

**TWELFTH KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**COMMITTEE  
ON  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
(2006-2008)**

**SIXTEENTH REPORT**

(Presented on 10th July, 2007)



**SECRETARIAT OF THE KERALA LEGISLATURE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
2007**

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ON  
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**SIXTEENTH REPORT**

**On**

**Action taken by Government on the Recommendations contained  
in the Thirty Second Report of the Committee  
on Public Accounts (1991-93)**

822/2007.

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (2006-2008)

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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 Sixteenth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Thirty Second Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (1991-93).

The Committee considered and finalised this report at the meeting held on May 30, 2007.

ARYADAN MUHAMMED,

Thiruvananthapuram,  
10th July, 2007.

*Chairman,  
Committee on Public Accounts.*

## **REPORT**

This Report deals with the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty Second Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (1991-1993).

Thirty Second Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (1991-1993) was presented to the House on January 29, 1993. The Report contained eight recommendations relating to Agriculture Department. Government were addressed on 27th March, 1993 to furnish the statements of action taken on the recommendations contained in the Report. The final reply to the recommendations was received on 13-8-2004.

The Committee examined the statements of action taken at its meeting held on 11-2-1998, 7-8-2002, 20-5-2003 and 9-12-2004 and decided not to pursue further action in the light of the replies furnished by Government. The recommendations of the Committee and the statements of action taken by Government thereon are incorporated in the Report.

**Recommendations which the committee does not desire to pursue  
in the light of the replies furnished by Government**

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

**Recommendation**

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

The performance of the Agricultural Farms is thoroughly disappointing. The farms were set up to serve as demonstration centres of high productivity for emulation by farmers and to distribute quality seeds to them. The production of seeds is far below the target and the productivity in the farms far below the State average.

**Action Taken**

The main objective of the Agricultural Farms is to serve as a technology transfer centre or demonstration centre of high productivity and modern technology in cultivation. Farms are intended to familiarise the farmers regarding the new high yielding varieties of seeds, seedlings and crops developed in the Agricultural Research Station and to distribute planting materials at a reasonable price. The major factors contributing to the present low yield in state seed farms are lack of adequate irrigation and drainage facilities, lack of proper storage facilities, lack of Agricultural machineries and implements suited to the area, non-availability of adequate labourers and poor output of labourers. Lack of sufficient funds in time is also a problem. For improving infrastructural facilities in seed farms, a special study was conducted and a scheme worth Rs. 1.69 crores was sent to Government of India. An amount of Rs. 30 lakhs was sanctioned by Government of India. As per the letter No. 8/19/94 SD I Vo1.II dated 26-3-1996, Government of India has released Rs. 30 lakhs to the State for providing assistance under National Programme for Varietal Development for the year 1995-96. Since the amount was received during the beginning of 1996-97, the amount could not be spent during 1995-96. Therefore, the amount was earmarked under the schemes as per letter No. T.P. (1) 21236/95 dated 14-6-1996 and were utilised during 1996-97. The state level Administrative Sanction was obtained for the schemes vide G.O. (MS). No. 26/97/AD dated 20-1-1997.

The 19.99 lakhs obtained from the Head of Account 2401-103-88 plan 100% C.S.S. was disbursed to the following Principal Agricultural Officers for the completion of developmental works of departmental farms as detailed below:

