

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

(1988-90)

(EIGHT ASSEMBLY)

FIFTY SECOND REPORT

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS ON
THE REPORTS OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR
GENERAL OF INDIA FOR THE YEARS 1974-75
1976-77, 1977-78 AND 1980-81 (CIVIL) PERTAINING
TO TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM



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(NOT FOR ISSUE)

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Presented to the House on 8th December, 1989

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

(1988-90)

CHAIRMAN :

1. Shri A. F. Golam Osmani.

MEMBERS :

2. Shri Kamala Kalita.
3. Shri Pradip Hazarika.
4. Shri Joy Prakash Tewari.
5. Shri Silvius Condpan.
6. Shri Sheikh Abdul Hamid.
7. Shri Ramendra De.
8. Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary.
9. Shri Abdul Rob Laskar.
10. Shri Abhijit Sarma.

SECRETARIAT :

1. Shri S. N. Deka, Secretary.
2. Shri S. K. Changmai, Liaison Officer.
3. Shri A. R. Chetia, Under Secretary.
4. Shri P. Deuri Bharali, Superintendent.

PREFATORY REMARKS

1. I, Shri A. F. Golam Osmani, Chairman of the Committee on public Accounts, having been authorised to submit the report on their behalf, present this fifty Second 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, 1974-75, 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1980-81 pertaining to Town and Country Planning Department, Government of Assam.

2. The Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Civil) for the years 1974-75, 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1980-81 were presented to the House on 7th December, 1976, 21st February, 1979, 19th March, 1981 and 27th February, 1984 respectively.

3. The Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Civil) for the years 1974-75, 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1980-81 containing the Audit paras relating to T.C.P. Department, Government of Assam were considered by the present Committee in had in their meeting held on 13th March, 1989, 19th May, 1989 and 27th July 1989. The Committee had also scrutinised parwise written Memorandum of the Department and took evidence of the Departmental witness. The Committee had also visited the housing colony at Henrabary, Guwahati on 27th July, 1989 for an on the spotsudy to make a realistic assement.

4. The Committee has considered the draft 52nd Report and finalised the same in its sitting held on 1st December, 1989.

5. The Committee wishes to express their thanks to the Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam. Town and Country planning Department and other Officers including representatives of finance for their full Co-operation and valuable assistance. The Committee also appreciates the Accountant General, Assam for his valuable guidance and assistance.

Dated Dispur

A.F. Golam Osmani

1st December, 1989

I N T R O D U C T O R Y

1. The Town and Country Planning Department was a part of the planning and Development Department un- till 1955 when a separate department called. Housing, Local Development and Rual Water Supply Department : as created after bifercation. Thereafter, the nomenclature of the De- partment has been changed as Town and Country Planning Department to deal with schemes relating to Housing and Town Planning, preparation of master plans of selected towns and service matters relating to directorate and Board under them.

2. The detail accounts of revenue-receipt expenditure under the Head, 'Housing' as per Finance Accounts of Govern- ment of Assam are as follows for the years 1980-81 to 1985-86 :

Year	Receipt	Expenditure		
		Non plan	Plan	Total
1980-81	17,63,482	2,15,40,884	1,01,54,500	3,16,95,344
1981-82	23,50,515	2,19,35,807	1,44,67,891	3,64,03,698
1982-83	25,63,667	1,66,96,665	1,30,66,399	2,97,63,064
1983-84	37,70,464	1,99,65,203	3,66,52,313	5,66,17,516
1984-85	35,96,162	2,55,44,518	3,54,47,250	6,09,91,768
1985-86	38,42,121	2,37,81,026	3,13,33,771	5,51,14,797

3. The Plan expenditure of the department has been incurred for implementing schemes as under as per Finance Accounts Government of Assam.

(1) Rental Housing Schemes

- (a) Low Income Group Housing Schemes.
- (b) Middle Income Group Housing Schemes.
- (c) House Site for Landless Agricultural Workers

(d) Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme.

(e) Construction of Houses under Janata Housing Scheme, Tribes etc.

(2) Government Residential Buildings.

4. The Public Accounts Committee has made some assessment/Observation in this Report in respect of Scheme implemented and other matter on the basis of Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Civil) upto the year 1980-81. Now, the Committee would like to have a brief report from the Department on the achievement both physical and financial of the Plan Scheme implemented during last 10 years or so.

CHAPTER—I

Mis-appropriation case

Audit paras 3.20/CAG, (Civil) 74-75 and 3.11/CAG Civil 77-78 and 3.16/CAG-Civil 80-81).

1.1. The Audit has brought-out a case of misappropriation in the Department involving an amount of Rs.0-10 lakh, which was pending finalization for long years and the Audit had to report for as money as 3 times.

1.2. The Departmental written memorandum submitted to the P. A. C. on the para reads.

A case of misappropriation of a sum of Rs.10,123-83 under Town and Country Planning District Office, Tezpur was detected and the matter was reported to the police in October, 1968. The persons suspected for this defalcation of money were placed under suspension with effect from 4th October 1968. A case was accordingly registered by police vide No.14(8)69 N/S 409, I. P. C. of Tezpur P. S. The court released all the accused persons involved with the case (No.38 of 1977), which was ultimately confirmed by the Hon'ble High Court on 3rd September 1982. Accordingly, all the persons were re-instated as per this Department's letter No.TCP.210/75/171, dated 5th April 1983 and the 3 persons have joined their duties on May, 1983.

OBSERVATION / RECOMMENDATION

1.3. The Department has subsequently furnished the Judgement of the Honourable High Court in Government Criminal appeal No. 38 of 1977. The fact of the case in brief and the Judgement with reasons therefor is quoted:

"One F.I.R. alleging defalcation of Government money to the tune of Rs. 10,123.83 p. by the respondents in the Office of the Town and Country Planning Organisation, Tezpur Unit, during the period from 1-3-68 to 31-10-68, as detected by the Inspecting Auditor of the Accountant General's Office, Assam and Nagaland, Shillong, was lodged by the Town Planner and Ex-Officio Director, Town and Country Planning, Shri D. P. Nath (P.W. 2) on 6-8 1969). After investigation and charge sheet the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Darrang, Tezpur charged the three respondents under Section 402 read with Section 34 I.P.C. in respect of Rs. 5062.53 p. during the

period from 14-6-62 to 4-10-68. At the trial 9 P.Ws., but no D.Ws., were examined. Exts. 6 to 15 being the concerned bills drawn by the office were proved. The learned trial court on consideration of the evidence and the exhibits and the statement of the accused persons under Section 313 Cr. P.C. denying the charge, acquitted the respondents. Hence this Government appeal”.

“Respondant Bhagaban Das, at the relevant time, was an Upper Division Assistant entrusted with the charge of accounts at Tezpur Office. Respondent Loknath Baruah was the Cashier who handled cash, and respondent Mdkibur, Rahman, a Grade IV employee had the charge of bringing money from the Treasury”.

“..... the Audit objection statement of the accounts which whows the following amounts drawn on contingency and pay heads from the Treasury and not accounted for in the cash book :

Serial No.	T. V No. & date	Nature of drawal	Amount drawn	Amount entered	Shortage of cash
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	49 dt. 14-6-68	Contingency	160 28	60 28	100 00
2.	64 dt. 27-6-68	do	127 85	27 35	100 00
3.	66 dt. 15-7-68	do	259 32	59 32	200 00
4.	89 dt. 23-7-68	do	284 77	Nil	284 71
5.	17 dt. 1-8-68	Pay	2999 35	2599 35	400 00
6.	2 dt. 2-9-68	do	3534 00	2534 00	100 00
7.	64 dt. 21-9-68	do	120 00	...	120 00
8.	65 dt. 21-10-68	do	480 00	...	480 00
9.	33 dt. 31-10-68	Contingency	5600 00	...	5600 00
10.	54 dt. 14-8-68	do	202 00	...	202 00
Total Rs.					8468 77

In their statements under Section 313 Cr. P.C. the respondent Bhagaban Das stated that he worked in that office an U.D. Assistant. He simply wrote the bills and did not deal with anything. According to him the allegation was false. Respondent Loknath Baruah stated that he know nothing about the allegations and that he worker as U.D. Assistant cum Cashier in that office during the said period.

From 22-7-68 to 19-9-68 he was on leave. He maintained cash book and accounts. Whatever transaction of money he made he kept them recorded during the period. During the period of his leave respondent Bhagaban Das managed his works. He states that he did not misappropriate the money. Respondent Mukibur Rahman states that he worked as office Peon during the period between 14-6-68 till 4-10-68. After having brought the money from the bank, he says, he deposited the same to Loknath Baruah and at the time when Loknath Barua was on leave to Shri Bhagaban Das. He deposited the bills and knew nothing other than that.

In respect of Ext. 10 the members of the staff against whom higher amounts were drawn in the bill and lesser amounts were paid to them, as shown in the Cash Book and in the Acquittance Roll, were not examined to ascertain whether they actually took any short or excess amounts which could be shown in other books of account. There is no evidence to show that there was any complaint from the members of the staff. As regards Ext. 11 despite the bills in original (of the firm) having been attached the particular firms billing the amounts were not examined to ascertain whether they were in fact been paid, though not entered in the cash book.

