

**THIRTEENTH KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**COMMITTEE  
ON  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
(2014-2016)**

**SEVENTY SECOND REPORT**

(Presented on 9th July, 2014)



SECRETARIAT OF THE KERALA LEGISLATURE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
2014

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**SEVENTY SECOND REPORT**

**on**

**Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the  
Fourty Seventh Report of the Committee on  
Public Accounts (2006-08)**

1068/2014.

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (2014-2016)

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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 Seventy Second Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Forty Seventh Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (2006-08).

The Committee considered and finalised this Report at the meeting held on 30th June, 2014.

Thiruvananthapuram,  
9th July, 2014.

DR. T. M. THOMAS ISAAC,  
*Chairman,*  
*Committee on Public Accounts.*

## **REPORT**

This Report deals with the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 47th Report of Committee on Public Accounts (2006-08).

The 47th Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (2006-08) was presented to the House on 17th March, 2008. The Report contains 21 recommendations, related to Social Justice Department, Home Department, Revenue Department and Finance Department. The Report was forwarded to the Departments on 4-4-2008 to furnish the statement of Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Report and the final reply was received on 4-4-2012.

The Committee examined the Action Taken statements at its meeting held on 17-6-2009, 19-1-2011, 28-12-2011 and 17-10-2012.

The Committee was not satisfied with the reply received from Government on Para Nos. 9, 34, 37-43 and decided to pursue it further. This recommendations, Government reply and further recommendations of the Committee are incorporated in Chapter I of this Report.

The Committee decided not to pursue further action on the remaining recommendations. These recommendations and the SOATs by Government are incorporated in Chapter II of this report.

### **CHAPTER I**

#### **RECOMMENDATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ARE NOT SATISFACTORY AND WHICH REQUIRES REITERATION**

#### **SOCIAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT**

##### **Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 1, Para No. 9)*

1.1 The Committee finds that even though the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) was introduced by Government of India with the good intention of lending a helping hand to the destitutes of and above the age of 65, the target could not be achieved by the State Government due to the inability in identifying the beneficiaries and failure in giving sufficient publicity for the scheme resulting in loss of central assistance to the tune of ₹ 22.98 crore. The Committee, from the additional information furnished by Government vide letter No. 12508/C1/06/SWD dated 13-2-2007 notes with dismay that even in 2006,

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Government could not achieve the targeted number of beneficiaries. The Committee observes that being the Nodal Officers for the implementation of the Scheme, the District Collectors were vested with the responsibility for giving wide publicity to the scheme. The Committee is of the opinion that, had the achievement being monitored each year by the District Collectors, such a state of affairs could have been avoided.

#### **Action Taken**

1.2 Necessary instructions have been issued by the concerned District Collectors to the Secretaries of Local Self Government institutions to put advertisements about the NOAPS in the notice boards of all Local Self Governments and also to take up the matter in all the Gramasabhas and Welfare Committees as a prime item. The District Collectors have reported that periodical reviews are being held in every 3 months and steps are being taken to verify the records of Local bodies related to the payment of pensions. The inspection wing of the Collectorates conduct inspection of all Panchayats and Municipalities in every financial year for verifying records related to the pension scheme. Directions have been given by District Collectors to include all eligible applicants in the scheme and also to clear all pending applications.

Some Local Self Governments are giving sufficient publicity through newspaper and local news channels. The issue has been discussed in the monthly meeting of Panchayat Secretaries. Some District Collectors have reported that the citizen charter published by panchayats include the details regarding the scheme. Government of India have changed the eligibility criteria of NOAPS and renamed it as IGNOAPS with effect from 19-11-2007. As per the revised criteria persons who have completed the age of 65 years and who belong to BPL families as per the Central Government norms only are eligible for IGNOAP. But since the Local Self Government Department are yet to finalise the BPL list, it is not possible to add additional beneficiaries. Once the BPL list is finalised, all eligible persons will be given Old age pension under IGNOAPS.

#### **Further Recommendation**

1.3 The Committee recommended that action should be taken to sanction pension to all beneficiaries under IGNOAPS immediately on the finalisation of the BPL list.

