

THIRTEENTH KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

**ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH REPORT
(Presented on 15th December, 2015)**



**SECRETARIAT OF THE KERALA LEGISLATURE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
2015**

THIRTEENTH KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH REPORT

ON

**Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the
16th Report of the Committee on
Public Accounts (2011-2014)**

CONTENTS

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

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (2014-2016)

Chairman :

DR. T. M. Thomas Isaac

Members :

Shri T. A. Ahammed Kabeer

„ Kodiyeri Balakrishnan

„ Benny Behanan

„ C. Divakaran

„ C. Mammutty

„ Mathew T. Thomas

„ C. P. Mohammed

„ K. Radhakrishnan

„ Roshy Augustine

„ M. V. Sreyams Kumar.

Legislature Secretariat:

Shri P. D. Sarangadharan, Secretary

„ K. Mohandas, Special Secretary

Smt. A. K. Shaila, Deputy Secretary

Shri G. P. Unnikrishnan, Under Secretary.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Public Accounts, having been authorised by the Committee to present this Report, on their behalf present the 110th Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the 16th Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (2011-2014).

The Committee considered and finalised this Report at the meeting held on 24th November, 2015.

Thiruvananthapuram,
15th December, 2015.

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 sixteenth Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (2011-2014).

The Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (2011-2014) was presented to the house on 26th June, 2012. This Report contained ten recommendations relating to Agriculture, Local Self Government and Agriculture (Animal Husbandry) Departments. Government were addressed on 6th July, 2012 to furnish the Statements of Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Report and the final reply was received on 7th August, 2014.

The Committee examined the statements of Action Taken in its meeting held on 30-9-2014 and decided not to pursue further action on the recommendations in the light of the replies furnished by Government. Such recommendations and Government replies are incorporated in this Report.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 1, Para No. 10)

While discussing about the delay in the implementation of the scheme for providing copra dryers under the special package of relief measures in agriculture sector, the Committee seriously viewed the diversion of fund allocated for copra dryer scheme to an entirely different scheme of paddy procurements and observed that the scheme was formulated and ordered without conducting the required preparations and studies. The Committee strongly disapproved the practice of sudden preparation of a scheme at the fag end of the financial year, then drawing of money and depositing it in Treasury Savings Bank Account and later diverting the fund allocated for the scheme to an entirely different purpose. The Committee strictly recommends that such diversion of Government money should not be repeated in future as it is a gross violation of the provisions in the Kerala Budget Manual and the Kerala Financial Code.

Action Taken

Necessary directions have been given to Director of Agriculture to strictly adhere to the recommendations of the committee.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 2, Para No. 11)

As regard the malfunctioning of 150 numbers of copra dryers installed by Agro Industries Corporation due to the improper use of them by Women Self Help Groups, the Committee recommends to rectify the defect of the dryers and to give proper instruction to minimize the quantity of coconut shells used in it. The Committee also recommended the department to ascertain whether the equipment could be repaired and made functional by an expert in the field.

Action Taken

Dryers are not in a working condition. Almost all the dryers which were installed have been damaged due to non use for a very long period. It is very expensive to repair and make them functioning.

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT**Recommendation**

(Sl. No. 3, Para No. 13)

The Committee recommends that the percentage of funds required to implement the SGRY Scheme for each District and Block Panchayaths should be assessed by the competent authorities.

Action Taken

Based on the recommendation of the Committee, instructions had been given to the Project Directors of all district to assess the funds required in each year to implement the SGRY Scheme in each Block Panchayath. Annual action plan of the district has to be arrived at based on the above assessment. The SGRY Scheme is not implemented in the State since 2006.

