

# THE MEGHALA GUARDIAN

UK, Ireland say  
breakthrough  
reached in Brexit...



5 Not possible to  
abolish child labour  
without ending...



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SHILLONG ■ MONDAY ■ NOVEMBER 16, 2020

## Projects worth Rs 328 cr escalate to Rs 3358 cr

● Deadlines extended year after year without assigning any reasons: CAG

### GUARDIAN NEWS BUREAU

SHILLONG, NOV 15: The state has a total of 193 incomplete projects sanctioned at Rs 3,28.30 crore and revised to Rs 3,358.97 crore till last year.

According to the CAG in its state finances audit report, cumulative expenditure incurred on these projects as on March 31, last year was Rs 1,825.21 crore.

Out of 193 incomplete projects, 25 projects had commenced after the year 2017, as such scheduled date of completion of these projects were after March 31, 2019.

The report said out of the remaining 168 incomplete projects, audit analysed 32 projects which had overshoot their scheduled completion dates by over one to seven years.

Out of these 32 projects, audit noticed that the delay in completion of 18 incomplete projects was attrib-

uted to land dispute, change in specification, adoption of new technology, non-availability of funds, cost escalation, prolonged monsoon and less working season, scarcity of material & insurgency problem etc.

Audit further noticed that the scheduled date of completion of these projects was being extended year after year without assigning any reason. Neither the application of the contractors seeking time extension nor the approval of the departments for such extension was found on record, it said.

The reasons attributed by respective departments for delay such as prolonged monsoon & less working season, insurgency problem etc., are known factors and should have been kept in mind by the departments concerned while framing the detailed project reports (DPRs)

whereas, land dispute, change in specification, adoption of new technology etc points towards lack of due diligence and survey of the proposed site at the time of preparation of DPRs.

The CAG further stated that blocking of funds on incomplete projects/works beyond their scheduled date of completion, adversely impinged on the quality of expenditure and deprived the state of intended benefits for prolonged periods.

Further, the funds borrowed for implementation of these projects during the respective years proved ineffective with the state having to bear additional burden for servicing the debt and interest liabilities, it added.

Meanwhile, the CAG strongly recommended the need to take effective steps to complete all the projects without further delay.