**HOME DEPARTMENT****Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 6, Para No. 34)*

1.4 The Committee finds that since the value of property lost on account of fire incidents is assessed by fire station staff who are not trained in the job, the veracity of the amount could not be relied upon. At present there are no specific norms to assess loss to property. Hence the Committee recommends to incorporate specific guidelines for the same in the Fire Manual which is under preparation.

**Action Taken**

1.5 Steps are being taken to include the subject of valuation of property in the syllabus for the courses conducted in the Kerala Fire and Rescue Services Academy. This will be implemented after finalizing the syllabus.

**Further Recommendation**

1.6 The Committee observed that the reply furnished was not in accordance with points raised by the Committee and hence not acceptable. The Committee, therefore recommends that specific norms should be incorporated in the Fire Manual in accordance with the earlier recommendation of the Committee at the earliest.

**Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 9, Para No. 37)*

1.7 The Committee notes that Government has approved a priority list of 34 places where new Fire Stations are to be opened as per G.O. (Rt.) No. 2060/03/Home dated 28-10-2003. Since 4 stations have already been opened, the Committee desires to be informed of the present status of the remaining 30 Fire Stations.

**Action Taken**

1.8 The priority list as published by Government in G.O. (Rt.) No. 2060/2003/Home, dated 28-10-2003 contained the list of 28 places, where Fire and Rescue Station were to be opened during the next three years. Out of the above list 14 Stations were opened namely:—Nedumangadu, Parassala, Kattakkada, Kadakkal, Paravoor, Chengannur, Kaduthuruthy, Kalloorkkad, Mannarkkadu, Nilambur, Nadapuram, Mananthavady, Peringom and Uppala.



Government modified the above Priority list and published new list vide G.O. (Rt.) No. 1282/2007/Home dated 11-5-2007. Out of the 42 places from the above list 34 new Fire Stations are pending to be opened.

#### **Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 10, Para No. 38)*

1.9 The Committee finds that Government had obtained a loan of ₹ 17.75 crore from GIC during 1993-2002 for purchasing fire fighting equipments and constructing fire station buildings. Even though the loan was to be utilized within six months from the date of drawal in each case, only ₹ 1.86 crore was spent by KFRS as of March 2003 and ₹ 15.89 crore remained unutilized. The Committee suspects that the delay in allotting the loan amount to KFRS might be the reason for the underutilization of the loan amount and the delay might have occurred with Finance Department. The Committee opines that such unjustifiable delay on the part of Finance Department cannot be excused and opines that repetition of such incidents should be avoided in future. The Committee learns from the Government reply that a lion's share of the loan have since been utilized for the purpose for which it was availed. The Committee would like to know whether any loan has been availed from GIC for KFRS after 2002 and if so the details of amount sanctioned to KFRS and the amount to be sanctioned should be furnished to the Committee. The purpose for which the loan has been utilized should also be intimated to the Committee.

#### **Action Taken**

1.10 No loan has been availed after 2002 from GIC.

#### **Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 11, Para No. 39)*

1.11 The Committee notes that the number of pumping units available with KFRS in 2003 is far below the optimum requirement (i.e., 70 pumping units against the required 166 units). The Department has stated that action is in progress for raising the number of pumping units as per the yardstick. The Committee desires to be informed of whether the required number of pumping units has been acquired for KFRS.

**Action Taken**

1.12 The following are the pumping units now available with the Kerala Fire and Rescue Services Department:

Water Tender fitted with pumping units	..	235
Industrial Water Tender fitted with pumping units	..	12
Trailer pumps	..	19
Portable Pumps	..	85
<b>Total</b>		351 Nos.

This is against the sanctioned strength of 369 Nos. Thus there is considerable improvement in the availability of pumping units.

**Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 12, Para No. 40)*

1.13 The Committee notices that the Department has intimated action to replace the over aged vehicles. The outcome of the action taken should be intimated to the Committee. The Committee finds that only one vehicle is now available with KFRS to prevent fire accidents in high rise buildings which is grossly inadequate. The Committee desires that at least three such vehicles be made available in the State (one each in Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode). The Committee urges the Department to intimate the present position of the action taken to purchase 50 to 60 ft. Extension Ladders.