It is noticed that nowhere there is any reference to the closing balance of the Cash Book and whether that tallied with what was alleged. It is true that the net figures having been entered in the Cash Book the excess having not been entered, the Cash Book would not reveal the excess. But in no case the bank was examined to prove that the amounts as shown in the bills were, in fact paid even though from the system prescribed by p.w. 7 that should be the presumption. There is no evidence to show that there was any complaint from the side of the bank. There is also no evidence to show that there was any complaint of non-payment by any of the firms in whose names the bills were drawn. Admittedly the matter was investigated after the auditor found some confusion in the accounts but the auditor or auditors were not examined. Under the above circumstances it cannot be said that the prosecution discharged the onus of proof. Though there is room for suspicion that the enhanced amounts were actually received and used otherwise than for the purpose shown in the bills, in the absence of reliable evidence as to entrustment and breach of trust the benefit must be given to the respondents. Irregular or erroneous accounting may not always lead to the conclusion of misappropriation.

For the forgoing reasons we do not consider it proper to interfere with the impugned judgment of acquittal. Accordingly we dismiss the appeal".

1.4. In course of oral evidence, it transpired that no departmental action against the delinquent persons was taken. They were under suspension during pendency of the case and after the Judgement they were re-instated with normal pay and allowance. On the other hand, the mis-appropriated money have also remained unrealised.

1.5. The Committee is constrained to note that the Department did not draw-up departmental proceeding against the delinquent office. In this connection, the Committee re-iterate to the recommendation at para 9.3.2 in the 46th Report which is quoted :

In most of the defaultive cases it is observed that no follow up actions are pursued. In some cases it is observed that criminal cases were instituted but no departmental proceedings were drawn-up. It appears that there is a confusion as to the appropriate steps be taken by the Authority. It is found that the Authority thought it sufficient by bringing criminal cases only whereas a delinquent official under the circumstances of a case may not be found guilty criminally but nonetheless became liable for punishment for violation of Departmental Rules. The Committee is of opinion that criminal prosecution is no substitution of departmental proceedings or viceversa.

CHAPTER—II

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL BODIES
AND OTHERS

A---wasteful Expenditure.

(Audit para 6.5/CAG-C-76-77)

2.1.1. The Audit has pointed out that in November, 1975 a scheme for construction of houses under the Own Your Flat Scheme at Zoo Road, Gauhati was prepared and submitted by the Board, with the consent of the State Government, to the Housing and Urban Development Corporation, New Delhi for grant of loan therefore. The scheme envisaged construction of 496 flats for the people belonging to the economically weaker section. 120 flats for the people belonging to the low income group and 114 flats for the people belonging to the middle income group at an estimated cost of Rs.94.75 lakhs. The flats were to be sold on hire purchase basis. The corporation approved the scheme in November 1975. After execution of an agreement (February 1976) by the Board, the Corporation released Rs.13 lakhs in March 1976) being the first instalment of the loan. The scheme was abandoned in September 1976 at the instance of the State Government in view of its policy that ownership of land should not vest in the purchasers. The loan of Rs.13 lakhs was refunded to the Corporation in September 1976 together with interest of Rs.0.51 lakh. In addition, Rs.0.25 lakh had been spent on the scheme for miscellaneous expenditure.

2.1.2. The Department, in their written replies, have stated that the Board could not go ahead with the project in the question in view of Government policy not to transfer this land to the private owners. The land in question was subsequently allotted by Government to Guwahati Door Darshan. The loss sustained was therefore inevitable.

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION

2.1.3 The Public Accounts Committee fails to understand as to why the loan was taken without getting the land in question for which the Board had to incur wasteful expenditure of Rs. 0.76 lakhs. P.A.C. feels that the Department should take measures in formulation of schemes in a manner whereby non-availability of land nullifies the implementation of the scheme as a whole.

B-Overpayment(Audit para.6.5/CAG-76-Civil)

2.2.1. The Audit has brought-out that in March, 1972 tenders were invited for construction of a building (estimated cost Rs.07 lakhs) under the 'Rental Housing Scheme' at Tezpur. The lowest tender, which was 26 per cent above the schedule of rates for 1970-71, was not considered on the ground that the tender of the said contractor for the sweeper colony at Silchar was under consideration. The work was finally entrusted to the highest tenderer, after negotiations at the rates quoted by the lowest tenderer. The work order was issued on 23rd February 1973 with the stipulation to complete the work within six months. The contractor was paid for the work done Rs.0.98 lakh in June 1976 at his originally quoted rates which resulted in an overpayment of Rs.0.07 lakh. The contractor left the work incomplete, the remaining work (cost at the contracted rates: Rs.0.46 lakh) had not been entrusted to any other contractor nor taken up departmentally (December 1977).

2.2.2. In their written statement, the Department classified that tender for the above mentioned work was invited by then Director of Housing. The lowest rate of 26 per cent above the schedule of rate of 70-71 was quoted by Shri S. S. Talukdar, Contractor. The work was offered to Shri M. C. Deka at the lowest rate (his original quoted rate was 35 per cent above schedule of rate) of 26 per cent above the said schedule of rate on 17th March 1973. On receipt of his acceptance, the formal work order was issued on 23rd March 1973, but Deputy Commissioner, Darrang could not had over the possession of land free from encroachment. Subsequently possession of another plot was received by the Director of Housing on 29th September 1973. Shri M. C. Deka started the work in new site on 30th September 1973. In the meantime the Contractor pressed for his quoted rate. The Director of Housing, thereafter to ascertain the justification of the higher rate, invited 2nd Tender on 22nd December 1973. Shri M. C. Deka quoted the lowest rate of 36 per cent above the Public Works Department schedule of rate of Guwahati Division for 1972-73. After due consideration Shri Deka was allowed his original quoted rate of 35 per cent above schedule of 1970-71. Shri Deka then did some work and prayed again for higher rate. The work was kept

suspended for long time for want of cement though there was no condition in the accepted Tender for supply of building materials by the Department. The Assam State Housing Board was created on 1st April 1974. The matter was discussed in Board's meeting and the referred the contractor's prayer to a Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee submitted its findings and recommendation to the Board. On the basis of recommendation of Sub-Committee the Board allowed 51% above schedule of rates 1970-71 as a very special case for price rises etc. But the contractor again appealed to Government for consideration of his claim for higher rate. Which was eventually rejected by Government and asked the Board to take necessary action as per decision of the Board with the observation of L. R. dated 27th October 1977. As per L. R.'s endorsement the work was to be cancelled and get done through other agency with necessary action against the contractor as per clause of agreement. The Contractor then appealed to the Minister and the Chairman of the Board ordered that the whole matter be placed before Board's next meeting. The matter was discussed in the meeting held in 16th March 1979 and Board has resolved to appoint the second Sub-Committee to decide the case of Shri M. C. Deka with the following members:—

- (1) Shri B. D. Sarma, Chief Engineer, P. W. D. (Building Division).
- (2) Shri D. P. Nath, Town Planner and Ex-Officio, Director, Town Planning Organisation, Government of Assam.
- (3) Shri M. N. Bora, Commissioner, Assam State Housing Board.

The Board directed the Committee to examine the case in details with reference to the findings of the earlier Sub-Committee and guidelines issued by the P. W. D. Shri B. D. Sarma, Chief Engineer, P. W. D. was entrusted with examination of the cases.

Accordingly, the Chief Engineer, P. W. D. submitted one report on 15th November 1979 which was subsequently called back by him on 1st February 1980 on the ground that in P. W. D. certain materials like steel and cement are supplied to the contractor at a fixed rate. But in this

particular case the contractor had to arrange such materials from open market. So the calculation of price escalation requires certain modification. Chief Engineer, submitted a revised report on 15-12-80. Both report were placed in the Board meeting held on 27-12-80 which was adjourned and held on 9-1-81. The Board decided to call for certain clarification for such differences between his first and 2nd (revised) report. The matter was referred to the C.E. (P.W.D. Building) Division, Assam. The reply from the C.E. was received on 26-6-81 and the liability of the Board was worked out accordingly. The Board decided to obtain a report from the new Sub-Committee consisting of Sri R. Choudhury, Chief P. H. E., Sri D. P. Nath, T.P. and Sri M. N. Bora, Commissioner, A. S. H. Board in the meeting held on 9-1-81. Accordingly the Sub-Committee submitted its opinion on 26-8-81 that only upto the extent of 51% over schedule of 1970-71 which was already agreed by the Government may be given to the contractor. In light of the report submitted by Sub-Committee and accepted by Board, the contractor was directed to start the work and to complete the work within 4-12-82. Otherwise the work would be taken over by the Department on 5-12-82 and remaining portion of work could not be done as the contractor filed a case in the court and issued injunction. The Secretary to the Government of Assam, Town and Country Planning Department vide letter No. TCP.247/75/51, dated 9-1-83 desired that the matter be amicably settled on the basis of the report of Sri B. D. Sharma, the then Chief Engineer. The matter was placed before the Board in the meeting held on 17th January, 1985 and it was resolved vide item 3(b) that the Government be requested to give directive and advice in the matter. The matter was referred to the Government again. Government in their letter No. TCP. 247/75/pt/107, dated 22-3-85 issued directive to make payment to the contractor at the rate of 159.31% above the payment made i. e. Rs. 98053. Accordingly payment has been made and building was taken over for completion of the remaining work. After taking over the possession of incomplete building a Engineering survey was done and double storied R.C.C. building with C.I. Sheet roofing. And work was allotted to one Shri A. Gohain on 28-1-87 and the site of the building was taken over by the contractor on 20-2-87. As the progress of work was found not satisfactory the work allotted to him had been cancelled and

reallotted to Shri P. Choudhury on 5-12-88. But site was yet to be handed by Shri A. Gohin for which a notice was served on him on 20-1-89. Finally the site was taken over through the Deputy Commissioner, Sonitpur on 6-4-89 and the same was handed over to the contractor Sri P. Choudhury on 19-4-89 and the present progress of work is upto roof level (1st floor). It is expected that the building will be completed within September, 1989,

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION

2.2.3. The Public Accounts Committee observes that the construction of the building at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.07 lakhs stipulated with the condition that it will be completed within August, 1973 has now been "expected to complete by September, 1989 at a revised estimate of Rs. 5.23 lakhs. The Committee views it as a serious matter involving lapses of responsibility towards the poor. In this connection, the proceeding is quoted.