- |  |   |            |                                      |
|--|---|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Principal Agril. Officer,<br>Thiruvananthapuram | Improvement of<br>Irrigation tank and<br>improvement of<br>irrigation cum<br>drainage channel   | 3.54 lakhs | State Seed Farm,<br>Ulloor.          |
| 2. Principal Agril. Officer,<br>Pathanamthitta     | 1. Construction of<br>tube well<br>2. Construction of<br>pump house and<br>installation of<br>pumpset.  | 2.55 lakhs | State Seed Farm,<br>Adoor.           |
| 3. Principal Agril. Officer,<br>Calicut            | 1. Construction of<br>Irrigation pond,<br>overhead tank and<br>providing pump<br>set.<br>2. Re-alignment of<br>Pipelines  | 2.63 lakhs | State Seed Farm,<br>Puduppadi.       |
| 4. Principal Agri. Officer,<br>Kannur              | 1. Construction<br>of well and<br>overhead tank.<br>2. Side protection<br>to main canal<br>and construction<br>of bunds.  | 5 lakhs    | State Seed Farm,<br>Vengadu.         |
| 5. Principal Agril. Officer,<br>Thrissur           | 1. Construction of<br>Irrigation Canal<br>2. Construction<br>of drainage channel.<br>3. Construction of<br>Irrigation pond,<br>pump house and<br>pumpset insta-<br>llation. | 6.28 lakhs | District Agril.<br>Farm, Chelakkara. |
-

The balance amount of Rs. 10 lakhs was utilised for establishing seed testing lab and for improving infrastructural facilities of the lab. In each year priority list of works for improving infrastructural facilities in farms is prepared and a portion of the work proposed will be completed during the year itself in accordance with the availability of funds.

In District farms and in special farms, an area of 20.09 ha. has been already additionally brought under progeny orchards. During 1995-96 an additional target of 10 ha. has been programmed to bring under progeny orchards. Further items also were provided under the forecast for each year and the following works were taken up subject to availability of funds.

- (1) For increasing production in the Agril. Farms, the existing cropping pattern was changed and a long term new cropping pattern for 3 years viz. 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 was accepted in the Farm officers conference held on 14-5-1996 and 15-5-1996.
- (2) The following steps were also taken to improve the production and productivity of the Departmental Farms.
  - (i) To reduce the yield gap of the paddy seed production through improved methods, timely operations, and adopting new technologies.
  - (ii) Directions were given to produce an additional 500 kg. Paddy seeds/ha. from State Seed Farms using all available methods.

Even though the target of paddy seeds production is not achieved through seed farms, about 1000 MT of paddy seeds were produced and distributed to farmers as foundation seeds. The farmers, identified as Registered seed Growers, are multiplying the foundation seeds for distribution to other farmers. The production and productivity have shown satisfactory increase in many of the farms during the last 2 years. (A Statement showing the extent of loss sustained by the seed farms for the last 5 years is appended as Appendix I).

### **Recommendation**

*(Sl. Nos. 2 & 3 Para Nos. 10 & 11)*

During evidence, the Committee noticed that Farms are poorly managed. The witness admitted that Farm Experts were reluctant to work in the farms and they would take leave to avoid posting there.

Irrigation facilities are either not available or quite inadequate in most of these farms. As stated in the Audit para, out of the 26 farms about which information was made available, six had no irrigation facilities at all, 15 had inadequate arrangement and only the rest 5 had satisfactory arrangements.

This factor alone is sufficient to show the lack of earnestness on the part of the Department in running the Agricultural Farms as everyone knows without proper irrigation facilities farming especially paddy cultivation cannot be done satisfactorily.

The production of seeds during the year 1982-83 and 1983-84 did not reach even half of the targets fixed for those years. Added to this is the loss and damages to crops due to natural calamities (drought) and the low out-turn due to labour problems. Reduction in work load and old age of workers also effected out-turn of work as admitted by the witness.

The Committee understand that the State farms are run not on commercial lines but on no profit no loss basis. The huge loss which the department has been incurring could be minimised had an earnest attempt is made to run them properly. It is seen that the farm products are sold below the market rate. The price of paddy seeds, has not been revised by the Department during the last 18 years though periodic revision of price has been made by the National Seeds Corporation. The Committee opined that the Department should pay attention to such and other matters in order that the farms could be run on better lines. For this, the problems confronted by each farm should be taken separately and remedial action taken.

#### **Action Taken**

Farm experts working in all the 61 farms including 33 State seed farms, 10 District Agricultural Farms, 10 Special Farms, and 8 Coconut nurseries are as detailed below:

Deputy Director of Agriculture – 1

Assistant Director of Agriculture – 15

Agricultural Officer – 70

Action has already been taken to identify willing officers who are residing near the farms for posting in the concerned farms. Improvement on this respect is noticed.