**Action Taken**

1.14 36 new vehicles have been added to the Force during 2009-10. For the fire fighting in high rise building modern equipments with hydraulic platforms as used in Mumbai terror attack have been suggested. Funds to the tune of ~ 600 lakh have been provided by Government in 2010-11 for the purchase of Skylift under Plan Scheme (Modernization of Fire Force).

**Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 13, Para No. 41)*

1.15 The Committee is given to understand that most of the fire hydrants have become non-functional due to widening and tarring of roads and neither the Public Works Department nor Water Authority has taken by precautionary measures to protect the hydrants from damages. Underlining

the necessity for a co-ordination among Water Authority, PWD and KFRS, the committee suggests that the three wings should take a combined effort to see that fire hydrants are not destroyed during works in future. The Committee also suggests that in future if fire hydrants are damaged during the course of any work, the repairing charges should be realized from the Department responsible for the same.

**Action Taken**

1.16 Action has been initiated to study the condition of Fire hydrants. A joint inspection committee consisting of the Assistant Divisional Officer, Station Officer concerned and the Executive Engineer, Kerala Water Authority has been nominated to propose improvements.

**Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 14, Para No. 42)*

1.17 The Committee understands that since continuous duty system is prevailing in KFRS, all personnel in a fire station is required to be stayed in the premises of the Fire and Rescue Stations. Sufficient number of staff quarters should be built and attached to all Fire and Rescue Stations. The Committee desires to know whether the family quarters already completed have been allotted for occupancy. The present position of the quarters nearing completion in various Fire and Rescue Stations should also be intimated to the Committee.

**Action Taken**

1.18 At Present all the completed quarters have been occupied. There are no projects nearing completion.

**Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 15, Para No. 43)*

1.19 The Committee urges the Department to intimate the present position of the proposal for establishing the three centralized workshops. The Committee suggests that positive steps should be taken by the Government for modernizing Kerala Fire and Rescue Services.

**Action Taken**

1.20 Government have examined the proposal for the setting up of three centralized workshops in detail. Government found that the proposal if approved would only be a strain on the State Budget. Government are therefore of the view that the present arrangement is more sufficient. Government have already taken steps for the modernization of Kerala Fire and Rescue Services.

### **Further Recommendation**

1.21 The Committee expressed its dissatisfaction over the replies furnished by the department on paras 37-43 as they were vague and incomplete. The Committee observes that the steps taken by the department in implementing the recommendation of the Committee were inadequate. Hence the Committee recommends to allocate funds for the construction of buildings for fire stations and purchase of equipments for the modernization of the Fire Force under plan scheme.

### **CHAPTER II**

### **RECOMMENDATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE ACTION IN THE LIGHT OF THE REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT**

### **SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 2, Para No. 10)*

2.1 The Committee understands that the funds under the scheme are made available by the District Collectors to the local bodies and payments are effected by them. However, no action is seen taken by the District Collectors to verify the records relating to payment of pension before issuing utilization certificates. Hence the Committee recommends that necessary directions be given to the District Collectors to conduct a periodical review regarding the implementation of the scheme and take necessary steps to see that the pension reaches the hands of all deserving persons.

#### **Action Taken**

2.2 Periodical reviews are being held in every 3 months by District Collector and the Inspection Wing of Collectorates conduct inspection of all Panchayats and Municipalities in every financial year for verifying records related to pension. With a view to include more beneficiaries to the pension scheme, directions have been given by District Collectors to include the issue of IGNOAPS to all Gramasabhas and such other forms for discussion to create better awareness among the people. Now the Monthly Progress Report including the details of the number of beneficiaries and the amount distributed are being collected by Commissioner of Land Revenue and the same are being furnished to Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India online. The Monthly Progress Report in respect of IGNOAPS up to 11/09 has been furnished online so far.

**Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 3, Para No. 11)*

2.3 The Committee notes that as per the Government of India guidelines, pension under the scheme can be sanctioned only to a person who is above 65 years of age and whose yearly income does not exceed ₹ 11,000. Since it is disclosed by the witness that low income category is decreasing day by day, the Committee recommends that the Government should examine the feasibility of increasing the income ceiling to ₹ 22,000 per annum for entertaining applications under NOAPS as adopted in many other welfare schemes.

**Action Taken**

2.4 Government of India have agreed to fix 432300 as the number of beneficiaries under IGNOAPS in our State. However the additional beneficiaries could not be identified due to the non-finalization of BPL list by Local Self Government Department. Once the list is finalized these additional beneficiaries will also be included in the IGNOAP Scheme. As per Government of India guidelines IGNOAP can be given only to those belonging to BPL households as prescribed by Government of India guidelines and hence the State Government cannot alter the income/eligibility criteria for beneficiaries.

**HOME DEPARTMENT****Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 4, Para No. 32)*

2.5 The Committee wish to point out that Government is showing total neglect towards Kerala Fire and Rescue Services (KF&RS), a wing that is rendering applaudable service to the society during fire outbreaks and other emergencies. The wing cannot offer its service to the full extent, due to shortage of essential fire fighting equipments, vehicles and staffs.

**Action Taken**

2.6 During the financial year 2008-2009, Government allotted ₹ 100 lakh for the Modernization of Fire Force Department and the amount was fully utilized. During the year 2009-10 Government allotted ₹ 200 lakh for modernization and that amount was also fully utilized for the purpose. In addition to the above, Government allotted ₹ 1000 lakh under Calamity Relief Fund for the purchase of modern life saving equipments and vehicles during the year 2009-2010. During the current year 2010-11, ₹ 930 lakh have been provided

under plan schemes for the modernization of the department. Apart from the above, steps are being taken to release further amount of ` 2500 lakh under central Assistance and another ` 1000 lakh under calamity relief.

**Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 5, Para No. 33)*

2.7 The Committee understands that periodical inspections of high rise buildings to check fire safety measures as envisaged in Building Rules are not being conducted after the issuance of final NOC's. The Department, in its reply has stated that periodical inspections could be conducted after obtaining Government sanction. The Committee desires to be informed whether periodical inspections of high rise buildings have since been conducted. The outcome of the inspections (in detail) should be furnished to the Committee.

**Action Taken**

2.8 The No Objection Certificates presently being issued by the Fire and Rescue Services Department are as authorized by Government due to the insistence of the same under the Kerala Building Rules as provided under the National Building Code. At present there is no statutory backing for the routine inspections to be conducted by the Fire and Rescue Services Department. This provision has been incorporated in the draft of Kerala Fire Services Rules presently with Government.

However, as recommended by the PAC the Department has issued directions to the Officers to conduct routine annual inspections of an advisory nature. This is being carried out at present and will be intensified once the Rules are published.

**Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 7, Para No. 35)*

2.9 The Committee notices that penal provisions in the Kerala Fire Force Act could not be enforced due to the absence of specific Rules in this regard. Hence the Committee is of the opinion that the Rules under the Kerala Fire Force Act should be framed without further delay.

**Action Taken**

2.10 The penal provision as recommended by the Committee was incorporated in the draft rules. However, it was noticed that the penal provision will not legally stand and hence it was omitted from the draft Rules.

**Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 8, Para No. 36)*

2.11 The Committee sees that fire incident reports did not contain significant information on fire prevention and they were not properly evaluated by the Commandant General as required. The Committee suggests that a detailed evaluation of the fire incident reports should be undertaken and effective methodology to contain fire incidents should be evolved. The Committee is of the opinion that fire audit and follow up after every major fire incident should be made a statutory obligation.

**Action Taken**

2.12 The inclusion of the provision for annual verification of high rise building was to contain fire incidents. Suitable steps will also be taken to minimise fire hazards. The Fire and Rescue Services Department reviews major fires internally. Government recently conducted review meetings and follow up action in the wake of major incidents. Recently after the Kayamkulam Gas Fire, Major review was done and as a result it was decided to pump enough funds for the modernisation of the department in a phased manner.

**Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 16, Para No. 46)*

2.13 The Committee criticised the action of the Government in acquiring the land at Keezhariyoor without ascertaining the availability of basic amenities like drinking water, approach road etc. The Committee finds that there was inordinate delay on the part of the Government in granting administrative sanction for acquisition of land for constructing the approach road and that delay was the main reason for the delay in allotting the quarters at Keezhariyoor. Hence the Committee urges the Department to intimate the authority responsible for the delay and desires that responsibility be fixed against the delinquents. The action taken in this regard should be intimated to the Committee. The Committee desires to be informed of the present position of the construction of the approach road. The Committee also desires to be informed of whether the 36 quarters at Keezhariyoor have been allotted to police personnel.

**Action Taken**

2.14 A proposal for the purchase of 6¾ cents of land for the construction of approach road was received in the Government on 26-8-1997. Government on 12-2-1998 called for a report for the anticipated cost of purchase

and availability of budget provision. The report was received to Government on 31-8-1998. Thereafter the query raised by the Government on budget provision was answered by DGP on 19-12-2002 and on 14-1-2003. Government accorded sanction for the purchase of land and the document was registered at Meppayur Sub Registrar Office on 9-12-2003. In this regard it is seen that no deliberate delay on the part of any official could be detected. At present there is an approach road to the quarters. Action is being taken for the tarring of the road.

The said quarters have not been allotted so far for want of water connection. It is also learned that the quarters can be allotted to the Police Personnel, if this problem is solved. The Managing Director, KPHCC has been requested to take steps to provide water connection to Keezhariyoor Police Quarters with the assistance of Superintendent of Police, Kozhikode rural.

The reasons for the delay in this regard is follows: The matter of digging of an open well/bore well at AR Camp, Keezhariyoor was taken up by the SP, Kozhikkode Rural on 16-4-1998 as per the direction of DGP, Kerala. As directed by the Executive Engineer, PWD, the M.D., KPHCC was directed to take necessary action for arranging water supply at AR camp, Keezhariyoor on 27-11-1998. The matter was taken up by the Kerala Water Authority and the Ground Water Department also. The SP, Kozhikkode Rural has forwarded a proposal for digging a bore well at AR camp with a rough cost of estimate of ₹ 44,600 obtained from the Ground Water Department and orders were issued as per Order No. J2/90619/99 dated 17-6-2002 and the amount was drawn and deposited in favour of the Ground Water Department on 29-10-2002 for digging the bore well.

The Ground Water Department had intimated that as there is no road access, the Rig cannot be moved to the drilling site and the work of digging borewell was held up. The fund allotted for this was utilised to dig a borewell at Perambra Police Station, since it was felt that the proposed borewell is not sufficient to supply the water to meet ensuing requirement of AR camp and family quarters. As there is no water source in the site, it being a hill slope, three cents of land in the paddy field situated about one kilometer away from the site was purchased for the construction of an open well and the KPHCC was entrusted with the work of digging an open well at the site. The KPHCC was directed on 2-12-2006 that the open well being dug may be having sufficient width and depth, so as to provide sufficient water to the present 36 family quarters, the proposed AR camp and the other 32 family quarters under construction.



Based on the report of the DIG of Police, Kannur Range on the urgent measures to be taken for solving the problem of water etc., the M.D., KPHCC was directed to carry-out the work of construction of two ring wells with appropriate motor pump and over head tank with direction to forward a detailed estimate for the water supply scheme. Accordingly the KPHCC has forwarded a detailed estimate amounting to ₹ 20,24,600 approved by the Chief Engineer, KPHCC. On receipt of the same, it was requested by the SP, Kozhikode Rural to obtain an estimate from the PWD authorities for getting administrative sanction for the work. The SP, Kozhikode had reported that the estimate is yet to be received from the PWD. The SP, Kozhikode Rural has reported that a well and pump house have been constructed by the KPHCC, but not completed. It was in these circumstances, the KPHCC was directed by DGP, Kerala on 29-9-2008 to take steps to provide water connection to the Police Quarters at Keezhariyoor.