Chairman : What the present position of the house ?

Commissioner, H.B.-In spite of a pending case in court we have taken possession by force.

Chairman : The scheme was only for weaker section of People. How do you think these people will be benefited after so many years.

A.G. Rs. 98,000/- payment which you made, that form almost 2/3 of the project. Now for 16 or 17 years no body entered in the building. It must have deteriorated. Will it require more repairs including the left over balanced work ; There are two thing involved in this case for which this could not be completed in course of last 17 years. Two third of the expenditure you have already incurred and even after that a lot of works remained to be done for example cementing of certain areas, doing stone masonry works so on and so forth. Now to maintain a building even after completion great care is needed to keep it standing, annual repairing, painting etc.- otherwise the condition of the building will deteriorate. In the event of not taking up any such maintenance work what has happened to this incomplete

building. Will it not be fair now to demolish the entire construction and start afresh which will be both economical and profitable?

Dr. K. Kalita:—The Public Accounts Committee has observed that there has been serious irregularities in this case. The works taken up by Department are not completed. What action is taken by the Department to remove these difficulties and also to remove the irregularities.

2.2.4. The Committee recommends that in the light of observation made, the Department will take action against the person/persons for inordinate delay in completing the Project and its non-utilisation till date.

C-GRANT TO A MUNICIPALITY (AUDIT PARA 6.11/CAG-76-77-Civil)

2.3.1. The Audit has brought out that in February 1976, the town and Country Planning Department paid Rs-0.18 lakh to the North Lakhimpur Municipal Board as grant for the work black topping of a portion of B. K. Bhandari road.

The utilisation / completion certificate furnished by the Board to the department in October 1976 showed that the work was completed by 22nd June 1976. Spot-verification report dated 24th December 1976 of the Executive Engineer, Town and Country Planning organisation indicated that the work was not completed till then. Rupees 0.12 lakh had been paid in May-June, 1976 to a contractor as advance and Rs-0.06 lakh remained unutilised (August 1977) with the Board.

2.3.2. The Department in their written statement have clarified that the amount in question now fully been utilised and necessary utilisation certificate of the grant of Rs-18,000 sanctioned to North Lakhimpur Municipal Board during 1975-76 has been submitted by the Municipal Board and sent to Accountant General vide Director, Town and Country Planning's letter No-TP/UDS/37/77/27, dated 10th January 1978.

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION

2.3.3. The Public Accounts Committee expresses their serious concern over the matter where the Municipal Board initially furnished false completion certificate. For proper appraisal, the relevant portion of the Proceedings is quoted below :—

“Shri Patowary:—Work is not completed and money is not utilised. They have given false utilisation certificate. What action you have taken ?

Director :—Money was paid in 1976 and they submitted false utilisation certificate. No. action so far has been taken.

Chairman :—This is a very serious offence that your Department could not taken any action against the officer for such serious irregularity.

2.3.4. The Committee observes that the Department omitted to initiate any action against the officers of the Municipal Board for furnishing false utilisation certificate when they first detected non-completion of the work for which Government sanctioned financial assistance/grants and recommends that the Department will exercise strict vigil on proper utilisation of grants and assistance to the local bodies. The Committee further recommends that the Department shall not omit to take action upon the erring officials who indulge in submission of false certificate.

(iii) D-Non accountal of grant
(Audit para 6-12/CAG-76-77 (Civil))

2.4.1. The Audit has pointed-out that in March, 1974 the Government sanctioned Rs.0.20 lakh as grant to the Nazira Town Committee under the urban Development Scheme. The amount was disbursed in September 1974, which was acknowledged by the Chairman, Nazira Town Committee. In July 1975, the department noticed that the amount was not taken into the accounts of the Committee. The amount was not also handed over to the new Chairman who took over charge in February 1975. A complaint

was lodged by the Chairman, Nazira Town Committee with the Police in March 1977. The results of the police investigation are awaited (March 1978).

2.4.2. The Department in their written memorandum have stated that the case is lying with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court Sibsagar.

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION

2.4.3. The Public Accounts Committee cannot but feel unhappy looking at the dismal picture which depicts that a grant of Rs. 0.20 lakh made during 1974 to a Local Body was not taken into account and no action upon the person/persons at fault could be taken after completing necessary judicial process even after 15 years of its sanction. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department shall pursue the case vigorously and submit a report about the latest position of the case along with the case records.

CHAPTER—III

HOUSING SCHEMES

(Audit para 3.19/CAG. Civil-1974-75)

3.1.1. During the period from 1969-70 to 1974-75 (upto July 1974) the Department spent Rs. 89.57 lakhs on 4 housing schemes as under as pointed out in audit :

Category	Amount
1. Low income group housing	52.08
2. Middle income group housing	31.61
3. Subsidised industrial housing	4.03
4. Village housing	1.85
Total—	<u>89.57</u>

In addition, the Department had also implemented another scheme viz "subsidised housing scheme for plantation workers." From the 1st August 1974, implementation of the housing schemes was taken over by the Assam State Housing Board constituted under the Assam State Housing Board Act, 1972. Implementation of all the schemes have been discussed in details in the subsequent paras under this chapter.

A—LOW INCOME GROUP HOUSING

3.2.1. Audit has brought out that to help persons in the low income group (maximum income Rs. 7,200 per annum) to construct their own houses, the Government sanctioned a scheme for the grant of housing loans to individuals and co-operative societies in 1955. The plinth area of the houses to be constructed under the scheme was

to be 232 square feet to 1,200 square feet. Loans were to be sanctioned upto 80 per cent. of the estimated cost of construction including the value of land subject to a maximum of Rs. 12,500 and were to be paid in two instalments, the first after execution and registration of mortgage deed pledging the land and the house to be constructed and the second after the utilisation of the first instalment. The loans were repayable with interest at 4½ per cent per annum in 20 equated annual instalments commencing from the fourth year from the date of receipt of the first instalment.

Loans totalling Rs. 1,60,73 lakhs to individuals (Rs. 1,60.58 lakhs) and a co-operative society (Rs. 0.15 lakh) for the construction of 2,930 houses were disbursed during 1955-56 to 1974-75 (Upto 31st July 1974). The details of the houses for which loans were paid and the houses constructed (February 1976) are given below :

	Individuals	Co-operative societies.
Houses for which loans were paid	2,927	3
Houses constructed	1,764	—
Houses yet to be constructed	1,163	3

Out of Rs. 1,60.58 lakhs disbursed to individuals, Rs. 59.83 lakhs were repaid by them upto 31st March 1975. The following table gives the districtwise details of loans disbursed and the principal and interest overdue at the end of 1974-75 :—

Name of the district	Loans disbursed	Overdue principal	Overdue interest
		(In lakhs of rupees)	
Kamrup	5.72	5.10	5.10
Darrang	13.32	0.66	0.45
Sibsagar	40.28	1.99	1.84
Cachar	8.14	0.24	0.21
Lakhimpur	5.41	0.36	0.23

Dibrugarh	11.26	1.49	1.21
Nowgong	21.52	1.02	1.05
Goalpara	8.67	0.41	0.40
Mikir Hills	0.09	0.01	0.01
North Cachar Hills	0.17	0.03	0.02
	<u>1,60.58</u>	<u>11.31</u>	<u>10.52</u>

A test check of the records of the Director of Housing disclosed the following:—

(i) Every loanee was required to start the construction of the house within 3 months and complete it within 1 year of the date of receipt of the first instalment of loan. In 185 cases where full loans totalling Rs. 11.88 lakhs were disbursed, the construction of houses had not been completed though the time within the construction was to be completed had expired (February 1976).

(ii) In 175 cases (Rs. 12.32 lakhs) in which the houses had been constructed by the loanees, repayments of loans were not being made by the loanees.

(iii) In 614 cases in which Bakijai Proceedings had been initiated between May, 1961 and January 1976 for recovery Rs. 41.04 lakhs no recovery had been made (January 1976).