In almost all seed farms irrigation ponds/wells are constructed and additional improvements and new construction are being taken up every year in accordance with the availability of funds. Year by year the irrigation and drainage facilities in farms are being improved. The production and productivity have increased considerably. Further steps are being taken for providing additional irrigation facilities and better management practices. Old aged, especially physically unfit labourers are not engaged for farm works.

In the Departmental farms, the production cost of paddy seeds is worked out as Rs. 25 per kg. The high production cost of paddy seeds is due to the hike in the wage rate of farm labourers and cost of inputs for the last 5 years. The sale price of the paddy seeds cannot be fixed beyond a reasonable limit, since the major purpose of the Departmental farms is to distribute high quality planting material to farmers at a reasonable price. The net effect of the distribution at a low rate is the huge loss to farms which compensates by the social benefit in the Agri. sector. The rate of paddy seeds has been increased from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 3 in 1987 and again increased to Rs. 5 from 1-3-1994. Further increase of the sale price of the paddy and vegetable seeds is under consideration.

The sale price of the paddy seeds is very low when compared to local market rate and the rates of National Seeds Corporation. The officers in charge of the District Agricultural Farms are delegated with the powers to fix the sale price of the farm products, according to the prevailing market rates and the price of the items is charged accordingly. To improve the receipts of the farms, more area was brought under Fruit Crops during last 3 years. Special attention is given to production and distribution of ornamental plants including Anthurium and Orchids.

More area was brought under vegetable crops for vegetable seed production programme in State Seed Farms in order to improve the return from farms and reduce the loss. Steps have already been taken to improve the functioning of the farms by reducing loss.

Additional area were brought under the cultivation of vegetable crops & commercial crops and also the selling price of the planting materials were revised with a view to minimise loss. Eventhough these steps were taken to increase the receipt and minimise loss, several constraints are being experienced for achieving the set goal.

1. The infrastructural facilities required for the effective and commercial multiplication of the Ornamental & Horticultural Crops are leading in almost all the farms. The facilities like Green houses, Mistchambers etc., are to be established in the farms for which additional funds is required.
2. Acute shortage of trained permanent labourers.
3. Lack of proper irrigation & drainage facilities.
4. Since the progeny orchards & mother gardens are in the initial stage of establishment the receipt from this sector can only be expected after some years.

Now all farms (51 Nos.) except the special farms in the state have been handed over to the local bodies under the new Panchayat Raj set up with effect from 18-9-1995 as per G.O. (P) 189/95/LAD.

### **Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 4 Para No. 15)*

The Committee were told that the irregularities in special Employment Programme/flood relief works often escape unnoticed as the malpractices were being committed by the District Officers who are the controlling authority. It is seen that certain soil erosion works in Quilon and Trichur Districts intended to benefit SC/ST people were abandoned without completion, the reasons attributed being non-co-operation of the beneficiaries, unattractive rules adopted for the payment, non-availability of store etc. Similarly three contractors were paid the agreed rates in full though they had not executed the work in full. This shows how the Department was dealing with the schemes intended for the benefit of SC/ST people. The Committee are of the opinion that Government should take serious note of this and take appropriate action so that such lapses may not recur at least in future.

### **Action Taken**

It may be noted that there was no such abandonment of works in the SC/ST schemes in the succeeding years. The progress reports for the past few years, had been testimony to this. Keen attention is being given to utilisation of SC/ST funds by the monitoring works of the District level implementing officers and taking follow-up action to ensure complete utilisation of the funds effectively and fruitfully. The progress report of the SC scheme from 1987 to 1995 is furnished below:-

