



CONTENTS

	Pages
1. Composition of the Committee	i
2. Introduction	ii
3. Report	
Chapter-I	1-3
Chapter-II	4-5
4. Action Taken Report	6-8
5. Observation & Recommendation	9

(i)

**COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED
STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (B)
DEPARTMENTS, 2022-23**

CHAIRMAN::

Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita, MLA & Chairman.

MEMBERS:

2. Shri Terash Gowalla,	MLA & Member
3. Shri Utpal Borah,	MLA & Member
4. Shri Sibum Misra,	MLA & Member
5. Shri Rupak Sarmah,	MLA & Member
6. Shri Kaushik Rai,	MLA & Member
7. Shri Taranga Gogoi,	MLA & Member
8. Shri Diganta Kalita,	MLA & Member
9. Shri Darsing Ronghang,	MLA & Member
10. Shri Rupsing Teron,	MLA & Member
11. Shri Dharmeswar Konwar,	MLA & Member
12. Shri Bharat Chandra Narah,	MLA & Member
13. Shri Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha,	MLA & Member
14. Shri Jakir Hussain Sikdar,	MLA & Member
15. Shri Nurul Huda,	MLA & Member
16. Shri Rekibuddin Ahmed,	MLA & Member
17. Shri Pradip Sarkar,	MLA & Member
18. Shri Abdur Rahim Ahmed,	MLA & Member
19. Smti. Renupoma Rajkhowa,	MLA & Member
20. Hafiz Bashir Ahmed,	MLA & Member
21. Shri Aminul Islam (Senior),	MLA & Member
22. Shri Phanidhar Talukdar,	MLA & Member
23. Shri Abdul Aziz,	MLA & Member
24. Shri Charan Boro,	MLA & Member
25. Shri Manoranjan Talukdar,	MLA & Member

OFFICERS, ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Hemen Das, IAS Principal Secretary.
2. Shri Dulal Pegu, Secretary.
3. Smti. Prativa Teron, Joint Secretary.
4. Shri Samir Das, Under Secretary.
5. Shri Swapan Das, Protocol Officer.
6. Shri Madhab Chetri, Committee Officer.
7. Shri Fakhar Uddin Chowdhury, Committee Officer.
8. Shri Mahen Chandra Doly, Superintendant.
9. Shri Lakhi Nath Mardhi, Assistant Research Officer.
10. Dr. Rosy Saikia, Assistant Language Officer.



(ii)

INTRODUCTION

1. I, as Chairman of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this **TWENTY FOURTH REPORT** on Demands for **Grant No. 43** of the **CO-OPERATION** for the financial year, **2022-23**.
2. Demands for Grant have been examined by the Committee under Rule 260 J (1) (a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly.
3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the **Co-operation Department** on **24th March, 2022**.
4. The Draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on **26th March, 2022**.
5. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Officials of the **Co-operation Department** for placing before them the requisite materials and their considered views in connection with the subjects under consideration.
6. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the Officials of Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat attached to the Committee.

Dispur :
Dated 26th March, 2022.

Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita,
Chairman,
Departmentally Related Standing
Committee on Development (B) Departments,
Assam Legislative Assembly.

REPORT

Grant No. 43 (Co-operation) 2022-23

CHAPTER-I

PRELIMINARY STATUS PAPER, GRANT NO.43

The Co-operation Department has furnished the preliminary status paper relating to Grant No. 43 where the Department has analyzed a brief introductory explanations under the following headings namely-

1.(A) Establishment Expenses and (B) SOPD-G, 2. The Functions, Role and Responsibilities of the Department and 3. A brief note on the budget of Co-operation.

1.(A) Establishment Expenses :-

The function of the Co-operation Department is registration of Co-operative Societies as per Assam Co-operative Societies Act, 2007. Audit, Inspection of the Societies and extending all logistic support towards all round development of the societies are the responsibility of this department.

There are 2194 Nos. of post in the co-operation Department under Revenue Budget which include the posts of the office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assam and Finance and Accounts Officer, involving an amount of Rs. 9824.28 lakhs for payment of salaries to the officers and staff for the year 2020-21. Out of this amount an amount of Rs. 5443.55 lakh was spent on salaries as of 25th February, 2022.

