	Misutilisation of departmental receipts	2	0.03
2.	Non/short-levy of stamp duty	4	0.01
3.	Non-levy of centage charges	1	0.12
4.	Loss of revenue due to non-auction of empty drums, gunny bags.	1	0.0009

5.	Non-recovery of rent from inspection houses and guest houses	6	0.18
6.	Other irregularities	30	2.03
	Total	44	2.37
	Grand Total	232	213.11

A few illustrative cases involving financial effect of Rs. 72.25 lakh are given in the succeeding paragraphs:

FOREST DEPARTMENT

6.2 Loss of revenue due to non-exploitation of bamboo

The State Government appointed a Committee in 1998 to investigate the causes for the alarming problem of congestion in bamboo forests of the Vindhya region and to suggest remedial measures. The Committee inter alia recommended in November 1999, observation of the prescribed felling cycle of bamboos as per approved working plan, and ensuring regular annual culture work in natural and planted areas of bamboos. Besides, the Working Plans of the divisions prepared for efficient management of forest, also prescribed that regular culture work in natural and planted bamboo forest be ensured.

Test check of the records of Divisional Forest Officer, Sonebhadra and Obra revealed that the Divisions allotted 22.25 lakh bamboo valued at Rs.56.39 lakh in 38 lots to Uttar Pradesh Van Nigam (Nigam) for exploitation during the felling cycle of the year 1998-99 to 2001-02. The Nigam however, did not work on these lots on the plea that the lots, being congested were not feasible for exploitation. Thus the non-observance of the provisions of the working plan and recommendations of the committee to ensure regular annual culture work of bamboos resulted in a loss of revenue to the tune of Rs.56.39 lakh. Besides, the regeneration of new bamboo had also been adversely affected in natural areas of the bamboo forests.

On this being pointed out in audit, the Divisions stated (October 2002) that due to non-availability of budget provision, the culture work could not be done. The reply was not tenable as non-exploitation of bamboos, thus, not ensuring regular culture work resulted in the loss of government revenue of Rs. 56.39 lakh.

In reply the Department and Government accepted the observation and stated that culture work could not be carried out due to non-availability of funds (January 2004).

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

6.3 Non-verification of deposit of royalty

Uttar Pradesh Mines Minerals (Concession) Rules, 1963 provides that stone ballast / grits shall be obtained by the contractor of Public Works Department from quarry only on payment of royalty to the Mining/Forest Department at prescribed rates. The Government had clarified vide order dated 22 September 1988, that the Public Works Department, before making payment of bill to the contractor should ensure that the contractor had made payment of royalty to the Mining/Forest Department. Further, contractor was to furnish a royalty clearance certificate from Mining/Forest Department, failing which amount of royalty was to be recovered from his bill.

During the audit of Provincial Division, PWD, Ballia and Construction Division-II, PWD, Moradabad, it was noticed that a sum of Rs.2.27 crore was paid to contractors, which included the cost of 79310.85 cubic meters of stone ballast and grits. These payments were made without verifying whether the contractors had made payment of royalty to Mining/Forest Department and without deducting the amount of royalty from their bills. Non-compliance of the above instructions resulted in loss of revenue of Rs.15.86 lakh to the Government.

The matter was reported to the Department and Government between April 2002 and February 2003; their replies had not been received (November 2003).

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The**

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ERRATA

Page No.	Para No.	Line No. etc.	For	Read
34	3.2.14	8th line	13.27	12.87
34	3.2.15 (i)	2nd line	Lacking	Locking
37	3.3	8th line	State	Stated
42	4.2.6	1st line	(Bullet)	Remove bullet