Year	Target	Achievement
1987-88	33.00 lakhs	32.3 lakhs
1988-89	38.00 lakhs	35.47 lakhs
1989-90	38.00 lakhs	38.00 lakhs
1990-91	38.00 lakhs	38.00 lakhs
1991-92	50.00 lakhs	47.40 lakhs
1992-93	55.00 lakhs	54.72 lakhs
1993-94	60.00 lakhs	60.00 lakhs
1994-95	82.00 lakhs	82.00 lakhs
1995-96	85.00 lakhs	85.00 lakhs

## PROGRESS REPORT OF T.S.P. SCHEME

<i>Year</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Achievement</i>
1987-88	5.00 lakhs	4,98,527
1988-89	7.00 lakhs	6,99,846
1989-90	7.00 lakhs	6,99,982
1990-91	7.00 lakhs	6,99,965
1991-92	10.00 lakhs	10,86,970
1992-93	11.00 lakhs	11,29,820
1993-94	12.00 lakhs	11,99,928
1994-95	14.00 lakhs	14,00,000
1995-96	15.00 lakhs	15,00,000 *

\*The provision for Tribal Sub Plan Scheme for 1995-96 was Rs. 15,00,000. The Department expended an amount of Rs. 8,04,000 upto 25-10-1995. The balance amount of Rs. 6,96,000 were reappropriated for distribution among District Panchayats.

**Recommendation**

(Sl. No. 5 Para No. 16)

The Committee recommend that expeditious steps should be taken to finalise the proceedings against the officers responsible for the irregular payment of Rs. 37.72 lakhs in Alleppey and Ernakulam Districts and the details of recovery of the amount from them be intimated to the Committee.

**Action Taken**

The present position regarding the recommendation is furnished below:

1. *Shri C.N. Padmanabha Pillai, District Soil Conservation Officer (Retd.)*

It was decided to recover the amount from the DCRG payable to him. The Officer has challenged the recovery before the Hon'ble High Court and the Court has ordered to disburse the DCRG and pensionary benefits with 15% interest for belated payment. (W.A.727/92 dated 14-1-1999). Government have filed appeal before the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court has upheld the verdict of High Court. Accordingly he was paid pensionary benefits with interest.

2. *Shri M. S. Nair, Additional Director of Soil Conservation (Retd.)*

Government as per G.O. (Ms)No.128/91/AD dated 30-3-1991 ordered to recover the entire DCRG payable to Shri M. Sreenivasan Nair, Additional Director of Soil Conservation (Retd.). Shri M. S. Nair filed OP 7219/91 against the above orders before the Hon'ble High Court and the Court quashed the Government Order on recovery and directed to pay 12% interest for the belated payment of pensionary benefits. Accordingly Government vide G.O. Rt. No.1158/2000/AD dated 4-7-2000 and G.O. Rt. 61/2001/AD dated 8-1-2001 have issued orders in this regard.

3. *Shri M. G. Krishna Warriar, Joint Director of Soil Conservation (Retd.)*

Government as per G.O. (Ms)No.128/91/AD dated 30-3-1991 ordered to recover the entire DCRG payable to Shri M.G. Krishna Warriar, Joint Director of Soil Conservation (Retd.). Shri M.G. Krishna Warriar filed OP 5502/91 against the Government Orders. The Hon'ble High Court in OP No. 5502/91 filed by Shri M.G. Krishna Warriar, has quashed the Government Orders on recovery and directed to pay 12% interest for the belated payment of pensionary benefits. Accordingly Government vide G.O.(Rt).No.1158/2000/AD dated 4-7-2000 and G.O.(Rt). 61/2001/AD dated 8-1-2001 have issued orders in this regard.

4. *Shri P. J. Mathai.*

(a) In the case of P. J. Mathai, it was ordered to withhold one increment with cumulative effect and ordered to recover the sharable amount of Rs. 7,66,902. Shri P. J. Mathai has submitted an appeal petition to Government against the recovery and the Government declined the petition. He filed an OP 7260/95 before the Hon'ble High Court challenging the recovery of Rs. 7,66,902. Judgement in this case is being awaited.