3. 2. 2. The Department, vide their Written Memorandum furnished to Public Accounts Committee have stated that the Loans totalling Rs. 160.73 lakhs were disbursed to individual loanees and Co-operative Societies for construction of 2930 houses. About 2400 No. of houses completed as per specification. Due to scarcity of building materials like C. I. Sheet/A. C. Sheet and rise in price, houses could not be completed in all respect. But the fund provided were utilised by them for the purpose for which the same was disbursed. The coercive action against the loanees who have violated the terms and conditions of the loan has been taken. A good No. of Bakijai Cases are yet to be finally settled. The Districtwise loan position as on 1-4-88 is as follows,—

Sl. No.	Dist.	Loan disbursed upto 31-7-74.	Loan outstanding as on 31-3-88.	Overdue as on 31-3-85.		Remarks
				Principal	interest.	
1	2	2	4	5	6	7
1	Kamrup	51.72	12.69	7.47	6.31	417 No. of Bakijai cases are yet to be finally settled.
2	Darrang	13.32	1.98	1.21	0.72	
3	Sibsagar	40.28	11.9	6.10	4.60	
4	Cachar	8.14	2.30	1.08	0.85	
5	Lakhimpur	5.41	1.09	0.65	0.41	
6	Dibrugarh	11.26	2.86	1.77	1.42	
7	Nowgong	21.52	4.85	1.96	1.58	
8	Goalpara	8.67	3.90	1.75	1.60	
9	Mikir Hills	0.09	0.03	0.01		
10	N.C. Hills	0.17				
Total -		160.58	40.89	21.97	17.57	

3.2.3. The Commissioner, Housing Board, appearing before the Committee, had deposed that as on 31st March, 1989, 1406 houses have been completed and 333 houses remained incomplete, so far the schemes taken up by erstwhile Directorate of Housing is concerned out of 333 cases remaining incomplete 198 cases stand disposed off.

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION

3.2.4. The Committee is unhappy to learn that out of 2930 houses under L.I.G. Scheme taken up prior to 1st August 1974 as may as 333 houses are still remaining incomplete. Now the Committee would like to know the manner in which they disposed off 198 cases and how they could expect to complete the remaining cases at the original estimate made prior to 1974.

B-MIDDLE INCOME GROUP HOUSING

3.3.1. Under this scheme loans at 6½ per cent interest are given to individuals within the income range of Rs. 7,200 to Rs. 15,000 per annum for the construction of new houses or the re-construction of old houses of minimum 400 square feet plinth area. Loans are paid upto 80 per cent of the estimated cost of construction including the cost of land subject to a maximum of Rs. 25,000 and in case the house to be constructed is on undeveloped land subject to a maximum of Rs. 35,000. These are repayable in 23 equated annual instalments commencing from the fourth year from the date of receipt of the first instalment of the loan. The scheme also provides for construction of houses by the Government/semi Government agencies for sale or hire to persons in the middle income group on a no profit no loss basis.

Loans totaling Rs. 40.46 lakhs were sanctioned during 1955-56 to 1974-75 (upto 31st July 1974) to 194 individuals and 1 Co-operative society for the construction of houses. The district-wise details of the loans and the amounts overdue for repayment are given below—

Name of the district	Amount of loans disbursed	Amount outstanding	Principal overdue	Interest overdue
	(In lakhs of rupees)			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Kamrup	19.07	3.18	0.40	1.29
Lakhimpur	3.02	0.57	0.09	0.24
Sibsagar	8.19	1.50	0.23	0.60
Nowgong	2.08	0.30	0.04	0.11
N. C. Hills	0.64	0.14	0.02	0.06
Goalpara	2.68	0.32	0.03	0.07
Mikir Hills	0.40	0.07	0.01	0.02
Cachar	2.91	0.43	0.05	0.10
Darrang	1.47	0.16	0.01	0.02
Total—	40.46	6.67	0.87	2.51

A test check of the accounts of the Director of Housing disclosed the following :—

(i) Against 237 houses for which loans were given upto the 31st July 1974, only 86 houses had been constructed upto the end of January 1976. The Directorate/Board had no information regarding the construction of 14 houses for which loans were given to the co-operative society.

(ii) Twelve loanes did not utilised the loans for the construction of houses. The loans totalling Rs. 2.07 lakhs had not been recovered (January 1976). Again, Rs. 0.29 lakh had not been recovered from 4 individuals who were not sanctioned the second instalment as they did not fulfil the condition attached to the loans.

(iii) Directorate has not received the proof of construction of houses in six cases (loans Rs. 1.19 lakhs).

(iv) Between 1970-71 and 1972-73 the Directorate started the construction of 40 flats (Kamrup District : 32, Darrang District : 4 and Sibsagar District : 4 for sale or hire to persons in the middle income group. Rupees 7.51 lakhs were spent on these upto the end of March 1976. Twenty-two flats were completed in Kamrup District between November 1972 and January 1976 and were rented out, two were under construction and the work of the remaining eight has not been started (January 1976). Four flats were constructed at Nalbari (Kamrup District) at a total cost of Rs. 1.56 lakhs. The civil work of these flats was completed in February 1973 and the contractor was finally paid in July 1973. The Director of Housing approached the Assam State Electricity Board for providing service connections to the flats in February 1973. In June 1974 the Board intimated the Director that as the internal electric wiring in these flats was defective, service connections could not be provided. The flats have remained vacant so far (January 1976).

Construction of 4 flats at Gauhati was entrusted (December 1971) to a contractor at 12 per cent above the schedule of rates for Rs. 1.06 lakhs. The contractor failed to complete the work and the unfinished work was allott-

ed (May 1974) to another contractor at 38 per cent above the schedule of rates without recording final measurements of the work done by the first contractor. The first contractor had been paid Rs. 0.56 lakh but his accounts had not been finalised (February 1976). The contract with the second contractor was cancelled (May 1975), after payment of Rs. 0.12 lakh, as the progress was not found satisfactory and the work was allotted to a third contractor at 38 per cent above the schedule of rates. Information about completion of the work and final payment is awaited (February 1976).

The construction of flats at Jorhat was allotted (December 1971) to a contractor at 16 per cent above the schedule of rates for Rs. 1.05 lakhs. The contractor left the work incomplete, the value of the unfinished work was estimated to be Rs. 0.72 lakh. The remaining work has neither been allotted to any other contractor nor has the original contractor resumed construction (January 1976.)

3.3.2 The Department have stated that:—

(i) Vivekananda Co-operative Society have completed the construction of the houses and paying the dues regularly.

(ii) Recovery is being made from the loanees through B.P.D.R. cases.

(iii) Recovery made through Bakijai, except one in Nowgong, whose where about is not known. The details of loan position (District-wise) as on 1st April 1988 are furnished herewith at Annexure 'A'.

(iv) Out of 32 flats in Kamrup District, construction of 28 flats (24 at Guwahati and 4 at Nalbari) started of which 24 flat and not 22 flats were completed in between 11/72 to 1/76. Building No. 2 of old university colony consist of 4 flats completed in 10—76. The construction of 4 flats at Sibsagar District completed in 8/78.

As per N.I.T. and agreement, the building materials like Cement, Steel, and C.I. Sheet etc. are to be arranged by the contractor. From the records it reveals that

due to non-availability of scarce building materials like Cement, Steel and C.I. Sheet etc., the contractor could not make any progress and had to leave the works in incomplete stage. Subsequently the work has been completed through other agency at a higher rate mainly due to price-escalation in the market. All the buildings are let out and recovery of rent is going on. The District-wise loan position as on 1st April 1988 is as follows :

Sl. No.	Dist.	Loan disbursed up-to 31-7-74	Loan O/S as on 31-3-88	Overdue as on 31-3-88		Remarks
				Princi- pal	Inte- rest.	
1	Kamrup	19.07	6.17	1.10	1.27	11 Nos. of cases are yet to be sanctioned.
2	Darrang	1.47	0.29	0.06	0.08	
3	Sibsagar	8.19	1.68	0.56	0.40	
4	Cachar	2.91	1.06	0.37	0.54	
5	N.C. Hills.	0.64	0.15	0.05	0.12	
6	Goalpara	2.68	0.98	0.37	0.48	
7	Mikir Hills.	0.40	0.32	0.12	0.14	
8	Lakhimpur	3.02	0.71	0.28	0.24	
9	Nowgong	2.08	0.53	0.34	0.24	
Total—		40.46	11.89	3.25	3.51	

3.3.3. In course of oral evidence, the Department intimated the Committee about the rent outstanding as follow :—

Place	Outstanding as on 31-3-89
1. Hengrabari (R.H. Scheme)	— Rs.1,32,500.00
2. Chandmari („)	— 42,275.00
3. All Districts „	— 60,700.00
4. Police Department	— 8,23,917.77
5. Guwahati Medical College	— 10,416.00
6. Nakib Ahmed (Rental Scheme)	— 14,200.00
7. S. I. H. Tenement at Tinsukia	— 75,000.00
8. S. C. Scheme at Kharghuli	— 1,47,350.00
9. S. I. H. Scheme at Kharghuli	— 83,740.00
	Rs. 14,40,098.77

Regarding steps taken and difficulties faced in realization of arrears, the relevant proceeding is quoted ;—

Mr. Chairman :—What steps have you taken for its realisation ?

Commrr. H/Board :—In some cases of individual allottees we have instituted Bakijai proceeding. In the case of Departments we have taken up with the Government main defaulter here is Police Department. We have brought this matter to the notice of the Home Minister.

A.G. (Audit) :—Whether there were cases of regular allotment or encroachments made by Departments ?

Commrr. H/Board :—Some of the houses were taken on requisition by the Police Department ?

Member (Shri Patowari) :—What was the result of Bakijai Proceeding ? Whether you have been benefitted out of this ?

Commrr. H/Board :—Actually this matter was also discussed in the last meeting. Bakijai proceeding is a long drawn process. In certain cases we have been able to get instalments for realisation.

Mr. Chairman : Do you agree with us if the concerned Department is given the power to institute Bakijai proceeding the result would be better ?

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION

3.3.4. The Committee expresses serious concern about inordinate delay in disposal of Bakijai Proceedings and recommends that the power to institute Bakijai proceedings should be delegated to all concerned Department to facilitate realisation of outstanding Government money promptly.