AGRICULTURE (ANIMAL HUSBANDRY) DEPARTMENT**Recommendation**

(Sl. No. 4, Para No. 26)

The Committee expresses its concern regarding the diseases affecting crossbred animals and criticised the indolent attitude of the Department in not providing basic facilities in 1154 Veterinary Health Care Centres and District Veterinary Centres and is also dissatisfied with the lack of X-ray facility in District Veterinary Centre at Thiruvananthapuram and the non functioning of X-ray Machine at Kannur. The Committee recommends to rectify all the defects and drawbacks in the functioning of Veterinary Health Care Centre and the DVCs. The Committee also disapproved the system of non registering of cases of large animals, requiring attention at the farmer's premises, in the O.P. Register and directs to take suitable disciplinary action against the concerned officials, who disobeyed the Departmental directions in this regard.

Action Taken

125 Veterinary dispensaries and 44 Veterinary Hospitals during 2010-11 and 77 Veterinary Dispensaries and 30 Veterinary Hospitals during 2011-12 were provided with basic infrastructure facilities under the Government of India 75% C.S.S. "Establishment and strengthening of Veterinary Hospitals and Veterinary Dispensaries". Basic equipments/furniture and civil modification works were undertaken under this Scheme. The scheme will be made available to other institutions in a phased manner.

District Panchayath, Trivandrum was provided with ₹ 25 lakh for providing X-Ray facility in District Veterinary Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

X-Ray Machine at District Veterinary Centre, Kannur is functioning properly.

Cases of large animals requiring attention at the farmers premises are recorded in the O. P. Register.

Recommendation
(Sl. No. 5, Para No. 27)

Regarding the shortage of 54% of Veterinary Surgeons and 28% of Livestock Inspectors in Kannur District, the Committee strongly recommends to fill the vacancies in Kannur, Idukki and Malappuram Districts which are remaining unfilled for the last two years. The Committee also directs to take necessary steps to post candidates through Employment Exchanges until candidates advised by PSC are available:

Action Taken

Total sanctioned strength and present occupancy details of Veterinary Surgeon/Livestock Inspector in Kannur, Idukki and Malappuram Districts are given below:

District	Veterinary Surgeon		Livestock Inspector	
	Sanctioned Post	Present occupancy	Sanctioned Post	Present occupancy
Kannur	104	90	241	235
Idukki	62	58	146	140
Malappuram	105	99	238	223

30 surplus posts of Veterinary Surgeons in Animal Husbandry Department were abolished as per G.O. (Ms.) No. 173/03/AD dated 7-11-2003. But the posts/institutions are not specified in the order and hence not identified so far. Steps have been taken to fill the vacant posts of Veterinary Surgeons and Livestock Inspectors in Kannur, Idukki and Malappuram Districts through PSC/Employment Exchange. Six vacancies of Livestock Inspectors in Kannur, Idukki Districts and 15 vacancies of Livestock Inspector in Malappuram District have already been reported to KPSC for recruitment. NOC has been received from KPSC to fill the post of Livestock Inspectors through Employment Exchange.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 6, Para No. 28)

While examining the reason for the withdrawal of permission to purchase veterinary medicines from Government firms without inviting tenders, the Committee recommends to re-issue the Government Order which permits the Department to effect purchase of Medicines from the public undertakings without inviting tenders and also recommends to allocate necessary amount in the budget provision to meet the requirements of Animal Husbandry Department. The Committee urges the Department to ensure quality of medicines before purchasing.

Action Taken

Government had issued direction on direct purchase of medicines from Government Organisations/Public Undertakings, that, they can participate in the open tender floated and hence even now followed accordingly.

Ensuring quality of medicines before purchasing is practically impossible as the firms go on to production procedure only on getting the supply order. Department initiated action for getting sanction from Government to test the product received, through private labs enlisted by Drugs Control Department and effect 100% payment on confirming quality. Now the tests are carried out through Drugs Control Department of Kerala and the reports are delayed due to insufficient staff strength.

Though funds were requested, sufficient funds were not seen provided in the budget. As present, the budget outlay for purchase of medicine has been raised to ₹ 8 crore.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 7, Para No. 29)

In the case of ₹ 3.39 crore, which remained unspent due to the delay occurred in the upgradation of a vaccine manufacturing laboratory at Palode, the Committee sternly reproaches the transferring of unutilized central fund in TSB account credited to State revenue instead of refunding the amount, and opines that the money allotted by the Central Government for a particular scheme should not be utilized for any other purpose.