(b) Government vide G.O. Rt.No.3/97/AD dated 1-1-1997 have ordered to recover an amount of Rs. 45,347 by rejecting the appeal petition on the recovery of loss pointed out by Internal Audit Wing. But the amount has not been remitted and he is being reminded.

5. *Shri. A. Sulaimankunju, Overseer*

As per order No.E(2)16157/88 dated 15-7-1991 of the Director of Agriculture (SC Unit), Thiruvananthapuram, it was ordered to withhold his one increment with cumulative effect and to recover an amount of Rs. 2,35,052 towards the loss sustained to Government. Shri A. Sulaimankunju submitted an appeal petition to Government against the recovery and the Government declined the appeal petition. Shri. Sulaiman Kunju filed OP 1639/93 against the recovery. In pursuance of the judgement in OP 1639/93, his petition is now under consideration of Government. Final orders have not been issued.

6. *Shri R. Sadasivan Nair*

As per order No. E(2) 16157/88 dated 15-7-1991 of the Director of Agriculture (SC Unit), Thiruvananthapuram, it was ordered to withhold his next one annual increment with cumulative effect and to recover an amount of Rs.36,628 towards loss sustained to Government. Shri R. Sadasivan Nair submitted an appeal petition and the petition was rejected by Government. Shri R. Sadasivan Nair filed OP13904/92 against the recovery.

7. *Smt. B. Sakunthala*

The amount to be recovered from Smt. B. Sakunthala is Rs.55,885 This was referred to the Secretary, Kerala Water Authority, Thiruvananthapuram on 9-4-1991 as per letter no. 13286/EB1/91/AD dated 9-4-1994 of the Secretary, Agriculture Department as she is working in that Department now.

8. *Smt. C. K. Santha, Work Superintendent.*

As per Government letter No.6904/EB1/87/AD dated 21-12-1997 charges were framed and it was ordered to withhold the next annual increment of Smt. C. K. Santha, Work Superintendent without cumulative effect and the punishment effected.

The Committee was not satisfied with the replies furnished under item Nos. (4), (5), (6) and (7). The Committee, therefore, desired to be informed of the present position regarding the same and also to take evidence from the concerned officers. The further information furnished by the Government was examined by the Committee at the meeting held on 20-5-2003. The Committee also took evidence from A.P.C. during that meeting. The further information furnished by Government is given below:

**Action Taken (Supplementary statement)**

1. *Shri P. J. Mathai*

In the case of Shri P. J. Mathai it was ordered to withhold one increment with cumulative effect and ordered to recover the sharable amount Rs.7,66,902 from him. Shri P. J. Mathai submitted an appeal petition to Government against the recovery and Government declined the petition. He has filed OP 7260/95 before the Honourable High Court challenging recovery. Judgment is awaited.

2. *Shri A. Sulaiman Kunju*

It was ordered to withhold his one increment with cumulative effect and to recover an amount of Rs.2,35,052 from him. Appeal petition was rejected by Government vide G.O.(Rt)1755/01/AD. dated 5-11-2001. Shri Sulaiman Kunju

has filed OP 7760/02 before the Hon'ble High Court challenging the Government Order and stay recovery proceedings. Counter Affidavit has been filed during 2/03. Judgment is awaited.

3. *Shri R. Sadasivan Nair*

As per Order No.E(2)16157/88 dated 15-7-1991 of the Director of Agriculture (SC), Thiruvananthapuram, it was ordered to withhold his next one increment with cumulative effect and to recover an amount of Rs. 36,628 Shri Sadasivan Nair submitted an appeal. It was declined by Government. Shri S. Nair filed OP No.13904/92 against the recovery. The Hon'ble High Court on 3-2-2003 had heard and dismissed the case. Copy of judgment is awaited for taking further necessary action.

4. *Smt. B. Sakunthala*

The amount to be recovered from Smt. B. Sakunthala is Rs.55,885. She had left Agriculture Department, joined Kerala Water Authority during 7/88. This was referred to the Secretary Kerala Water Authority on 9-4-1991 as per letter No.13286/EB1/91/AD. Recovery details are awaited from the Kerala Water Authority.

