

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

The comparative position of expenditure of major Scientific Departments/ organisations, during 2003-04 and in the preceding two years is given below:

(Rupees in crore)

Sl. No.	Ministry/Department/Organisation	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	Atomic Energy	4870.15	6018.73	6148.41
2.	Space	1900.97	2162.22	2268.80
3.	Indian Council of Agricultural Research	1287.80	1333.96	1464.17
4.	Environment and Forests (including Zoological Survey of India and Botanical Survey of India)	1014.23	1057.52	1036.19
5.	Science and Technology (including Survey of India and India Meteorological Department)	771.33	920.84	985.84
6.	Scientific and Industrial Research (including grants given to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)	913.99	963.71	1090.09
7.	Non-Conventional Energy Sources	503.37	428.33	381.33
8.	Geological Survey of India (Ministry of Mines)	243.06	248.31	271.60
9.	Information Technology	521.63	497.34	530.62
10.	Biotechnology	185.58	220.70	262.55
11.	Indian Council of Medical Research	188.63	180.00	201.86
12.	Ocean Development	150.47	167.05	169.50
13.	Centre for Development of Telematics (Department of Telecommunications)	98.23	108.80	47.66
		12649.44	14307.51	14858.62

Excess expenditure and unspent provisions under various Grants/Appropriations

A summary of Appropriation Accounts for 2003-04 in respect of Scientific Departments/major scientific organisations, mentioned in the paragraph above, is given below:

(Rupees in crore)

Sl. No.	Ministry/Department/Organisation	Grant/ Appropriation (including supplementary)	Expenditure	(-) Unspent Provision (+) Excess	Percentage of Unspent provision
1.	Atomic Energy	6576.97	6148.41	(-) 428.56	6.52
2.	Space	2368.89	2268.80	(-) 100.09	4.23
3.	Indian Council of Agricultural Research	1480.30	1464.17	(-) 16.13	1.09
4.	Environment and Forests (including Zoological Survey of India and Botanical Survey of India)	1160.06	1036.19	(-) 123.87	10.68
5.	Science and Technology (including Survey of India and India Meteorological Department)	1190.22	985.84	(-) 204.38	17.17
6.	Scientific and Industrial Research (including grants given to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)	1136.42	1090.09	(-) 46.33	4.08
7.	Non-Conventional Energy Sources	630.17	381.33	(-) 248.84	39.49
8.	Geological Survey of India (Ministry of Mines)	297.77	271.60	(-) 26.17	8.79
9.	Information Technology	535.17	530.62	(-) 4.55	0.85
10.	Biotechnology	273.37	262.55	(-) 10.82	3.96
11.	Indian Council of Medical Research	201.86	201.86	-	-
12.	Ocean Development	199.34	169.50	(-) 29.84	14.97
13.	Centre for Development of Telematics (Department of Telecommunications)	47.66	47.66	-	-
Total		16098.20	14858.62	(-) 1239.58	7.70

2 Audit of accounts of autonomous bodies

Accounts of autonomous bodies, which receive grants and loans from the Government, are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India under the relevant provisions of the Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is the sole auditor of eight autonomous bodies under the Scientific Departments. Separate Audit Reports are prepared on their accounts under sections 19 (2) and 20 (1) of the Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971. The position of grants released to these autonomous bodies is indicated in *Appendix I*.

In addition, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India may conduct supplementary/super-imposed audit of 59 other autonomous bodies, which are substantially funded by the Government of India and whose primary audit is conducted by Chartered Accountants. The position of grants released to these autonomous bodies is indicated in *Appendix II*.

3 Outstanding utilisation certificates

Ministries and Departments are required to obtain certificates of utilisation of grants from the grantees i.e. statutory bodies, non-governmental institutions etc. indicating that the grants had been utilised for the purpose for which these were sanctioned and that, where the grants were conditional, the prescribed conditions had been fulfilled. According to the information furnished by the Pay and Accounts Officers of the concerned Departments, 6415 utilisation certificates for grants aggregating Rs 775.12 crore were outstanding as given in *Appendix III*. The defaulting Ministries/ Departments included (i) Environment and Forests (Rs 638.59 crore), (ii) Ocean Development (Rs 109.47 crore) and (iii) Space (Rs 23.99 crore).

4 Follow up on Audit Reports

In its Ninth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) presented to Parliament on 22 April 1997, the Public Accounts Committee had recommended that Action Taken Notes (ATNs) on all paragraphs pertaining to the Audit Reports for the year ended 31 March 1996 onwards be submitted to them duly vetted by Audit within four months from the laying of the reports in Parliament. A review of outstanding ATNs on paragraphs included in the Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Union Government (Scientific Departments) as of December 2004 revealed the following position:

Sl. No.	Report No. and Year	Paragraph No.	Pertains to	Brief subject
1	5 of 2004	2.1	Indian Council of Agricultural Research	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources
2		3.1	Department of Science and Technology	Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council
3		9.1		Wasteful investment
4		4.2	Department of Information Technology	Non-recovery of Rs 20.00 lakh
5		4.3		Short claim of Rs 38.67 lakh
6		6.1	Indian Council of Medical Research	Wasteful expenditure due to improper planning of construction of MRC Complex
7		6.2		Injudicious acquisition of funds for procurement of Liquid Nitrogen Plant

Report No.5 of 2005 (Scientific Departments)

Sl. No.	Report No. and Year	Paragraph No.	Pertains to	Brief subject
8	5 of 2004	7.1	Department of Space	Avoidable payment of Customs Duty
9		8.1	Department of Atomic Energy	Non-establishment of a Pyrochemical Process Pilot Plant
10		10.1	Department of Telecommunications	Unnecessary procurement of components
11		11.1	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research	Wasteful expenditure