

FIFTEENTH KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**COMMITTEE
ON
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
(2023-2026)**

FIFTY NINTH REPORT
(Presented on 26th June, 2024)



**SECRETARIAT OF THE KERALA LEGISLATURE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
2024**

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On

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

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Composition of the Committee ..	v
Introduction ..	vii
Report ..	1
Appendices	
Annexure I ..	37
Annexure II ..	38
Annexure III ..	46
Annexure IV ..	47
Annexure V ..	48
Annexure VI ..	62

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

(2023-2026)

Composition

Chairperson :

Shri Sunny Joseph.

Members :

Shri Manjalamkuzhi Ali

Shri M. V. Govindan Master

DR. K. T. Jaleel

Shri C. H. Kunhambu

Shri Mathew T. Thomas

Shri M. Rajagopalan

Shri P. S. Supal

Shri Thomas K. Thomas

Shri K. N. Unnikrishnan

Shri M. Vincent.

Legislature Secretariat :

DR. N. Krishna Kumar, Secretary

Shri Selvarajan P. S., Joint Secretary

Shri Jomy K. Joseph, Deputy Secretary

Smt. Beena O.M., Under Secretary.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Committee on Public Accounts, having been authorised by the Committee to present this Report, on their behalf present the Fifty Ninth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Ninety Fourth Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (2014-2016).

The Committee considered and finalised this Report at the meeting held on 8th May, 2024.

Thiruvananthapuram,
26th June, 2024.

SUNNY JOSEPH,
Chairperson,
Committee on Public Accounts.

REPORT

This Report deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 94th Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (2014-2016).

The 94th Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (2014-2016) was presented in the House on 30th June, 2015. The Report contained 19 recommendations relating to Co-operation, Transport, Water Resources, Revenue and Agriculture Departments. The report was forwarded to Government on 10-7-2015 to furnish the Statement of Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Report and the final reply was received on 21-10-2023.

The Committee examined the Statements of Action Taken on the recommendations received from the Government at its meetings held on 17-10-2017, 3-1-2018, 23-5-2018, 31-10-2018, 7-8-2019, 15-12-2020, 8-9-2021, 6-10-2022 and 29-12-2023 and decided not to pursue further action in the light of the replies furnished by the Government. Such recommendations and Government replies are incorporated in this Report.

CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 1, Para No. 20)

The Committee wants the Co-operation Department to submit a report elucidating the reasons for the difference between budget estimate and actual receipts to it at the earliest.

Action taken

Budget estimate and actuals of revenue receipts during the period from 2004-05 to 2008-09 had shown that the actuals are less than the estimate. But the trends have changed. During the period from 2011-12 to 2013-14 the actual non tax revenue collection such as audit fees, audit cost, Arbitration & Execution fees etc. are more than the budget estimate.

Budget estimates and actuals in respect of receipt Head of the Department for the years 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 were as follows.

Latest position

Amount in Crore

Year	Receipt head of account in the State Budget								
	0425 Co-operation			Interest receipts			Dividend and Profit		
	Budget estimate	Actual	Variation	Budget estimate	Actual	Variation	Budget estimate	Actual	Variation
2011-12	62.07	68.33	+6.26	8.50	1.67	-6.83	1.90	0.53	-1.37
2012-13	72.26	95.01	+22.75	5.00	2.13	-2.87	0.50	0.59	+0.09
2013-14	91.25	96.32	+5.07	4.50	2.12	-2.38	2.00	1.74	-0.26
2014-15	119.52	112.27	-7.25	4.50	4.27	-0.23	3.50	4.19	+0.69
2015-16	144.97	146.56	+1.59	7.98	31.57	+23.59	4.50	5.09	+0.59

Budget estimate of non tax receipt for the years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 were 62.07 crore, 72.26 crore, 91.25 crore & ₹ 119.52 crore respectively. But actual receipt were 68.33 crore, 95.01 crore, 96.32 crore & ₹ 112.27 crore respectively. It may be noted that department has achieved above the target during years from 2011-12 to 2013-14 and 2015-16.

But in the case of interest and dividend, actual receipt is less than the estimate. In 2012-13, 2014-15 and 2015-16 Department collected more dividend than target. As per rules, societies working in profit only have to pay dividend. The policies like one time settlement, increase in the over head expenses, decrease in revenue etc. affects the profit margin.

The profit margin of Co-operatives shows a declining trend in the recent year. This attributed decrease in interest and dividend. So the collection under revenue heads cannot be estimated with 100% accuracy. It may vary.

Recommendation

(Sl.No. 2, Para No. 21)

The Committee observes that the Co-operative institutions had taken loan from the agencies like NCDC, NABARD etc., virtually as a grant rather than loan and was hesitant to repay it. The Committee directs that the Co-operation Department should scrutinise the proposal with due consideration of its viability, before sanctioning a loan. It recommends that the department should take effective measures to avoid granting further loan to the defaulters.

Action taken

The observation of the Committee is noted with due importance for compliance. It may be noted that proposals of societies for sanctioning financial assistance, are thoroughly checked for ensuring the veracity and viability of the project proposed. For this, checklists are prepared at the level of Registrar of Co-operative Societies, for ascertaining the eligibility criteria at once proposals are being forwarded after the approval of Working Group conducted by Secretary (Co-operation). The final scrutiny is done in the Working Group having representatives from Administrative Department, Finance Department and Planning Board.

Registrar of Co-operative Societies have also taken serious efforts to recover dues from the defaulters. For this, Special Drives are periodically conducted for enhancing the collection. Department is reviewing monthly repayment of all Government dues and conducting Annual Special Collection Drive to minimize the dues. (Annexure I). Instructions were timely issued to the sub level offices to issue

timely demand notices and also to proceed with revenue recovery where societies show reluctance to settle their dues and also not to recommend their proposals for further assistance until their dues were settled. As per Circular No. 42/2013 dated: 29-6-2013, Registrar of Co-operative Societies have issued instructions in this regard. (Annexure II).

Recommendation

(Sl.No. 3, Para No. 22)

The Committee urges the Co-operation Department to furnish the latest data regarding the repayment status of various Co- operative institutions at the earliest.

Action taken

In order to monitor the repayment status of various financial assistance (in the form of share capital, loan and their interest and penal interest) sanctioned to various Co-operative institutions of the state, RCS office collects monthly DCB (Demand, Collection, Balance) statements from Joint Registrars of 14 Districts and consolidate the same and submit to Government. Timely action is being taken to collect arrears through collection drive etc. As per DCB statement, the total collection during 2015-16 was 80.8153 Crore. The outstanding amount as on 31-3-2016 of various items like share, loan, interest, penal interest and dividend is Rs. 1562.6768 Crore. The statement of consolidated DCB as on 31-3-2016, Repayment status of 14 District level officers and Repayment status of Apex institution in the State are enclosed along with the statement.

Further Recommendation

Committee opined that the reply furnished by the Department was not clear and not in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee. Committee suggested that the reply should be given institution wise and not year wise and directed to obtain the same from the department.