(B) SOPD-G :

The Co-operation Department had received an allocation of Rs.7147.60 lakh under State Owned Priority Development (SOPD) for the year, 2021-22, which was earmarked as follows:-

1. Revenue	-	Rs.	1868.95 lakh
2. Capital	-	Rs.	5278.71 lakh

Total allocation		Rs.	7147.60 lakh

2. Functions, Role and Responsibilities of the Department:-

The vital Role of the Department is to regulate the formation and functioning of the Co-operative Societies in the State for the purpose of promoting self help and mutual aid among agriculturists, artisans and other persons with common economic needs so as to bring about a higher standard of living, better business, better method of production and equitable distribution of wealth.

The Department is accountable for registration, counseling and audit of registered Cooperative Societies and is also responsible for the development of cooperative movement and spread of cooperative education among the masses, apart from performing the statutory functions, the Department is responsible for implementation the various plan schemes through Cooperative Societies in various sectors of the economy covering agriculture, farming, fisheries, dairy industries, processing, marketing, housing, etc.

(A) The Co-operative Department is responsible for administering the following Acts and Rules:

1. The Assam Cooperative Societies Act, 2007 (Act IV of 2012)
2. The Assam Cooperative Land Mortgage Bank Act, 1960,
3. The Assam Money Lenders Act, 1934 (Assam Act-4 of 1934)

(B) Function of the Board/Managing Committee of the Cooperative Societies:

The function of the Board/Managing Committees are to manage the affairs of the respective Co-operative Societies to achieve the various objectives an enshrined in their representative Byelaws are given below :

1. Formation, Registration and supervision of Co-operative Societies (Sec-3).
2. Assistance and Counseling for all round development of the Co-operative Movement.(Sec-3).
3. Election and Audit of Co-operative Societies (Sec-41 & Sec-81).
4. Promotion of Autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of Co-operative Societies.(Art.43B).

(C) Objectives:

- a. Registration, supervision, assistance, counseling and all round development of the Co-operative movement.
- b. To provide Co-operative education.
- c. Implementation of various developmental schemes through Co-operative Societies in different sectors of the economy i.e., agriculture, farming, fisheries, dairy, industries, processing, marketing, housing, etc.

(3) **A BRIEF NOTE ON THE BUDGET OF THE CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23.**

The Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly has noticed that the Co-operation Department has also made headings on a **brief note on the budget of the Co-operation Department for the financial year 2022-23** where the Department has made an illustration on the budgetary provision.

The Co-operation Department has placed the SFPD Budget for the year 2022-23 amounting to a total of Rs.17864.07 lakh comprising of an amount of Rs.12519.02 lakh in Revenue Expenditure and Rs.5345.05 lakh as Capital Expenditure. Among these amounts an amount of Rs. 10257.71 lakh has been proposed for payment of Salaries and Rs.964.32 lakh other Non-Salary heads that includes other office administrative expenses such as maintenance of vehicles for the officers of the Department, rents for hired buildings, postage stamps, legal services, etc. under Revenue Expenditure.

The Co-operation Department has received an allocation of Rs. 5845.05 lakh in the year, 2021-22 under the State Funding for Priority Development (SFPD) statement which has been allocated as follow:-

1. State's Own Priority Development (SOPD) Scheme	= Rs. 1149.05 lakh
2. RIDF Scheme (Including WIF Schemes)	= Rs. 4196.00 lakh
<hr/>	
Grand Total	= Rs. 5345.05 lakh

A) From the above amount of Rs. 5345.05 lakh has been proposed to be spent under Revenue Expenditure.