While considering the supplementary Statement of Action Taken on item 1 to 4 in Para No. 16 the Agriculture Production Commissioner who was present during the meeting informed the Committee that order was given to withhold one increment of Shri P. J. Mathai and to recover the sharable amount of Rs.7,66,902 from him. He also admitted that the O.P. pertaining to the 3 cases were still pending. Smt. B. Sakunthala one of the accused had left the Agriculture Department and joined Kerala Water Authority. The Agriculture Department did not know whether she had retired from service or not. The A. P. C. admitted that no effective action had been taken against her. The Committee desired to be furnished with the final reply regarding these three cases as and when the O. P. was disposed and also the action taken against Smt. Sakunthala.

Therefore, the following reply was furnished.

**Supplementary Action Taken**

1. *Shri P. J. Mathai.*

In the case of P. J. Mathai, it was ordered to withhold one increment with cumulative effect and ordered to recover the sharable amount of Rs.7,66,902 Shri P. J. Mathai submitted an appeal petition to Government against the recovery and Government declined the petition. He has filed OP 7260/95 before the Hon'ble High Court challenging the recovery of Rs.7,66,902. Judgement in this case is awaited. Advocate General has been instructed to arrange early hearing and disposal of the case. Further action is possible only on the disposal of the O.P.

2. *Shri A. Sulaiman Kunju*

It was ordered to withhold his one increment with cumulative effect and to recover an amount of Rs.2,35,052/- from him. Appeal petition was rejected by Government vide G.O.(Rt)1755/01/AD. dated 5-11-01. Shri Sulaiman Kunju has filed O.P. 7760/02 before the Hon'ble High Court challenging the Government Order and to Stay Recovery Proceedings. Counter Affidavit has been filed during 2/03. Judgment is awaited. Shri A. Sulaiman Kunju expired on 9-10-2002. Pensionary benefits are not released. Advocate General has been instructed for early hearing and disposal of the case. Further action possible only on the disposal of the O.P.

3. *Shri R. Sadasivan Nair*

As per Order No.E(2)16157/88 dated 15-7-91 of the Director of Agriculture (SC Unit), Thiruvananthapuram, it was ordered to withhold next one increment of Shri Sadasivan Nair with cumulative effect and to recover an amount of Rs. 36,628. Shri R. Sadasivan Nair submitted an appeal and it was declined by Government. Shri R. Sadasivan Nair filed OP No.13904/92 against the recovery. The Hon'ble High Court on 3-2-2003 had heard and dismissed the case. In the judgement Hon'ble High Court have ordered that the loss sustained having been established, it is only proper that steps are taken by the Government to realise the proportionate loss from the petitioner to the extent of his involvement. On the basis of an interim direction from Hon'ble High Court, Government vide G.O.(Rt)1220/95/AD dated 30-8-95 had given directions to the Director of Agriculture (S.C. Unit) to release pensionary benefits to Shri Sadasivan Nair after deducting the amount due from him. Therefore, the amount due from him has already been realised by Government.

4. *Smt B. Sakunthala*

The amount to be recovered from Smt. B. Sakunthala is Rs.55,885. She had left Agriculture Department and joined Kerala Water Authority during 7/88. This was referred to the Secretary, Kerala Water Authority on 9-4-91 as per letter No.13286/EB1/91/AD. Meanwhile she has filed W.P.(C)No.28143/03 against the recovery of amount from her. (As the Secretary W.R. (C) Department is the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent, in the said W.P. that Department has been requested to take suitable action to file Counter Affidavit and to recover the amount from her. Recovery details are awaited from W.R. (C) Department). Further action for recovery can be pursued only on the disposal of the W.P.

**Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 6 Para No. 17)*

The Committee recommend that the findings of the special team deputed to study the delay in the publication of the Record of Rights and Liabilities along with the details of action taken against the Executive Officers be intimated to the Committee.