Recommendation

(Sl.No. 4, Para No. 23)

The Committee notices that RUBCO had not made any repayment since 2008-09, on the contrary it was granted with an additional loan without any restriction. The Committee remarks that though the products of RUBCO are of high quality and of high market value, RUBCO could not repay the loan. The Committee considers the act of RUBCO as not tenable and is of the opinion that the financial management of RUBCO is a mess. The Committee recommends that the Co-operation Department should conduct a thorough enquiry regarding the financial management of RUBCO.

Action taken

Department has taken earnest effort to recover arrears due from RUBCO. Requisition for Revenue Recovery was filed by the Joint Registrar (General) Kannur against RUBCO for Rs. 73.52 crore out of total arrear of Rs. 106.33 Crore due from the society as on 31-10-2015. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies has reported that steps will be taken to recover balance amount of Rs. 32.81 crore at the earliest. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies has passed an order against RUBCO for conducting an enquiry under section 66 of the KCS Act 1969 vide proceedings No. MP (5) 51196/2015 dated 13-1-2016 on which enquiry report has been received in the office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. Rubco has now submitted a revival proposal and two rounds of discussion were held on the proposal. Main gist of the proposal is to convert the loan outstanding into equity. A permanent solution regarding the settlement of loan by Rubco will be devised soon.

Recommendation

(Sl.No. 5, Para No. 24)

The Committee observes that the State Co-operative Bank had kept the money owed to the beneficiaries in its safe custody for more than nine years. The Committee opines that such malpractices would adversely affect the credibility of co-operative institutions. The Committee recommends that the

Co-operation Department should exert its power to curtail such unhealthy practices among co-operative institutions. It also urges the department to look into the matter to examine the feasibility of recouping the lapsed amount towards loan and make it available to the beneficiaries and to furnish a report on the measures taken in this regard.

Action taken

The assistance to Co-operative Societies in the State was previously transferred and deposited to the TP A/C 637 opened in the Thiruvananthapuram District Treasury in the name of Managing Director of State Co-operative Bank since 1983. Withdrawal of fund from this account was allowed only after completing the procedure of submitting share certificate, mortgage deed and agreement by the beneficiary society. The amount which was deposited in the TP A/C had remained there as undisbursed until the deed and agreement were executed by the concerned society. After completing the formalities and on getting permission from Registrar of Co-operative Societies, KSCB had been releasing the fund to the society concerned. From the financial year 2000-01 to 2012-13 an amount of ₹ 337.236 crore was deposited in the T.P A/C. In the meantime, the Treasury Officer had taken steps to freeze a sum of Rs. 44.06 crore from the above A/C on 18-6-2011 on the basis of recommendation of C&AG and unfroze Rs. 44.06 crore deposited in TP Account 637. Hence the fund could not be released to the beneficiaries from this account. Some fund of KSCB was also deposited in TP A/C 637.

Several rounds of discussion were held to find out the exact amount to be released to KSCB. Finally, State Co-operative Bank had appointed M/S Rangamani & Co. Chartered Accountants for completing the reconciliation works of TPA 637 with District Treasury, Thiruvananthapuram. The chartered accountant firm completed the reconciliation works and submitted the report on 30-7-2018. Based on the report, an amount of ₹. 23.68 crore which belong to Kerala State Co-operative Bank was released to the Bank vide GO (Rt) No. 3174/2019/Fin. Dated 25-4-2019. (Annexure III).

No amount is currently parked on the above TSB A/C. Now project amount is directly transferred to the A/C of the beneficiary as and when the documents are produced.

Fund was released for implementing some specific project planned during 2001-2003 to 2012-2013. Project could not be taken up for implementation, due to non-availability of fund. Now, it is not feasible to recoup the lapsed amount for implementing that project, after such a long period. The projects of the Co-operatives (beneficiaries) for which amount was sanctioned lost its significance.

Recommendation

(Sl.No. 6, Para No. 25)

The Committee understands that KERAFED had not started to repay the loan even after commercial production was started in its oil mill at Karunagappally. The Committee criticizes the lackadaisical attitude of the Co-operation Department for not taking action to realise the penal interest on the overdue share capital. It directs the department to review the functioning of KERAFED.

Action taken

As per the directions of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, KERAFED remitted share capital ₹3 crores to Government in District Treasury, Thiruvananthapuram during October 2014. Details of remittance are as follows:

Chalan No.	Date	Amount	Name of Treasury
140	10-10-14	1,00,00,000	District Treasury, Thiruvananthapuram
560	14-10-14	50,00,000	District Treasury, Thiruvananthapuram
469	16-10-14	90,00,000	District Treasury, Thiruvananthapuram
732	20-10-14	60,00,000	District Treasury, Thiruvananthapuram
Total		3,00,00,000	

Direction has been issued to remit balance amount at the earliest. It may be noted that Government Vide G.O (P) No. 309/13/AD dated: 22-10-2013 conferred all the powers of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies except Section 63 of the

Kerala Co-operative Societies Act 1969 (regarding audit) to the Director of Agriculture. As per the G.O, the administrative control of KERAFED is vested with Agricultural Department. So, C&AG observation regarding the para 25 is sent to Agriculture Department for further necessary action.

Further Recommendation

Committee directed Co-operation Department to furnish the reply on whether the remission of 3 crore Rupees is adjusted in the principal amount or interest and the details of the remission of the balance amount in this case. Committee also directed to obtain the details of the functioning of Kerafed from Agriculture Department.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Action taken

കേരള കേര കർഷക സഹകരണ ഫെഡറേഷൻ ക്ലിപ്തം നം. 4370 (കേരഫെഡ്), സഹകരണ നിയമ പ്രകാരം 1987-ൽ രജിസ്റ്റർ ചെയ്ത് പ്രവർത്തിച്ചു വരുന്ന ഒരു അപ്പെക്സ് ഫെഡറേഷനാണ്. നാളികേര കർഷകരുടെ ഉന്നമനത്തിനു വേണ്ടി കേരളത്തിലെ തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ട പ്രാഥമിക കാർഷിക/ മാർക്കറ്റിംഗ് സഹകരണ സംഘങ്ങളുടെ അപ്പെക്സ് സ്ഥാപനമായിട്ടാണ് കേരഫെഡ് പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നത്. കേരളത്തിലെ കേര കർഷകരിൽ നിന്നും നാളികേരവും കൊപ്രയും സംഭരിക്കുന്ന ചുമതല കേരഫെഡ് ഏറ്റെടുത്തിരിക്കുന്ന സാഹചര്യത്തിൽ വിപണിയിൽ നേരിട്ട് ഇടപെടുന്നതിനും മധ്യവർത്തികളിൽ നിന്നും കർഷകരെ സംരക്ഷിക്കാനും വിപണിയിലുണ്ടാകുന്ന ആനുകൂല്യം കർഷകന് ലഭ്യമാക്കുന്നതിനും പ്രതിജ്ഞാബദ്ധരാണ്. 22-10-2013-ലെ സ.ഉ. (അച്ചടി) നം. 309/13/എ.ഡി. പ്രകാരം കാർഷിക വികസന കർഷകക്ഷേമ വകുപ്പ് ഡയറക്ടറെ കേരഫെഡ് രജിസ്ട്രാറായി നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

