

Deccan Chronicle dated 27 March 2021 (Saturday)

2 CENTRAL PRISONS FACE OVERCROWDING OF INMATES: CAG

**NAVEEN KUMAR I DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 26**

Prisons are facing issues of overcrowding in two of three Central prisons, non-segregation of women convicts and undertrials, among others, the CAG report said on Friday. The audit also observed that during the period 2014-19, eight prisoners had escaped of whom three were at large as of September 2020.

The report noted that vacancies were at 30 per cent, suggesting lack of adequate manpower. It said the state has not prepared a manual, which could have provisions for inclusive participation and prisoners' welfare such as prisoners' panchayat and board of visitors. Industrial training for skill development and employment opportunities to facilitate their rehabilitation are not available to prisoners and the wages paid are not rationalised, said the report. It said a draft prison manual had been submitted to the government in September 2016 but it had not been approved till May 2020.

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The New Indian Express

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Crowded prisons of Telangana cause for concern, says CAG report

Though the State Prisons Department has initiated a slew of measures for the welfare of inmates, crowding is still a cause for concern in Telangana jails.

HYDERABAD: Though the State Prisons Department has initiated a slew of measures for the welfare of inmates, crowding is still a cause for concern in Telangana jails. The delay in segregation of women convicts and undertrials, with the shortage of staffers, is also proving to be a headache for the department.

According to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report, the prisons in Telangana are overcrowded by upto 69 per cent, while the department is reeling under a 33 per cent staff shortage. "This suggests lack of adequate workforce for prison administration and management," the report observed.

The CAG report pointed out the security lapses, prisoners' requirements, health and medical care, reforms and rehabilitation measures, special remission for release of prisoners, and the education system in the jails in Telangana.

It stated that the State had constituted a committee in July 2016, for preparing a new Prison Manual. Though the draft manual was submitted to the government in September, 2016, it has not yet approved the manual which had provisions for inclusive participation and prisoners' welfare, including prisoners' panchayat and board of visitors.

Training for skill development and employment opportunities to facilitate rehabilitation are not available to prisoners and the wages paid to them are not rationalised, the report found.

As per the Model Prison Manual (MPM), the excess number of prisoners have to be transferred to other institutions. However, the audit did not find any plans by the authorities to this regard. In response, the DG (Prisons) stated that a proposal was sent to the government for upgradation of two district jails in Nizamabad and Sangareddy, as central prisons so that an average of 1,000 prisoners could be admitted there. Government stated that the proposal was under examination.

With respect to women prisoners, in the Mahbubnagar District Jail and Special Prison for Women, women convicts and undertrial prisoners are being confined in the same barrack. When non-compliance to MPM was pointed out, the prison authorities in Mahbubnagar said that this was happening due to shortage of a single barrack with 20 prisoners' capacity.

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The Hans India dated 27 March 2021 (Saturday)

THE HANS INDIA

Wasteful expenditure by Sircilla civic body

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SAIFABAD

THE Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has found wasteful expenditure of Rs 2.54 crore in the construction of intermediate pumping station even after initiation of water supply to Sircilla Municipality under Mission Bhagiratha.

The report states that government launched Mission Bhagiratha in November 2014 for supply of drinking water to rural and urban areas. Telangana Drinking Water Supply Corporation (TDWSC) was constituted for planning and execution of this project. It was decided that all ongoing water supply schemes outside the boundaries of Urban Local Bodies (ULB) shall be completed by Public Health Engineering Department and any new scheme outside the boundaries of ULBs would be executed by the TDWSC.

The Sircilla municipality draws water from Lower Manair Dam, Karimnagar as source under Sircilla Water Supply Improvement Scheme. In April 2013 the Municipality resolved to construct an

intermediate pumping station with 13th Finance Commission grants near Kodurupakavillage which is outside the boundaries of the ULB, at an estimated cost of Rs 2.85 crore. Audit observed (July 2018) that the work of "Construction of Intermediate pumping station at Kodurupaka" was awarded (June 2015) to a contractor despite specific direction (November 2014) from the government not to take up any new work outside the ULB." The work was completed in May 2016 at a cost of 2.53 crore. However, the pumping station is not being used, as drinking water is supplied to Sircilla Municipality under Mission Bhagiratha with effect from March 2018. The Department did not furnish specific reply for taking up construction of pumping station after launching of Mission Bhagiratha, the report said. It however, stated (May 2019) that the pumping station has been kept as a standby for use in case of any exigency. The reply is not acceptable as the Municipality disconnected High Tension (HT) power connection of pumping station in May 2018 itself since it was not operational.

Construction of Intermediate pumping station at Kodurupaka' was awarded (June 2015) to a contractor despite specific direction (November 2014) from the government not to take up any new work outside the ULB." The work was completed in May 2016 at a cost of 2.53 crore. However, the pumping station is not being used

The Hans India dated 27 March 2021 (Saturday)

THE
HANS INDIA

e-hospital records poorly managed in Telangana

SAIFABAD

THE Comptroller of Auditor General has revealed that the e-Hospital Management System e-HMS, an electronic record management system which store the patient data and track their medical history, did not function effectively due to inadequate validation controls and inaccuracies in data such as spelling mistakes, missing contact numbers and inappropriate date on files.

The auditor analysed data of 22.47 lakh patients from October 2015 to March 2019 and found that only 2.25 lakh patients' contact numbers were available in records, and of them 2,098 contact numbers were invalid. It was also observed that the entries in mandatory fields such as patient name, father's name, address, date of births.

The CAG report on the discharge summary disclosed that in 475 cases the date of admission was mentioned after the

date of discharge and also allotment of bed was recorded after the date of discharge in 5,706 cases out of 39,993. Similarly, the bed allocation details of 1.1 lakh (73 per cent) out of 1.51 lakh inpatients were also not available. It is said that in 40,940 cases bed allocation was delayed.

