

REFERENCE
(NOT FOR ISSUE)

PAC 87

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
EIGHTY-SEVENTH REPORT
(ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY)**



**Report of the Committee on Public Accounts on the
Report of the Comtroller and Auditor General of
India (Civil) for the years 1996-97, 1997-98,
1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 relating
to Agriculture, Cultural Affairs,
Co-operation, Forest, Fisheries and
Dairy Development Departments,
Government of Assam.**

Presented to the House on 3-10-2002

**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-781006**

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NOT FOR ISSUE

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2001-2003)

Chairman :

1. Shri Premodhar Bora

Members :

2. Shri Dilip Kumar Saikia
3. Shri Ajit Singh
4. Shri Brindaban Goswami
5. Dr. Haren Das
6. Smti. Pramila Rani Brahma
7. Shri Mission Ranjan Das
8. Shri Biswajit Daimary
9. Shri Gopinath Das
10. Shri Bidyasing Engleng
11. Shri Dilder Rezza
- *12. |
13. |

Secretariat :

1. Shri M. K. Sarma, Secretary
2. Dr. K. N. Baisya, Additional Secretary
3. Shri S. K. Das, Under secretary
4. Shri B. Basumatary, Under secretary
5. Shri K. Rahman, Committee Officer

*Having been appointed the Minister, Assam with effect from 7th June, 2002 two Members viz. Sarbashree Nurzamal Sarkar and Sukur Ali Ahmed ceased to be member of the Committee.

(ii)

PREFATORY REMARKS

1. I, Shri Premodhar Bora, Chairman, Committee on Public Accounts having been authorised to submit the Report on its behalf, present this Eighty-Seventh Report of the Committee on Public Accounts on the Audit paras contained in the Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Civil) for the years 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 pertaining to Agriculture, Cultural Affairs, Co-operation, Forest, Fisheries and Dairy Development Departments, Government of Assam.

2. The Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Civil) for the years 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 were presented to the House on 16th March, 1998, 22nd March, 1999, 14th March, 2000, 30th May, 2001 and 14th March, 2002 respectively.

3. The Reports as mentioned above relating to the Agriculture, Cultural Affairs, Co-operation, Forest, Fisheries and Dairy Development Departments were considered by the Committee in its sitting held on 31st May, 2002 and 18th June, 2002.

4. The Committee has considered the Draft Report and finalised the same in its sitting held on 13th September, 2002.

5. The Committee has appreciated the valuable assistance rendered by the Principal Accountant General (Audit), Assam and his junior officers and staff during the examination of the Reports in respect of the concerned departments.

6. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Departmental witnesses for their kind co-operation and also offered thanks to the officers and staff dealing with the Committee on Public Accounts, Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat for their ungrudging and strenuous services rendered to the Committee.

7. The Committee earnestly hopes that the Government would implement the recommendations made in the report.

Dispur :
The 13th September, 2002

PREMODHAR BORA
Chairman,
Committee on Public Accounts

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board of Directors has approved the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 1992, which are set out on pages 10 to 14 of this report. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 1985 and the provisions of the Companies (Accounts) Regulations 1987. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

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Approved and signed on behalf of the Board of Directors
Director

31st March 1992

THE REPORT

CHAPTER - I

Unproductive expenditure on infrastructure facilities for market commodities.

(Audit para 3.2/CAG/1996-97)

1.1. The audit has pointed out that the Secretary, Assam State Agricultural Marketing Board, Assam, revealed that no activities on marketing agricultural produce were carried out by the Market Committees. The Board in their reply stated (July 1996) that this was due to transaction in agricultural produce not being shifted to principal and sub-market areas from the peripheral markets which were under the control of local bodies like Gaon Panchayats and Municipal Boards and which had not come within the purview of the ASAPM, Act, 1972. In order to activate the Market Committees and utilise the infrastructural facilities created so far, the Board also requested the Government to issue necessary notification bringing those markets under the direct control of the Market Committees. The Government, however, had not initiated any action in the matter. This indicated that infrastructural facilities were created without assessing the volume of the business carried out by Market Committees. Thus expenditure to the extent of Rs.1.28 crore remained unproductive of which Rs.0.51 crore for over 10 years. Besides, the aims and objectives of establishment of the Market Committees under the ASAPM Act, 1972 also remained unfulfilled. The Government stated in October, 1997 that the infrastructure created had been given for use by State level and Central level undertakings and were also use to stock fertilizers under the Fertilizer Distribution Scheme and thus had been utilised although not fully for the purpose as per scheme. The reply of the Government is not tenable because the objective set forth in the Act was to use the infrastructure to regulate buying and selling of the agricultural produces notified by the Government, but the reply indicates that the infrastructure was not being utilised for the intended purposes.

1.2. The Department by their written reply as well as oral evidence revealed that the infrastructure were created in the Principal Market Yards and Sub-Market Yards of the areas notified by the Government as per specific provisions contained in the Assam Agricultural Produced Market Act, 1972 and with the financial assistance provided under a centrally sponsored scheme known as Development of Regulated Market Scheme. Substantially,

the matter was governed by the schematic arrangement adopted under that scheme like size of the land for establishment of a market to be known as Principal Market Yard or Sub-Market Yard. As sufficient land as per the requirement of the scheme was not available in the vicinity of the established traditional markets, those infrastructure were created where land was sufficiently available as per the requirement, in the hope of shifting the unorganised markets to those organised markets. Upon the completion of a market yard the peripheral business is notified agricultural produced with a radius of 8 K.M. of each market yard, were expected to move into the facilities so created. But that could not have been achieved in some cases due to the fact that some of the markets known as Haats in rural areas and some markets in urban areas function under the provisions of Assam Panchayati Raj Act. and the Municipal Act. These two Acts also contain the provisions for settlement of markets. Hence, the monopolistic role of a Market Committee regarding shifting and managing a market on its own yard has not been achieved to the full extent. Some of the infrastructure created are fully utilised for the intended purpose. Further, at the initial stage, the creation of the infrastructure and the expenditure incurred can not be described as "Unproductive" because the non-utilisation of the infrastructure is a post-facto phenomenon, which could not have been foreseen at the time of the creation thereof. However, the effort to bring the farmers and producers in to the Market Yard has made definite headway and the response to the subsequent efforts undertaken by the respective Market Committee has been encouraging. It is therefore, expected that the full utilisation of the facilities, which already existed, will be achieved shortly to the benefit of producers and traders.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

1.3. The Committee observes that the Department could not have achieved target in some cases due to the fact that some of the markets known as Haats in rural areas and some markets in urban areas are functioning under the provisions of Assam Panchayati Raj Act and the Municipal Act. Hence, the monopolistic role of a Market Committee regarding shifting and managing a market on its own yard has not been achieved to the full extent. This is a controversial Act. For smooth functioning of result oriented market yard, there should not be overlapping provision in the Acts. The Government should examine as to what steps be deemed necessary to remove the controversial points arising in the existing laws. So, the Committee suggests the Government to take steps urgently to remove the controversy and to avoid the overlapping provisions so that this should not recur in future.

Shortage of cash and suspected misappropriation
(Audit para 3.3/CAG/1996-97)

2.1. The audit has pointed out that Audit scrutiny (October, 1996) of the cash book of the Assistant Executive Engineer (Agriculture), Majuli for the period May 1994 to September, 1996 revealed that there was short accounting of cash and suspected misappropriation to the extent of Rs. 1.39 lakh. The details are as under :

(a) On 17 May, 1994 cash balance in the cash book was shown as Rs. 7.28 lakh with the remarks that 3.45 lakh out of Rs. 7.28 lakh was kept under Revenue Deposit. On the next day Rs. 3.27 lakh only was carried forward as opening balance instead of Rs. 3.85 lakh (Rs. 7.28 lakh - Rs. 3.43 lakh) resulting in reduction in cash balance by Rs. 0.58 lakh.

(b) On 30 July, 1994, the opening balance in the cash book worked out to Rs. 2.97 lakh. Though there was no expenditure on that day, the closing balance was recorded in the cash book as Rs. 2.63 lakh resulting in short accounting of Rs. 0.34 lakh.

(c) On 5 October, 1994, consequent on change in incumbency of the Assistant Executive Engineer (Agriculture), Majuli, the relieved officer handed over a balance of Rs. 0.72 lakh to his successor as against the cash balance of Rs. 1.19 lakh. There was, therefore, further shortage of Rs. 0.47 lakh (Rs. 1.19 lakh - Rs. 0.72 lakh). Although the Executive Engineer, Jorhat during his annual inspection had noticed irregularities in the cash book and reported (November, 1994) the matter to the Director, no investigation had been carried out to fix responsibility and effect recovery till March, 1997. Shortage of cash was facilitated because physical verification of cash balance at the end of each month and daily verification of cash entry in the cash book by the DDO as required under financial rules were not conducted.

2.2. The department by their written reply as well as deposed orally stated that consequent upon the report of short accounting of Cash and suspected misappropriation to the extent of Rs. 1.39 lakh on the accounts of the Assistant Executive Engineer (Agri.), Majuli during the period from May/92 to September/96 was investigated by the Department. As per report of the investigations Shri A. K. Bhuyan, Assistant Executive Engineer

(Agri.), Majuli, (DDO) and Shri Hem Kanta Saikia, U.D.A. who was handling cash were found responsible jointly for the misappropriation of Rs. 1.39 lakh. Accordingly, out of Rs. 1.39 lakh, an amount of Rs. 46,584 was recovered from Shri H. K. Saikia, UDA from his Gratuity as he was retired from service on 31st March, 1995 on superannuation. As regards recovery of balance amount and for commitment of other serious financial irregularities leading to misappropriation of Government money, Shri A. K. Bhuyan, Asstt. Executive Engineer (Agri.), Majuli (DDO) was placed under suspensions by the Government vide No. AGA.25/84(II)/60, dated 9th September, 1997 and subsequently departmental proceedings was drawn up against him. The Departmental proceeding against the officer is yet to be concluded.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATION

2.3. The Committee expresses its dissatisfaction since the Department, did not take disciplinary and timely action against the erring official. The Committee is very much constrained to note that while the departmental enquiry had established fault against the officials involved far back 1996 non-realisation of fraudulent amounts from the erring officials till date appears a share negligence on the part of the Government. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the misappropriated Government money should be recovered without any further delay and action taken thereon be intimated to the Committee within 30 days of this report presented to the House.

Avoidable expenditure on a programme for installation of Shallow tubewells.

(Audit para 3.68-3.73/CAG/2000-2001)

3.1. The Audit has pointed out that in order to bring an additional area of 2 lakh hectares under assured irrigation, Government of Assam, Department of Agriculture decided to install one lakh Shallow Tube Wells (STWs) during 1999-2000. The project was estimated to cost Rs. 230 crore including Rs. 76.67 crore from farmers. The project was financed by NABARD and Government of Assam. The project was to be completed in 125 working days. Government of Assam issued Administrative approval in December 1999 for installing 30,000 STWs at a cost of Rs. 69 crore. Administrative approval was amended in September 2000 for installation of 1 lakh tube well at a cost of Rs. 230 crore including Rs. 76.67 crore from farmers. The Director, Agriculture was nodal agency for implementation of the project with the help of Field Management Committees (FMCs). For the purpose of installation of one STW materials such as one 5 H.P. centrifugal engine (pump sets pipe & strainers etc. were required). The engines were to be supplied by Government of Assam and other materials were to be procured by FMCs. Accordingly, the Chief Engineer, Agriculture invited quotations for supply of 1 lakh engines. The terms and conditions forming part of notice inter-alia provided supply of 5000 pumps per month by the select firms. Based on the quotations received the Chief Engineer, Agriculture placed orders on eight firms between November, 1999 and March, 2000@ Rs.12,200.00 per pump. The records of Director, Agriculture Assam revealed that out of one lakh pump sets ordered only 93206 were supplied between November 1999 and June, 2001. Out of the total pump sets supplied 63484 were with dated receipt and 28722 without dated receipt. No action was taken for delay in supplies.

(1) The Government stated (June 2001) that 99285 pump sets had already been installed and till date a total sum of Rs.107.67crore has already been spent and balance Rs.30.45 crore is yet to be paid as per supply orders placed with different firms. However, the implementing agency (Agriculture Department) also stated (10 July 2001) that out of 99285 pump sets, 6079 pump sets are either lying with the field Engineers (Consignee) or with concerned supplier and that supply of remaining 715 pump sets (1,00,000-99285) is yet to be made. Evidently, 6794 pump sets (6079 plus 715) worth Rs.8.29 crore are yet to be supplied and installed.