1) Dairy Co-operatives;	= Rs. 15.00 lakh
2) Awards/Incentives to best performing Co-operatives;	= Rs. 50.00 lakh
3) Software Development	= Rs. 50.00 lakh
4) Facility management/Annual Maintenance cost IT	= Rs. 2.94 lakh
5) Network of Bandwidth Cost.	= Rs. 3.00 lakh
6) Assistance to GPSS	= Rs. 550.00 lakh
7) Assistance to Other Co-operative	= Rs. 600.00 lakh
8) Assistance to Women Co-operative Societies.	= Rs. 16.00 lakh
9) Construction of Office Building to various field offices which do not have their own buildings.	= Rs. 500.00 lakh
10) Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).	= Rs. 4196.00 lakh

3. New Schemes launched by Government - NIL

CHAPTER-II

After having the presentation of the Budget in the House for the Financial Year 2022-23 on **16th March, 2022** the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly in its meeting held on **24th March, 2022** to discuss the budgetary provision made for the **Grant No.43 relating to Co-operation Department**.

- 1.1 The Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments has examined the documents/papers received from the concerned Departments along with Action Taken on the recommendations made by the Committee during the Financial Year, 2021-22 in its last **Twenty Third Report**.
- 1.2 The total allocation of fund relating to Grant No. 43 both Revenue and Capital for administration of Co-operation Department during the Financial Year 2022-23 is given under:

	Revenue	Capital	Total (Rupees in Lakhs)
Voted	Rs. 10784.53	Rs. 8491.06	Rs. 19275.59
Charged	0.00	0.00	0.00

Under the following Heads, an estimated budget allocation has been fixed as shown below :-

HEADS OF ACCOUNTS		
"2404"	Dairy Development	Rs. 14.25
"2425"	Co-operation	Rs.10770.28
"4408"	Capital outlay on Food Storage & Warehousing	Rs. 95.00
"4425"	Capital outlay on Co-operation	Rs.8396.05
"6425"	Loans for Co-operation	Rs. 0.01
	Grand Total	Rs. 19275.59

The amount so allocated is presented before the House for approval and the money is proposed to be spent in the Revenue and Capital Expenditure respectively.

1.3 The Co-operation Department is responsible for registration and Audit of Co-operative Societies and Cooperative Education. Until enhancement and enforcement of the new Assam Co-operative Societies Act, 2007, with effect from 10th March, 2012, the Cooperative sector in the state was guided by the Assam Cooperative Societies Act, 1949 (Assam Act-I of 1950).

1.4 STATEMENT OF ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21

(Rs. In lakhs)

YEAR	PLAN/SOPD-G		% AGE	NON-PLAN / EE		%AGE
	ALLOCATION	EXPENDITURE		ALLOCATION	EXPENDITURE	
2019-20	8269.79	311.99	3.77%	9615.80	7989.69	83.09%
2020-21	11014.16	3933.09	35.71%	11233.79	9127.07	81.25%
2021-22	7147.60	0.00	0,00%	9328.91	5443.55	58.35%

ACTION TAKEN REPORT
ON THE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE
DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE ON
DEVELOPMENT (B) DEPARTMENTS IN ITS 23RD REPORT, GRANT NO.43
FOR YEAR, 2021-22.

1. While discussing with the Departmentally Representatives the Committee observed that the Department has delayed to take up the project of construction of 10000 MT cold storage at Kamalpur Revenue Circle to NCDC with a request for low cost funding. The compliance with the previous recommendation made by the Committee RCS, Assam examined the proposal and submitted its views alongwith DPR and common loan application vide letter No.CMP.10/2016/484, dated 27-02-2019. The Managing Director, North East Multistate Integrated Agro Co-operative Society Ltd. has been requested to approach directly with the Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Govt. of India for taking up the matter with NCDC vide Department's letter No.COOP.279/2016/219, dated 15/3/2019.

The Committee felt its resentment for making the delay and recommended that the concerned Department should do the quick needful action for the same for final disposal of the matter as the matter has already been delayed. The Committee has recommended to implement the project of construction of 10000 MT cold storage at Kamalpur Revenue Circle by North East Multistate Integrated Agro Cooperative Society Ltd. through NCDC.

ACTION TAKEN

A fresh proposal for 10000 MT Cold Storage in respect of the North Eastern Multi State Integrated-agro Co-operative Society Ltd has been submitted to the Government vide letter No.CMP.10/2016/148. Dated 22-09-2021. However, the Govt. instructed to prepare roadmap for cold storage under SOPD for the financial year, 2022-23 without availing loan from other organizations. As per recommendation of the DRSC report and as per direction of the Government budget is submitted for an amount of Rs. 50.00 lakh initially. SD budget will be submitted as per requirement and progress of the project.