പ്രൈമറി അഗ്രികൾച്ചർ സൊസൈറ്റികൾക്ക് ഓഹരി മൂലധനസഹായം നൽകുന്നതിനായി 1988-96 കാലയളവിൽ കേരഫെഡിന് സർക്കാരിൽ നിന്നും 17.96 കോടി രൂപ അനുവദിച്ചിരുന്നു. പ്രസ്തുത തുക സൊസൈറ്റികൾ തിരിച്ചടയ്ക്കുന്ന മുറയ്ക്ക് സർക്കാരിലേയ്ക്ക് തിരിച്ചടയ്ക്കണമെന്ന് വ്യവസ്ഥ ചെയ്തിരുന്നെങ്കിലും, സൊസൈറ്റികൾ തിരിച്ചടച്ച തുക കേരഫെഡ്

സർക്കാരിലേയ്ക്ക് അടച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഇക്കാര്യം പബ്ലിക് അക്കൗണ്ട്സ് കമ്മിറ്റി പരാമർശിക്കുകയും, തുക തിരിച്ചടയ്ക്കാത്തതിന് 2.5% നിരക്കിൽ 3.93 കോടി രൂപ പിഴപ്പലിശയായി കണക്കാക്കി, സൊസൈറ്റികൾ അടച്ച തുകയും പിഴപ്പലിശയും ചേർത്ത് അടയ്ക്കുന്നതിന് കേരഫെഡ് മാനേജിംഗ് ഡയറക്ടർക്ക് നിർദ്ദേശം നൽകിയിട്ടുള്ളതായിട്ടാണ് പബ്ലിക് അക്കൗണ്ട്സ് കമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ പരാമർശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്.

ഫെഡറേഷന്റെ സാമ്പത്തിക സ്ഥിതി അനുസരിച്ച് ഘട്ടം ഘട്ടമായി ഈ തുക തിരിച്ചടയ്ക്കുന്നതിന് 6-11-2019-ലെ കേരഫെഡ് എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് കമ്മിറ്റി അംഗീകാരം നൽകുകയും, അതിൻപ്രകാരം മുൻ വർഷങ്ങളിൽ ഈയിനത്തിൽ സർക്കാരിലേയ്ക്ക് ആകെ 3.75 കോടി രൂപ തിരിച്ചടയ്ക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. മുൻ വർഷങ്ങളിൽ തിരിച്ചടച്ച 3.75 കോടി രൂപ കുറച്ച് ശേഷിക്കുന്ന 14.21 കോടി രൂപ നാല് തുല്യ ഗഡുക്കളായി ഓരോ വർഷവും സർക്കാരിലേയ്ക്ക് തിരിച്ചടയ്ക്കുന്നതിനും, പ്രസ്തുത 17.96 കോടി രൂപയുടെ പിഴപ്പലിശയായി കണക്കാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള 3.93 കോടി രൂപ ഒഴിവാക്കിത്തരുന്നതിന് സർക്കാരിനോട് അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനും, 3-8-2022-ലെ കേരഫെഡ് ഭരണസമിതി യോഗ തീരുമാനം നം. 5/4 പ്രകാരം തീരുമാനിച്ചിരുന്നു. ഇതു പ്രകാരം ബാക്കിയുള്ള 14.21 കോടി രൂപയുടെ 1/4 തുകയായ 3.5525 കോടി രൂപ കഴിഞ്ഞ സാമ്പത്തിക വർഷത്തെ ഗഡുവായി സർക്കാരിലേയ്ക്ക് തിരിച്ചടച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതോടൊപ്പം പിഴപ്പലിശ ഒഴിവാക്കിത്തരണമെന്ന് അപേക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഫെഡറേഷന്റെ സാമ്പത്തിക സ്ഥിതി മെച്ചപ്പെടുന്ന മുറയ്ക്ക് അടുത്ത ഗഡു തുക അടയ്ക്കുന്നതാണെന്നും അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതു കൂടാതെ, ഓഹരി മൂലധനമല്ലാതെ വായ്പയായി സർക്കാരിൽ നിന്നും കേരഫെഡിന് അനുവദിച്ച 25.87 കോടി രൂപ സർക്കാരിന്റെ ഓഹരിയായി മാറ്റിയിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും, പലിശയിനത്തിലുള്ള 40.39 കോടി രൂപ സർക്കാരിലേയ്ക്ക് തിരിച്ചടയ്ക്കാനുണ്ട്. ടി തുക അടയ്ക്കുന്നതിൽ നിന്നുകൂടി ഒഴിവാക്കിത്തരുകയോ, സർക്കാരിന്റെ ഓഹരി നിക്ഷേപമാക്കി മാറ്റുകയോ ചെയ്യണമെന്ന് അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

കേരഫെഡിന്റെ കഴിഞ്ഞ അഞ്ച് സാമ്പത്തിക വർഷത്തെ കേര വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയുടെ വില്പന ചുവടെ ചേർക്കുന്നു.

വർഷം	2018-2019	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
അളവ് (മെട്രിക് ടൺ)	13,643	14,435	14,380	12,010	13,573

2017-18, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-22, 2022-2023 എന്നീ വർഷങ്ങളിലെ വിറ്റുവരവ്, പ്രവർത്തനലാഭം എന്നിവ ചുവടെ ചേർക്കുന്നു.

വർഷം	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021 (ആഡിറ്റിംഗ് വിധേയം)	2021-2022	2022-2023
വിറ്റുവരവ് (രൂപ കോടിയിൽ)	260.71	326.01	313.58	340.80	293.81	ആഡിറ്റിംഗ് പൂർത്തിയാക്കിയിട്ടില്ല
പ്രവർത്തന ലാഭം (രൂപ കോടിയിൽ)	2.22	7.54	23.87	2.16 (ആഡിറ്റിംഗ് വിധേയം)	2.06	0.4403 (30-9-2022 വരെ)

വിലയിടിവ് മൂലം ദുരിതമനുഭവിക്കുന്ന കർഷകരെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനായി 2021-22 സാമ്പത്തിക വർഷത്തിൽ കിലോയ്ക്ക് 32 രൂപ നിരക്കിൽ കർഷകരിൽ നിന്നും പച്ചത്തേങ്ങ സംഭരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പദ്ധതി ആരംഭിക്കുകയും അതനുസരിച്ച് 2022 മാർച്ച് മാസം വരെ 38 മെട്രിക് ടൺ പച്ചത്തേങ്ങ കർഷകരിൽ നിന്നും സംഭരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. 2022-2023 സാമ്പത്തിക വർഷത്തിലും പ്രസ്തുത സംഭരണം തുടർന്നു (കിലോയ്ക്ക് 34 രൂപ നിരക്കിൽ). മൊത്തം 12,280 മെട്രിക് ടൺ പച്ചത്തേങ്ങ കർഷകരിൽ നിന്നും സംഭരിക്കുകയും അതിന്റെ തുക കർഷകരുടെ അക്കൗണ്ടിലേയ്ക്ക് നൽകുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ സംഭരണം 2023-2024 സാമ്പത്തിക വർഷത്തിലും തുടരുന്ന. ഇതുവരെ (17-8-2023) 12130 മെട്രിക് ടൺ പച്ചത്തേങ്ങ സംഭരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. കർഷകരിൽ നിന്നും കച്ചവടക്കാരിൽ നിന്നും കേരഫെഡ് കഴിഞ്ഞ സാമ്പത്തിക വർഷം 24000 മെട്രിക് ടൺ കൊപ്ര വാണിജ്യ ആവശ്യത്തിനായി സംഭരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

