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THIRTEENTH KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

EIGHTY FIFTH REPORT
(Presented on 16th December, 2014)

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**SECRETARIAT OF THE KERALA LEGISLATURE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

2014

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**COMMITTEE
ON
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
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EIGHTY FIFTH REPORT

On

**Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the
119th Report of the Committee on
Public Accounts (2008-2011)**

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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 Eighty Fifth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the 119th Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (2008-2011).

The Committee considered and finalised this Report at the meeting held on 9th December, 2014.

Thiruvananthapuram,
16th December, 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 119th Report of Committee on Public Accounts (2008-2011).

The 119th Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (2008-11) was presented to the House on 20th July, 2010. The Report contained eighteen recommendations relating to Home Department. Government were addressed on 28th July, 2010 to furnish the Statement of Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Report and the final copies were received on 1st January, 2013.

The Committee considered the Action Taken statements at its meeting held on 30-4-2014. The Committee was not satisfied with the Action Taken by Government on the recommendation in Para Nos. 11, 12 and 13 and hence decided to pursue them further. These recommendations, replies furnished thereon and further recommendations of the Committee are included in Chapter I of the Report.

The Committee decided not to pursue further action on the remaining recommendations on Para Nos. 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71 and 72 in the light of the replies furnished by Government. The recommendations of the Committee and the Action Taken by Government are included in Chapter II of this Report.

CHAPTER I

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ARE NOT SATISFACTORY AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION

HOME DEPARTMENT

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 1, Para No. 11)

1.1 The Committee is very much disappointed to note that an open prison intended to function by November 2000 at Cheemeni Village in Kasargod District could not be commissioned even in the year 2007 despite the Government transferring 308.75 acres of land to the Home Department in March 1999 itself. The Committee condemns the lackluster approach adopted by the officials which caused considerable delay (nearly 17 months) for the submission of the application for electric connection and also failing in posting the required

number of staff for the functioning of the jail. The Committee also laments the poor foresightedness of the department officials which resulted in an unwanted expenditure of ₹ 36.68 lakh towards pay and allowances of staff, electrification and other expenses. The appointed staff remained idle for around 17 months without doing any constructive work towards the establishment of the prison. The Committee deplores the lack of seriousness shown by the Department authorities in carrying out such an important and prominent project which aims at accommodating the prisoners in situation where the capacity of the Kánnur Central Jail is exceeding its limits.

Action Taken

1.2 Vide G.O. (Ms.) 95/99/RD dated 18-3-1999, 308.75 acres of land of Cheemeni Village in Kasargod District were transferred to Prison Department for starting an Open Jail at Cheemeni. As per the request of the Prison Department Government vide Order No. 5815/99 dated 23-12-1999 had accorded administrative sanction for an amount of ₹ 15 lakh for carrying out the urgent construction works in the jail. The Prisons Department constructed a borewell in the jail. Necessary steps were taken to sell the cashew nuts through tender process.

Vide G.O. (Rt.) No. 1485/00/Home dated 12-4-2000 sanction was accorded by Government for the creation of the following posts:

Superintendent	..	1
Deputy Superintendent	..	1
Head Warder	..	2
Warder	..	10

Vide G.O. (Ms.) No. 108/2001/Home dated 20-6-2001 ex-post-facto Administrative Sanction was accorded for the establishment of Open Prison in Cheemeni with effect from 25-11-2000.

Even though 308.75 acres of land were transferred to Prisons Department through the G.O. dated 18-3-1999, the conditions for transfer of land were not framed. The District Collector, Kasargod was given the duty of training the said conditions, by the Government. Based on the report of the Collector, Vide G.O. (Ms.) No. 227/2004/RD dated 30-6-2004, Government finalized the terms and conditions for the transfer of 308.75 acres of land from the Plantation Corporation of Kerala Ltd. to the Prison Department.

The Superintendent, Open Prison, Cheemeni had taken necessary steps to evict Smt. Koyithatta Meenakshi Amma and Sri Chenthitta Kunjampu who occupied 3 acres 42 cents and 2 acres of the land of Prisons Department in the premises of Open Jail, Cheemeni.

Government vide letter No. 20028/B1/2007/Home dated 5-5-2007, had framed a Committee consisting of the Collector, Kasargod, DIG/IG (Prisons) and the local MLA, for preparing a report on the terms of settlement of the above said disputes.

Based on the report of the said Committee Government vide G.O. (Rt.) No. 2248/08/Home dated 15-7-2008 had accorded Administrative Sanction for giving compensation to the said two parties and shifting them to the land near to the jail boundary.

The said two parties had raised objections in starting the Open Prison, Cheemeni and transferring the prisoners to the jail, before the shifting to the jail boundary. This was one of the reasons for the delay in starting the Open Prison, Cheemeni.

