

FOURTEENTH KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**COMMITTEE
ON
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
(2016-2019)**

THIRTY EIGHTH REPORT

(Presented on 5th December, 2018)



**SECRETARIAT OF THE KERALA LEGISLATURE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

2018

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**COMMITTEE
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on

**Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained
in the 96th Report of the Committee on
Public Accounts (2014-2016)**

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Composition of the Committee	v
Introduction	vii
Report	1

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
(2016-2019)**

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INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Public Accounts, having been authorised by the Committee to present this Report, on their behalf present the 38th Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the 96th Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (2014-2016)

The Committee considered and finalised this Report at the meeting held on 3rd December, 2018.

Thiruvananthapuram,
3rd December, 2018.

V. D. SATHEESAN,
Chairman,
Committee on Public Accounts.

REPORT

This Report deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Ninety Sixth Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (2014-2016).

The Ninety Sixth Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (2014-2016) was presented to the house on 30th June 2015. This Report contained six recommendations related to Labour and Skills Department. The Government was addressed on 10th July 2015 to furnish the statements of Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Report and final reply was received on 26-7-2017.

The Committee examined the Statements of Action Taken in its meetings held on 20-9-2017 and 17-10-2017 and decided not to pursue further action on the recommendations in the light of the replies furnished by the Government. Such recommendations and Government replies are incorporated in this Report.

LABOUR & SKILLS DEPARTMENT

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 1, Para No. 8)

Taking into account of the AG's comments regarding lack of co-ordination between government departments, the Committee remarks that with the effective co-ordination between departments, the overall efficiency of the Government machinery can be improved and reiterates its earlier recommendation that Labour and Skills Department should take concerted effort to prepare a comprehensive database of employers.

Action Taken

The process of preparing a comprehensive database of employers is in progress. As per the provisions of Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Act, District Labour Officers (Enforcement) are entrusted to register employers online and the registration is being continued through Labour Commissionerate Automation System. Preparation of comprehensive database will be completed shortly.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 2, Para No. 9)

The Committee recommends that steps should be taken to realise the cess after the construction of the building rather than at the time of issue of permit. It emphasizes that there should be co-ordination between Labour and Skills Department and LSGD so that it can collect the details of building permit issued by each local body and demand for cess.

Action Taken

At present building cess is being collected after completion of the building by collecting the details from Taluk concerned. At the time of issuance of permit, building cess is not being assessed. A combined meeting of Labour and Skills Department, LSGD, PWD and Revenue Department was conducted. As decided in the meeting, LSGD was requested to amend the Building Act in such a way that the building number should be issued by the LSG Institutions only after assessing the building cess and the remittance of the same in the particular head of account.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 3, Para No. 10)

The Committee also exhorts strengthening of the enforcement wing of the Labour and Skills Department with adequate staff and necessary facilities to perform their duties more effectively.

Action Taken

Proposal for strengthening of Labour Department on par with suggestions made by the P&AR Department cannot be considered at length on account of the financial constraints of the Government. One post of Additional Labour Commissioner (W) created vide G.O. (Ms.) No. 63/2013/LBR dated 17-5-2013.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 4, Para No. 11)

The Committee directs the Labour and Skills Departments to implement a pilot project in a particular Panchayath to check whether duplication of membership, if any, occurred and based on the results, a mechanism should be evolved so as to avoid multiple membership of workers in various Welfare Fund Boards.

Action Taken

For checking the dual membership among the workers of the Welfare Fund Boards, Labour Department developed a software named Advance Information Interface System with the help of Keltron. Now the department digitised about 63 lakh registered workers in different boards. For checking duplication, Adhar Number is necessary. Due to court intervention the department stopped the collection of Adhar Number from the workers.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 5, Para No. 12)

The Committee recommends that the proposed Act regarding registration of migrant workers should invariably contain necessary provision for their welfare measures like accommodation, medical allowances etc.,.

Action Taken

The former Government had decided to enact a bill named 'the Kerala Migrant Workers Social Security Bill' to provide identity cards and Welfare measures to Migrant Workers by registering them with assistance from both employers and employees. But the Bill could not be enacted as no final decision

was taken. The Government of Kerala already has a scheme named Kerala Migrant Workers Welfare Scheme 2010 for registration and to provide welfare benefits to Inter State Migrant Workers working in Kerala. The administration and implementation of the Scheme is entrusted with the Kerala Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board. Benefits such as Accident Death (₹ 50,000), Fatal Disease Treatment (₹ 25,000), Terminal Benefit (₹ 10,000 to ₹ 25,000), Education grant for children of Migrant Worker (₹ 1,000 to ₹ 3,000), Transportation of dead body to native place (₹ 5000 to ₹ 15,000), Maternity Benefit (₹ 15,000), etc are envisaged by above scheme. The Scheme namely 'Apna Ghar' is being implemented by Bhavanam Foundation of Kerala and promoted by Labour Department for providing "decent accommodation" for interstate migrant workers. The 1st phase of project has started at Kanjikode in Palakkad District and the said project will be implemented in the state in a phased manner. The Department has decided to set up facilitation centres for ISM Workers in each district of Kerala for improving their socio-economic-health.

Now the Government proposes to implement a new scheme named 'Aawaz' which is intended for issuance of health insurance linked identity card to the migrant workers whereby registration of these workers become possible, enabling the Government to create a systematic data base. Policy decision has been taken by the Government to consider the "Kerala Migrant Workers Social Security Bill" after implementation of the 'Aawaz' scheme.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 6, Para No. 13)

The Committee urges the Labour and Skills Department to furnish a report on the steps taken to enforce the rules regarding the registration of all construction

works incorporating the details like number of inspections conducted, number of notices issued and number of employers and employees registered, amount collected, etc during 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 to it at the earliest.

Action Taken

Building and Other Construction Workers Act 1996

Number of Inspections

2012-13 - 215

2013-14 - 253

Number of notices issued

2012-13 - 208

2013-14 - 248

Number of Employers Registered

2012-13 - 193

2013-14 - 931

Number of Employees Registered

2012-13 - 9304

2013-14 - 26577

Amount Collected (in Rs)

2012-13 - 4,23,007

2013-14 - 8,25,188

Thiruvananthapuram,
3rd December, 2018.

V. D. SATHEESAN,
Chairman,
Committee on Public Accounts.

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