3.3.5. The Committee further, recommends that a sample survey be made in respect of capital invested in the construction of LIG/MIG/HIG houses, recurrent expenditure,

overhead charges made to maintain them and rent realised so that an opinion can be formulated as to the wisdom of the Housing Department action in the role of landlord after the houses have been constructed and the desirability of handing over the flats to the tenants on a scheme similar to 'Own your Own Flat' as is done in some other States.

C—SUBSIDISED INDUSTRIAL HOUSING

3. 4. 1. Construction of tenements for being given to industrial workers at subsidised rent (Rs. 12.50 per month) was started in the Second Five Year Plan (1956-61) in Kamrup and Lakhimpur Districts. Rupees 9.96 lakhs were spent upto the 31st March, 1975 for the construction of 303 tenements. The following table gives the details of the tenements constructed and their utilisation.

Location	Year of construction	Number of tenements	Cost (in lakhs of rupees)	Remarks
Maligaon Guwahati	1958-1960	100	3.29	No rent recovered.
Kharguli, Guwahati	1958-1960	103	3.42	31 tenements allotted to employees of the Guwahati Medical College balance to others.
Tinsukia	1957-1958	100	3.25	The tenements have been allotted to industrial Workers

The total rent due from the Army for 100 tenements at Maligaon was Rs. 2.03 lakhs upto 15th February, 1975, the date on which they vacated the tenements. Loans were also sanctioned to private employers for the construction of 442 houses for the industrial workers all of which have since been completed (January, 1976). The details of loans sanctioned and paid during 1955-56 to 1974-75 and outstanding are given below :—

Name of district	Loan disbursed (in lakhs of Rupees)	Balance outstanding
Kamrup	2.28	1.31
Sibsagar	2.52	2.1
Dibrugarh	1.64	0.62
Darrang	2.31	1.48
	Total 8.75	5.57

For the Fourth plan, the target of construction was 16 houses by the directorate and 75 houses by the private employers. The directorate did not construct any house during the period for want of suitable land. Fifty-two houses were constructed by the private employers.

3.4.2. In their Written Memorandum, the Department have stated that under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme 303 tenements were completed at the cost of Rs. 9.96 lakhs at Kamrup and Lakhimpur District, 100 tenements at Maligaon were rented out to the Army. Rent for the period of occupation by the Army has been recovered and finally settled in 14th June, 1978.

31 tenements at Kharghuli (Guwahati) were allotted to Employees of the Guwahati Medical College. Rent upto 31st March 1988 has been paid by them. 100 tenements at Tinsukia were allotted to the persons eligible for the same. Recovery is effected from the occupants except the employees of M/S. Steel Worth (P) Ltd., etc. who have raised objection for enhancement of rent. Their cases are pending in the Court. Rent was enhanced after due consideration of maintenance cost of the dilapidated houses.

Loans were also sanctioned to POT employees under the scheme. They have completed all the construction. District-wise position as on 1st April, 1988 are furnished herewith at Annexure 'A'. The District-wise loan position on 1st April, 1988 is as follows :—

Sl. No.	District	Loan disbursed upto 31st July, 1974	Loan O/S as on 31st March, 1988	Overdue as on 31st March, 1988t		Remarks
				Print-	Interest.	
1	Kamrup	2.28	..	..	..	..
2	Sibsagar	2.52	0.25	..	..	..
3	Dibrugarh	1.64	0.24	..	..	..
4	Darrang	2.31	..	..	..	..
Total—		8.75	0.49	..	..	..

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION

3.4.3 At the time of hearing, the Public Accounts Committee required the Department to submit the Rules followed in Housing Board in the matter of sanction of loan and details of Industrial Housing Scheme in obedience to which some assorted papers were submitted without any notes. Accordingly the Public Accounts Committee recommends that an up-to-date assessment of the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme be made available as early as possible along with their Annual Reports for last 10 years.

D—VILLAGE HOUSING

3.5.1. Audit pointed out that although layout plans for 16 out of 150 villages selected in 1962-63 were completed and Rs. 3.04 lakhs were spent on the project upto March 1969 neither was any loan given nor was any house constructed. During 1969-70 to 1973-74, Rs. 1.85 lakhs were further spent on the project, but the layout plan of only 1 more village was prepared. Against the fourth plan target of 59 houses, 13 houses (Barpeta : 11, Jorhat : 2) only were construction (July 1975). The Board stated (July 1975) that the shortfall in the number of houses constructed was due to the inadequacy of the maximum amount of loan admissible under the scheme and that though the survey reports were furnished (1969-70) by the Directorate of Housing to the Town and Country Planning Organisation for preparation of the layout plans in respect of the other villages the plans were awaited (July 1975) by the Board.

3.5.2. The Department have stated that the village Housing scheme has been initiated by the state at the instance of Government of India No. progress in the scheme could not be made as the preliminary arrangement for implementation of the scheme took lot of time. The amount were spent in connection with physical survey of villages preparation of plans and layout etc. This expenditure was unavoidable and necessary for implementation of the schemes. Due to apathy of the villagers towards the scheme and the maximum amount admissible was considered by them quite insufficient to construct dwelling houses, the scheme was therefore been found not suitable and abandoned.

3.5.3, In course of oral testimony the Department enlightened the Committee about the Janata Housing Scheme as :—

“There was a Housing Project since 1955 under which Rs. 3000 was given as loan for construction. But under that scheme no house was constructed in the rural areas because it was found that individually one could not come to avail of the loan and than the Janata Scheme was evolved. Under this about 20 families have to apply for this scheme. The ceiling also have been raised to 6000 at present after consultation with the Government of India. Of this, 50% is given as subsidy and 50% is given as loan and too is not given individually but in group. The main propose of why 20 persons have to be in the group is that they are to combine together, from a c Committee in which there has to be a Chairman and a Secretary who would come to submit applications. Secondly, for Janata Housing Scheme our Department will give a plan, technical assistance, some materials, 5 bags of cement, asbestos sheets and the villagers themselves will construct houses under our guidance.” In another query, the Department stated that their yearly target is 2000 houses in the whole State.

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION

3.5.4. The Committee recommends that the Department would furnish a detail report showing their target during last 10 years and achievements both Physical and financial with location of the houses to the Committee within a period of 3 months from the date of presentation of this Report before the House.

CHAPTER—IV

A—Crematorium at Guwahati.

(Audit para. 3.32./CAG-76-77-Civil).

4.1.1. The Audit has brought-out that in December 1969, the Government decided to construct a crematorium at Guwahati to be placed at the disposal of the Municipal Corporation which would maintain the same and realise charges for services rendered. Tenders were invited by the Town and Country Planning Department in January 1971 and the work was entrusted to a firm in March 1971 for Rs. 4.14 lakhs (electric furnace : Rs. 3.30 lakhs, spares : Rs. 0.30 lakh and cost of erection and commissioning. Rs. 0.54 lakh). Construction of the crematorium and installation of the furnace (cost Rs. 4.14 lakhs) and construction of other buildings (cost Rs. 4.12 lakhs) were completed in March 1975. These were, however, lying idle and had not (February 1978) been taken over by Guwahati Municipal Corporation on the ground of financial stringency. Rupees 0.06 lakh were paid by the Town and Country Planning Department for the minimum demand charges to the Assam State Electricity Board for May 1975 to April 1976, after which the electricity connection was disconnected. The Government stated (February 1978) that action was being taken to hand over the crematorium to the Guwahati Municipal Corporation.

4.1.2. The Department vide their written Memorandum on the Audit para has stated that the crematorium has already been taken-over by the Guwahati Municipal Corporation during the financial year 1975-76.

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION

4.1.3. The Department has stated the crematorium along with other buildings in March, 1975 at a cost of Rs. 8.26 lakh and handed-over to the Guwahati Municipality Corporation during the same financial year. The audit has stated that the crematorium was lying idle and had not been taken over by the Corporation upto February, 1978. The Department have also paid Rs.0.06 lakh for the minimum demand service for electricity.

4.1.4 In course of oral evidence, it transpired that the written replies is misleading as because the Department has stated to sudit in February, 1978 that 'action was being' taken to hand-over the crematorium to the Guwalati Municipality Corporation. For proper appraisal, the proceeding is quoted below :

A.G. : This is an old case and it has unduly been delayed.

DIRECTOR : The work of the crematorium was completed in 1975 and was commissioned in on June 25, 1975 by the Mayor of the G.M.C. After some times, it done out of function. Necessary repair were done by the Corporation who was asked to take over. They have appointed their own chowkidar and asked us to remove our chowkidar. We asked them to take possession of the key, but they did not turn-up. The key is still with us and nor chowkidar is still there.

A.G. Has it been commissioned at all ?

DIRECTOR : It was commissioned and it requires through repair, and without repair it cannot be used now.

CHAIRMAN : Why are you still holding the chowkidar there for which you are unnecessarily incurring expenditure towards his pay and allowances ?

SECRETARY : We asked our chowkidar to remain till they taken possession of the key and so he is there.

CHAIRMAN : This transfer business should be completed within one month or otherwise a report may be given to us about the latest position. Also take-up with the Municipal Corporation in due course. The report may please be given before we finalise the Report. For this matter one month time is given.

4.1.4 As no report as sought for has been received, a realistic assessment over the matter could not be made. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the required report shall be furnished within one month from the date of presentation of this Report before the House.

B-Extra-Expenditure

(Audit para. 3.33/CAG-76-77-Civil).