(2) The reporting inflated figures of supply and installation by both the implementing agency and the Government as well as significant inconsistencies between the reports of the agency and the Government not only indicate lack of coordination between the two but also raises serious doubt about the number of pump sets actually supplied and installed.

(3) No records relating to Reports on specific numbers of STWs installed including purchase records of components of installation like pipes, strainers etc., either from the FMCs, sub-divisional district level officers or from the Directorate could be made available to Audit. As such actual status of installation could not be ascertained in audit.

(4) It was further seen that the Director of Agriculture had procured 14812 numbers of 5 HP diesel pump sets with indential specifications between February and July 2000 at the rate of Rs.9699.00 per pump set from a Gujrat based firm under Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Service Project (ARIASP), a World Bank-aided Project.

(5) Thus, procurement of pump sets under the NABARD Programme was made at a much higher rate than that of the ARIASP scheme (Rs.12,200-Rs.9,699 = Rs.2501.00 per set) and for which the Department had incurred excess expenditure of Rs. 24.83 crore (Rs.2501 x 99285 nos). Besides, there was unauthorised expenditure of Rs.9.29 crore towards Letter of Credit charges paid to bank as the same was not covered under the terms and conditions of the tender. Government stated (June 2001) that as per the terms and conditions of the tender, payment to the manufacturers of the pump sets was to be made through Letter of Credit and that permission was duly sought and granted by the Finance Department for making payment through Letter of Credit. This reply is not acceptable since the Tender Notice did not stipulate any such payment clause and hence there was no need to pay through LC and incur this extra expenditure.

** Cost of pump sets- -	Rs. 97.49 Crore
L/C charge	Rs. 0.29 Crore
A.G.S.T.	Rs. 2.66 Crore
Disbursed to field officer of 10 District	Rs. 7.23 Crore
	<hr/> Rs.107.67 Crore

* Ex- factory price	Rs. 8494
Packing and forwarding	Rs. 200
Insurance	Rs. 900
transportation/incidental service	Rs. 30
spare parts.	Rs. 75

(6) The Chief Engineer, Agriculture inter-alia stated (May 2001) that (a) pump sets under the NABARD assisted programme should possess Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) specification. This conditional specification cannot hold good in International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procurement under the ARIASP (WORLD BANK assisted project) scheme. The said specification does not allow bidders from member countries to participate which the World Bank never allows; (b) in addition, 100 per cent payment was ensured through LC in case of ARIASP procurement in undeniable terms and conditions and within a period of 30 days from the date of receipt of pump sets by the consignee; (c) delivery period for completion of supply of pump sets started only from the date of opening of the LC in case of ARIASP, (d) the ARIASP procurement was a prestigious order which invited availability of special impressed license on easy terms at a concessional rate, refund of terminal excise duty in future foreign trade and qualification to obtain global contract; (e) moreover, the date of receipt of acceptance of bid evaluation report under ARIASP from World Bank was 16 December, 1999, whereas by this time, the first phase of supply of pump sets (30,000) under NABARD was completed. The reply is not tenable since the department was aware of the rates of the pump sets of the same brand, specification and conditions of ICB and terms of payment etc., offered by the Gujrat based firm (5 October, 1999) in respect of ARIASP bid before invitation of tender. Further, the payment procedures and other conditions as applied in the case of ARIASP could have been judiciously adopted in the procurement of pump sets under NABARD programme.

(7) The records also revealed the following inconsistencies, deficiencies and irregularities.

(a) Orders for supply of STW pump sets (November, 1999 and March, 2000) were placed before according administrative approval (December 1999 and September, 2000).

(b) No comparative statement duly authenticated by the members of the Tender Committee could be made available to audit.

(c) Against mention of 12 tenders in the minutes, the statement of assessment of rates of different firm as produced to audit, included only names of 11 firms manufacturers. Rates of one tenderer based at Kolhapur, was not at all taken in to consideration and also could not be made available to audit.

(d) In the statement of assessment of rates, the lowest rate was Rs.12,100.00 quoted by a Agra-based firm but his tender was rejected (30 October 1999) on the ground of non submission of security deposit only. In this content it is interesting to note that though a number of other tenders had also not abided by certain stipulations of the Notice Inviting Tender, their tenders were not rejected in a like manner.

(e) Surprisingly, the minutes of discussion with 5 representatives (out of the 12 firms) of the firms held on 27 October 1999 it was clearly stated that in no case they would be able to supply the pump sets below the lowest quoted rate for NABRD scheme. One firm even stated (28 October) that it would not be able to supply pump sets under NABARD at a rate below Rs. 12,200.00 whereas the rate of Rs.12,200/- as the lowest rate was accepted by the Tender Committee only on 30 October 1999.

(f) Non-inclusion of any penal clause in the Tender Notice and non-observance of time schedule for completion of supply and installation on process had resulted in allowing a open ended supply schedule to the suppliers. Consequently, there was inordinate delay in the supply process ranging from 1 month to 20 months as of July 2001.

(g) In explicably, supply orders were placed on three firms for in excess of the monthly capacity of the firms and despite the firms expressing their inability to supply beyond that capacity. This indicated extension of undue benefit to the firms and ensured eventual inordinate delay in the supply and installation process. Besides, none of the manufacturers/firms were in a position to supply the whole quantity the prescribed time limit.

(h) Despite two firms declining to make any commitment about the monthly quantity/capacity to be supplied, supply orders were placed with the two firms, resulting in delay in the supply and installation process.

(i) As per information furnished to Audit by the Directorate Agriculture in July 2001 out of 18 districts covered under the programme, installation cost of Rs.7.23 crore only was released till 16 February, 2001 for 10 districts and no installation cost for 8 (eight) remaining districts were released where the target for installation of STWs was 32,720 pump sets. It is not clear as to how, in view of non-release of installation costs by Government even the above 32,720 pump sets worth Rs.39.92 crore could have been actually installed. The matter was reported to Government in August, 2001. The Government in October, 2001 stated that the Chief Vigilance Commissioner, Assam has been entrusted to conduct a thorough inquiry into procurement and other related matters of the NABARD assisted one lakh shallow tubewells programme and as such the Government expressed their inability to comment on the matter .

3.2. The Department by their written reply as well as oral deposition has stated that on the alleged irregularities on the installation of NABARD assisted Shallow Tube Well under SKY Programme Agriculture Department had referred the matter for investigation by the Chief Vigilance Commissioner, Assam constituted District Level Task Force for field verification of implementation of S.T.W. headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner. In the meantime, Task Force reports (see Annexure I) from the different districts and summary sheet of the findings of the District Level Task Force have been submitted to the Government. The summary sheet reveals that STW were distributed into 17 districts of Assam. But the same has not revealed what actual numbers of STW was installed/ distributed and functioning on 17 districts as a whole Anomalous positions in 6 districts viz. Jorhat, Barpeta, Golaghat, Nalbari, Sibsagar and Kokrajhar have been shown by the DLTF. report. Noticing the dismal overall position of STW distribution, the Committee was not satisfied at all.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

3.3. The Committee has further noticed that the question of avoidable expenditure on programmes for installation of STW numbering one lakh for irrigating an additional two lakh hectares area of cultivable land in Assam during 1999-2000 would have been a land mark had there been no defect therewith in executing scheme. A large portion of the amounts spent therewith appeared to the Committee to be nugatory expenditure.

3.4. Therefore, the Committee recommends to the Government to take immediate action against the fraudulent officials involved in dealing with the execution of STW Programme on the basis of the findings of the enquiry so ordered by the Government and intimate the same to the Committee accordingly.

CHAPTER - II

Gross Irregularities in Purchases of Portable Steel Structure Stages.

(Audit para 3.1/CAG/1997-98)

4.1. The audit has pointed out that during 1995-96 the Director of Cultural Affairs, Assam without any indent from cultural centres purchased 30 steel fabricated mobile stages and other paraphernalia for 30 cultural centres of the State at a total cost of Rs. 3.98 crore for seminars, festivals and cultural functions besides hiring to public and earn revenue. A test-check (February/March 1998) of the records in the Directorate of Cultural Affairs and information collected from the various centres revealed the following :

(i) Supply and over payment

The rates quoted (25 December 1993) by New Delhi firm and recommended (28 December, 1993) by the Director and approved by the Government for each portable stage and other paraphernalia were as under :

a.	Fabrication of portable steel structure with three stair cases with flame proof paint.	Rs. 9,81,500
b.	Back stage material with flame proof paint.	Rs. 95,000
c.	Gypsy hut two numbers with flame Proof paint	Rs. 1,63,000
d.	Stage Light	Rs. 87,000
Total =		Rs.13,26,500

The supply order was placed with the firm on 18 May, 1994 for four items as above for each of the thirty stages with the instruction to supply portable steel structure with two stair cases and only one gypsy hut against three stair cases and two gypsy huts as quoted by the supplier. The firm accordingly supplied two stair cases and one hut (green room) for each stage. However, while making the final payment of Rs. 3.98 crore after adjustment of advance (April 1996) to the supplier proportionate deduction was not made for reduced number of stair cases and gypsy hut. While proportionate value of thirty stair cases and charges for painting could not be ascertained there was an over payment of Rs.24.45 lakh for thirty gypsy huts not supplied calculated at Rs.81,500 per hut (half of Rs.1,63,000 quoted for 2 huts).

(ii) Utilisation of Stages

Though the stages were to be used for cultural functions and for hiring most centres reported that the stages were being rarely used for Government functions or functions of the centre. Fourteen out of sixteen centres test-checked reported that the stages were being let out to public free of cost. This was contrary to the original proposal submitted by the Director, which envisaged generations of revenue from rental of these stages. The Director had also not fixed any hire charge for recovery from public nor intimated to centre about hiring of stages on rental basis. Information collected from the centres revealed that in 12 centre, the stage and ancillary materials had been damaged due to lack of storing space resulting in complete loss of Rs. 1.96 crore. Thus, the entire expenditure of Rs. 3.98 crore on procurement of stages was avoidable as in most of the centres test-checked, these were neither used for cultural functions by the department nor recovery of hire charges effected as envisaged. Of this, the expenditure of Rs. 1.59 crore proved to be a total loss.

4.2. By written reply as well as oral deposition the departmental witnesses informed the Committee as under :

After receipt of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ending 31.3.98, para 3.1. of which pointed out excess payment of Rs. 24.45 lakhs by the Director I/C of Cultural Affairs on purchase of steel fabricated stages. The department decided initially to draw Disciplinary proceedings against the Officer who however had retired by then. The question of drawal of DP against the officer had to be further examined in the light of the relevant provisions of the Assam Services (Pension) Rules, 1996 to ascertain if, proposed drawal of DP against the superannuated officer was time barred in the context of Rule 21 (B) (C) and (D).

The matter was referred to the Judicial Department on 20.12.2001 for their views whether departmental proceeding could be drawn up against the concerned official during whose tenure of officiation as Director Cultural Affairs the said excess payment had been made. In the event of drawal of DP being not permissible at that stage the Judicial Department was requested to suggest an available alternative course of action. On 5.3.2002, Judicial Department referred the matter back to the Cultural Affairs Department with the advice that the Department could file FIR with the police and adding that such proceeding shall not be usable for the purpose of Rule 21 of the

Pension Rules. Because of some confusion with another case involving the officer, in respect of which prosecution sanction had already been issued, the file was again referred back to the Judicial Department on 9.4.2002. The Judicial Department made some queries on 24.5.2002 and the file was sent back along with the clarifications to the Judicial Department on 3.6.2002. The file was brought back on 7.6.2002 for consultation in preparation of replies to the ALA Sectt. and was sent back to Judicial again on 10.6.2002. The matter is currently being considered by them. The Cultural Affairs Department is now waiting for the views of the Judicial Department on receipt of which the matter will be processed further.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

4.3. The Committee is not satisfied with the deposition of the Departmental witnesses. The Committee observes that it is a long pending case since 1995 and it was not necessary to obtain the views of the Judicial Department as the Firm had admitted that they made short supply of materials. Even if referred the matter to the Judicial Department failed to give views from 5-3-02 till 7-6-2002 thereby appeared a discredit on the part of Judicial Department on the matter under reference. The Committee however, is constrained to note that the inaction of the Department in realising the Government money. Thereupon, the Committee expresses its serious views and accordingly recommends that responsibility should be fixed against the official who paid the money without the supply of materials and recovery should be made from the erring officials and action taken, in this regards be intimated to the Committee within 90 days of this report presented to the House in case the amount of short supply cannot be recovered from the suppliers since admitted.