2. The Committee observed during course of discussion with the representative of the Department is responsible for a vibrant cooperative movement for the growth of ground and sustainable rural economy by encouraging the cooperatives to take up various gainful economic activities by optimum utilization of the locally available resources. Together with the registration, supervision, assistance, education, counseling and all round development, audit of accounts of the cooperative societies is an important function of the Department. To achieve the expected goal the Committee observed that the Department has to take the initiative for re-designing of the Co-operative services by the way of creation of some essential posts.

To comply with the budget speech of 2016-17 at para 35.3 made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister is that "The Cooperative services will be re-aligned, re-structured, skill and transform to perform a pro-active facilitating role for establishing strong cooperative sector in addition to regulatory function" A Cabinet Memorandum for re-structuring / re-alignment of the cadres of Cooperative services is placed for concurrence from Finance Department which is still awaited as informed by the Cooperation Department.

The Committee, after threadbare discussion of the circumstances and grievances, recommended that in order to achieve the target of the Co-operation Department, sufficient numbers of Vehicles should be provided for the field officers namely Addl. RCS (Admn.), Addl. RCS (Gen), Addl. RCS, Kokrajhar, Addl. RCS, Hills, Zonal JRCS at Tezpur, Guwahati, Jorhat, Silchar, All District Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies. All Assistant Registrar of Co-operative in all district offices. Therefore, the Committee directs the Co-operative Department to mode the matter to Finance Department for having obtained a budgetary provision for an amount of Rs. 3,34,94,000/- to supplementary demand. The Committee has recommended to implement the creation of 99 Nos. of posts. The Committee also recommends to move S.D. proposal during 2021-22 for procurement of Vehicles for Cooperation Department.

ACTION TAKEN

The matter of restructuring / realignment proposal is being processed by Administrative Department.

As amount of Rs. 351.52 lacs was proposed for procurement of staff vehicles in the budget estimate for the year, 2021-22. But the aforesaid amount was not allotted. In this regard, as per direction of the Hon'ble Departmentally Related Standing Committee the Supplementary Demand proposal for an amount of Rs. 3,34,94,000/- was submitted to the Govt. for allocating the amount vide this office letter CA(B) 14/2021/54 dated 30/11/2021. But the amount was not received. Due to the COVID-19 situation the Govt. has suspended the decision of procuring new vehicles for Govt. Officials.

3. During the course of discussion, the Committee was informed by the concern department and the "Asom Bahumukhi Samabai Samity Ltd., Jorhat, Assam". There are 105 Nos. of branches including BTAD area. And also there are 5024 share holders and 5500 nos. employees of societies. The main objective of the society is to help the poor and down trodden people of Assam. The society also informed that they are in a great need of share capital . financial assistance from the Govt. In this regard, the society has prepared a DPR (Detailed Project Report) for the budget of Rs. 51.00 crores. And requested the Govt. to provide the said amount so that the society can be run smoothly. It is also to mention that file regarding the same is being move by Department after careful observation, the committee recommended that concern department should pursue the matter Fiance Deptt. in priority basis to provide the aforesaid amount. In case no proper budgetary provision is seen the deptt. is asked to move through SD so that the fund can be provided to the society at the earliest. Fund of Rs. 80.00 lakh has been allocated in the budget for Asom Bahumukhi Samabai Samity Ltd. Jorhat for the 2021-22.

The Committee has recommended that financial assistance should be provided 50% of the aforesaid Rs. 51.00 crore to Asom Bahumukhi Samabai Samity Ltd. Jorhat for its development on the basis of its requirement.

ACTION TAKEN

A financial sanction proposal for Rs. 80.00 lakh was submitted to Govt. vide this office letter No.CPL.52/2019/329. Dated 30-09-2021. Latter as per approval of the Standing Finance Committee the RCS, Assam has granted financial sanction for Rs.80.00 lakh and Celling Demand proposal is being moved.