4.2.1. The Audit has pointed-out that Groups I and III of the work 'Lakhtokia-Chatribari main drain (part-A)' were entrusted (October 1973) by the Town Planner, Gauhati to the lowest tenderer (Group I : Rs. 3.17 lakhs and Group III Rs. 4.06 lakhs) with the stipulation that the work should be completed within five months from the date of issue of the work order. The contractor, while submitting his tender, had stated that he should either be supplied with materials, like cement and steel or allowed extension of time reasonably required to procure those materials from the open market. The contractor reiterated this condition. In December 1973, the department entrusted the works to two other contractors at the second lowest tendered rate (Group I: Rs. 3.34 lakhs and Group III : Rs. 4.75 lakhs) with the stipulation to complete the works by 19th May 1974 and 14th May 1974 respectively. These contractors did not complete the works within the stipulated time on the ground of non-availability of cement and steel. The department granted extension of time and also issued 111.835 tonnes of steel and 6,200 bags of cement. The works were, however, still (October 1977) to be completed. Allotment of work at the second lowest rate involved an extra expenditure of Rs. 0.86 lakh.

4.2.2. The Department in their written memorandum have stated that although M/S S. P. Das & Co. quoted the lowest rate for group I and Group III of Lakhtokia-Chatribari main drain part A, he stipulated a condition that cement and rod must be supplied by the department. Since the department at the time was not in a position to supply materials and since the tenders were conditional one these could not be considered. Further the condition laid down by the said contractors were not acceptable to the department as at that time the department was not in a position to make any commitment re-garding supply of scarce materials and an advance commitment re-garding the extension of time was also not possible in the interest of work. As such the contract was allotted to the second lowest tenderer.

However, due to site condition, availabilities of land for construction and non availabilities of scarce materials like Cement and rod has slowed down the progress of work to a great extent which were beyond the control of the department as well as the contractor. Although the Department has issued to the contractor some quantities of steel and cement these were issued mostly in 1975 and 1976, a small quantity being issued in 1974. This will prove that at the acceptance of tender, department could not give any assurance to the contractor for supply of scarce materials. Certain quantities of scarce materials were also procured by the contractor and used in the construction work during construction period.

The construction work of Group I of the scheme was completed on 18th March 1976 except a portion of about 7 metres which was finally abandoned due to non receipt of permission from the Railway Authority. Group III work completed on 24th July 1976.

Thus the rejection of conditional lowest tender and acceptance of second lowest rate cannot perhaps be considered as extra expenditure incurred by the Department. Further as stated by the Department stated the reason for delay for completion of work is given below ; The work was allotted to the stipulation for completion the work by May 1974. The work involved taking care of underground high voltage Electric cable & water mains, telephone lines. On the surface additional care had to be taken for maintaining flow of traffic, the work site located in a highly built up & busy area. These together with heavy rain delayed the normal progress of work added to this non-availability of scarce materials although the Department could make available some quantity of steel & cement ; These were mostly supplied in 1975 and all these caused the unusual delay. There was no escalation of rate during these periods and the work was completed as per the original rate. The Department also allowed extension considering the site condition.

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION

4.2.3. The Public Accounts Committee is not convinced with the reply given by the Department about the rejection of the lowest tender in preference to the 2nd lowest. The lowest tender was purported to be rejected on the ground that it was conditional. But it is seen that in case of the 2nd tenderer, grounds raised by the lowest tenderer came up delaying the execution by 2 years and Department nonetheless supplied the required quantity of cement & steel and thereby sustained a loss of Rs. 0.86 lakh which could have been avoided by acceptance of the lowest tender.

4.2.4. The Committee recommends that sufficient precaution should be taken in rejecting lowest tender on ground which the Department cannot sustain subsequently and accordingly necessary instructions be issued to all concerned dealing with acceptance of tenders.

C. Loss due to non-delivery of cement.

(Audit para. 3.9/CAG-77-78-Civil)

4.3.1. The Audit has pointed-out that in February 1975, the Town and Country Planning Organisation, Gauhati entrusted to a contractor the work of carriage of 400 tonnes of cement from the Mawmluh-Cherra Cement Company Limited, Cherrapunji to Gauhati. Of this 12.50 tonnes of cement (cost : Rs. 0.05 lakh) were short delivered by the contractor who informed the Organisation in January 1976 that the shortage had been caused by prolonged storage in his godown. Penalty of Rs. 0.10 lakh leviable at double the normal purchase rate of cement under the terms of the agreement had, however, not been levied (November 1978).

The same contractor was again entrusted (May 1976) with the work of carriage of 300 tonnes of cement from

the Mawmluh-Cherra Cement Company Limited, Cherrapunji to Gauhati. Two hundred tonnes of cement were delivered by the Contractor in June 1976. The remaining 100 tonnes of cement (cost : Rs. 0.37 lakh), though lifted by the contractor from the Company in July 1976, had not been delivered to the Organisation (April 1978). Neither the cost of the cement (Rs. 0.37 lakh) nor any penalty leviable under the terms of the agreement had been realised from the contractor. A complaint against the contractor was lodged with the Police in May 1978 only, the results of which are awaited (April 1979).

4.3.2. The Department in their written reply stated : "A copy of Town planner, Town planning Organisation (now Director, Town & Country planning's) letter No. TP/BUD/18/78/28, dated 16th August 1978 is enclosed. There is nothing to comment by this Department beyond what is stated by the Director, Town & Country Planning." The Town Planner in his letter in question stated : "The fact stated in the draft para is hereby accepted. This has already been brought to the notice of the Government vide this office letter No. TD/EST/270/78/1, dated 20th April 1978 and the matter has also been referred to police vide this office letter No. TP/EST/270/78/16, dated IPC has been registered and the investigation of the case is in progress."

4.3.3. The P.A.C. is not being satisfied with the replies called for details of the para, with latest position. The information furnished to the Committee in compliance is quoted below :

"There is no record available in the office to show why Sri D. Bora was engaged for carrying 300 M. Tons of cement even though he failed to supply the full quota for 400 M. Tons as per the earlier order. The total short supply was 112.50 Tons and for which the following action was initiated. In May, 78 complaint was lodged by Town Planner with the police against loss delivery of cement (112.50 Tons) by carriage contractor vide No. PT/EST/270/78/16, dated 6th May, 1978. The case was registered

with police (case No. 74 (5) 78 U/S 406 I.P.C.) under Guwahati Police station. As no intimation of the case was received the matter was referred to the I.G.P. vide this office letter No. TP/EST/270/78/163, dated 8th July, 1981.

The I.G.P. requested the S.P. to expedite the case in December, 1981. No further record in this regard is found available.

The position of the civil suit against Sri D. Bora & other for recovery of the cost of 112.50 M. Ton of cement was not known. The Government Advocate was supplied with all materials as asked for and Government was intimated about the latest position in September/83 and also in July/85. In September/83 Government was requested to take up the matter with Judicial Department. Till July/85 the position of the case was not known when the last correspondence with the Government was made."

OBSERVATION/ RECOMMENDATION

4. 3.4. The Committee is very much distressed to note that the Government in Town and Country Planning Department has just forwarded the information given to them by their Directorate. They on their part did not consider it necessary to obtain latest position about the fate of the complaint lodged. This being the position, the committee would like to know the steps taken from Govt. side about their action after July, 1985.

4. 3.5. The Public Accounts Committee, further, recommends that the Govt. would cause an administrative inquiry as to the fate of the complaint lodged in May 1978, and reasons for inaction/ delay in its disposal and also action taken or proposed to be taken upon the person/ persons found at fault. The report of the administrative inquiry shall be furnished within a period of 3 months from the date of presentation of this Report before the House.

D-UNDER RECOVERY FOR EXCESS ISSUE OF MATERIALS.

(Audit para 3.1C/CAG. 77-78-Civil)

4.4.1. The Audit has pointed-out that the work "Laktokia-Satribari Main Drain" (estimated cost Rs. 14.50 lakhs) was divided into four groups and entrusted to four contractors in December 1973 (three groups) and February 1976 (one group). According to the estimates, mild steel rods were to be used on the work and as per the agreements with the contractors such rods were to be supplied by the department at Rs. 1,850 per tonne. The agreements also provided that unutilised mild steel rods should be returned to the departments failing which recovery was to be made from the contractors at double the issue rate.

The department supplied to the contractors 144.715 tonnes of tor-steel rods instead of mild steel rods (reasons not on record), the cost of the former to the Department having been Rs. 2,445 per tonne. Recovery from the contractors' bills was made at the issue rate specified in the agreement, viz. Rs. 1,850 per tonne, for 125,982 tonnes of tor-steel utilised in all four groups of the work. The unutilised balance of 18,733 tonnes of tor-steel (cost: Rs. 0.46 lakh at Rs. 2,445 per tonne), was not returned to the department by the contractors.

Recovery for 3.029 tonnes of tor-steel was made from a contractor at the mild steel rate of Rs. 1,850 per tonne only (as against the penal double rate of Rs. 3,700 per tonne), thus resulting in an under-recovery of Rs. 0.06 lakh. No recovery at all was made for the remaining 15.704 tonnes of tor-steel not returned by the contractors. Computed at the penal rate of Rs. 3,700 per tonne, the recoverable amount in respect of 15.704 tonnes of tor-steel was Rs 0.58 lakh.