#### **REVENUE DEPARTMENT**

##### **Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 17, Para No. 52)*

2.15 The Committee observes that the District Expert Committees under the chairmanship of District Collector have miserably failed to implement river bank protection works in time, despite the availability of funds. The Committee disagrees with the Government reply that the delay in clearance of schemes was to ensure appropriate and effective utilization of funds. The Committee opines that inordinate delay has occurred in the constitution of the High Level Committee at state level which is empowered to scrutinize work proposals in detail before issuing administrative sanction. The Committee understands from the Government reply that the State Level Committee has cleared proposals for the river bank development programmes in all the 14 districts. The Committee requires the Department to intimate the details regarding the number of works undertaken in each district, the works already completed, the works pending completion and their present position and the total expenditure incurred in this regard.

##### **Action Taken**

2.16 The current status regarding the number of works undertaken in each district under River Management Fund, the works already completed, the works pending completion and their present position and the total expenditure incurred in this regard is given at Appendix II.

**Recommendation***(Sl. No. 18, Para No. 53)*

2.17 The Committee also desires to have the details regarding the number of projects sanctioned by the Central Committee, the number of projects rejected and the reasons for the same and the present position of the sanctioned projects.

**Action Taken**

2.18

Number of projects submitted to Government till this date	:	695 for ` 47.60 Crore
Number of projects approved by Government till this date	:	564 for ` 35.89 Crore
Number of projects completed as on date	:	402 for ` 25.58 Crore
Number of projects rejected and the reasons for the same	:	131: Proposals received from Districts without proper scrutiny, examination and recommendation by the District Level Expert Committee were rejected.
Number of projects approved and in progress as on this date	:	128 for ` 7.92 Crore
Number of projects approved and not started till this date	:	34 for ` 2.39 Crore
Current status of Amount available in RMF (as on 31-10-2011)	:	` 159.66 Crore

**Recommendation***(Sl. No. 19, Para No. 54)*

2.19 The Committee finds that the District Expert Committees have not been constituted in all districts since the expiry of their term in 2005. The Committee was informed that action was in progress for setting up District Expert Committees. The Committee urges the Department to inform whether District Expert Committees have been constituted in all districts.

**Action Taken**

2.20 The District Level Expert Committees have been constituted in all districts since the expiry of the same in 2005 vide G.O. (P) No. 306/2006/RD dated 28-10-2006., G.O. (P) No.2/2007/RD dated 5-1-2007 and G.O. (P) 103/2007/RD dated 28-3-2007.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT****Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 20, Para No. 66)*

2.21 The Committee observes that lack of effective supervision by Government has led to overpayment of pension and family pension by the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to the tune of ₹ 44.48 lakh. From the Audit para, the Committee understands that failure by PSBs to maintain pension payment accounts properly had led to the overpayment. The Committee finds that the internal audit done by the banks were ineffective to check the overpayment and in the absence of any agreement between Government and banks regarding payment of interest, banks were not bound to pay interest on overpayments. The Committee desires to know the amount that has been recovered so far from the excess payment and the steps taken to ensure non occurrence of such incidents in future. The Committee also urges the Department to inform the action taken to ascertain the overpayments in Banks other than those checked by Audit.

**Action Taken**

2.22 Syndicate Bank, State Bank of India, Union Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Canara Bank and State Bank of Travancore had informed that the excess paid pension/family pension has been fully recovered.

In order to ensure non-occurrence of such incidents in future, the matter has been taken up with Reserve Bank of India and they had advised the agency banks to take necessary steps to avoid recurrence of such incidents of overpayment of pension in future. As a regular mechanism for effectively supervising the payment of pension/family pension by Public Sector Banks is not in existence now, Reserve Bank of India has been requested to issue necessary instructions to all pension disbursing Public Sector Banks to maintain pension payment accounts properly and to include verification of such accounts/ records as an item in the ambit of Audit/Inspections by Reserve Bank of India in Public Sector Banks and also to instruct the Public Sector Banks to include verification of records relating to State Pension Payments as an essential item in

the internal audit/Inspection of such banks. Reserve Bank of India was also requested to consider the possibility for permitting Internal Audit/Inspection Wings of Finance Department to verify the State Pension Payments accounts maintained by Public Sector Banks so that timely rectification of defects and recovery of overpayments if any, will be possible.