4. The Committee has observed that to fulfill the Digital India Vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Computerization of PACS is necessary. The Department has decided to computerize 714 Primary Agri, Coop Credit Societies (PACS) affiliated to Assam Cooperative Apex Bank in the State of Assam. In this regard the fund requirement estimated to be around Rs. 4600.00 lakh.

The Committee has recommended to implement the Computerization of 714 Nos. PACS. The required fund of Rs. 4600.00 lakh may be allocated in the Budget through S.D. during the year, 2021-22.

ACTION TAKEN

As per Govt. direction vide letter No.COOP.49/2018/Pt-I, the process of computerization of PACS/GPSS is going on and in response to opinion given by the Finance Department on the Cabinet Memorandum this office has already submitted roadmap to the Govt.

5. The Committee has observed that all the office bearer of the Co-operative Societies have not been imparted the requisite training for smooth functioning of the Cooperative Societies as well as keeping records of the society.

The Committee recommended that for requisite training and capacity building of the office bearers of the Co-operative Societies and all officers and staff of Co-operation Department in a phased manner.

ACTION TAKEN

The Directorate had taken the action regarding online training programme in respect of CEO of Co-operative Societies and officers of Co-operation Department conducted by ICM, Ghy vide office file No.CXE.6/2017. Moreover, "HDCM" online training programme in respect of Jr. Inspector/Auditor of Cooperative societies conducted by ICM, Guwahati has been conducted.

6. The Committee observed that some co-operative societies are found in defunct position in the State including Nagaon Co-operative Society.

The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Department should take initiatives to re-construct the Co-operative Societies specially including Nagaon Co-operative Society which is totally in defunct position and let them to run in the smooth manner.

ACTION TAKEN

The Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies / Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Nagaon has been directed to take initiative to reconstruct the cooperatives which are defunct in Nagaon District so as to enable them to function in a smooth manner vide this office letter No.CMP.10/2017/75 dated 27/09/2021.

This will be closely monitored by this Directorate so that the defunct societies in the district are revived and are able to function as vibrant business organization.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

GRANT NO.43

After having a threadbare discussion on the preliminary status paper, Action Taken Report, Performances of Budget etc. furnished by the Co-operation Department, Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments has made the following Observations and Recommendations.

1. The Committee observed that the Department has not initiated to make the budgetary provision for procurement of vehicles for the Co-operation Deptt. which causes debarred in progress of Departmental work.

The Committee therefore, recommended that the Department should have to procure the vehicles partially reiterating the previous recommendation of the Committee incorporated in the earlier 23rd Report of the Committee at page No.7 and Sl.No.2.

2. The Committee observed that the previously accorded a sanction of Rs. 12 Crore for the VRS of the employees who are working under Appolo Co-operative societies has gone in vain.

The Committee, therefore, recommended that if the Appolo Co-operative Societies has no function to perform any more then the employees should be given VRS after receiving the said amount of Rs.12 Crore to be sanctioned through the SD.

3. The Committee observed that there are a lot of defunct Co-operative Societies which are remaining in several places in the State as they are not functioning any more.

The Committee, therefore, recommended that department should take necessary measures to revive such defunct societies so that they could be able to work up the mark.

4. The Committee observed that the Assam State Co-operative Union has not performing any more as they were.

The Committee, therefore, recommended that an amount of Rs.50 lakh should be sanctioned in the budgetary provision through Supplementary Demand to revive the Assam State Co-operative Union for properly adhering to the Co-operative upliftment.

5. The Committee observed that the Khatwal, Saidoria and Juria Co-operative Societies have been almost in moribund position since 2019 as elections of the Co-operative Societies are stopped showing a cause that the name of the dead persons are included in the Voter List.

The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Department should set up an enquiry to find out the person involved therein to stop the election in those societies at the earliest.

6. The Committee observed that the Milk Production are not increasing in the State as per requirement.

Therefore, the Committee recommended that the Department should have to take necessary step to increase the Milk production in the State.

The Action taken on the report may be submitted to the Committee within 90 (ninety) days from the date of presentation of the Report to the House.