**Action Taken**

As per G.O. (P) 315/89/AD. dated 22-12-1989 the interest on loan amounts sanctioned to Soil Conservation works will be calculated from the actual date of receipt of final payment of the loan amount on completion of works. But in the cases of works completed before 22-12-1989 for which the Record of Rights and Liabilities had not been prepared and published within the limit prescribed; the Executing Officers were held responsible for the loss of interest. The internal audit party had assessed a liability of Rs. 8,97,208.86 being loss sustained to Government by way of interest due to the delay in publishing Record of Rights and Liabilities of the Districtwise details are as follows :

1.	Thiruvananthapuram	Rs. 82,394. 64
2.	Kollam	Rs. 2,35,943. 24
3.	Alappuzha	Rs. 85,425. 52
4.	Kottayam	Rs. 14,131. 56
5.	Idukki	Rs. 23,877. 10
6.	Ernakulam	Rs. 35,130. 08
7.	Thrissur	Rs. 35,546. 70
8.	Palakkad	Rs. 10,843. 52
9.	Kozhikode	Rs. 1,52,622. 24
10.	Malappuram	Rs. 77,315. 54
11.	Kannur	Rs. 1,43,978. 72
	Total	Rs. 8,97,208. 86

Government after examining the request of the Additional Director (SC), either to give effect to the Government Order dated 22-12-1989 from the date of inception of the scheme or to write off the interest on the loan amount on the ground that the delay in preparing and publishing the Records of Rights and Liabilities

was not due to the negligence on the part of the Executing Officers, and issued orders in G.O. (MS) 226/92/AD. dated, 18-8-1992 to write off the interest on the loan amount sanctioned for soil conservation work.

**Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 7 Para No. 18)*

The Committee notice that there are heavy arrears in the recovery of soil conservation loans. There is no proper co-ordination between the Soil Conservation Department and Revenue Department in this regard. The monthly remittance details due from the Tahsildars are not being received regularly by the District Soil Conservation Officers. The witness admitted that the Village Officers often misclassify the remittances. They would even adjust the principal first instead of interest. There is wide variation between the figures of DCB maintained by the Directorate (S.C. Unit) and the Board of Revenue. The Committee recommend that the discrepancy in the accounts maintained by the Directorate and the Board of Revenue should be properly investigated and reconciled DCB statement as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1992 should be intimated to the Committee.

**Action Taken**

The heavy arrears may not be attributed to lack of co-ordination between the Soil Conservation Department and the Revenue Department. It is noticed that the beneficiaries are non co-operative in remitting back the money despite the efforts of the Soil Conservation Department and Revenue authorities. When revenue recovery is enforced the beneficiaries obtain stay from courts of law. Because of this situation, Government are examining the waiving of arrears of loan amount paid by the Soil Conservation Department. Moreover the payment of loan component from the State fund ceased to exist from 1991-92 i.e., there is no demand after 1992. There is no provision for paying loan component to the beneficiary for Soil Conservation Unit.

Reconciliation of the accounts could not be carried out for want of enough staff in the District Officers and in the Directorate. The reconciliation upto 31-3-1992 may not be insisted at this distance of time.

**Recommendation**

*(Sl. No. 8 Para No. 19)*

The Committee hope the Government would make a review of the implementation of soil conservation works done so far in the State. Considering the fact that the State could complete soil conservation work in only about one lakh hectares of land and the work in about 14 lakh hectares are yet to commence, such a study is essential to avoid recurrence of irregularities in future.

**Action Taken**

Review of progress of work and extent of land covered for Soil Conservation works are being done by Government at various levels periodically. Maximum efforts are being taken to utilise the fund allotted to the department for the purpose for which it is sanctioned. The Department also follows the principle of avoiding repetition of schemes in the same area. The slow progress is due to the poor strength of the Department and low budgetary provisions.

Thiruvananthapuram,  
10th July 2007.