കരുതനപ്പള്ളിയിലെ പുതിയ 200 TPD ഓയിൽ പ്ലാന്റിന്റെ രൂപരേഖ തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നതിനും പുതിയ മെഷിനറികൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിലേക്കും, അതോടൊപ്പം കരുതനപ്പള്ളി, നടുവണ്ണൂർ ഫാക്ടറികളിലെ നിലവിലെ ഓയിൽ പ്ലാന്റുകളുടെ നവീകരണത്തിനും കപ്പാസിറ്റി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും, കേരഫെഡിന്റെ വിവിധ ഓഫീസുകളുടെ പുനരുദ്ധാരണത്തിനുമായി അംഗീകൃത സർക്കാർ സ്ഥാപനമായ M/s. Kerala Electrical & Allied Engineering Co. Ltd. (KEL)-നെ പ്രോജക്ട് മാനേജ്മെന്റ് കൺസൾട്ടന്റായി തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്ത് ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിന്റെ എസ്റ്റിമേറ്റുകൾ M/s. KEL സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതും വിശകലനം പൂർത്തിയാകുന്ന മുറയ്ക്ക് പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ ആരംഭിക്കുന്നതുമാണ്. തേങ്ങയുടെ വിവിധ

മൂല്യവർദ്ധിത ഉല്പന്നങ്ങളായ വിർജിൻ കോക്കനട്ട് ഓയിൽ, ഫ്ളേവേർഡ് കോക്കനട്ട് ചിപ്പ്സ്, കോക്കനട്ട് കക്കീസ്, ബോട്ടിൽഡ് കോക്കനട്ട് വാട്ടർ, കോക്കനട്ട് മിൽക്ക്, ചമ്മന്തിപൊടി, വിനിഗർ തുടങ്ങിയ പുതിയ ഉൽപ്പന്നങ്ങൾ പുറത്തിറക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള നടപടികൾ സ്വീകരിച്ചു വരുന്നു.

തരിശ്ശായി കിടന്ന പത്തേക്കർ നിലം "സുഭിക്ഷ കേരളം" പദ്ധതിയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി 2020-ൽ നെൽകൃഷി നടത്തുകയും, 2022-23 വർഷത്തിലേക്കു ഓണാട്ടുകര കാർഷിക വികസന സമിതിക്കുവേണ്ടി "ഭൗമസൂചിക" ലഭിച്ച എള്ള് കൃഷി നടത്തുകയും ചെയ്തു. കേരഫെഡ് ഹെഡ് ഓഫീസ് ബിൽഡിംഗ് അനർട്ടിന്റെ സോളാർസിറ്റി പ്രോജക്റ്റിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതും, 25 KW സോളാർ പവർ പ്ലാന്റ് സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രാരംഭ നടപടികൾ ആരംഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതുമാണ്. ഇതിനെത്തുടർന്ന് കേരഫെഡ്, കരുനാഗപ്പള്ളി, നടുവണ്ണൂർ പ്ലാന്റുകളിൽ സോളാർ പ്ലാന്റുകൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പദ്ധതികൾ ആവിഷ്കരിച്ചു വരുന്നു. കേരഫെഡ് ഹെഡ് ഓഫീസ്, രണ്ട് ഫാക്ടറികൾ, മറ്റ് ഓഫീസുകൾ എന്നിവിടങ്ങളിലായി 280 ജീവനക്കാർ ജോലി ചെയ്തു വരുന്നു.

കേരഫെഡ് ഓഫീസുകൾ :

കേരഫെഡിന് കൊല്ലം ജില്ലയിലെ കരുനാഗപ്പള്ളിയിൽ സ്ഥിതി ചെയ്യുന്ന കേരഫെഡ് ഓയിൽ കോംപ്ലക്സ്, കോഴിക്കോട് ജില്ലയിൽ നടുവണ്ണൂരിൽ സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്ന കേരഫെഡ് കോക്കനട്ട് കോംപ്ലക്സ് എന്നിങ്ങനെ നിലവിൽ രണ്ട് ഫാക്ടറികളാണുള്ളത്. കേരഫെഡിന്റെ ആസ്ഥാന ഓഫീസ് തിരുവനന്തപുരത്താണ്. ആസ്ഥാന ഓഫീസിനു പുറമേ മൂന്ന് റീജിയണൽ ഓഫീസും (സൗത്ത്- തിരുവനന്തപുരം, സെൻട്രൽ-എറണാകുളം, നോർത്ത്-കോഴിക്കോട്) കേരഫെഡിന്റെ കേര ഉൽപ്പന്നങ്ങൾ വിപണനം നടത്തുന്ന നാല് സ്റ്റോക്ക് പോയിന്റുകളും ഇപ്പോൾ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. (ആനയറ, കൊല്ലം, മരട്, തൃശ്ശൂർ).

പ്രോജക്ട് വിഭാഗം :

നിലവിൽ കേരഫെഡിന് പ്രതിദിനം 250 മെട്രിക് ടൺ സ്ഥാപിത ശേഷിയുള്ള കൊപ്ര സംസ്കരണയൂണിറ്റ് കരുനാഗപ്പള്ളിയിലും, 45 മെട്രിക് ടൺ സ്ഥാപിത ശേഷിയുള്ള കൊപ്രസംസ്കരണ യൂണിറ്റ് നടുവണ്ണൂരിലും പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുവരുന്നു. കരുനാഗപ്പള്ളി യൂണിറ്റിലെ 200 മെട്രിക് ടൺ സ്ഥാപിത ശേഷിയുള്ള ഓയിൽമിൽ 1991-ലും, നടുവണ്ണൂർ യൂണിറ്റിലെ 30 മെട്രിക് ടൺ സ്ഥാപിത ശേഷിയുള്ള ഓയിൽ മിൽ 2002-ലും വ്യവസായി കാടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ പ്രവർത്തനമാരംഭിച്ചു. കേര വെള്ളിച്ചെണ്ണയ്ക്ക് പുറമേ, നാളികേരത്തിൽ നിന്നുള്ള മൂല്യവർദ്ധിത ഉൽപ്പന്നങ്ങളായ കേര ഡെസിക്കേറ്റഡ് കോക്കനട്ട്, കേര മിൽക്ക്

പൗലർ, കേരജം കേശാമൂത്ത് ഹെയർ ഓയിൽ, കേര ബേബി കെയർ ഓയിൽ എന്നിവയും കേരഫെഡ് ഉൽപ്പാദിപ്പിച്ചു വരുന്നു.