CHAPTER-III**Locking up of Government Funds**

(Audit para 3.4/CAG/1996-97)

5.1. The audit has pointed out that the Assam Co-operative Spinning Mills Ltd., Baitamari, Bongaigaon Distriuct had stopped functioning since June, 1994.

Financial assistance of Rs. 14.95 lakhs was sanctioned (March 1995) by the State Government as share capital participation for the year 1994-95 in order to revive the Mill. The sanction order stipulated that the amount was to be kept in Revenue Deposit and to be withdrawn only with the concurrence of the Finance Department after approval of the comprehensive plan for refunctioning of the Mill. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies accordingly drew the amount of Rs. 14.95 lakh in March, 1995 and credited it to Revenue Deposit in the same month. Scrutiny (January 1997) of records of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assam, Guwahati revealed that the amount was withdrawn by the Registrar from Revenue Deposit in August 1995 without any comprehensive plan being approved. The amount remained undisbursed in the form of Bank Draft in the absence of clearance from the Co-operation Department. Thus, drawal of money well before finaliation of the scheme to revive the mill and retention of the same in the form of a Bank Draft which had lost its validity in February, 1996 without revalidating it resulted in locking up of Rs. 14.95 lakhs for a period of 2 years as of August, 1997.

5.2. The department in their written reply stated that during the year of 1994-95, the amount of Rs. 14.95 lakhs in question was sanctioned in favour of Assam Co-op. Spnning Mills Ltd. Baitamari with the conditions mentioned in the para. Accordingly, the amount was drawn and kept in Revenue Deposit account and the Mill Management was directed to furnish comprehensive revival plan. In the meantime, Govt. in the Finance (Budget) Department vide their U/O No.BB.1202/95/1, dated 02.08.95 allowed withdrawal from R.D. account amounting to Rs.4,85,57,123/- (Rupees four crores eighty five lakhs fifty seven thousands and one hundred twenty three) only against Challan No.BT.5(A) dated 31.03.95 i.e., Kamrup Treasury which includes Rs.14.95 lakhs sanctioned against Assam Co-operative Spinning Mills. Therefore the aforesaid entire amount was drawn by way of Bank Draft including that of Rs.14.95 lakhs. But the Bank Draft was not released. The amount was locked up on account of failure of the Society to fulfill the condition regarding submission of comprehensive revival plan as mentioned in the sanctioning letter. The amount was locked up for about 2 years apparently Govt. lost its revenue for which the D.D.O., the Registrar of Co-op. Societies has been asked to explain the matter and to take appropriate action against the defaulting officer.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

5.3. Besides written reply the departmental witnesses has deposed that the Co-operation Department has already derected the Joint Registrar, Co-operative Societies to take appropriate action against the defaulting officials and to file a case. But the Committee is surprised to note that the actual action dcems fit and proper has yet to be taken although the ground work on it began far back to August, 1995. It makes understood the Committee that the officials concernæd were not at all up and doing about incurring loss of revenues due to interlocking quite a large amount under the Bank Draft, thereby the honest purpose of reviving the Sppinning Mill (at Baitamari) by the Government had been defeated. The Committee therefore recommends that the guilty persons should immediately be booked and money lost be realised from them instantenuously and action taken thereon by the Government be intimated to the Committee within 90 days of this report presented to the House.

Suspected Misappropriation

(Audit para 3.78- 3.82/CAG/2000-2001)

6.1. The audit has pointed out that the scrutiny (November, 1999) of records of the Zonal Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Kokrajhar, revealed that during October, 1995, the Accountant General (A&E) Assam, had reported to him a case of withdrawal of Rs.7000.00 from the General Provident Fund (GPF) Account during February, 1995 in favour of an employee under his control by quoting incorrect GPF account number. The Zonal Joint Registrar, in turn, reputed (November, 1995) the same to the Treasury Officer, Kokrajhar and deputed an employee of his office to verify the records of that Treasury. On verification by them it was found that 4 fictitious bills (GPF advance, LTC advance, Gratuity payment etc.) amounting to Rs.1.19 lakh had been drawn from the treasury by the Zonal Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The Zonal Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Kokrajhar intimated (November 1995) the case to the Deputy Commissioner, Kokrajhar for necessary action. Action taken by the Deputy Commissioner in this regard however, could not be made available to Audit. Apprehending more fictitious and irregular drawals, a detailed verification of records of the Zonal Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Treasury Officer, Kokrajhar was made by Audit and fraudulent drawal of Rs.8.41 lakh from the same treasury against various kinds of bills pertaining to the period from June, 1989 to October, 1999 was detected. It was seen in audit that these drawals and payments were not reflected in the Cash Book. The DDO had neither carried out daily verification of the Cash Book nor any periodical check as required under financial rules in this regard. Evidently, the DDO had allowed fraudulent drawals to continue despite being forewarned by Accountant General (A&E). Thus, failure on the part of the drawing and disbursing officer/head of office to exercise his statutory duties led to misappropriation of Government money to the tune of Rs.9.60 lakh. The fact was also brought to the notice of the Finance Department (December 2000) for necessary action, reply to which was still awaited (May 2001).

6.2. The Department by their written reply submitted that on enquiry by Deputy Commissioner, Kokrajhar it has been established that G.P.F. amount of Rs.7,000/- was drawn in favour of Shri Harendra Das who was not an employee of the Office of the Zonal Joint Registrar of Co-operative

Societies, Kokrajhar. The Signature of the D.D.O. in the bill was reportedly forged. It has also been found that matter relating to drawal of three (3) other bills amounting to Rs. 23,394/-, Rs.41,080 and Rs. 47,438/- drawn by the same D.D.O. had already been taken up by the Inspector General of Police, Vigilance & Anti-Corruption, Assam Kharghuli, Guwahati. Action thereon is still awaited. In this connection, the Government in the Co-operation Department has asked the Vigilance Department to investigate the case and punish the culprits as per provisions of law, as well asked the Finance Department to initiate action against the then Treasury Officer and Treasury Staff involved in the case along with direction to initiate department action against the then Zonal Registrar & Other Staff of Kokrajhar district for their negligence or involvement in the matter.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

6.3. The Committee has notice with anxiety that the suspected misappropriation of G.P.F. drawal was detected in November 1999 which was intimated to Finance Department in December 2000. the matter was subsequently referred to the Vigilance Department to investigate and to take appropriate action thereon. During course of examination, the Committee has noticed that neither Finance nor Vigilance has taken result oriented action against the fraudulent officials of Treasury or the department concerned and the Co-operation Department was sitting as an idle spectator.

Thereupon the Committee directed the Government in the concerned departmentally to enquire the matter urgently with the intention to bring in to book guilty officials and realise the misappropriated public money instantaneously. But the Government has not furnished the action taken by the Government on the defaulting case till finalising this report by the Committee. So, the Committee recommends that the action taken by the Government on the findings of the enquiry should be intimated to the Committee within 60 days of this report presented to the House.

CHAPTER-IV

Nugatory expenditure on plantation schemes Social Forestry Division.

(Audit para 3.4/CAG/1997-98)

7.1. The audit has pointed out that between 1986-87 and 1996-97 five Social Forestry Divisions (Sibsagar, Goalpara, Mangaldai, Sonitpur and Diphu) incurred a total expenditure of Rs. 63.59 lakh (including watch and ward) on Social Forestry Plantation under schemes (ranging from 8 to 30) involving 1531 hectates of land. Test-check (February 1997 to September 1997) of records of the above 5 Divisions revealed that the above plantations failed to reach even the minimum survival level of 60 percent. The actual survival reported by the Range Officers was between zero and 50 percent. This included cent percent failure of plantation in Sibsagar Social Forestry Division where expenditure of Rs. 15.35 lakh was incurred. The reasons adduced by 3 Divisions for low percentage of survival were damaged by cattle/miscreants, unauthorised encroachment by public and fire. Range Officer of Mangaldai Division held that the failure of plantation was due to non-release of fund in time for maintenance and watch and ward. The Goalpara Division could not furnish any reason for the low survival. Thus, the entire expenditure of Rs. 63.59 lakh without adequate protection measure to ensure minimum acceptable rate of survival resulted in unsuccessful plantation rendering the expenditure nugatory.

7.2. The Department by their written reply has submitted that between 1986-87 and 1996-97, 5 (five) Social Forestry Divisions, namely, Sibsagar, Goalpara, Magaldai, Biswanath Chariali and Karbi Anglong Division, Diphu incurred a total expenditure of Rs.63.59 lakhs on Social Forestry plantations.

Sibsagar Social Forestry Division**Rs.15.35 lakhs**

The survival percentage of the plantations, which were created since 1991-92 is 60 to 70%. A small portion of the plantation were damaged by the surrounding local public. Later, the casualties were beaten up. The plantation is now existing with the above survival percentage.

Goalpara Social Forestry Division**Rs. 17.99 lakhs**

It is due to continuous fire wood collection by the people of the surrounding areas, burning of thatches in plantation area and heavy grazing by cattle graziers, theft of barbed wire fencing rendering degradation of soil and prolonged draught condition and non-availability of fund as per action calendar for plantation programme.

Darrang Social Forestry Division Mangaldoi**Rs. 9.44 lakhs**

The damage of plantation and low percentage of survival were due to organised encroachment in the whole belt, wherein trees and seedlings were largely damaged by the encrochers. This was an abnormal situation, which prevailed in the whole north belt of the state.

Biswanath Chariali Social Forestry Division**Rs. 13.76 lakhs**

The whole belt was subjected to heavy encroachment, who had cut down trees and seedlings and in order to revert such activities, more fund had to be utilized for encroachment by hiring armed home guards and casual labourers and as a result, the resources for follow up action in beating up of the casualties in the plantation areas suffered. This was an abnormal situation, which prevailed in the whole belt in the north bank.

Karbi Anglong Division, Diphu**Rs. 7.05 lakhs**

Regarding recorded failure of this plantation, reply will be furnished separately by the concerning Autonomous Council authority, for which matter has already been taken up with the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu.

OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS

7.3. The Committee is unhappy to observe that the schemes for protection of plants under Social Forestry were unsound with a view to ensure full (cent percent) success in survival of plants grown by Department. The protection measures taken by the Forest Department appeared insufficient resulting to complete (100%) failure in several schemes so far implemented in Assam by the Social Forestry Department thereby resulted wastage of public fund of the low revenue earning State. However, the Committee with great constrain had decided to drop the para

Wasteful expenditure on plantation

(Audit para 3.95 to 3.98/CAG/2000-2001)

8.1 The audit has pointed out that the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Sonitpur East Division, Biswanath Chariali incurred a total expenditure of Rs. 42.51 lakh (including Rs.5.94 lakh on watch and ward) during 1991-92 to 1996-97 for creation of plywood/matchwood plantations covering 1255 hectare at three ranges (Pabhoi 510 hectare, Diplonga 305 hectare and Borgang 440 hectare). Between June and August 1999 the Range Officers reported to the DFO that the plantations in the above ranges were completely destroyed by encroachers in 1997. The DFO in reply, stated (May 2000) that due to paucity of fund, eviction operations could not be taken up frequently and successfully. The reply of the DFO is not tenable as the Forest department maintains Forest (Protection) Force under Assam Forest (Protection) Force Act, 1986 to protect the forest produce and areas under forest from poachers, encroachers and smugglers. Thus, failure of the department to ensure adequate protection measures in preventing encroachments rendered the entire expenditure of Rs. 42.51 lakh nugatory.