ARYADAN MUHAMMED,  
*Chairman,*  
*Committee on Public Accounts.*

APPENDIX

EXTENT OF LOSS SUSTAINED BY THE STATE SEED FARMS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS  
(1992-93 to 1996-97)

<i>District &amp; Name of Farm</i>	<i>1992-93</i>	<i>1993-94</i>	<i>1994-95</i>	<i>1995-96</i>	<i>1996-97</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
TRIVANDRUM					
1. Ulloor	2,97,342	4,26,265	5,14,224	8,89,860	10,18,638
2. Chirayinkil	4,70,157	6,82,206	6,64,994	10,65,415	11,96,623
KOLLAM					
3. Kottarakkara	2,55,914	2,67,991	3,99,748	4,37,406	4,85,307
4. Kadakkal	3,41,379	3,41,379	4,65,130	6,15,355	4,73,245
PATHANAMTHITTA					
5. Adoor	6,46,756	7,84,378	9,33,312	11,00,527	12,09,201
6. Pullad	4,19,153	5,41,435	5,02,015	7,03,272	8,56,727
ALAPPUZHA					
7. Arunootimangalam	3,13,098	3,83,909	3,96,424	3,65,647	9,33,529
8. Veeyapuram	2,46,861	4,38,213	6,50,957	7,63,279	11,69,314
KOTTAYAM					
9. Valachira	2,50,000	3,66,000	4,12,000	8,19,055	8,27,254
10. Kozha	5,17,000	5,82,000	5,31,000	7,28,335	6,81,155

IDUKKI					
11. Karimannor	2,83,291	3,53,243	2,69,035	6,13,533	5,11,309
ERNAKULAM					
12. Aluva	3,77,121	4,03,521	5,12,642	7,40,330	5,63,895
13. Okkal	9,54,925	13,55,485	15,55,365	18,99,235	15,68,410
THRISSUR					
14. Mannuthy	5,79,089	6,47,859	4,86,761	6,70,245	4,87,264
15. Kodassery	3,50,814	3,27,876	4,92,924	6,90,481	7,79,686
16. Nadavaramba	2,81,470	2,76,913	4,16,264	5,78,839	7,18,895
17. Edathuruthy	4,87,330	6,29,350	6,63,907	5,00,861	5,74,410
18. Panachery	8,42,493	8,31,041	7,44,410	7,00,266	5,72,755
19. Pazhayannur	4,85,240	85,326	1,90,722	3,66,656	7,64,864
PALAKKAD					
20. Alathur	2,95,000	3,53,000	3,62,000	5,15,000	6,27,314
21. Kunnannur	5,60,647	4,51,783	6,34,399	6,40,998	8,28,919
22. Kongad	2,98,570	2,73,620	3,42,622	3,97,233	4,54,701

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
23. Ananganadi	3,56,041	4,84,381	5,05,326	5,59,393	6,68,331
24. Muthalamada	5,73,551	7,73,759	6,58,710	10,22,221	9,83,773
MALAPPURAM					
25. Thavanoor	5,21,766	6,56,664	7,45,068	10,42,277	9,98,192
26. Anakkayam	6,17,581	6,44,529	7,99,790	9,94,519	10,60,335
27. Chokkad	5,84,739	6,08,409	5,44,083	7,42,203	8,80,902
KOZHIKODE					
28. Perambra	6,60,066	7,75,718	13,96,392	12,98,633	7,91,885
29. Puthuppady	5,86,100	8,25,384	8,72,281	9,53,824	11,62,174
KANNUR					
30. Kankole	2,82,723	4,09,586	4,03,823	5,28,253	5,26,161
31. Vengadu	3,24,585	4,66,466	5,65,124	7,43,800	7,50,791
KASARAGODE					
32. Pullur	7,15,055	9,68,524	7,77,270	11,21,745	12,17,862
33. Kasaragode	6,55,673	6,71,961	6,18,396	5,76,391	11,85,238
State Total	1,54,31,530	1,80,88,173	2,00,27,118	2,53,85,087	2,75,29,059