

Inefficiency, norm violations bleed RSRTC, losses mount to ₹4,975 crore in FY19: CAG

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: Losses of Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC) shot up to Rs 4,975.52 crore in 2018-19 from Rs 2,766.90 crore in 2014-15 due to low load factor, increase in employee cost and lack of operational efficiency, revealed a CAG report.

In the performance audit on 'acquisition and utilisation of buses by RSRTC' the accounting watchdog of the government said the corporation was not able to keep pace with the growing demand for public transport which resulted in its share of bus traffic falling from 10.36% in 2014-15 to 9.98% in 2018-19.

The corporation hired and deployed the luxury and semi-deluxe buses without assessing proper require-



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ment and feasibility of operating the buses on certain routes. Resultantly, it incurred net loss of Rs 34 crore due to operation of buses on uneconomical routes.

Similarly, the percentage of overage buses increased from 7.33% in 2014-15 to 18.46% in 2018-19, while the av-

erage fleet utilization declined from 92% in 2014-15 to 68% in 2018-19.

The CAG report said RSRTC was not able to achieve the diesel average target during 2014-19. Reason of non-achievement of kilometer per liter (KMPL) was mainly attributable to operation

of over-aged vehicles which increased from 322 to 749 which 18.46% of total buses of the corporation as on March 2019. It consumed 108.94 lakh litres of fuel valued at Rs 60.65 crore in excess during the review period as compared to its internal targets, which had been fixed considering the local situation.

The overall vehicle productivity (including hired buses) of the corporation also dropped from 397km to 392km per day during 2014-15 to 2018-19, the CAG said highlighting the poor performance.

Due to cancellation of scheduled trips for want of buses and crew alone, the corporation was deprived of revenue of Rs 72.95 crore during 2014-19.

Operation of buses for more than revenue kilomet-

res caused loss of revenue of Rs 44.49 crore in 15 selected depot during 2014-19.

With regard to the hiring of buses, the report discovered many lapses and violation of Rajasthan Transparency Procurement policy (RTPP). "During review of records relating to tendering process for hiring 400 buses in 2015-16 and 800 in 2016-17, incidents were noticed where the corporation failed to adhere to specific provisions of RTPP rules," it pointed out.

Even the government accepted that the rules of RTPP were not complied with as the bid document issued in August 2016 for procuring 500 chassis contained technical specifications relating to procurement but technical criteria for evaluation of the technical bids was not mentioned.