8.2. The department through their written reply has intimated the Committee that the Forest Department raises plantations in the Reserved Forests on a regular basis, mainly to rehabilitate the forest areas degraded due to illegalities and encroachments. The success of these plantations depends primarily on adequacy of protection measures. While in some areas, routine watch and ward by the field staff is sufficient to guard these plantations, in the sensitive areas, it is nearly impossible to provide full protection at all times. However, this cannot be a reason for not taking up plantations in these sensitive areas. In fact, it is all the more important to plant-up such sensitive areas as leaving them blank may invite more encroachment. Accordingly, the Sonitpur (East) Division, during 1991-92 took up plantation on 1255 ha. of its sensitive areas in its three Ranges namely, Pabhoi Range (Biswanath RF - 510 ha.) Diplongas Range (Nauduar RF - 305 ha.) Borgong (Bihali RF - 440 ha.). The plantation was raised successfully and maintained during succeeding years. During the early part of 1996, an unprecedented Scenario emerged in the northern banks of river Brahmaputra. People in hundreds and thousands belonging to some ethnic groups started invading these forest areas, both for shelter and for expansion of their territory. They cleared up forests and plantations for setting up hutment and for cultivation. The magnitude of the problem can be gauged from the fact that the Chief Minister of Assam had to convene an emergent

meeting of top Civil, Police and Forest officials along with DCs, SPs, DFOs of the concerned Districts to discuss and decide strategy to deal with this extraordinary situation. All possible measure, jointly by the Civil Police and Forest authorities were taken to control the situation. Repeated evictions were carried out but to no avail as the encroachers kept on invading and re-encroaching these areas. The ominous threats of the already volatile situation limited the options with the administration and blunted their efforts. As a consequence, a large chunk of these forests and plantation were lost to these encroachers. As regards deployment of personnel from the Assam Forest Protection Force, it may be stated that there is only one Battalion of the AFPF with the forest department in Assam, which is grossly inadequate to provide desired protection to all the forest areas of the entire State. Because of this constraint the AFPF could not be deployed in the Sonitpur East Division during the period under reference. In the light of the facts as narrated above, it is requested that the whole issue of failure of the plantation under reference, may kindly be viewed in totality of its circumstances and not in isolation as a failure of the Forest Department alone.

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

8.3. The Committee has noticed that quite a large sum of public money had been misused in the social forestry due to lack of farsightedness about the strict implementation of the schemes in a scientific and plan way. Where the security and watch and ward could not be ensured the Committee felt plantation should be economised according to the viability commensurating availability of the protection measures subject to the circumstance and adjustable to the local conditions prevailed. The Committee therefore recommends to the Government that plantation attached with ensured security only be made.

CHAPTER - V

Locking up of funds released under Central/State Sector Scheme. (Audit para 3.15/CAG/1998-99)

9.1. The audit has pointed out that a scrutiny (July 1998) of Cash Book of Director of Fisheries, Assam disclosed retention of closing cash balance of Rs. 1.15 crore as March 1999. This included Rs. 1.89 lakh in cash Rs. 52.22 lakh in the form of 270 Demand Drafts and Rs. 60.99 lakh as Deposit at Call Receipts pertaining to drawals during 1984-85 to 1997-98. Scrutiny further revealed that out of Rs. 1.15 crore, a sum of Rs. 37.98 lakh related to 10 State/Central sector schemes which were to be implemented by the department during 1985-86 to 1990-91. The details of the schemes/projects to which the balance Rs. 77.02 lakh related had not been furnished. The Demand drafts for Rs. 52.22 lakh pertaining to the period from 1984-85 to 1990-91 were not revalidated resulting in loss of Rs. 52.22 lakh. In spite of repeated mention by Accountant General (Audit) in the Inspection Reports (1993-94 to 1998-99) the department did not initiate any action to utilise or refund the money to Government accounts which resulted in locking up of Rs. 62.78 lakh for periods ranging between 1 year to 14 years and loss of Rs. 52.22 lakh.

9.2. The department by their written reply has stated to the Committee that (i) It is a fact that a sum of Rs. 1.15 crore was closing balance as on July, 98 which included the amount drawn during March/98 for implementation of various schemes of Fishery Department through concerned District Fishery Development Officers. The amount included of fish farmer's Development Agency's Autonomous Councils, Central Sector Schemes etc. However some amount was disbursed to the concerned officer after July/98 and some unspent amounts pertaining to the year 1984-85 to 1996-97 had also been refunded to the Govt. Accounts as instructed by Finance Department. Thus the balance amounts reduced to Rs. 31.75 lakhs as on 30.6.99 which was verified by the Accountant General Audit Party. Therefore, during the year some amount has been deposited to Govt. exchequer as per instruction of Accountant General and another some of amount has been disbursed. Thus the closing balance as on 1-6-2002 stood as Rs. 35,05,369.58 which included Rs. 21,84,500/- drawn for Autonomous Council for 2001-2002. The amount has to be retained with a view to clear some committed liabilities and as well as to avoid any legal complicity. (ii) For an amount of rs. 3,53,041.65 as Bank Draft for revalidation are under process.

OBSERVATIONS /RECOMMENDATIONS

9.3. The Committee was not satisfied with the submission of written replies as well as oral deposition tendered by the official representatives. More particularly, the reason adduced in respect of department failing to initiate to utilise or refund of (Rs.7.14 lakhs) money to the Government accounts which resulted in locking them for quite a long period (from 1 to 14 years) thereby incurred loss of Government revenue on account of negligence of the fraudulent officials. On the other hand, non-utilisation of Government money or refundable till 1-6-2002 stood at Rs.35,05,369.58 as closing balance made the Committee astenishod to note the inaction of the officials concerned in dealing with the matters where enough scope being available for implementing 270 schemes in Assam including Autonomous Council along with an amount of Rs.3,53,041.65 as Bank Draft outstanding for revalidation. Thereupon, the Committee directed the Government in the Fishery Department to submit an action taken on a report to the Committee within 60 days after making a through enquiry into the anomolous positions of the Department to be covered thorough spot visits to those schemes in and where deem necessary by the Commissioner & Secretary.

Unproductive expenditure and locking up of funds on setting up of two National Fish Seed Farms.

(Audit para 3.16/CAG/1998-99)

10.1. The audit has pointed out that with a view to increasing fish seed production, National Fish Seed Farm Projects at Barjamuguri and Jalukani in the District of Darrang and Jorhat, respectively were conceived in 1984-85 under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). The estimated cost of the projects was Rs.1.08 crore with 33 items (Barjamuguri : 23 Jalukani : 10) of constructional works having a total area of 10 hectares. The projects were to be completed and commissioned by the end of 1990. Test-check (July 1998) of records of Director of Fisheries and further information collected (February 1999) by Audit revealed that against the Government's sanction aggregating Rs.1.12 crore (Central share Rs.48.72 lakh and State share Rs.62.80 lakh). the Director drew 97.11 lakh (Central share : Rs.45 lakh and State share Rs.52.11 lakh) during 1984-85 to 1989-90. Out of Rs.97.11 lakh, expenditure on civil, electrical and fencing works, installation of deep tube wells and purchase of vehicles in respect of the two farms amounted to Rs.82.97 lakh on 20 completed works (value Rs.74.14 lakh) and 5 incomplete works (value Rs.8.83 lakh) as of January 1999. Eight items of work were not taken up at all. The unspent balance of Rs.14.14 lakh was lying with the Director since August, 1993. Further, Rs.38.48 lakh had been paid as salaries to 14 staff of the two fish seed farms during May, 1988 to August 1999 without utilising their services for the intended purposes. The Director stated (February 1999) that the works in respect of Barjamuguri farm had to be temporarily suspended (1991-92) due to extremist activities in the area and at Jalukani farm the work on deep tube well and RCC indoor hatchery were yet to be completed and due to non-payment of electricity bill, the power line had been disconnected by the Assam State Electricity Board. Despite spending Rs.1.21 crore (Construction works Rs. 82.97 lakh and salaries of staff Rs. 38.48 lakh) the Department failed to create infrastructural facilities for setting up two fish seed farms over a period of 14 years ending 1998-99 with the result that the objectives of the scheme could not be achieved.

10.2. The department in their written reply has submitted that it is fact that with a view to augmenting production of quality fish seed to cater the needs of entire North-Eastern States a Centrally Sponsored scheme was adopted by the Govt. of Assam at early part of 1984-85. Under this scheme two National Fish Seed Farms are proposed to be established, one at Jorhat District and another at Darrang District with a total estimated cost of Rs. 1.09 crores. The factual position of the farms are furnished herewith as per Annexure II alongwith a balance amount available against the farmer as per Annexure III.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

10.3. By the written reply of the Department made the Committee understood that although the centrally sponsored scheme was adopted in 1984-85, the State Government in the Fishery Department failed to execute properly the scheme till examination of the Department on 18.6.2002 by the Committee on Public Accounts. It has come to the notice of the Committee that out of Rs. 1.09 crores of original estimated cost, an amount of Rs. 90,32,614.00 had so far incurred in the scheme during 18 years as per Government statement furnished as Annexure III below. Even after 83% spending of the projected amount Government failed to achieve the target all complete or failed to produce the benefit of the project. Therefore, the Committee recommends to the Government to take action against the fraudulent officials concerned according to the findings of the enquiry to be instituted by the Government since already recommended by the Committee and action taken by the Government thereon should be submitted to the Committee within 90 days of this report presented to the Assembly.

Non-implementation of the scheme for development of Umrangshu Reservoir Fishery and irregular retention of the amount drawn.

(Audit para 3.15/CAG/1999-2000)

11.1. The audit has pointed out that the Director of Fisheries (DOF) submitted (November 1990) a proposal to the Government for sanction of Rs. 17 lakh for implementation of the scheme for development of 20 Hectare Umrangshu Reservoir Fishery at North Cachar Hills District during 1990-91 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.01 crore upto the year 1992-93. The objective of the scheme was to augment fish production in the State by rearing fry and fingerlings in the reservoir by adopting scientific method. The Director of Fisheries (DOF) drew the amount (Rs. 17.00 lakh) in March 1991 against Government sanction (March 1991). Test-check (July 1999) of records revealed that the Director had utilized Rs. 3.23 lakhs during July 1992 to March 1999 and refunded the balance unutilized amount of Rs. 13.77 lakh in to treasury in October 1998 after retaining the same in hand for 7 years and 6 months. It was also revealed that the Department found difficulties in the execution of the scheme as the site selected was in hill slope which required erection of retaining wall involving additional expenditure not included in the estimate. Further, the DOF sought (March 1993) approval for engagement of expert from Central Inland Captive Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, for preparation of a project report, as no expertise was available in the Department to formulate the scheme of "Water reservoir" in hill areas, which was awaited as of July 2000. Thus injudicious site selection for construction of "reservoir" resulted in locking up of Rs. 13.77 lakh for a period of 7 years and 6 months besides wastful expenditure of Rs. 3.23 lakh. Non-implementation of the Programme frustrated the objectives of the scheme of augmenting fish production in the State.

11.2. The department in their written reply has stated that during 1990-91 Government has accorded the administrative approval and financial sanction of Rs. 17.00 lakh vide letter No. VFF.59/90/51, dtd. 28.3.91 for development of Umrangshu Reservoir Fisheries with a view to augment of Fish production in the Hill District and accordingly the amount was drawn during 1990-91. After conducting the counter survey by the Engineering wing it was felt necessary to obtain the expert's view from ICAR since the Project site was found to be full of constraints and problem, apart from technically being adverse. In the mean time, the project was investigated by the expert from ICAR during May, 1998 and submitted their interim report with adhoc recommendation for direct stocking of fingerling after

raising the fish seed in the peripheral pocket of the reservoir vide their letter No. EST/MRS/46/93/9554, dtd. 11.6.99. Accordingly Fish Seed were stocked after procuring the same from the local fish seed grower by observing all formalities including Government approval for incurring expenditure of Rs. 2,93,716/- out of the drawn amount of Rs. 17.00 lakh. Apart from that an amount of Rs. 29,500/- was incurred for counter survey. Thus total expenditure was incurred Rs. 3,23,216/- (Rs. 2,93,716 - Rs. 29,500/-) leaving a balance of Rs. 13,76,784.00. The expenditure was incurred as per the advice of ICAR in the line of Research and experiment.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

11.3. The amount of Rs. 13.77 lakhs drawn in March 1991 by the DOF kept remained unutilized has brought the sharp attention of the Committee in its meeting held on 18 June 2002. The Committee also noticed that adhoc conditional recommendation for direct stocking of fingerling of the ICAR expart came delayed which took more than 8 years. Even thereafter, the programme remain has yet to be fully implemented due to absence of infrastructural facilities in the reservoir fishery at Umrangshu. Thereopen the Committee has expressed its anxiety on delay of implementation of the programme as well as loss of Government revenue on unutilized withdrawn amount from the State exchequer, whatsoever, the Committee earnestly hope that the Government in the Department of Fishery would be up and doing to exert immediate implementation of the pending scheme basing as per the finding on the enquiry so recommended already by the Committee.

