

23 Head 21 - Auditor General

23.1 Appropriation Account

Budgetary Variance

Excess provisions had been made for 3 Objects and as such the savings, after the utilization of provisions, ranged from 63 per cent to 99 per cent of the net provisions relating to the respective Objects.

23.2 Imprest Account

Even though the ad hoc sub-impressts obtained should be settled immediately after the completion of the purpose, the ad hoc sub-impressts totalling Rs.170,000 granted on 8 occasions had been settled after delays ranging from 1 1/2 months to 6 months.

23.3 Revenue Account

The function of preparation of revenue estimates under one Revenue Code, collection of Revenue, accounting and presentation of accounts had been devolved on the Head of Department as the Revenue Accounting Officer. The following deficiencies were observed at the test check of the Revenue Code 20.03.02.01 (Audit Fees)

- (a) According to the account the arrears of revenue as at 31 December 2013 amounting to Rs.189,732,373 had increased by Rs.25,061,240 or 13.2 per cent to the Rs.214,793,613 as at 31 December 2014.
- (b) Even though reminders had been sent to 34 Municipal Councils, 19 Urban Councils, 142 Pradesheeya Sabhas and 135 Corporations, Boards and Institutions vested in the Government for the recovery of the arrears of Audit fees, the collection of the arrears of Audit Fees from those institutions had been at a very low level in the year under review.
- (c) There was no methodology for the recovery of Audit Fees from the Funds under Government Departments which handle large incomes.
- (d) There were number of instances where the receipt of the concurrence of the Ministries for the recovery of Audit Fees from Public Corporations, Boards and Institutions vested in the Government had been inordinately delayed thus leading to delays in the issue of Bills for Audit Fees.

23.4 Reconciliation Statement of the Advances to Public Officers Account

The following deficiencies were observed during the course of audit test checks of the Reconciliation Statement as at 31 December 2014 of the Advances to Public Officers Account Item No.02101.

- (a) The outstanding balances as at 31 December 2014 totalled Rs.2,850,976.
- (b) The loan balances totalling Rs.29,875 due from 3 Officers transferred out had not been settled in terms of the Financial Regulation 485(4) and paragraphs 1.1.6 and 1.1.7 of the National Budget Circular No.118 of 11 October 2014.
- (c) Loan balances totalling Rs.157,110 of 4 Officers released permanently from the Public Service had not been settled.
- (d) Action in terms of Sections 4.5 and 4.6 of Chapter XXIV of the Establishments Code had not been taken for the recovery of the loan balances totalling Rs.456,120 due from 12 Officers who had vacated their posts.
- (e) Loan balances totalling Rs.1,406,523 relating to 13 retired Officers remained without being recovered.
- (f) Loan balances totalling Rs.203,502 of 9 deceased officers had not been recovered.
- (g) Loan balances totalling Rs.598,296 of 4 Officers whose services had been terminated remained without being recovered.

23.5 Unsettled Liabilities

According to Paragraph 3.2 of the State Accounts Circular No.239/2014 dated 01 December 2014, the liabilities as at 31 December 2014 should be correctly shown in the Statement of Liabilities in Format DGSA 8(i). Nevertheless, Liabilities amounting to Rs.960,614 had not been mentioned in the Appropriation Account.

23.6 Bank Reconciliations

Action in terms of the Financial Regulation 396(d) had not been taken in connection with 5 cheques valued at Rs.15,530 issued but not presented for payment for more than 6 months.

23.7 Human Resources Management

Approved Cadre and Actual Cadre

The position of the Cadre as at 31 December 2014 had been as follows.

| Category of Employees | Approved Cadre | Actual Cadre | Number of Vacancies | Excess |
|--|----------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------|
| (i) Senior Level | 354 | 211 | 143 | - |
| (ii) Tertiary Level | 1,214 | 798 | 416 | - |
| (iii) Secondary Level | 178 | 141 | 37 | - |
| (iv) Primary Level | 181 | 137 | 44 | - |
| (v) Others (Casual/ Temporary/ Contract Basis) | - | 07 | - | 07 |
| Total | 1,927 | 1,294 | 640 | 07 |