മില്ലുകളുടെ പ്രവർത്തനശേഷി കാലപ്പഴക്കത്താൽ കുറയുകയും പ്രവർത്തന ചെലവ് കൂടുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന അവസ്ഥ സംജാതമായി വന്ന സാഹചര്യത്തിൽ കേന്ദ്ര ഗവൺമെന്റിന്റെ ആർ.കെ.വി.വൈ. പദ്ധതി പ്രകാരം കരുനാഗപ്പള്ളി യൂണിറ്റിലെ 200 മെട്രിക് ടൺ സ്ഥാപിത ശേഷിയുള്ള ഓയിൽമിൽ നവീകരണത്തിനുവേണ്ടി അപേക്ഷ നൽകിയിരുന്നു. അതിൻ പ്രകാരം കേരഫെഡിന്റെ ഇരു പ്ലാന്റുകളുടെയും അടിസ്ഥാന സൗകര്യം ഉൾപ്പെടെ പ്ലാന്റിന്റെ സംസ്കരണശേഷി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് വേണ്ടി ദീർഘകാല വീക്ഷണത്തോടുകൂടി നിലവിൽ ഉള്ള ഭരണസമിതി വിവിധ പദ്ധതികൾക്ക് അംഗീകാരം നൽകിയിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ആർ.കെ.വി.വൈ. പദ്ധതിയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി കേരഫെഡ് കോക്കനട്ട് ഓയിൽ കോംപ്ലക്സ് കരുനാഗപ്പള്ളിയിൽ പുതിയ കൊപ്ര സംഭരണശാലയുടെ നിർമ്മാണം ₹ 3,23,65,833 (മൂന്ന് കോടി ഇരുപത്തി മൂന്ന് ലക്ഷത്തി അറുപത്തി അയ്യായിരത്തി എണ്ണൂറ്റി മുപ്പത്തിമൂന്ന് രൂപ മാത്രം) ചെലവഴിച്ച് പണി പൂർത്തിയാക്കി. ഇതോടൊപ്പം കരുനാഗപ്പള്ളി ഫാക്ടറിയിലെ ഇലക്ട്രിക്കൽ സബ്സ്റ്റേഷൻ കെട്ടിട വിപുലീകരണം 40.17 ലക്ഷം രൂപ ചെലവഴിച്ച് പൂർത്തിയാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. കേരഫെഡ് കരുനാഗപ്പള്ളി ഫാക്ടറിയിലെ കാലഹരണപ്പെട്ട ബോയിലർ ചിമ്മിനി ₹ 19,60,876 രൂപ ചെലവഴിച്ചു. M/s. STEEL INDUSTRIES KERALA LIMITED-ന്റെ മേൽനോട്ടത്തിൽ മാറ്റി സ്ഥാപിച്ച് കമ്മീഷൻ ചെയ്തു. കേരഫെഡ് കരുനാഗപ്പള്ളി ഫാക്ടറിയിലേക്കുള്ള അനുബന്ധ റോഡ് നിർമ്മാണം (₹ 1,23,40,954 രൂപ ചെലവഴിച്ച്) 2023 മാർച്ചിൽ പൂർത്തീകരിക്കുകയും റോഡ് 2023 മാർച്ച് 16-ാം തീയതി ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതുമാണ്. കേരഫെഡ് കരുനാഗപ്പള്ളി, നടവണ്ണൂർ ഫാക്ടറികളിലേക്ക് ₹ 14,30,160 രൂപ ചെലവിൽ രണ്ട് പൗച്ച് ഫില്ലിംഗ് മെഷീനുകൾ വാങ്ങി ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തി.

29-4-1995-ലെ 6434/ലെജി/സി2/95/ലോ നമ്പർ വിജ്ഞാപനം അനുസരിച്ച് കേരഫെഡിന്റെ നിയമനങ്ങൾ പി.എസ്.സി.-യ്ക്ക് വിടുകയുണ്ടായി. തുടർന്ന് 25-1-2020-ലെ സ.ഉ.(കൈ) നം.14/2020/അഗ്രി. തീയതി പ്രകാരം 27 കാറ്റഗറിയിലുള്ള 290 തസ്തികകൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി സ്റ്റാഫ് പാറ്റേൺ സർക്കാർ അംഗീകരിക്കുകയും അതിനെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തി 29-9-2022- ലെ സ.ഉ.(കൈ) നം. 83/2022/അഗ്രി. പ്രകാരം നിയമനചട്ടം അംഗീകരിച്ച് സർക്കാർ ഉത്തരവായിട്ടുള്ളതുമാണ്. പ്രസ്തുത നിയമനചട്ട പ്രകാരം ഒഴിവുകൾ പി.എസ്.സി. -യ്ക്ക് റിപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുള്ള നടപടി സ്വീകരിച്ചുവരുന്നു. കൂടാതെ കേരഫെഡ് ജീവനക്കാരുടെ ശമ്പള പരിഷ്കരണ ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങൾ സർക്കാർ അംഗീകരിച്ചാണ് നടപ്പിലാക്കി വരുന്നത്.

CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 7, Para No. 26)

The Committee notices that the dividend declared by societies amounting to 1.58 crores was not remitted to treasury and expresses its anguish over the fact that the department has not taken any step to recover the dividend declared by the Co-operative societies. It strongly recommends that the Co-operation Department should expedite action to collect the dividend and credit it to Government account. It recommends that the department should evolve an appropriate mechanism so that dividend could be realised at the time of releasing the grant itself.

Action taken

The Department has an effective system to collect dividend from Co-operatives. Periodical inspection/checks are done by the Unit Inspectors at taluks. Dividend collected during the year from 2011-12 to 2014-15 is shown below.

Year	Dividend on profit (₹ In Crore)
2011-12	0.53
2012-13	0.59
2013-14	1.74
2014-15	4.19
2015-16	5.09

In the C&AG Report for the year ended 31-3-2010, (Revenue Receipts) in para 8.5.12 it was reported that “Our test check of records available in two selected institutions revealed that dividend declared by the societies amounting to ₹ 1.58 core was not recovered as below:

- RUBBER MARK, Ernakulam declared dividend of ₹ 7.96 lakh during the year 1995-96. The society had not remitted the amount so far.
- RAIDCO, Kannur had an overdue amount of ₹ 1.50 crore towards dividend. The firm did not remit the amount to the Government and the same was converted as Share Capital during September 2008

In this regard, it is informed that RUBBER MARK, Ernakulam had remitted the dividend declared of ₹ 7.96 lakh at Ernakulam District Treasury. (₹ 7.95 lakh on 20-2-2015 vide chalan No. 180 and Rs. 1000 on 6-2-2010 vide chalan No. 101). The dividend due from RAIDCO, Kannur for ₹ 1.50 crore need not be remitted as it was converted as Share Capital during September 2008 by Government.

Name of Institution	Dividend declared (₹ In crore)	Dividend remitted (₹ In crore)	Balance for remittance
RUBBER MARK, Ernakulam	0.0796	0.0796	Nil
RAIDCO, Kannur	1.50		Nil because dividend was converted as share Capital by Govt. In September 2008
Total	1.58	0.0796	Nil

The dividend pending had already been cleared by societies as mentioned above. The societies which are working in profit and availed financial assistance in the form of share capital contribution from Government are only liable to remit dividend to Government out of their net profit. So dividend could not be realized at the time of releasing grant itself. Application for request of financial assistance from societies which have Government dues have been considered only after remitting the entire Government dues.

Further Recommendation

While considering the SOAT on the above para, Committee opined that at present there is no provision of collecting interest from Apex Body. Therefore the Committee recommended that a provision should be incorporated to collect interest along with dividend and if the government wanted to relax it, then the Government should issue a special order to settle the case.