Non-submission of Utilization Certificates by the Assam Fisheries Development Corporation.

(Audit para 6.4/CAG/1999-2000)

12.1. The audit has pointed out that scrutiny (July 1999) of records of the Director of Fisheries, Assam revealed that an amount of Rs. 4.10 crore was drawn during March, 1993 and March, 1998 and paid to Assam Fisheries Development Corporation as grants-in-aid between March 1993 and April 1998 for development of beel and open water fisheries in plain District of Assam. Utilization certificates supported by audited statement of expenditure as required under rules were not submitted by the Corporation even after 2 to 7 years from the due dates of submission. Of the amount, paid, Rs. 1.98 crore related to the period over 5 years. The Director failed to ensure timely submission of utilization certificates for grants released between 1992-93 to 1997-98 and to ascertain that the grants were actually utilized as per terms and conditions stipulated in the sanctions. In reply, the Director stated (April 2000) that the Assam Fisheries Development Corporation Limited had been directed to furnish the utilization certificates directly to the Accountant General. The direction to submit the utilization certificate direct to the Accountant General without examination by the department indicated the laxity in the matter. There was no system of physical inspection by the department in respect of the work to be carried out by the grantee organisation.

12.2. The department in their written reply has submitted to the Committee that during the period 1992-93 to 1997-98 following amount was drawn and disbursed to A.F.D.C. Limited as grants-in-aid on the basis of financial sanction issued by the Government as per budget allocation and LOC, Ceiling of respective years :-

Sl. No.	Govt.'s sanction No. and date	Sanction amount	Drawn amount (in lakh)
1.	FISH.120/91/81, Dt. 5-3-93	Rs. 2.00 lakh	Rs. 2.00 lakh
2.	FISH.120/91/pt/2, Dt. 10-8-93	Rs. 150.00 lakh	Rs. 20.00 lakh Rs. 30.00 lakh Rs. 50.00 lakh
3.	FISH.120/91/109, Dt. 17-11-94	Rs. 95.75 lakh	Rs. 47.87 lakh Rs. 47.88 lakh
4.	FISH.120/91/136, Dt. 16-12-95	Rs. 150.00 lakh	Rs. 150.00 lakh
5.	FISH.144/97/5, Dt. 18-12-97	Rs. 63.48 lakh	Rs. 62.48 lakh
Total :-			Rs. 410.23 lakh.

It may be stated that the Managing Director, Assam Fisheries Development Corporation Limited has submitted the Utilization Certificate of fund released by the Fishery Department to the Accountant General (Audit) Assam directly. Which was duly received by the office of the Accountant General, Assam on 19-6-2000.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

12.3. During consideration of the audit objection, the Committee has understood that there had been lapse on the part of the AFDC Ltd. in submitting actual Utilisation Certificates in appropriate time neither to the Government nor to the AG (Audit). The Committee thereupon hold that the utilisation certificate of the spending amounts should always be well in time to the authority having duly be reconciliation prior to the closing date of Accounts by the Accountant General (A & E).

CHAPTER - VI**Injudicious drawal and lockingup of Government money.**

(Audit para 3.5 (a), (b)/CAG/1996-97)

13.1. (a) The audit has pointed out that the Director, Dairy Development Department had drawn Rs.8.00 lakhs (September, 1993) and Rs.7.00 lakhs (March, 1995) on the basis of sanction accorded in August, 1993 and March, 1995 and letter of credit received on the Government. The sanction was for distribution of cattle feed at 50 percent subsidised rate to the beneficiaries under the Milk Village Scheme and to the producers under the Milk Co-operative Societies during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95. The entire amount was transferred to Revenue Deposit. Scrutiny of records (December, 1996) disclosed that the department with drew (March, 1996) the amount from Revenue Deposit and paid Rs.1.76 lakh to " West Assam Milk producer Co-operative Union, Guwahati" for supply of cattle feeds to 4 (four) Co-operative Societies. The balance amount of Rs.13.24 lakh (Rs.15.00 lakh - Rs.1.76 lakh) was kept outside the Government Account in the form of Deposit at Call Receipts (as of June, 1997). The Director stated (June, 1997) that supply of cattle feed to Milk Village was stopped because Milk Supply statements were not received from Co-operative Societies. In the absence of these statements, utilisation of Rs. 1.76 lakhs by the Union could not be ascertained. Retention of Rs. 13.24 lakhs outside the Government account for a period of 15 month is even after the scheme was discontinued was not only injudicious but also adversely affected the ways and means position of the Government besides loss of interest amounting to Rs.1.99 lakhs.

(b) Under Milk Village, selected beneficiaries of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Communities of Nadiapara Village of Kamrup District were to be provided financial assistance of Rs.15,000/- per beneficiary as margin money for purchase of cross breed Jersey Milk Cows. The margin money was to be placed at the disposal of the participating Banks for disbursement together with equivalent amount as loan by the Banks for implementation of the scheme in 1992-93. Scrutiny of records (January, 1997) of the Superintendent, Town Milk Supply Scheme (TMSS), Guwahati revealed that Rs.6.15 lakh paid (November, 1995) to the Central Bank of India, Bongaon, Kamrup District for disbursement to 41 selected beneficiaries of Nadiapara Village had neither been disbursed nor refunded by the Bank as of May, 1997. Thus Rs.6.15 lakh remained undisbursed with the Bank upto May, 1997 resulting in locking up Government funds, besides denial of intended benefits to the beneficiaries.

13.2 (a) The Department in their written reply has stated that during the year 1993-94 an amount of Rs.8.00 lakhs and in 1994-95 an amount of Rs. 7.00 lakh total 15.00 lakhs were drawn by the Dairy Development Department as per L.O.C. received from Government for distribution of cattle feed at 50 percent subsidised rate to the beneficiaries under Milk Village Scheme. The entire amount was transferred to Revenue Deposit as per Government orders. In March, 1996 the Dairy Development Department withdrew the amount from Revenue Deposit and paid Rs.1.76 lakh to West Assam Milk Producer Co-operative Union, Guwahati (WAMUL) for supply of cattle feeds of 4 Co-operative Societies. WAMUL had distributed the cattle feed to 5 nos. of Milk Producers Co-operative Societies as follows :-

<u>Name of the Societies</u> (Year 1996 - 97)	<u>Quantity of feed</u> (Kg)	<u>Amount</u> involved (Rs.)
1. Pakhimoria Milk Coop. Society, Jajori	35,582	74,725.00
2. Medhichuk Dugdha Utpadak Samabai Samittee, Nagaon.	5,952	12,500.00
3. Kamdhenu Prathamik Dugdha Utpadak Samabai Samitte.	12,122	25,458.00
4. Majgaon Dugdha Utpadak S. S.	10,154	21,325.00
5. Saikata Prathamik D.U.S.S. Boko.	20,132	42,278.00
Total Rs.=		1,76,286.00

The balance amount Rs.13.24 lakhs (Rs. 15.00 lakhs - Rs. 1.76 lakhs) were distributed to the beneficiaries as follows :-

<u>Name of the Societies</u> (Year 1997 - 98)	<u>Quantity of feed</u> (Kg)	<u>Amount</u> involved (Rs.)
1. Medhichuk Milk Village, Nagaon	37,281.50	88,924.00
2. Pakhimoria Milk Village, Nagaon	44,635.00	91,651.00
Total Rs.		11,80,575.00
(Year 1998 -99)		
1. Sitajakhala Prathamik D.U.S.S.	2, 15,700.00	11,00,000.00
2. Medhichuk Milk Village, Nagaon,	3,925.00	17,239.00
3. Pakhimoria Milk Village, Nagaon,	5,910.00	25,900.00
Total Rs.		11,43,139.00

Thus the entire amount of Rs. 15.00 lakhs drawn by the Dairy Development Department for distribution of cattle feed to the milk producers coop. societies under Milk Village Scheme at 50% subsidised rate distributed to the intending beneficiaries during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 as per above break up.

(b) The Central Bank of India, Bongaon Branch, informed that they are not willing to implement the Milk Village Scheme, Nadiapara (Kamrup). Accordingly, the management of the bank has returned the whole amount of Rs. 6.15 lakhs vide their letter No.BR/BAN/97-98/II dated 8.5.99. Subsequently, the amount of Rs.6.15 lakhs has already been deposited to the Government under head of account 2404 - Dairy Development (Plan) - 796-Tribal Sub Plan (General Areas).

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

13.3. Irregularity committed by depositing an amount of Rs.13.24 lakhs outside the Government Accounts for a period of 15 months from June, 1997 has come to the notice of the Committee. Similarly Rs.6.15 lakhs remained undisbursed of the Government money in Central Bank of India for 19 months from November, 1995 depriving intended benefits to the beneficiaries regarded by the Committee as the sheer negligence of the officials concerned of the Dairy Development Department.

Thereupon the Committee was very much constrained and directed the Government to make an immediate enquiry with a view to identify the erring officials for whose fault the irregularities inflicted and lost made to the Government revenue. Besides, the Committee recommends that responsibility for irregularity/loss of Government revenue should be fixed on those guilty persons by conducting a high level enquiry thereon and action taken by the Government accordingly should be intimated to the Committee within 60 days of this report presented to the House.

Irregularities in implementation of Central Sector Scheme

(Audit para 3.11/CAG/1998-99)

14.1. The audit has pointed out that the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Integrated Dairy Development Project" with cent percent assistance in non-operation Flood. Hills and Backward areas to be implemented by the Director of Dairy Development, Assam during 1994-95 at a total cost of Rs. 12.61 crores for completion within 3 years. The scheme provided for enhancement of milk production (34000 Ltrs. per day, processing, marketing and improvement of technical inputs. The scheme envisaged organising 414 dairy co-operative societies in about 750 villages bringing 29790 producer members within its ambit. An amount of Rs.4.00 crore being the first year's implementation cost was released (March, 1995) by the GOI, of which the State Govt. released only Rs.3.46 crore during January, 1996 to May, 1999. The Director, Dairy Development, Assam drew Rs.3.46 crore between March, 1996 and June, 1999. The Department spent Rs.1.20 crore and unspent amount of Rs. 2.26 crore, was retained in hand in the form of Deposit - at - call in banks for periods ranging from 1 to 3 years. The reasons for non-utilisation of the above amount were not on record. A test check (July, 1998) of the records on Director, Dairy Development, Assam revealed that out of Rs.120.46 lakhs spent, an amount of Rs.72.30 lakhs was on purchase of plant and machinery, chemicals, furniture etc. for these chilling plants (Hailakandi, Karimganj and Sorbhog) during April, 1996 to December, 1997 which were not commissioned till October, 1999 are remained idle due to non-completion of civil works required for setting up the plants. Thus, it could be seen that even after due date for completion of the project, the financial achievement was only 0.07 percent of the project, showing total laxity on the performance of the Department in the implementation of the programme which resulted not only in locking up of scarce Government funds but also deprived the beneficiaries of the intended benefits of the scheme. The Director stated (July, 1999) that the installation of plant and machinery would be done on completion of civil works. As the installation of Chilling Plants were on "Turn-Key" basis, the companies would bear the responsibility till the plants as commissioned, run on trial basis and finally handed over to the Department. The fact remained that there was delay in the completion of the project and providing the intended benefit.