Action Taken

The Animal Husbandry Department had remitted an amount of ₹ 4.69 crore under the Head of Account "8792-00-102-87-LA-PWD" for the conversion of the laboratories of IAH & VB, Palode to GMP standards as per G.O. (Rt.) 388/2007/AD. dated 16-3-2007 based on the detailed estimate submitted by the PWD.

The Chief Engineer, PWD forwarded a revised estimate of ₹ 8 crore for the same vide Letter dated 9-6-2011 and requested to remit the remaining amount of ₹ 3.31 crore to initiate the work.

The fund is not credited to TSB Account. The fund received from Government of India will be utilized only for the purpose of converting the Institute of Animal Health & Veterinary Biologicals, Palode to GMP standards.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 8, Para No. 30)

While considering the non incurring of expenditure of ₹ 4.07 crore out of the total allotment of ₹ 6.18 crore for the period 2006-2008 for Livestock Insurance Scheme named Gosuraksha in Alappuzha and Palakkad, the Committee distressfully criticizes unreasonable target set by the Department and strongly recommends to implement the Gosuraksha Scheme State-wide and take steps to utilize the unspent amount to achieve the desired target.

Action Taken

At present the 'Gosuraksha' Scheme is being implemented throughout the State. Three Districts are being funded by State and 11 Districts by the Government of India and the fund received has been utilized. The process is going on. A decision has been taken to have a fortnight for intensive campaign for Gosuraksha by conducting insurance camp, publicity by arranging awareness camps, posters, bit notices, advertisement in electronic media both TV and Radio throughout the State and to organize a State-wide inauguration to create awareness among public.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 9, Para No. 31)

In the case of downward trend of cattle population indicated in the Census of 1996 as compared to that of 1987 and decreased output of milk from 24.20 lakh litres in 1998-99 to 21.18 lakh litres in 2006, the Committee firmly recommends to increase the subsidy in order to avoid loss to dairy farmers and to boost milk production.

Action Taken

In the last three years many schemes have been implemented with an aim to uplift the cattle population by providing assistance to Dairy farmers. Schemes like Jeevarekha (one time ACA) with ₹ 10 crore, food security schemes 2009-2010, ₹ 9 crore were utilized and in 2010-2011-₹ 32.50 crore were provided as assistance to farmers in which major thrust was given to Dairy farmers. The support for mechanisation and scaling up their units, the subsidy provided was ₹ 1 lakh/farmer. In addition to support dairy farming was promoted through Food Security Programmes under Agriculture in which an amount of ₹ 140 lakh was provided in 2009-10 and ₹ 250 lakh for each year was provided for promoting dairy sector during 2010-11 & 2011-12.

The Calf Feed Subsidy Programme, the subsidy amount for the scheme has been enhanced from ₹ 930 lakh during 2011-12 to ₹ 2500 lakh in 2012-13. Moreover, due to implementation of various farm oriented schemes, the milk production could be enhanced to 27.19 lakh MT in 2011-12.

The Government is taking all steps to retain the traditional dairy farmers and also to stabilize the cattle population in the State.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 10, Para No. 32)

The Committee on hearing that sufficient land and fund are not available for fodder cultivation, recommends that barren revenue lands, unused lands in the custody of various Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings etc. shall be handed over to respective Panchayats/Local Bodies for fodder cultivation with the aid of Self Help Groups and can solve the problem to a good extent.

Action Taken

There is no unused land in the custody of Public Sector Undertakings under Animal Husbandry Department, Dairy Development Department and Milma. At present fodder cultivation started in fallow lands of Department of Animal Husbandry in 10 districts namely Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kottayam, Idukki, Wayanad, Palakkad, Kannur, Malappuram, Kozhikkode and Kasargode in association with Local Self Government, under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Thiruvananthapuram,
15th December, 2015.

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

©
Kerala Legislature Secretariat
2016

KERALA NIYAMASABHA PRINTING PRESS.