Action Taken

The Government gives financial assistance to Co-operative institutions including Apex Co-operatives within the state in the form of Share Capital, Loan and subsidy under various schemes. At present interest is collected from the above Co-operative Societies, which have availed financial assistance in the form of loan. Those Societies are also liable to pay penal interest, if they fail to pay loan installments promptly.

Those Co-operative Societies which have availed financial assistance in the form of Share Capital, are liable to pay dividend and also liable to pay penal interest if they fail to repay the share capital amount as per the repayment schedule. It may be noted that, only profitable Societies are liable to pay dividend and the Societies working at loss are not required to pay any dividend.

At present there is no provision to charge interest on Share capital. As per the opinion of the Committee, a new provision is to be included to charge interest on share capital along with dividend. It is required to amend the Rules for the payment of Share capital contribution to the Co-operative Societies, to charge interest on Share capital. Government will examine the issue based on the recommendation of Committee.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 8, Para No. 27)

The Committee wonders how crores could be accumulated as arrear towards guarantee commission as the rules provide not to grant further loan

unless the guarantee commission owed to previous loan was remitted. The Committee urges the Co-operation Department to take necessary measures to impose financial discipline among co-operative societies.

Action taken

Necessary registers are now properly maintained with supporting documents of remittance and demand notices were issued before the due date for remitting the guarantee commission dues to Government. Up to date position is available with this office.

As per the date as on 31-3-2015, ₹ 34.58 crore is outstanding towards Guarantee Commission. Of which ₹ 23.15 crore is from the Kerala State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank which is payable for the year 2014-15. It may be noted that the bank has remitted all the previous guarantee commission. ₹ 6.27 crore is outstanding from the Kerala State Co-operative Hospital Complex & Centre for Advanced Medical Services Ltd. No. 4386, Pariyaram, Kannur. Revenue Recovery requisition filed against the society to recover the amount.

Statement of Guarantee Commission as on 31-3-2015 is enclosed for information. (Annexure IV). Assured that all possible steps will be taken urgently to recover outstanding guarantee commission at the earliest.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 9, Para No. 28)

The Committee came to know that the guarantee commission due to the Kerala State Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (KSCARDB) was reduced to 0.25 per cent and the amount was adjusted by sanctioning an interest free loan by an executive order as per the decision of the Cabinet. The Committee opines that the Cabinet is not empowered to take such a decision and directs the Co-operation Department to make necessary amendment in the Act in this regard, if necessary. The Committee exhorts the department that the guarantee commission of financial institutions should be calculated separately.

Action taken

The guarantee commission in respect of KSCARD Bank is at the rate of 0.75 and it is being calculated separately. In G.O. (Rt.) No. 249/2013/Co-op. Dated 30-3-2013, it was stipulated that amendment of ceiling on Government Guarantee Act would be considered for the reduction of guarantee commission to 0.25%. But the guarantee commission is not reduced as an amendment is needed in KCGG Act, 2003.

In a meeting held on 12-8-2015 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister it was inter alia decided that Government will consider the matter of reduction of Government Guarantee by amending the Act.

The Finance Department has opposed the proposal of reduction of guarantee commission as Government is entitled to charge 0.75% per annum as guarantee commission as per section 5(1) of KCGG Act, 2003. Finance Department was in the view that KSCARDB being a high risk factor in terms of Guarantee and guarantee commission, no relaxation in terms of rates of guarantee commission can be given. On the contrary, the rates should have already been enhanced as per section 5(2) of KCGG Act, 2003.

Taking account of the views of Finance Department, Government have decided to sustain the rate at 0.75% itself for the time being. Provision in the G.O. to reduce guarantee commission has been withdrawn.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 10, Para No. 29)

When informed that arrear is accumulated only in the case of unit audit fee, the Committee directs the Co-operation Department to furnish a detailed report in this regard at the earliest.

Action taken

The Audit fees are collected and reviewed by the General Wing of the Department and Audit Cost are collected in advance. During the year 2013-14,

Department could collect audit fee amounting ₹ 18.62 crore and Audit Cost amounting ₹ 55.92 crore. During 2014-15 collection was ₹ 15.18 crore and 71.70 crore respectively.

Year	Rs. in Crore	
	Collection	
	Audit Fees	Audit Cost LS & PC
2013-14	18.62	55.92
2014-15	15.18	71.70
2015-16	11.40	69.84
Total	45.20	197.46

Department wise details of Audit Fee pending as on 31-3-2016 is shown as below:

Amount in Lakh		
Department	Amount pending as on 31-3-2015	Amount pending as on 31.03.2016
Co-operation	900.67	817.03
Industries	80.40	88.02
Fisheries	84.31	66.27
Coir	81.09	68.15
Khadi & Village Industries	42.73	44.74
Dairy	83.39	80.65
Handloom	370.78	385.67
Total	1643.37	1550.53

Out of the outstanding balance as on 31-3-2016 ₹15.50 Crore, ₹7.33 Crore is pending from other Departments such as Industries, Fisheries etc.

Necessary directions were issued to the subordinate officers to take up the issue with the concerned officials of other Department for the earliest collection of dues.

It may be noted that Department is taking efforts from time to time for the maximum collection of dues. In 2014 Special Collection drive for intensifying the arrear collection was conducted for 60 days from 16-9-2014 to 15-11-2014. During this period, an amount of ₹ 4.14 crore and ₹ 1 crore was collected from the arrears of Audit fee and Audit Cost respectively.

In 2015, a Special Drive for intensifying the collection of arrears due to Government including Audit Fee and Audit Cost from the Co-operative Societies/Institutions was conducted for a period of 30 days from 1-11-2015 to 30-11-2015. An amount of ₹ 2.85 Crore was collected during this period. Another collection drive was also conducted from 1-2-2016 to 29-2-2016, an amount of ₹ 2.20 crore has been collected during this period.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 11, Para No. 30)

The Committee expresses its displeasure that the department had not furnished a detailed reply regarding audit pendency as assured by the Secretary, Co-operation Department at the time of witness examination and reiterates to furnish the same within a month.

Action taken

Consequent on the 97th constitution amendment, the KCS Act 1969 Section 63 was amended. As per Section 63(1)(4) of KCS Act the accounts of every society shall be audited within six months of the close of the financial year to which such accounts relate. Based on the above provision the Department has taken steps to clear the arrear audit in Co-operatives. As per G.O. (Rt.) No. 478/13/Co-op. dated 22-7-2013 the Government have accorded approval to engage retired employees of the Department and to engage employees of the General wing of the department to clear pending audit. During the year 2014-15, the department has to complete 20,232 audits of 17,666 Co-operatives in the state of

which the department completed 19,029 audits as on 31-3-2015. It may be noted that the progress as on 31-3-2015 was 94.05%. The balance of 1203 audit is not accomplished for want of completed accounts and connected records in the Co-operatives. Out of the pending audits, 40 audits are pertaining to the year 2008-09. It is assured that the Department has taken efforts to reduce pendency in audit to the minimum.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 12, Para No. 31)

The Committee was astonished to note that rather than initiating step to realise the amount due from the Kannur Co-operative Society even after the disposal of the land attached under RR proceedings, the department was simply waiting for the reply from the RCS to act to take action. The Committee views with grave concern that the slackness on the part of the Co-operation Department could not be neglected and recommends that the department should take effective measures to fix the responsibility for the lapse and should take appropriate action against the delinquent at the earliest.