14.2. The Department in their written reply has stated that Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP), a centrally sponsored scheme was sanctioned in the year 1994-95 with total project cost of Rs. 12.61 crores for completion within 3 years. Dairy Development Assam is the implementing agency of the project. The State Government released first instalment of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in March, 1996 and retained the amount in revenue deposit and subsequently released to the implementing agency. On receipt of fund the implementing agency has organised 310 numbers of Dairy Co-operative Societies (D.C.S.) in nine districts out of 414 D.C.S. as envisaged in the scheme. In N.C. Hills District, the implementing agency could not organise D.C.S. as the District Council Authority did not agree to it. The required inputs etc. were supplied to the 310 numbers of D.C.S. as per the scheme. The balance 104 nos. of D.C.S. are being organised with the help of Pathar Parisalana Sommittees and N.G.O.s. of the respective districts. It is a fact that the implementing agency drawn Rs. 3.46 crore between March, 1996 to June, 1999. Out of this fund, plant machineries, chemicals etc. were procured for which Rs. 1.20 crore was spent. The balance amount of Rs. 2.26 crores was retained in the form of Deposit in call in bank the reason for non-utilisation of the aforesaid fund was due to non-completion of civil works for installation of plant machineries. The machineries which are already in sites will be installed on completion of civil works. As the plant machineries and equipments are procured on "Turn Key" basis, the companies would bear the risk till they are installed and commissioned satisfactorily before handing over to the Department. Out of the total project outlay of Rs. 1260.76 lakhs, an amount of Rs. 650.00 lakhs was released by the Government of India to the State Government. The State Govt. released Rs. 617.03 lakhs to the implementing agency so far. Only Rs. 32.97 lakhs earmarked for civil works is yet to be released to the implementing agency. From the above mentioned amount Rs. 3,41,57,912.00 had been utilised as per project guidelines and rest amount will be utilised as soon as completion of installation of plants and machineries after completion of civil works. The present position of chilling plants /dairy plants taken up under I.D.D.P. scheme are as follows :-

1. Hailakandi Chilling Plant : Plant building completed and installation of machineries also completed. Waiting for power line connection from A.S.E.B. for which the implementing agency is pursuing the matter. The plant will be commissioned after power line connection.

2. Karimganj Chilling Plant : The plant building is not yet completed. It is delayed for getting the land for its construction from the authority. Land was made available to the implementing agency in January, 2001. About 70% works of the building completed and expected to be completed within two months. Plants machineries etc. have already been stored in the site.

3. Sorbhog Chilling Plant : Plant building completed and machineries are also installed. Waiting for power line connection from A.S.E.B. for which necessary action has been taken and expected to get the power connection within June, 2002.

The above mentioned chilling plants will be commissioned by the end of October, 2002 as per action plan fixed by the Govt. proper monitoring of the works have been made by the implementing agency as well as by the Administrative Department. The delay that is noted in the para was therefore not intentional and all steps are taken to extend the intended benefit of the project by completing it within the targeted date as fixed by the Government.

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

14.3. The Committee has observed that no utilisation certificate against the share of central fund had been submitted enabling release of the remaining amount by the Central Government. So the Committee recommends that observance of financial discipline in all respect be maintained and the utilisation certificate may be submitted early for getting released the balance amount of central share and the scheme should be completed immediately in all concerns within the stipulated time as the situation demands and completion report thereon should be intimated to the Committee accordingly.

Infructuous expenditure on idle Staff and daily labourers.

(Audit para 3.12/C.A.G./1998-99)

15.1. The audit has pointed out that test-check (July-August, 1998) of records of the (1) Director, Dairy Development, Guwahati, (2) Superintendent, TMSS, Khanapara and (3) Assistant Dairy Development Officer, TMSS, Lahowal revealed that 10 milk chilling plants and 1 Pre-pack machine were inoperative for inordinately long periods ranging from 2 to 8 years, either due to damaged infrastructure or for reasons not on record. Though the plants remained inoperative, pay and allowances were paid to 105 idle staff members (including 25 muster roll workers) without gainful utilisation of their services elsewhere resulting in infructuous expenditure of Rs.1.06 crore as on June/July, 1998.

15.2. The Department in their written reply has stated that it is true that 10 (ten) milk chilling plants under Director, Dairy Development Department located in different districts of the State are now remain inoperative. The plant machineries and other infrastructure are in damaged condition. Due to financial problem, the Department could not repair the plants for operation. The inoperative chilling plants located at Panbari, Biswanath Chariali, Dhekiajuli, Sonitpur are now taken up for renovation with the fund provided under D.D.P. scheme. The staff under the aforesaid chilling plants are also under the creamery scheme. Mankachar, Kharupetia, Sipajhar, Jagiroad are engaged to look after the respective properties. The idle staff are engaged for organisation of Dairy Co-operative Societies, monitoring of Milk Village Schemes in the nearby areas. The chilling plant at Lahowal is at present running and distributing around 100/150 liters of Milk in Dibrugarh town. The machineries of Dhola C.P. and Tinsukia are guarded by some grade IV employees of the concerned C.P. as Chowkider. Some parts have been utilised at Lahowal C.P. staff or Sipajhar, Biswanath Chariali and Dhekiajuli chilling plants are also engaged similarly. The staff of Jagiroad C.P. are utilised at TMSS, Khanapara in different works according to their suitability. Staff of Kharupetia C.P. and Mankachar Creamery Scheme are also utilised at TMSS, Khanapara and D.C.S. organisation works at Darrang District. Muster Roll workers are also engaged suitably in different works.

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

15.3. The Committee has noticed that almost all man materials and machines earmarked for the various milk-supply-schemes of Assam have been remaining idle for years together for lack of initiative of persons concerned with its administration of connected with the milk supply schemes. The Committee feels that question of engaging muster roll in the inoperative schemes appears irrelevant, where maintenance and protection of property of the schemes are compulsory responsibility of the regular employees of the Department.

So, the Committee recommends that steps should be taken to complete the incomplete Milk chilling plants as early as possible for urgent operation of them by instituting an action oriented enquiry by the Government for this purpose which was not submitted within one month to the Committee although assured by official witness at the time of tendering oral evidence to the Committee.

Tardy implementation of milk village scheme.

(Audit para 3.13/CAG./1998-99)

16.1. The audit has pointed out that under Milk Village Schemes selected beneficiaries of scheduled caste and scheduled Tribes Communities of villages are provided with financial assistance for promotion of dairy farming. Each beneficiary who was assisted under the scheme was required to cater Milk/to town Milk Supply Scheme to enhance handling of milk by the Department. Scrutiny (August, 1998) of records of assistant Dairy Development officer Dibrugarh revealed that between February, 1992 and December, 1996, an amount of Rs.27.78 lakhs was distributed to 165 beneficiaries under the scheme in four villages for production of 20-25 litres of milk per day per beneficiary in 300 milk days in a year. Milk supplied by the beneficiaries of all the four villages to the Department upto July, 1998 was, however, a paltry 9352 litres against the target of 37.55 lakh litres of milk during February, 1992 to July, 1998. There was neither any recorded reason for such low supply of milk by the beneficiaries nor the Department enquired into the matter. The low yield of milk raises serious doubts about actual Utilisation of fund provided under the scheme.

16.2. The Department in their written reply has stated that due to closure of chilling plants at Dhola and Tinsukia, the milk collection at Dibrugarh Town Milk Supply Scheme became less. It is an admitted fact that the Dairy Development Department has not taken follow up action to monitor the scheme works to ensure its success and derive the desired benefit of the scheme. At present T.M.S.S. Officers at Dibrugarh have been instructed for collection of more milk from Dhola and Guijan area. Concerning Bank are also taking steps from their end to realise the loan amount issued to the beneficiaries through them under Milk Village Scheme. Necessary steps have also been taken from this Department to increase milk production by the beneficiaries under the Milk Villages of Dibrugarh District launching mass awareness among the beneficiaries by the field staff of this Department.

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

16.3. Besides written submission the Committee has heard the oral deposition of the Departmental witnesses and observed that due to loss supply of feedings to the cows, the beneficiaries are supplying less milk. The Committee has also expressed its anxiety for not taking up follow up action to monitor the scheme works to ensure its full success resulting to no less benefit out of the schemes subject to feasibility point of view concerned Officers of the milk supply schemes should pursue the connected banks to take initiative to get back loan amounts well in time from its loanees. The Committee therefore urges upon the concerned milk supply officials more particularly field - staff for launching urgently mass awareness among the beneficiaries

Nugatory expenditure on salary on drivers.

(Audit para 3.14/CAG./1998-99)

17.1. The audit has pointed out that after scrutiny (July-August 1998) of records of the (1) Director, Dairy Development, Assam; (2) Superintendent, Town Milk Supply Schemes, Khanapara and (3) Assistant Dairy Development Officer, Dibrugarh, revealed that 19 vehicles under their establishments were off-road during the period August, 1989 to July, 1998. Out of 19 vehicles, 8 vehicles (between July, 1990 and August, 1996) were condemned and 11 vehicles remained off-road as of July, 1998. Mean while the Department expended Rs.28.21 lakhs towards the pay and allowances of 18 idle drivers out of a total of 22 drivers as detailed in Appendix XL. The Director stated (July, 1998) that the services of the drivers would be utilised as and when new vehicles under the "Integrated Dairy Development Scheme" are procured. No specific plans were however furnished. The expenditure of Rs.28.21 lakhs incurred towards pay and allowances of drivers without any services from them proved to be nugatory.

17.2. The Department in their written reply has stated that the Departmental Vehicles which are very old and off road and no scope for economic repairing have since been auctioned. No new vehicle can be procured due to financial problem. Drivers who are permanent employees, their pay and allowances are paying. The idle drivers have been engaged in compressor machine/water supply machine of Central Dairy, Khanapara. Six drivers under Dairy Development Directorate are under in three running vehicles on shift duties. Arrangement have been made to dispose the rest condemned vehicles of this Department after observing the procedure and rules for such disposal which is expected to be completed within 3-4 months.

OBSERVATIONS /RECOMMENDATIONS

17.3. The Committee has observed that dispose of old and road off vehicles appears a step towards right direction. The Committee feels that services of 18 (out of 22) drivers who stated to have been permanent should be utilised in any Department of the Government where deem accomodative with a view to eleminate the nugatory expenditure from the budget of the State Government. So the Committee suggests the Government to place (service) right man in right place instead of (placing else where) misuse of the technical services of persons concerns.

The Committee also urges upon the Government to dispose of all remained un-disposed Old/ off-road vehicles of the Department to dispose of immediately by Public auction and deposit the value received there from to the Government treasury as per existing financial rule of the Government and action taken thereon be intimated to the Committee accordingly.

Avoidable liability due to delayed re-payment of loans.

(Audit para 3.12/CAG./1999-2000)

18.1. The audit has pointed out that the Government of India launched in October, 1978 a massive Dairy Development project titled "Operation Flood -II". Under this programme a Milk Union was formed in 1979-80 namely- West Assam Milk Producer's Co-operative Union Limited (WAMUL), Guwahati covering 3 District viz., Kamrup, Goalpara and Nagaon. Following an agreement signed between the Managing Director, WAMUL and the Indian Dairy Corporation (now National Dairy Development Board), Anand in September, 1981 and as amended in November, 1984, the NDDB agreed to provided loan of Rs.3.59 crore to WAMUL on the condition that loan would be repaid in 20 years inclusive of five years grace period on interest and principal during which the interest would be capitalised. Interest on loan amount would be charged @ 8.50 percent per anum/compounded half-yearly and carried further interest & 2 percent per anum over and above the rate of interest for delay in repayment of instalments. Test-check (October - November, 1999) of records of the Director, Dairy Development Assam revealed that between 1981-82 and 1987-88 Rs.2.91 crore was paid to WAMUL by NDDB against guarantee given by the Government of Assam. Against the above loan, Rs.1087 crore (Principal Rs.2.51 crore; interest Rs.4.58 crore and Penal interest Rs.3.78 crore) become due as of March, 2000 for repayment by the WAMUL to NDDB of which Rs.0.36 crore (Interest; Rs.0.35 crore and Penal Interest ; Rs.0.01 crore) was repaid between 1987-88 and 1990-91 no further payment of either Principal of Interest was made upto 1998-99. Since the WAMUL failed to honour its obligation under the terms of loan agreement the NDDB requested the Government of Assam to intervene in the affairs of the WAMUL and discharge its obligations as guaranter but the State Government did not respond to them. The NDDB approached the Hon'ble Guwahati High Court by filling a writ petition seeking directions in the matter. The Hon'ble Guwahati High Court vide judgement in 26 June, 1998 directed the Government to release the admitted outstanding dues along with interest as per the contractual stipulations. Accordingly, the NDDB submitted (June, 1998) a claim to Government for Rs.10.72 crore which was revised to Rs.10.87 crore in March, 2000 being outstanding loan and over due interest. On the basis of Court Judgement against Civil Rule No.1762 of 1997 Government sanctioned loan of Rs. 5 crore (Rs.2.50 crore in October, 1999 and Rs.2.50 crore in February, 2000) to WAMUL towards

repayment claim of NDDDB and the entire amount of Rs. 5 crore was paid by WAMUL to NDDDB. Another Rs. 0.36 crore was repaid between 1987-88 and 1999-2000. Even after payment of these amount the amount due as of March, 2000 to NDDDB against the loan taken by them was Rs.5.51 crore (Principal : Rs. 2.04 crore and interest Rs.3.47 crore). Thus, the liability of the State Government against the Court Judgement still persists. It was further seen from the sanction of loan accorded by Government that these were paid without specifying the period of repayment and interest to be charged. Further, the State Government also provided loan of Rs. 1.51 crore to WAMUL during 1979-80 to 1992-93 for implementation of the above scheme. Loan was repayable in 12 years (12 equal instalments) after a grace period of 5 years with interest at the rate fixed by the Government from time to time. Repayment of loan was not made upto March, 2000. The Government also did not fix the rate of interest to be charged on the loan as of March, 2000. Failure of the Government as guaranter of the loan to monitor repayment of Principal and Interest by the WAMUL in time to NDDDB resulted in extra liability of Rs.3.78 crore as penal interest as of March, 2000. Also due to non-fixing of rate of interest and non-initiation of any action against WAMUL by the State Government, loan of Rs.1.51 crore given by it remained to be realised for last 15 years along with interest. Besides, the fresh loan of Rs. 5crore paid against Court Judgement is also pending for recovery.