The Comptroller of Auditor General also observed that the 144 doctors and nurses had not logged into e-HMS once at least since the user ID was created and 229 users accessed only once. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing CDAC has provided training to 1,172 users during 2015 -18. During the scrutiny it came to be known that the data of 744 users is not available with the e-HMS. The project was started under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in May 2014 in Telangana, it was fully funded by the Government of India with a total outlay of 10.49 crore.

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HMWSSB favoured contractor unduly

HANS NEWS SERVICE

KHAIRATABAD

THE Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) on Friday found a non-enforcement of contractual provisions by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) resulting in undue favour of Rs 1.05 crore to a contractor.

The CAG report stated that the Telangana government accorded administrative approval and technical sanction in February 2015 for Rs 58.96 crore for construction of a 'ring sewer main' to divert sewage from the Kukatpally Nala to prevent it from flowing downstream of Hussainsagar lake.

In April the works were divided into four packages and entrusted to two agencies (agency 1: package-I (Rs 7.23 crore), package-III (Rs 7.80 crore); agency 2: package-II (Rs 7.87 crore) and package-IV (Rs 4.82 crore). The report stated that as against the scheduled date of completion of October 2015, the work was completed in April 2016.

During joint inspection on July 2016 conducted by HMWSSB with the Transco authorities, the board requested the latter to carry out necessary repairs and offered to pay expenses. The repairs were done by Transco and a claim of Rs 1.05 crore was levied towards damage charges.

- CAG stated that for a ring sewer main, a joint inspection was conducted in July 2016 by HMWSSB and Transco authorities.
- The board requested the latter to carry out necessary repairs and offered to pay expenses. The repairs were done by Transco and a claim of Rs 1.05 crore was levied towards damage charges.
- The board paid Rs 1.05 crore to Transco towards rectification work for the damaged UG cable at the Necklace Road.
- It did not, however, invoke the contractual clauses to recover this amount from the contractor

The water board paid Rs 1.05 crore (during December 2015 to July 2017) to Transco towards rectification work for the damaged UG cable at the Necklace Road. It did not, however, invoke the contractual clauses to recover this amount from the contractor.

However, in response to an audit query about reasons for the non-recovery of expenditure for damages from the contractor, HMWSSB stated in April 2018 that the damages were not due to negligence of the contractor, but rather due to narrow space for the execution of work and loose nature of soil, which triggered extensive collapse beyond the width of the trench damaging the adjacent power cables. The board confirmed in November 2019 that it had not recovered the amount of Rs.1.05 crore paid to Transco from the contractor.

The reply is contrary to the contrac-

tual conditions which clearly stipulate that the responsibility of protection of utilities rests with the contractor. Any damage to any utility resulting from the contractor's operations shall be repaired at the contractor's expense, said CAG.

The justification put forth by the HMWSSB, that narrow space for the execution of work and loose nature of the soil triggered extensive collapses beyond the width of the trench damaging the adjacent power cables and that it was not due to negligence of the contractor is only an attempt to exonerate the contractor and not enforcing contractual conditions, which amounts to extending undue favour to the contractor.

The matter was reported to the government in February 2020; the reply is awaited (September 2020), the CAG report added.

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3/27/2021

CAG picks holes in BC scholarships - Times of India

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

CAG picks holes in BC scholarships

TNN | May 27, 2021, 04:03 AM IST

Hyderabad: The CAG audit report said there were several irregularities and deviations in 'Mahatma Jyothiba Phule BC Overseas Vidya Nidhi' scheme to support meritorious students to study in foreign universities.

The report said the government has deviated from its own guidelines and ineligible students benefited.

The report said every year 300 eligible backward caste students pursuing post graduate and PhD courses are given Rs 20 lakh in two instalments towards fees and living expenses.

Audit of the scheme in June 2019 showed that the department deviated from the guidelines to provide scholarship of Rs 1.90 crore to 18 students (out of 749 cases where scholarships were granted) who did not meet the eligibility criteria.

"The scheme was introduced in October 2016 and was applicable for students who were admitted from fall session of 2016-17. However, six applicants, who joined PG courses prior to introduction of the scheme were sanctioned scholarships as special cases," the report said.

It added, "Second, scholarship was sanctioned to one applicant for Kyrgyzstan as a special case during 2017-18 although the country was not in the list of admissible countries for grant of scholarship and five applicants who had already completed their first post-graduate abroad were sanctioned scholarships for pursuing second post-graduate Course (apart from humanities) as special cases."

It further said, "Five applicants were paid full scholarship amount in contravention of government orders restricting financial assistance depending on duration of the course."

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07/03/21

Water board favoured contractor: CAG - Times of India

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Water board favoured contractor: CAG

TNN | Mar 27, 2021, 04:04 AM IST

Hyderabad: The audit report alleged that the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) had given undue favour to the contractor in the work taken up at a cost of Rs 58.96 crore for construction of a Ring Sewer Main to divert sewage from Kukatpally Nala to prevent it from flowing into the downstream of HussainSagar lake. In April 2015, the works were divided into four packages and entrusted to two agencies and completed in 2018.

As per the contracting conditions, all risks of loss of or damage to physical property which arises during and in consequence of the performance of the contract, other than the expected risks, were the responsibility of the contractor. Due to the execution of the works, the cables of the TS Transco got damaged.

The repairs were carried out by Transco and a claim of Rs 1.05 crore was levied towards damage charges and the HMWS&SB paid the amount to Transco towards rectification works for the damaged UG Cable at Necklace Road. It did not, however, invoke the contractual clauses to recover this amount from the contractor.