Action taken

In order to recover the amount due to Government by Cannore District Wholesale Co-operative Store Ltd. No. P. 1031, the office of the district Joint Registrar (General), Kannur had initiated necessary steps for invoking R.R. proceedings against the society, which resulted in issuing demand notice on 18-8-2005 by the Special Deputy Tahsildar, Cannore. Later on the appeal filed by the society, R.R. action was temporarily stopped for a period of six months from 18-12-2006.

During that period, the society was having an overall liability of ₹ 5 crore. Due to the severe financial crisis, the society was at the stage of closing down its operations. Under these circumstances the society applied to the RCS for granting permission for the sale of 79 cents of land owned by it, for settling Government dues and other liabilities. The RCS, based on the recommendation of the Joint Registrar (General), Kannur, accorded sanction for the sale of

76 cents of land owned by the society on condition that the sale proceeds should primarily be used for repaying the loan taken from the Government as well as to dispose off other liabilities. Though the society had taken all possible steps sell the centre 76 cents, it could sell only 56.75 cents and that was too only in the fifth time of auction. It is understood that at this stage the society was facing a shut down due to severe financial crisis and that were forced to pay off other liabilities so that they could continue to function without closing down its operations and thereby avoiding liquidation of the society. As the society failed to remit the Government dues as agreed, the RCS had initiated RR proceedings against the society. Considering the financial crisis of the society, R.R. was stayed by the then Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation on 16-3-2008. After taking into consideration the services given by the society in the consumer co-operative sector during the past four decades as well as the severe financial crisis faced by the society, and with an intention to make the society working effectively in the sector, the Government had restructured the share capital contribution and loan portion.

In order to recover an amount of ₹ 41.66 lakh due from the society on account of interest and penal interest, necessary steps were taken by the department and initiated R.R. proceedings and accordingly the society had remitted an amount of ₹ 12.49 lakh. Later, the Government as per G.O. (Rt) No. 602/15 dated 3-10-2015 rescheduled the balance amount in ten installments payable from 3-10-2017 onwards. It is observed that the department officials had taken proper and timely steps for recovering the amount by invoking R.R. proceedings and there is no loss caused to the Government since the interest and penal interest levied by the Government have to be repaid by the store in 10 installments from 3-10-2017 onwards. The District Joint Registrar (General) during the said period had retired from service on 30-11-2008. Considering the above facts, it may be seen that there is no deliberate lapse on the part of the department officials in recovering the amount due to Government.

The details stated above may kindly be accepted & the obsevation in the audit para 31 may be dropped.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 13, Para No. 32)

Regarding the illegal exemption of share capital and penal interest while carrying out R.R proceedings against the Pineapple Marketing Co-operative Society Kottayam, the Committee directs the Co-operation Department to initiate departmental action against those who were responsible for the negligence.

Action taken

During the period from 1980 to 1992-93, Government had sanctioned an amount of ₹ 12,88,000 as share capital assistance to the Amayannur Pineapple Marketing Society and out of this, an amount of ₹ 63,000 was repaid by them. The balance outstanding on 30-8-1997 was ₹ 12,25,000. On 3-12-1997, the Assistant Registrar (General) Kottayam had filed revenue recovery requisition for an amount of ₹ 30,35,308 due from the society in respect of the overdue loan and interest. Later, in the Audit Enquiry No. 31 dated 9-3-2010, it was stated that there was a non-inclusion of overdue share capital of ₹ 5,92,500 and penal interest of ₹ 73,505.50 in the said recommendation of revenue recovery proceedings. As per the rules of scheme, share capital assistance falls due for repayment only from the sixth year onwards and is payable in ten annual installments thereafter. When it was noticed, a revised R. R. requisition was filed on 15-10-2010 for an amount of ₹ 87,03,849 including the amount due in respect of share capital and penal interest thereon. The Government stayed the R.R. proceedings on 18-5-2013 and the department has taken necessary steps to vacate the stay order and it was vacated on 28-6-2016. Now action is being taken to recover the arrear amount.

Further, it may be seen that the amount was not exempted purposefully from the R.R. requisition and there was no willful negligence on the part of the department. Government stayed the R. R. proceedings on public interest, and to save the society from winding up. Steps were taken by the department to vacate the stay and now necessary action is being taken to recover the amount due to Government and hence there is no loss incurred to the Government. It is requested to pardon and to avoid further action, if any lapse, unforeseen had been

happened from the side of the department, considering that the interest of the Government is well protected and no loss has been incurred to the government in this case till now. The officer who was in charge of Assistant Registrar (General), Kottayam at the time of filing the R.R. requisition on 30-8-1997 had retired from service on 31-8-2002.

In order to avoid such situation/discrepancies, circular directions for strict maintenance of registers and timely action for recoveries has been issued. A software for fund management is being developed by C-DIT and it is expected that once it is implemented, all such discrepancies/omissions can be avoided.

The details stated above may be kindly accepted & humbly requested to drop the audit para 32.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 14, Para No. 33)

The Committee condemns the inefficiency of the department as it could not complete the liquidation procedures within the stipulated time and wants the department to take scrupulous effort to complete the liquidation proceedings at the earliest.

Action taken

Even though Section 73(2A) of Co-operative Societies Act 1969 stipulate to complete the liquidation process within 3 years from the date of appointment of liquidator, usually liquidators are unable to adhere to the time limit due to several reasons. Non availability of records, pending court cases, delay in getting sanction from Government in write off proposals on non realizable assets, addition of fresh proposals for liquidation etc. cause delay in timely disposal of liquidation cases. The shortage of staff also felt in the department. Due to this, personnel appointed as liquidators have to do other statutory work also. Now liquidators are making serious efforts for the disposal of pending cases in spite of the above limitations.

It is assured that necessary measures will be taken to dispose the long pending cases at the earliest.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 15, Para No. 34)

The Committee admonishes the Co-operation Department for the inertia on the part of the department, which is evident from the incompetency in preparing an action plan for the restructuring of the institutions registered under it. It remarks that the department could not impart the supervisory and regulatory functions effectively. The Committee reminds that the Co-operation Department was an utter failure in almost all areas including recovery of arrears, audit fee collection, realisation of declared dividend, etc. and urges to act effectively to revitalise the Co-operatives in our state.

Action taken

Department has taken serious efforts to collect all the dues in a time bound manner. For this, special collection drives are conducted periodically. Department had conducted two collection drives during the year 2013 and collected an amount of ₹ 13.75 crore from the arrears. A special collection drive for intensifying the arrear collection was conducted for 60 days from 16-9-2014 to 15-11-2014. An amount of ₹25.61 crore was collected during the period.

A special drive for intensifying the collection of arrears due to Government from the Co-operative Societies/Institutions is proposed during the period from 1-11-2015 to 30-11-2015. Detailed instructions were issued to the subordinate offices to arrange to collect maximum amount during the collection drive period.

Revenue recovery requisitions filed for ₹ 305.81 crore, are also pending with the Revenue authorities as on 31-3-2015.