18.2. By the Department through written reply has intimated the Committee that the Dairy Development Department has been insisting the West Assam Milk Producers Coop. Union Ltd. (WAMUL) Guwahati through correspondences from time to time for repayment of the loan and interest to N.D.D.B. as early as possible. WAMUL being an organisation under Co-operative Sectors is to generate its own resources for repayment of loan and other liabilities from their generated fund. The WAMUL, however, failed to repay the loan and interest in time N.D.D.B. had moved Hon'ble Gauhati High Court praying direction from the court for repayment of loan and interest by WAMUL. Hon'ble High Court directed State Government to repay the loan to NDDDB as guarantee. According the State Government advance loan to WAMUL Rs. 7,18,82,866.00 for making payment to NDDDB on condition that WAMUL will repay the amount to the Government in due course. WAMUL had paid the amount to NDDDB as received from the Government against loan and interest. After that no further payment is made by WAMUL to the NDDDB to liquidate the loan and interest. On the other hand, WAMUL has requested the NDDDB to waive the balance amount of Rs.3,68,17,134.00 vide this letter No.MUG-123/Pt-II/2001-119 dated 13.8.2001. Under rehabilitation plan of Central Government, the loan component of NDDDB to WAMUL as on 31.3.2002 was Rs.1,04,06,000.00 and interest component Rs.3,56,10,388.44 only, WAMUL has taken up the matter with the Government for settlement of the matter.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

18.3. The Committee has observed that WAMUL have taken a loan from N.D.D.B. where Assam Government was guaranter. The Committee could not satisfy as to why fresh loan of Rs.5 crores was accorded again without re-paying the outstanding earlier loan for 15 years.

The Committee is anxious about non-payment of loan and interest accrued thereon by the WAMUL for Rs.4,60,16,388.44 (Loan 1,04,06,000.00 + Interest 3,56,10,388.44) to the NDDB while the WAMUI has appeared to have been running viably even if the State Government stood guaranter for WAMUL. The Committe thereupon recommends to the Government to make a thorough enquiry into the affairs within one month with effect from 31.05.2002 and to submit the findings thereon. But the Government failed to submit the findings of the enquiry so directed by the Committee. Therefore the Committee further recommends to the Government to make a high level thorough enquiry into non-payment of outstanding amount of Rs.4,60,16,388.44 to the NDDB and Rs.7,18,82,866.00 to the Government of Assam and action taken thereon by the Government be submitted to the Committe within 30 days of the report presented to the Assembly.

Loan remained outstanding against Co-operative Milk Unions.

(Audit para 3.13/CAG./1999-2000)

19.1. The audit has pointed out that two Special Dairy Development Projects covering the then Districts of Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Darrang and Cachar were launched in August, 1982 as Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 50 : 50 funding pattern. The projects were renamed from June, 1985 as East Assam Milk Producers' Co-operative Societies Union Limited (EAMUL), Jorhat covering 9 districts and Cachar, Karimganj District Milk Producers' Co-operative Societies Union Limited (CAMUL), Silchar covering 2 districts. The financial assistance provided to EAMUL and CAMUL were in the form of 70 percent loan and 30 percent grant. The objectives of the project were to boost economy through increased milk production by forming Co-operative Societies. Test-check (October-November, 1999) of the records of the Director, Dairy Development, Assam revealed that during 1981-82 to 1987-88 an amount of Rs.3.28 (EAMUL : Rs.2.33 crore and CAMUL : Rs.0.95 crore) was disbursed to the above Co-operative Milk Unions as loan by drawing up agreement between Government and Societies to the effect that loan would be refunded in cash in 20 equal annual instalments commencing from the 5th anniversary date of drawal of loan and the rate on interest would be charged as fixed by the Government from time to time on loan to Co-operative Societies. Neither any instalement of loan was repaid nor any interest payment was made from due date by the Co-operative Milk Unions as of May, 2000. The Director also did not initiate any action against the EAMUL and CAMUL to realise the huge long along with interest. Utilisation Certificats were also not obtained from EAMUL and CAMUL as of May, 2000. Inaction of the Department thus, led to non-realisation of loan of Rs.3.28 crore from the Societies for the last 12 years. Besides, performance of the Societies was never assessed by the Department. In reply, the Director stated (November, 1999) that action would be taken to realise the loan along with interest.

19.2. The Department in their written reply has stated that the East Assam Milk Producer Co-operative Union Ltd. (EAMUL) Jorhat and Cachar Karimganj Districts Milk Producers' Cooperative Milk Union Ltd. (CAMUL) were formed under cooperative sector. Government on its part financed. The two milk unions informed to the Government the grant-in-aid and loan as per project report. At present both the Milk Unions are inoperative and virtually closed. The role of the Director, Dairy

Development Department was to obtain the utilisation certificates from the Milk Unions for the funds extended to the Milk Unions of the Centrally Sponsored scheme. The Dairy Department has insisted the milk unions for repayment of loan. The milk unions were to generate their own fund and repay the liabilities from their own generated fund. The Milk Unions could not sustain themselves and failed to repay the loan amount to the Government. The loan taken by the milk unions from the Government were utilized by them and utilisation certificates submitted to the Dairy Development Department which were forwarded to the Accountant General, Assam and also to the Government of Assam vide this office letter No.DD/GB/181/2001/791 dated 4.12.2000. Instead of repaying the loan advanced by the State Government to CAMUL, the milk union demanding regular grants in-aid to them by the Government for payment of staff salaries etc. as Government organisation. In this connection a special leave petition is filed by the State Government before the Hon'ble Supreme Court which is pending.

OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS

19.3. Since the matter has been pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Committee has urged upon the Government to furnish a copy of the judgement after disposal of the case by the Court.

Poor implementation of scheme for distribution of cross breed cows under Scheduled caste component and Tribal Sub-plan.

(Audit para 3.14/CAG/1999-2000)

20.1. The audit has pointed out that the Government of Assam, Animal Husbandary and Veterinary Department, accorded (March, 1997) expenditure sanction of Rs. 60 lakhs under Scheduled Caste Component Plan (SCCP) and Rs. 46 lakhs under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for implementation of scheme for distribution of cross breed milch cows through nationalized banks during the year 1996-97. As per the scheme, 2 cross breed milch cows with yield of 6-7 litres of milk per day per cow were to be provided to the beneficiaries. Unit cost per beneficiary was fixed at Rs. 20,000 and the benefit was to be extended to 300 and 230 beneficiaries under SCCP and TSP respectively during the year 1996-97. Out of Rs. 20,000, Rs. 17,000 being the cost of 2 cows would be deposited as margin money in the bank and the balance amount of Rs. 3,000 would be provided to the beneficiary as cost of feed, feeder, shed, medicine etc. The bank would provide loan of Rs. 30,000 to each beneficiary against the margin money of Rs. 17,000. The margin money would be deposited in the bank as fixed deposit for a period of five years, which would be refunded to the beneficiary alongwith interest after liquidation of loan money. Test-check (November, 1999) of records of the Director, Dairy Development, Assam, Guwahati revealed that against the sanction of Rs. 1.06 crore, the Director drew (March, 1997) only Rs. 60 lakhs (Rs. 35 lakhs for 175 SCCP and Rs. 25 lakhs for 125 TSP beneficiaries) on the basis of Letter of Credit issued by the Government. Out of Rs. 60 lakhs drawn, the Director disbursed (March, 1997) and september, 1999) only Rs. 31.40 lakhs to nine different implementing officers within the two and half years of its drawal and the balance amount of Rs. 28.60 lakhs remained unutilised and kept as Banker's cheque and DCR. The reason for non-utilisation of balance fund was not on record. The fund (Rs. 28.60 lakhs) was, therefore, drawn far in advance of requirement and remained locked up. Further, the Director neither ensured the subsequent utilisation of Rs. 31.40 lakhs by the implementing officers nor assessed the impact of the scheme. Thus, due to non-utilisation of the fund the desired objective of the schemes could not be achieved to a large extent. The Director stated (November, 1999) that action would be taken to ensure utilisation of fund and obtain utilisation reports from the implementing officers. In the absence of utilisation reports, actual utilisation of Rs. 31.40 lakhs for the intended purpose could not be vouchsafed in audit.

20.2. The Department in their written reply has stated that it is true that the Dairy Development Department had drawn Rs. 60.00 lakhs as per L.O.C. received from the Finance Department G/A vide letter No. BB/45/96/249, dated 18.2.97 against the scheme sanctioned for 1996-97. The break up of the scheme is as follows :

Under T.S.P. Rs. 25.00 lakhs and under SCCP Rs. 35.00 lakhs. The scheme was a bankable scheme but as the banks were not willing to implement it as the beneficiaries were disinterested to repay the loan amount offered by the bank as per terms and conditions of the banks. So, the Dairy Development Department implemented the scheme departmentally through the field officers. Accordingly the Dairy Development Department utilised Rs. 12.00 lakhs under T.S.P. and Rs. 14.00 lakhs under SCCP and the balance Rs. 34.00 lakhs remained unutilised. The unutilised amount is lying with the implementing Agency i.e. Dairy Development Department. The above mentioned fund of Rs. 26.00 lakhs were utilised through 6 (six) nos. implementing offices and utilisation certificates received. The Scheme was for the year 1996-97 but the Dairy Development Department has not taken any step to implement the balance amount of Rs. 34.00 lakhs in the subsequent years. As a result the schemes benefit could not be achieved as pointed by Audit. However, the Department is examining the matter to utilise the balance amount of Rs. 34.00 lakhs of the scheme as spillover after due approval of the Government.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDS

20.3 The Committee has observed that it should be ensured whether the amount so distributed was appropriately utilised for the purpose as approved for which it was released. The Committee therefore recommends that responsibility should be fixed against the fraudulent officials and recovery should be made forthwith from the erring officials and action taken thereon by the Government should be intimated to the Committee within the period of one month from the date of presentation of this report to the House.

20.4. Further, the Committee holds that the amount of Rs. 34 lakhs reported to have been unutilised from 1996-97 be refunded instantaneously to the Government Accounts and for whose fault the amount remained unutilised, responsibility should be fixed on those officials with making no delay thereon.