As against these two under recoveries (Rs. 0.64 lakh), the department had withheld the final bill and earnest money deposit, together amounting to Rs. 0.20 lakh, of one contractor from whom 11.724 tonnes steel were due for return. Another contractor who was still to return 3.98 tonnes of steel, had already been paid his final bill as also his earnest money deposit. No steel was due from the other contractors. The net amount recoverable (from two contractors) was thus Rs 0.44 lakh.

4.4.2. The Department in their written reply have endorsed the views expressed by the Town Planner in his letter No. TCP/BUD. 18/78/28 dated 16th August 1978 which is quoted below:

"Although, there is no record in this Division, as to why Torsteel had been issued to the works in place of M. S. Rounds but from the records of the stock position of steel it has been found that M. S. Rounds of 8 mm, 10 mm and 14 mm sizes were not available, at that time and as such Torsteel had to be issued to the contractor in the best interest of the works. Further, use of Torsteel in the above works is not unjustified from the technical point of view as these were under-ground works and use of Torsteel ensures better reinforcement both in tensile and compressive stresses. Therefore, though the Department had to pay more for use of Torsteel, but it helped in

obtaining a better and sound construction, than use of M. S. Rounds. Although there is no record available in this office as to why recovery for Torsteel were made at the recovery rate of M. S. rounds, it can be assumed that as there was no provision for use of Torsteel in the original estimate no agreement was made with the contractor regarding recovery to be made against supply of Torsteel. Further with the provision of use of Torsteel the estimated cost and item rates would have also gone, high up. The admissible allowances for wastage of steel had to be allowance as per actual requirement in the site and recovery was made from the contractor at the single rate. Further, it may be mentioned that the contractors in respect of Grade I and Grade IV have not yet been finalised and scrutiny regarding recovery etc. may still be made, in the light of suggestions made by the audit. Necessary action has been taken to get back the excess materials issued to a contractor."

4.4.3. The Department have also furnished the up-to-date position of the case in compliance with the request of P. A. C. The position is as follow :

"From the records it appears that though as per the agreement M. S. rod were to be supplied actually tor-steel had to be supplied as there was no M. S. rod of required size in the stock. The agreement already made could not be modified to incorporate T. steel in place of M. S. rods. From records it was found that as per estimate the requirement of M. S. Rods were 290.00 Tons valued at 5,36,500/-. Against this requirement of T. Steel was 160.26 tons valued at Rs. 3,92,000/-. The Department supplied 14.715 tons of T. S. to the contractors (the balance 15.55 tons were supplied by the contractor himself). Total unused quantity of tor-steel was 18.733 tons. As per report for 3.029 tons of tor steel. There is an under recovery of Rs. 0.06 Lakhs. For 11.724 tons only Rs. 0.20 Lakhs was received and for 3.98 tons no recovery was made. All these resulted less recovery of Rs. 0.44 Lakhs. From the record it appears that the contractor who was to return 3.98 tons of steel could not actually complete the portion of work allotted to him due to land dispute and hence 3.98 tons of steel remained unused. But this work was subsequently completed by another contractor (Group IV) and with this the entire 3.98 tons of steel was used up. Out of 11.724 tons of unused steel, wastes of 1.918 tons was allowed as already explained and actual returnable quantity was 9.806 of steel. Calculated at panel double rate the value came to 0.36 Lakhs. Against this an amount of Rs. 0.121 Lakhs was recovered and deposited in proper manner. Chalan No. 17 of 30th July 1985 for Rs. 0.067 Lakhs and together with 0.20 Lakhs already recovered leaves a recoverable amount of Rs. 0.04 Lakhs. Thus the total recoverable amount calculated at double panel rate (M. S. Rod) is Rs. 0.10 lakhs (Rs. 0.06 Lakhs + 0.04 Lakhs). It is also found in record that recovery at rate could not be done at tor steel rate as no agreement was made with the contractor in this regard. It may further be stated that these contractors are no longer in the list of work executed by this Department".

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION

4.4.4. The work "Lakhtakia-Chatribari Main Drain" was also featured in para. 4.2 of this Report entitled "Extra-Expenditure" (Audit para 3.33/CAG-civil) 76-77). Group IV of the work was allotted more than 2 years after the work for other three groups were allotted. The reasons for this are not on records. The original estimated cost of the whole works taken up by bifurcating into four groups, as per audit paras, was Rs. 14,50 lakhs. The original estimated cost for Gr. I and Gr. III Rs. is known to be Rs. 3,17 lakhs and Rs. 4.06 lakhs respectively. Now it will be of some interest to know the original estimated cost of Group II & Group IV, dates of completion and the cost incurred after revision of estimates & supply of costlier iron rods etc against all the four groups. The Committee would also like to know the subsequent repairing cost and present position.

4.4.5. The Committee expressed their serious concern over the Department's laxity in taking appropriate action even after receipt of G. A. G. Report. In this connection, for proper appraisal, the proceeding is quoted:

Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary:—Have you accepted the report of the A. G. in this case?

Director T.&C.P. :—We have accepted it.

Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary:—If you have accepted the report of the A.G., then how do you encourage such irregularities without recovering excess issue of materials etc?

Director:—Actually, sir, Torsteel was issued because M/s. rods were not available in the stock. But the realisation of the excess was made at the rate of M/s. rods.

Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary:—How can you realise the excess issue of materials when you made the payment of final bills?

A. G. The recovery may be possible from the same contractor when the same contractor is engaged in subsequent works. Whether any work was given to any such contractor later on?

Director T. & C. P.—Yes, some contractors are engaged in subsequent works and steps are also taken for recovery of excess issue of materials from them. But exactly I do not remember who are those contractors engaged in subsequent works.

Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, M. L. A.—Whether any recovery was made from those contractors who were engaged in subsequent works?

Director, T. & C. P.—These facts are not available with me at present. If necessary, that will be placed before the committee letter on.

Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, M. L. A.—These facts are required by the Committee. If you fail to realise the excess from the same contractor, then it will be a serious matter. Therefore, the Deptt. will have to furnish all these information to the Committee.

Dir. T. & C. P.—There is an observation, '3.98 tonnes of steel are still to be realised' from one particular contractor since 1976-77.

Shri G. Patowary—This is the position after 12 years of time.

Dir. T. & C. P.—6 tonnes of steel was subsequently utilised in another work.

Shri C. Patowary.—So, according to you there is no due.

Dir. T. & C. P.—Due is there.

Shri C. M. Patowary.—Then why you are saying it was utilised? From what you have said it indicates there is no due.

Dir. T. & C. P.—Because out of the total quantity issued.

Shri C. M. Patowary.—Whether there is due?

Dir. T. & C. P.—Yes.

Shri C. M. Patowari.—Suppose the rate was Rs. 5/ per tonne. So, for 3 tonnes Rs. 15/- If the rate is increased the estimate of the subsequent work will also increase. So, you cannot say these rods were supplied by the Department because department purchased those rods @ Rs 5/- For the next work if the rate is increased the department would supply rods @ Rs. 5.00. If it is returned to you then you would have been able to supply at a lower rate.

Commissioner :—We will have to realise the amount.

Shri C. M. Patowari — Our whole point is, today, after 12 years' after 4 or 5 more contract, the rates of the rods which was say, Rs 5.00 per tonne you have not been able to realise the amount due at that rate and now the rate of those rods have increased to say, Rs. 20.00 per tonne. In actual term 1 tonne has become equal to 4 tonne. So, the contractor will demand and you cannot do anything to him.

Dir. T & C. P. :— Actually 44.4 thousand rupees were to be realised from the Contractor because of the excess material not returned. The total recoverable material is 9.8 tonnes of steel instead of 11.72 tonnes as observed here in the A. G's report allowing 1.9 tonnes of wastage as per the normal P. W. D. rule.

Shri C. M. Patowari :—Mr. Chairman, these explanations are not acceptable. Mr. Director, are you in a position to justify the matter what has been asked by the A. G.?

For how long you have been the Director ?

Dir. T & C.P. :—Since 1st of April, 1989.

Shri C. M. Patowari :—Previously where were you ?

Dir. T & C. P. :—In the districts.

Shri G. M. Patowari :—All your cases are similar and we find this is all intentional. Except this department we have not found any other department working in such a manner.

Shri C. M. Patowari :—Mr. Chairman, let us take a decision on this. We will give one report exclusively for Town and Country Planning Department. All their replies are same; you won't get a satisfactory reply from them.

Director, TCP. :—About this observation can I read out. Actually it is observed 11.7 tons of steel were due for return.

Allowing for waste :—1.9 tons it means 9.8 tons are to be returned.

Shri C. M. Patowari :—Not a single return has been made nor any action is taken. These people are encouraging the contractors to do this.

A. G. :—Ten years time, I am not talking of market rate of interest, even at the rate of national savings certificate this will come to about four lakhs.

Mr. Chairman :—PAC. is not satisfied with the replies of the Department. It also appears the Department is not taking proper steps on CAG's observations.

4.4.5.—The Committee recommends that in the light of the observations made in the foregoing paras, the Department would cause an enquiry into the matter and comprehensive report thereof will be furnished within a period of 3 months.

E—ERECTION OF A STATUE

(Audit para 3.15/CAG-1980-81 Civil)

4.5.1. The Audit has brought out objection as follows :—

(a) In May 1976 the Town Planner entrusted a sculptor from outside the state to prepare and supply a double full life size bronze statue (estimated cost : Rs.3.50 lakhs) of a historical figure for a memorial in a public place with the stipulation to complete the work by July 1978. Rs.2.80 lakhs had been paid to the sculptor in two instalments (Rs.1.05 lakhs in September 1977 and Rs.1.75 lakhs in February 1978) as advance according to the terms of the contract. In case of failure to complete the work by the stipulated date, the sculptor was liable

to refund all amounts received by him. The Statue had not been delivered to the department (March 1982). No formal extension of time to complete the work nor reasons for this inordinate delay were on record.

