

OVERVIEW

This Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India includes 10 Compliance Audit paragraphs including instances of misappropriation/fraud, lapses in internal control, loss of Government of India assistance, under-utilisation of assets, shortcoming in implementation of rules and programmes, etc., involving ₹203.97 crore. The major audit findings are mentioned below.

Compliance Audit paragraphs

Audit identified certain key compliance issues based on risk factors and topical importance for conduct of regularity audit in addition to conduct of regular propriety audit. Significant deficiencies observed during such audits are detailed in the following paragraphs.

Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin

Government of India (GoI) launched (April 2016), the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) in view of its commitment to provide “Housing for All” by 2022 and to address the deficiencies in implementation of the erstwhile Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY). The focus of the scheme was on enabling beneficiaries to construct quality houses with local materials, appropriate house designs and trained masons. In Kerala, the scheme intended to provide houses to 42,431 identified beneficiaries in rural areas during the period. The houses were targeted for completion within 12 months from the date of sanction.

The Compliance Audit revealed that deficiencies in implementation of the erstwhile IAY, viz., non-assessment of housing shortage, lack of convergence, lack of technical and quality supervision, etc., persisted in the implementation of the PMAY-G scheme also. The Grama Panchayats (GP) had failed to ensure the selection of eligible beneficiaries in the Permanent Wait List, assist the old and infirm in construction of houses, identify land to landless and converge the schemes for access to basic amenities. Irregular sanctioning of houses in the name of male members of the family and failure to facilitate loans to beneficiaries by Block Panchayats were also noticed. Instances of construction of houses without obtaining building permit from GPs and clearance from Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority were seen. The State lost GoI assistance of ₹195.82 crore during 2016-18 due to its failure to attain physical and financial progress prescribed by GoI. Monitoring was also deficient at various levels of Programme Management Units.

(Paragraph 2.1)

Failure of Oversight/Administrative Controls

The Government has an obligation to improve the quality of life of the people as it works towards fulfilment of certain goals in the area of health, education, development and upgradation of infrastructure and public services, etc. Audit noticed instances where funds released by the Government of Kerala (GoK) for

creating public assets for the benefit of the community remained unutilised/blocked and/or proved unfruitful/unproductive due to indecisiveness, lack of administrative oversight and concerted action at various levels. The details are given below.

- Failure to adhere to codal provisions and lax supervisory controls resulted in misappropriation of ₹1.84 lakh in the General Hospital, Neyyattinkara, ₹6.46 lakh in the District Hospital, Mavelikkara and suspected misappropriation of ₹0.83 lakh in Taluk Hospital, Fort, Thiruvananthapuram.

(Paragraph 2.2)

- Failure of Medical Officer to adhere to the provisions of KTC and to ensure prompt updation of leave details in SPARK led to fraudulent drawal of salary of an employee on Leave Without Allowances at Primary Health Centre, Parambikulam, Palakkad.

(Paragraph 2.3)

- Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady offered Master of Physical Education (M.P.Ed) course without obtaining the approval of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in 2013-14. During 2013-18, 115 students were awarded an M.P.Ed Degree by the University and despite denial of recognition by the NCTE in 2017, 80 students were further admitted to the academic year 2018-20.

(Paragraph 2.4)

- The purchase of a Mobile Incinerator for ₹2.14 crore by the Local Self-Government Department without assessing its economic viability resulted in its under-utilisation and consequent decommissioning without realising the intended objective.

(Paragraph 2.5)

- Failure of Kolazhy Grama Panchayat to adhere to the Kerala Panchayat Raj (Property Tax, Service Cess and Surcharge) Rules, 2011 led to revenue loss of ₹37.71 lakh.

(Paragraph 2.6)

- Failure on the part of Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation to safeguard blasted rubble obtained from the Vilappilsala Solid Waste Management Project resulted in loss of ₹31.02 lakh.

(Paragraph 2.7)

- Failure of Kothamangalam Municipality to collect and remit Service Tax in time led to a loss of ₹23.64 lakh.

(Paragraph 2.8)

- Construction of a modern fish market by Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation without proper investigation and correlating its design with the requirements of the vendors resulted in non-utilisation of the modern fish market constructed for ₹23.25 lakh, rendering the expenditure unfruitful.

(Paragraph 2.9)

- Failure of District Collectors and the Central Plan Monitoring Unit in complying with the directions of the GoI to convert Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme Savings Bank accounts into Savifix/Saviplus accounts resulted in loss of interest of at least ₹4.76 crore to the Scheme.

(Paragraph 2.10)