As part of strengthening up of the internal control system, the Registrar conducted special drive to keep and maintain the registers of loan, share, audit cost etc., up to date. Directions were issued in this regard. Records and registers are properly maintained and Inspections are frequently conducted to ensure this.

It is assured that proper follow up will be exercised and special efforts will be taken for collecting all the dues at the earliest.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 16, Para No. 35)

The Committee directs Co-operation Department to formulate a strategy for the restructuring of the co-operative institutions.

Action taken

The Kerala Co-operative Societies Act, 1969 has been amended by the Kerala Co-operative Societies (Amendment Act), 2013 (Act 8/2013) in tune with the 97th Constitutional Amendment Act. In the Kerala Co-operative Societies (Second Amendment) Rules, 2014, necessary provisions have been concluded for the formation of apex level institutions of Urban Co-operative Banks, Labour Contract Societies and Tourism Societies and a Federal society of School/College Co-operative Societies. Apex level institutions of Tourism Co-operative Societies and Labour Contract Co-operative Societies were registered during the year 2011 and 2014 respectively, for the smooth and efficient functioning of primary societies in these sectors. The Kerala Co-operative Societies Act & Rule have been amended at various times to incorporate suitable provisions for the development of the societies and the sector. Steps were also taken to revise the classification norms of societies. Steps are being taken to modernize the Co-operative Societies and the possibility of bringing the Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies and other Societies into Common Software is also being explored.

It has been decided to merge the Kerala State Co-operative Bank and District Co-operative Banks and to form a new bank viz. Kerala Co-operative Bank. An action plan has been prepared for the formation of the new bank and it is expected that the bank could begin its operations within one year.

The decision for home delivery of social security and welfare pensions through District Co-operative Banks (DCB) and Primary Agricultural Credit

Societies (PACS) is another major step for strengthening these Co-operative Institutions. The decision to formulate a mechanism for home delivery of pension was also taken. Through the above decision and proper implementation of the scheme, the credibility and capability of the Co-operative Institutions will increase to a great extent and will help the development of the entire Co-operative sector as well.

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 17, Para No. 37)

The Committee recommends that the Transport Department should take effective measures to ensure that all autorikshaws in hire service in our state should be fitted with fare meters both in urban and rural areas.

Action taken

As per Rule 296 (1) (a) of the Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, Every motor cab, except when exempted in this regard by the State or Regional Transport Authority, shall be fitted with a taxi-meter, which shall be fixed to and operated from a non-driving wheel.

Rule 296 (2) stipulates that the taxi-meter shall, whether for the first time or after repair or adjustment, be submitted to the State or Regional Transport Authority or any such officer as that Authority may from time to time depute in this behalf for examination and test.

As per G.O. (Ms.) No. 9/2003/Tran. dated: 15-3-2023, Government have ordered to implement rule 296 of the Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules 1989, by directing the Transport Commissioner to issue instructions to fix digital fare meters in all the Autorikshaws plying in the State, within a period of three months from the date of the order. It was stipulated that the new Autorikshaws which were registered after the above date would be registered only if digital meters were fixed. When the existing Autorikshaws are retested after this period of three months, digital fare meters should be fixed.

Accordingly the State Transport Authority ordered that all the Autorikshaws which were registered on or after 1-4-2004 should be fitted with digital fare meter and the meters should be got tested by Legal Metrology Department and suitably sealed to avoid any manipulation.

The Transport Commissioner has now reported that the time of registration and fitness tests and also at the time of surprise checks on road, it is ensured that all autorikshaws are fitted with fare-meters duly inspected and sealed by the Legal Metrology Department. The services from the Motor Vehicles Department are provided only to those autorikshaws fitted with fare -meter. The registration number of the fare- meter is marked in the Registration Certificate also. But often the dates given by Legal Metrology Department for sealing the meters are at a gap of two to three months. All field staff of the Motor Vehicles Department are given strict instructions for ensuring the efficiency of implementation of fare-meter at the time of inspections and to impose penalties on the vehicle owners upon breach. Till now, more than 2000 autorikshaw owners have been given check reports and penalties imposed.

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 18, Para No. 39)

The Committee notices that the Water Authority was not conducting periodical inspection of water meters and suggests that whatever be the constraints, the Water Authority should take necessary steps to inspect water meters at site in regular intervals.

Action taken

As per section 42(2) of Kerala Water Supply and Sewerage Act, the cost of installation and the rent for the use of water meters is to be borne by the consumer. Meter reading of consumers are taken bimonthly by the Meter Reader. In places where there is shortage of meter reader, members of Kudumbasree has also deployed for taking water meter reading. In the procedural orders approved vide Resolution No. 6866 dated 12-4-2005 by the Board of Kerala Water

Authority, and issued vide order No. KWA/HO/AM-16/RM dated 12-5-2005 (Annexure V) of the Managing Director, the procedure to be followed for taking meter reading is clearly mentioned. As per this order, a Meter Reader has to take 1600/1200 meter readings in urban/rural areas bimonthly. The Meter Inspector should inspect at least 10% of the readings taken by meter readers and report to Assistant Engineer. The Assistant Engineer shall conduct periodical inspection of the consumers premises and counter check the facts reported by the Meter Reader/ Meter Inspector. The Assistant Engineer shall conduct inspection of large consumers every month. Assistant Executive Engineer shall also conduct surprise inspection of meter readings. This procedure is strictly followed by all the concerned officers.

Meter Inspection details

Meter Reader	1600/1200 bimonthly (Urban/Rural)
Meter Inspector	10% of above.
Assistant Engineer	Periodical Inspection & inspection of large connections reading every month
Assistant Executive Engineer	Surprise Inspection

A copy of order KWA/HO/AM-16/RM dated: 12-5-2005 is enclosed herewith. (Annexure)

Based on the aforesaid facts the reply may be accepted and the objection may be dropped.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 19, Para No. 41)

The Committee notices that the Revenue Department did not hand over the land to KBPS and directs the Revenue Department to take necessary steps to settle the issue at the earliest.

Action taken

Public Accounts Committee has recommended to hand over the required land for the expansion of KBPS without delay. The matter of leasing of 2 hectors of land comprised in Sy. No. 610 of Kakkanad village of Kanayannur Taluk, Ernakulam District, at ₹ 100 per acre, and to right off the lease arrears is now under consideration of Finance Department.

Further Recommendation

The Committee directed to speed up action regarding the handing over of the land to KBPS and to furnish the present position of this case.

Action taken

Public Accounts Committee has recommended to hand over the required land for the expansion of KBPS without delay. As per G.O.(Ms.) No.359/19/RD. dated: 27-11-2019 sanction has been accorded to lease 2 hectares of land out of 3.97 hectares in Block No. 8 comprised in survey No. 610 of Kakkanad village of Kanayannur Taluk, Ernakulam District, at ₹ 100 per acre after remitting the 10% of lease rent arrears and to waive the balance in arrears of lease rent of ₹ 38 crore, if KBPS remits 10% of the said arrear amount as one time settlement within three months from the date of issuance of the order. (Annexure VI)

Thiruvananthapuram,
26th June, 2024.

SUNNY JOSEPH,
Chairperson,
Committee on Public Accounts.

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2024

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