(b) According to Government instructions for entrusting constructional works to the Assam Government Construction Corporation Limited (A Government Company), advance upto 90 per cent of the value of work expected to be executed during a financial year can be paid to the Corporation. Though the site for the work had not been finalised the Town Planner paid (May 1980) to the Corporation Rs.5.93 lakhs being 90 per cent of the estimated value (Rs.6.59 lakhs) of the work as advance, for preparation of site and construction of pedestal for installation of the memorial statue figure. The payment was irregular and constituted undue financial aid to the Corporation. In August 1981, the Town Planner intimated that the proposed site belonged to the Government of India and that the work could not be started for non-receipt of clearance from them.

4.5.2. The Department in their written replies have stated that the Statue has already been installed on 16th February, 1984.

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION

4.5.3. The Committee enquired as to (i) when the statue was delivered and the total cost charged for it; (ii) cost of the pedestal, (iii) reasons for advancing money to the A. G. C. C. even before selection of site, and (iv) the date of completion of the work.

The departmental witness, tendering evidence before the Committee stated that the statue was installed on 16th February, 1984. The price of the statue was revised by increasing 10% of the agreed price of Rs. 3.50 lakhs at the request of sculpturist, i. e. at a price of Rs. 3.85 lakhs. Regarding construction of pedestal and preparation of site the witness could not enlighten the Committee with the relevant information.

4.5.4 The Committee observes that as per standing instruction of the state Govt. Departments are to give works to A. G. C. C. who in turn takes advances. Such advances given at the beg and of financial year help the Departments to avoid budgetary lapses A. G. C. C. earns interest from those advance. At the same time Govt is also losing the benefits of those interests. Such interest, according to rules should be deducted, if the works delayed and revised estimate prepared.

4.5.5. The Committee therefore recommends that in future the Department at the time of giving advance to A. G. C. C. for works to be carried out by them will also hand over the site free of all encumbrances so as to enable the Corporation to start the work immediately.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATION

Sl. No.	Para No.	OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION
1	4	Now, the Committee would like to have a brief report from the Department on the achievement, both physical and financial of the Plan Scheme implemented during last 10 years or so.
2	1.4	In course of oral evidence, it transpired that no departmental action against the delinquent persons was taken. They were under suspension during pendency of the case and after the Judgement they were re-instated with normal pay and allowance. On the other hand the mis-appropriated money have also remained unrealised.
3	1.5	The Committee is constrained to note that the Department did not draw-up departmental proceedings against the delinquent officer. In this connection, the Committee re-iterates to the recommendation at para 9.3.2 in the 46th Report which is quoted : In most of the defalcation cases it is observed that no follow up actions are taken. In some cases it is observed that criminal cases were instituted but no departmental proceedings were drawn-up. It appears that there is a confusion as to the appropriate steps to be taken by the Authority. It is found that the Authority, thought it sufficient by bringing criminal cases only wheres a delinquent official under the circumstances of a case may not be found guilty criminally but nontheless became liable for punishment for violation of Departmental Rules. The Committee is of opeinion that criminal prosecution is not substitution of departmental proceedings and vice-versa.
4.	2.1.3	The Public Acconts Committee fails to understand as to why the loan was taken without getting the land in question for which the Board had to incur wasteful expenditure of Rs.0.76 lakhs, P.A.C. feels that the Department should

(1)

(2)

(3)

take measures in formulation of schemes in a manner whereby non-availability of land cannot nullify the implementation of the scheme as a whole.

5.

2.2.3

...The Public Accounts Committee observes that the construction of the building at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.07 lakhs stipulated with the condition that it will be completed within August, 1973 has now been 'expected' to complete by September, 1989' at a revised estimate of Rs. 5.23 lakhs. The Committee views it as a serious matter involving lapses of responsibility towards the poor.

6.

2.2.4

The Committee recommends that in the light of observation made, the Department will taken action against the person/persons for inordinate delay in completing the Project and its non-utilisation till date.

7.

2.3.3

The Public Accounts Committee expresses their serious concern over the matter where the Municipal Board initially furnished false completion certificate.

8.

2.3.4.

The Committee observes that the Department omitted to initiate any action against the officers of the Municipal Board for furnishing false utilisation certificate when they first detected non completion of the work for which Government sanctioned financial assistance/grants and recommends that the Department will exercise strict vigil on proper utilisation of grants and assistance to the local bodies. The Committee further recommends that the Department shall not omit to take action upon the erring officials who indulge in submission of false certificate.

9.

2.4.3

The Public Accounts Committee cannot but feel unhappy looking at the dismal picture which depicts that a grant of Rs. 0.20 lakh made during

(1)

(2)

(3)

1974 to a Local Body was not taken into account and no action upon the person/persons at fault could be taken after completing necessary judicial process even after 15 years of its sanction. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department shall pursue the case vigorously and submit a report about the latest position of the case along with the case records.

10.

3.2.4

The Committee is unhappy to learn that out of 2930 houses under L.I.G. Scheme taken up prior to 1-8-74 as many as 333 houses are still remaining incomplete. Now the Committee would like to know the manner in which they disposed off 198 cases and how they could expect to complete the remaining cases at the original estimates made prior to 1974.

11.

3.3.4

The Committee expresses serious concern about inordinate delay in disposal of Bakijai Proceedings and recommends that the power to institute Bakijai proceedings should be delegated to all concerned Department to facilitate realisation of outstanding Government money promptly.

12.

3.3.5

The Committee further, recommends that a sample survey be made in respect of capital invested in the construction of LIG/MIG/HIG houses, recurrent expenditure, overhead charges made to maintain them and rent realised so that an opinion can be formulated as to the wisdom of the Housing Department's action in the role of landlord after the house have been constructed and the desirability of handing over the flats to the tenants on a Scheme similar to 'own your own Flat' as is done in some other States.

13.

3.4.3

At the time of hearing the Public Accounts Committee required the Department to submit the Rules followed in Housing Board in the matter of sanction of loan and details of Industrial Housing Scheme in obedience to which some assorted papers were submitted without any notes. Accordingly the Public Accounts Committee recommends that an up-to-date

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assessment of the subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme be made availables as early as possible along with their Annual Reports for last 10 years.

14. 3.5.4

The Committee recommends that the Department would furnish a detail report showing their target during last 10 years and achievements both Physical and financial with location of the houses to the Committee within a period of 3 months from the date of presentation of this Report before the House.

15. 4.1.4

As no report as sought for has been received, a realistic assessment over the matter could not be made. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the required report should be furnished within one month from the date of presentation of this Report before the House.

16. 4.2.3

The Public Accounts Committee is not convinced with the reply given by the Department about the rejection of the lowest tender in preference to the 2nd lowest tender. The lowest tender was purported to be rejected on the ground that it was conditional. But it is seen that in case of the 2nd tenderer, grounds raised by the lowest tenderer came-up delaying the execution two years and Department nonetheless supplied the required quantity of cements steel and thereby sustained a loss of Rs. 0.86 lakh which could have been avoided by accepting the lowest tender.

17. 4.2.4

The Committee recommends that sufficient precaution should be taken in rejecting lowest tender on ground which the Department cannot sustain subsequently and accordingly necessary instruction be issued to all concerned dealing with acceptance of tenders.

18. 4.3.4

The Committee is very much distressed to note that the Government in Town & Country Planning Department has just forwarded the infirmation given to them by their Directorate. They on their part did not consider it necessary the fate of the complaint lodged. This being the position, the Committee would like to know the steps taken from Government side about their action after July, 1985.

- | (1) | (2) | (3) |
|-----|-------|--|
| 19. | 4.3.5 | The Public Accounts Committee further, recommends that the Government would cause an administrative inquiry as to the fate of the complaint lodged in May 1978, reasons for inaction/delay in its disposal and also action taken or proposed to be taken upon the person/persons found at fault. The report of the administrative inquiry shall be furnished within a period of 3 months from the date of presentation of this Report before the House. |
| 20. | 4.4.4 | Now it will be of some interest to know the original estimated cost of Group-II & Group IV, dates of completion and the estimated cost incurred after revision of estimates & supply of costlier iron rods etc. against all the four groups. The Committee would also like to know the subsequent repairing cost and present position. |
| 21. | 4.4.5 | The Committee expressed their serious concern over the department's laxity in taking appropriate action even after receipt of C.A.G. Report. |
| 22. | 4.4.6 | The Committee recommends that in the light of the observations made in the foregoing paras, the Department would cause an enquiry into the matter and a comprehensive report thereof will be furnished within a period of 3 months. |
| 24. | 4.5.4 | The Committee observes that as per standing instruction of the State Government, Departments are to give works to A.G.-C.C. who in turn take advances. Such advances given at the fley end of financial year help the Departments to avoid budgetory lapses. A.G.-C.C. earns interest from those advance. At the Sametime Government is also losing the benefit of those interests. Such interest, according to rules should be deducted, if, the works delayed and revised estimate prepared. |
| 24. | 4.5.5 | The Committee, therefore, recommends that in future the Department, at the jime of giving advance to A.G,C.C for works to be carried out by them will also hand over the site free of all encumbrances so as to enable the Corporation to start the work immediately. |