As regards agreement between Government and Banks, Reserve Bank of India has informed that, Reserve Bank of India being the sole banker of the State Government has already entered into an agreement with the State Government. Agency banks undertake Government transactions as agents of Reserve Bank of India as per agreements entered with them by Reserve Bank of India. Hence it is not necessary on the part of State Government to enter into separate agreements with agency banks. Regarding the overpayments of banks other than those checked by Audit, all the pension disbursing banks were requested to intimate the details of excess payment of pension if any made by them. Reply from all the pension disbursing banks other than those checked in Audit has been received and it is confirmed that no overpayment has been made by these banks.

#### **Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 21, Para No. 70)*

2.23 The Committee wishes to point out that inspite of repeated audit observations regarding nugatory expenditure due to delay in issuing posting orders to Government servants, Government has failed miserably to take appropriate action to avoid recurrence of such instances. The Committee disagrees with the Government reply that delay in issuing posting orders was due to cumbersome administrative procedures. In order to avoid delay in issuing posting orders in future, the Committee directs the Department to include a condition in the relieving order itself directing the incumbent to intimate his proposed date of return from leave/deputation sufficiently early (that is within one or two months.)

#### **Action Taken**

2.24 The report of the PAC under paras 67 to 69 contains the observations of the Committee on the explanation furnished by the Government for the delay in issuing posting orders to officers who report for duty on return from leave, deputation, termination of previous appointment etc., and on the consequential excess expenditure for payment of salary during the period of waiting for posting regularised as duty under note 4 below Rule 12 (7) part I Kerala Service Rules. Considering the recommendation made by the Committee,

Government have issued Circular No.14/2009/Fin. dated 24-2-2009 and its modification in Circular No. 56/10/Fin. dated 19-6-2010 wherein Government have directed all head of Departments and other appointing authorities to strictly adhere to the instructions given by the Government to avoid delay in issuing posting orders so that Government would not incur excess expenditure on payment of salary to those officers who are made to wait for posting orders. They have been directed to include a condition in the orders granting leave for long periods, deputation, training etc., to the effect that the officers returning to duty from leave, training, deputation etc., should intimate the proposed date of rejoining 2 months at least in advance and to issue posting orders well in advance. The appointing authorities have been cautioned that any laxity in issuing posting orders well in advance will be viewed seriously and the excess expenditure caused will be fixed as the personal liability of the officers responsible for issuing posting orders as well as Head of Departments and will be recovered from them as provided under Note 4 below Rule 12 (7) part I Kerala Service Rules.

Thiruvananthapuram,  
9th July, 2014.

DR. T. M. THOMAS ISAAC,  
*Chairman,*  
*Committee on Public Accounts.*

## APPENDIX I

## SUMMARY OF MAIN CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Para No.</i>	<i>Department concerned</i>	<i>Conclusion/Recommendation</i>
1	1.3	Social Justice	The Committee recommended that action should be taken to sanction pension to all beneficiaries under IGNOAPS immediately on the finalisation of the BPL list.
2	1.6	Home	The Committee observed that the reply furnished was not in accordance with points raised by the Committee and hence not acceptable. The Committee, therefore recommends that specific norms should be incorporated in the Fire Manual in accordance with the earlier recommendation of the Committee at the earliest.
3	1.21	„	The Committee expressed its dissatisfaction over the replies furnished by the department on paras 37-43 as they were vague and incomplete. The Committee observes that the steps taken by the department in implementing the recommendation of the Committee were inadequate. Hence the Committee recommends to allocate funds for the construction of buildings for fire stations and purchase of equipments for the modernization of the Fire Force under plan scheme.