SUMMARY SHEET OF THE FINDING OF THE DISTRICT LEVEL TASK FORCE

Sl. No.	Name of District	Progress Report	Verification of A.C. of receipt & issue of Pumpsets	Whether Placed in DSC	Location in field & as per Office Record	Name of Beneficiary. amt. deposited and ownership individual/FMC.	Number of Pumpsets/ Brandwise, Distributed. Theft if any.	Quality of Pipes and Depth of Borehole.	Effectiveness of Water Discharge. Service.	After Sales Record and Service.	Monitoring
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
1	Darrang	OK	OK	1021 outside the DSC but approved by the DSC later	OK	OK ownership not stated	none diverted. Two stolen under ARI/ASP. brands O.K.	OK depth verified as per litholog. Marginal differences noted	OK	OK	OK
2	Dhemaji	OK	Receipt issue OK	all as per the DSC	OK	ownership FMC. Deposit and receipt OK	OK	OK That is as per litholog	effective	No Problem	OK.
3	Lakhimpur	OK	OK	all as per the DSC	OK	Deposit & Receipt OK. Ownership individual/FMC	OK. No theft or diversion reported	quality OK. The depth OK.	effective	OK	OK.
4	Nagaon	OK	OK	placed before DSC	OK	Ownership/FMC.	OK. No theft reported	quality OK. The depth OK.	discharge OK	OK	OK.
5	Jorhat	OK	OK	some given on first-come first served basis as per DSC.	OK	ownership FMC. Operational individual	diversion none reported	quality OK depth OK	Nakachari & Borholla problem of WT.	good except six unrepaired pumpsets by Kirloskar.	OK.
6	Goalpara	OK	OK	all but 31 FMC for which appri. Taken later from DSC.	OK	amount deposited OK. Ownership individual	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK.

Sl. No.	Name of District	Progress Report	Verification of A/C of receipt & issue of Pumpscts	Whether Placed in DSC	Location in field & as per Office Record	Name of Beneficiary, amt. deposited and ownership individual/FMC.	Number of Pumpscts Brandwise, Distributed. Theft if any.	Quality of Pipes and Depth of Borchole.	Effectiveness of Water Discharge.	After Sales Record and Service.	Monitoring
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
7	Kamrup	OK	OK	as per the DSC	OK	OK	OK	quality OK depth OK.	effective	satisfactory	OK
8	Sonitpur	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK Individual	OK. Nine recovered after theft.	OK. The depth as per litholog.	effective	OK	OK.
9	Morigaon	OK	OK	as per DSC	OK	OK Individual	no diversion. Use OK.	OK. The depth as per litholog.	satisfactory	OK	OK.
10	Kokrajhar	OK	OK	as per DSC	OK	OK. owner is member of FMC.	Borrowing material of 7 STW stolen from Baruahpara area.	not stated. Beneficiaries satisfied with functioning.	OK	no after sales rendered	not upto desired level.
11	Barpeta (Sorbhog)	OK	OK	as per DSC	OK	OK	OK	quality OK. The depth OK.	OK	not stated	OK.
12	Dibrugarh	OK	OK	as per DSC	OK	OK. Ownership FMC.	no diversion. OK	quality OK. The depth OK.	effective	OK	OK.
13	Sibsagar	OK	OK	as per DSC except 294 outside DSC.	OK. 85 not verified as they are remote.	Money received in cash from Beneficiary & kept in unofficial A/C by E.E. This is irregular.	five stolen	quality OK. The depth OK.	OK. Usage low-off-season.	unsatisfactory. 21 Pumps of Bharat brand not repaired.	OK.

Sl No. of District	Name	Progress Report	Verification of A.C of receipt & issue of Pumpssets	Whether Placed in DSC	Location in field & as per Office Record	Name of Beneficiary, amt. deposited and ownership individual F.M.C.	Number of Pumpssets/ Brandwise, Distributed, Theft if any.	Quality of Pipes and Depth of Borehole.	Effectiveness of Water Discharge.	After Sales Record and Service.	Mounting
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
14	Tinsukia	OK	OK	as per the DSC	3 stolen. 1 uninstalled not functioning	OK. Owned by F.M.C. beneficia-ries.	OK. 3 stolen.	OK. As per the statement of farmers.	OK except Sadiya because of rocks.	OK	OK.
15	Dhubri	OK	OK	as per the DSC	OK. Some areas shifted due to erosion.	OK	no theft. Some areas diverted because of the river erosion.	OK	OK except Debitola develop-ment block . hilly.	OK	OK.
16	Golaghat	OK	OK	as per the DSC	OK	OK. Ownership F.M.C.	OK. No theft or diversion.	OK	OK. 134 STW not functioning.	satisfactory	OK.
17	Nalbari	not proper	OK	not all approved by the DSC.	Locational irregularities found	OK. Ownership individuals under F.M.C.	OK	irregular	OK	OK	OK.
18	Bongai-gaon	OK	OK	104 Cases outside DSC.	OK	OK	OK. No theft	OK	effective	OK	OK.

Jorhat : In Nakachari & Borholla 96 and 28 number of STW are not functioning because of low water table. No complaint has been received about the quality of the pump sets from their : 6 pumps sets in Majuli have not been repaired by Kirloskar & Company.

Barpeta : In Barpeta serious irregularities have been witnessed in Patalsala Sub-Division and the Officer concerned has been placed under suspension. For details please see the report of the District Level Task Force. As far as Barpeta is concerned the summary on Barpeta relates only to the Sorbhog Sub-Division and not to Patalsala.

Golaghat : In Golaghat District 134 number of STW are not functioning because of low water table as per the report of the District Level Task Force.

Nalbari : In Nalbari serious irregularities have been reported with regards to the maintenance of progress report, and in Mukalmua and Rampur Circle location of STW could not be verified as it did not tally with the beneficiary list. For the second phase of the R.I.D.F. programme no litholog or bills were prepared as per the report of the District Level Task Force. For details please read the report of the District Level Task Force.

Sibsagar : In Sibagar irregularities have been reported regarding the mode of payment received from the beneficiary. As per the report of the District Level Task Force the money from the beneficiaries was collected in cash and not by the bank draft as per the norms and were deposited in the bank account. For details please see the report of the District Level Task Force. Further, 21 number of STW have not been repaired by the manufacturer Bharat. Later information by D.C. states that they were subsequently repaired.

Kokrajhar : The District Level Task Force has expressed dissatisfaction over the after sales service rendered and also at the level of monitoring done by the departmental staff.

D. SONOWAL, ACS.
Member Secretary.

K. N. DAS, EE Agriculture,
Member.

SYEDAIN ABBASI, IAS.
Chairman.

ANNEXURE-II

REPLY TO DRAFT PARA OF AUDIT OBJECTION XXXXXXXXX
AUDIT EXPENDITURE AND LOCKING UP OF FUND ON SETTING
UP NATIONAL FISH SEED FARM.

The original project cost of the 2 National Fish Seeds Farms, one at Borjamuguri in Darrang District and the other at Jalukoni in in Jorhat District was as follows :-

<u>Name of project</u>	<u>State Share</u>	<u>G.C.I. Share</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jalukoni National Fish Seed Farm	Rs. 23.13 lakhs	Rs. 24.36 lakhs	Rs. 47.49 lakhs.
Borjamuguri National Fish Seed Farm.	Rs. 36.15 lakhs	Rs. 24.36 lakhs	Rs. 60.51 lakhs.
Total :	Rs. 59.28 lakhs	Rs. 48.72 lakhs	Rs. 108.00 lakhs.

While the estimate on Borjamuguri was not revised, the estimate of Jalukoni was revised to Rs. 49.05 lakhs from the original estimate of Rs. 47.49 lakhs. Therefore, the total cost of the project was as follows :-

<u>Name of project</u>	<u>State Share</u>	<u>G.C.I. Share</u>	<u>Total</u>
Borjamuguri National Fish Seed Farm.	Rs. 36.15 lakhs	Rs. 24.36 lakhs	Rs. 60.51 lakhs.
Jalukoni National Fish Seed Farm	Rs. 24.69 lakhs	Rs. 24.36 lakhs	Rs. 49.05 lakhs.
Total :	Rs. 60.84 lakhs	Rs. 48.72 lakhs	Rs. 109.56 lakhs.

Therefore, the total sanction on the project is Rs. 109.56 lakhs. The break up is Rs. 60.84 lakhs as state share and Rs. 48.72 lakhs as central share. An amount of Rs. 12.45 lakhs could not be drawn due to no issue of L.O.C. out of the 10 items of works in respect of Jalukoni project, one item, namely, construction of R.C.C. sum service storage was abandoned, one Deep Tube Well was completed out of 2 Deep Tube Wells. And the other 8 items have been completed. The total expenditure incurred in Jalukoni project is Rs. 47,32,433.00. Out of 23 items of work in respect of Borjamuguri Project, 15 items of work have been completed and the remaining 8 items of work are incomplete.

The 14 staff appointed for 2 Nos. of 10 Hact. National Fish Seeds Farm are utilised in other similar duties. Their services are utilised in the Departmental Fish Seed Farms at Ulubari Fish Farm, J. B. Garh Fish Farm, Joysagar Fish Farm and Upahupara Fish Farm in Darrang District.

It is a fact that the construction of Borjamuguri Project could not be completed until the improvement of the low and order situation in the area (Darrang District).

In respect of Jalukoni Project the R.C.C. Indoor Hatchery has been completed and one of the 2 Deep Tube Wells is also completed. The ASEB has agreed to install the transformer as the electricity bill has already been cleared. A photo copy of the letter from the Asstt. Executive Engineer, Titabor Electrical Sub-division, ASEB, Titabor is enclosed.

The commulative expenditure on the 2 National Fish Seed Farm is Rs. 38.67 lakhs, the break up bring Rs. 47.32 lakhs on Jalukoni Project and Rs. 41.35 lakhs is respect of Borjamuguri Project.

The reason for the delay, or for that matter, the discontinuation of the works was due to adverse technical report in respect of water and soil. As pointed out earlier, the Borjamuguri Project could not be continued due to circumstances beyond the control of the Director of Fisheries, Assam, Guwahati. There is no working atmosphore in the district due to abnormal low and order situation. However, on the basis of the assurance of the Minister of Fisheries on the floor of the Assam Legislative Assembly, work was started again in respect of Jalukoni Project. Accordingly, R.C.C. Indoor Hatchery was completed as well as one of the 2 Deep Tube Wells. In the meantime, the ASEB has disconnected the electricity supply due to non payment of electricity bill, which leads to the stopage of the projects. The hole programme was dependent on under ground wager supply through electricity fund Deep Tube Well, as there was no alternative water resource like surface run off. In the mean time, a proposal has been submitted to the Govt. for starting the Jalukoni Project by suggesting certain technical modification. For example, excessive iron in the water is proposed to be overcome by open exidiso-cum-filter reserviour. Similarly, the low content of city was proposed to be improved by extensive cultivation of cowdung in the bed of the various tanis. It is therefore, expected that with a minimum amount of Rs. 3.00 lakhs, the Jalukoni Project will become functional.

ANNEXURE-III**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DRAWN AND EXPENDITURE IN RESPECT OF TENTH HA. NATIONAL FISH SEED FARM, JALUKONI/ BARJAMUGURI.**

Drawal with date of drawal (1)	Expenditure (2)
1. Rs. 24,40,341.00 Dtd. 10-30-85 VFF.191/82/199, Dtd. 25-2-85.	1. Barjamuguri Rs. 42,15,503.00 (Statement enclosed)
2. Rs. 45,00,000.00 Dtd. 31-3-86. VFF.4/86/34, Dtd. 31-3-86.	2. Jalukoni Rs. 48,17,111.00 (Statement enclosed)
3. Rs. 2,04,152.70 Dts. 31-3-86 VFF.354/85/13, Dtd. 29-3-86.	
4. Rs. 10,00,000.00 Dtd. 31-3-87. VFF.191/82/241, Dtd. 19-1-87.	
5. Rs. 66,052.00 Dtd. 29-3-88 VFF.191/82/268 Dtd. 18-12-87	
6. Rs. 15,00,000.00 Dtd. 31-3-89 VFF. 191/82/324, Dtd. 31-3-89.	
Total :- Rs. 97,10,555.70	Rs. 90,32,614.00

Prepared by -

B. C. NATH,
Supdt. Scheme.D. BONDOPADHYA,
Dy. Director of Fisheries
(Fish Seed Farming)
Assam, Guwahati.S. THADOU,
Director of Fisheries,
Assam, Guwahati.

Cash balance under the scheme National Fish Seed Farm stands at Rs. 871,382.52 (Rupees eight lakhs seventy one thousand three hundred eighty two & paise fifty two) only as on 15-11-99 out of the balance amount of Rs. 8,71,382.52 same amounts are to be cleared being the purchase cost of cement for which bill is still awaiting from the company.

Shri H. N. Chakraborty,
(Ex-Cachair)Shri A. K. Bhuyan,
(Ex-Cachair)Shri P. Rabha,
U.D. Asstt.Shri B. C. Nath,
(Supdt. Scheme section)Shri S. Thadou,
Director of Fisheries,
Assam, Guwahati.