Government vide G.O. (P) No. 96/2007/Home dated 10-5-2007 SOR No. 413/2007 had accorded Administrative Sanction for starting the functioning of Open Prison, Cheemeni. The posts were created in the jail vide G.O. (Ms.) No. 45/2007/Home dated 9-3-2007.

Open Prison, Cheemeni started functioning with effect from 17-5-2007. Starting of an Open Prison is a major project which demand the co-ordination of several components as mentioned earlier. It is a fact that some delay occurred in starting the projects. The pay and allowances given to the Superintendent and other employees is not a loss to Government. The staff had activities to perform in the jail as discussed earlier and had a heavy burden to protect and make secure the 308.75 acres of land transferred to the Prisons Department. The two occupants in the prison land had to be evicted and further encroachments to the jail land had to be prevented. Hence the pay and allowances given to the staff posted in Open Prison, Cheemeni, was not a loss to Government.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 2, Para No. 12)

1.3 Considering the Cheemeni Open Prison as very important, the Committee recommends the Government to take all necessary and urgent steps for providing sufficient funds for setting up adequate facilities for accommodating 300 prisoners, procurement and purchase of materials and equipments for enabling cultivations etc. in Cheemeni Open Prison.

Action Taken

1.4 A lot of developmental activities were done in Open Prison, Cheemeni under the Scheme 'Modernisation of Prison Administration-75% Central Assistance' (Integrated Annual Action Plan 2004-07). The following works are carried out and completed in Open Prison, Cheemeni.

<i>Name of Work</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Construction of new barracks	₹ 62,19,080
Superintendent Quarters	₹ 24,76,425
Upper Subordinate Qtrs.-6 Nos.	₹ 62,41,992
Lower Subordinate Qtrs.-6 Nos.	₹ 1,21,20,970
Additional New Barrack	₹ 77,72,483
Total	<u>₹ 3,48,30,950</u>

By executing the above said works, Open Prison, Cheemeni attained the capacity to accommodate 178 prisoners. Also under "17. Minor Works" and other schemes lot of construction activities were performed in the jail.

Under 13th Finance Commission Award (for the period 2011-15) the following works are in progress in Open Prison, Cheemeni as part of Annual plan 2011-12.

1. Solar energy systems	.. ₹ 2,13,00,000
2. Digging of borewell and construction of overhead tank etc.	.. ₹ 6,00,000
Total	<u>.. ₹ 2,19,00,000</u>

1. Dairy farm
2. Poultry farm
3. Goat farm
4. Piggery
5. Laterite stone quarrying etc. to be listed
6. Vegetable cultivation
7. Banana cultivation

8. Rubber plantation
9. Water conservation scheme
10. Planting of trees on periphery
11. Bee keeping
12. Cashew cultivation
13. Mango groves

Schemes under 13th Finance Commission

1. Digging of water storage ponds
2. Digging of wells
3. Construction of overhead tank
4. Construction of road along perimeter and purchase of Tipper Lorry and JCB
5. Construction of Radial and Subroad
6. Starting of carpentry unit.

Schemes of Development of Open Prison, Cheemeni

(A) Infrastructure Development Activities

1. Road along perimeter and purchase of JCB and tipper lorry .. ₹ 0.97 crore
2. Radial and subroad .. ₹ 0.35 crore
3. Carpentry Unit .. ₹ 0.17 crore

(B) Development of Drinking water and Irrigation facilities

1. Water storage ponds .. ₹ 0.10 crore
2. Digging of wells .. ₹ 0.25 crore
3. Construction of over head tank .. ₹ 0.20 crore

(C) *Development of Agriculture and Allied Sectors*

1. Vegetable Cultivation	.. ₹ 0.03 crore
2. Mango Groves	.. ₹ 0.16 crore
3. Cashew Cultivation	.. ₹ 0.03 crore
4. Planting of Trees around periphery	.. ₹ 0.05 crore
Total	.. <u>₹ 2.22 crore</u>

For the overall development of agricultural and allied sectors in Open Prison, Cheemeni, the above said activities are in progress. The institution is in its way towards sustainable development.

Total income generated per year is:

2009-10	.. ₹ 10,30,630
2010-11	.. ₹ 3,26,429
2011-12	.. ₹ 22,22,226
2012 up to 30-6-2012	.. ₹ 11,42,993

Recommendation

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

1.5 Even though the Committee is sought explanation from the department regarding the delay that occurred in establishing electric connection in the constructed buildings, posting of required number of staff and also regarding the wastage of Government money through unnecessary pay and allowances, it was not complied with till date despite assurances from the ADGP on the day of the examination of audit paragraph. The Committee views this as a serious lapse on the part of this Department officials and considers officials this act adding insult to injury.

Action Taken

1.6 As per request of the Prisons Department, the PWD authorities visited the Open Prison, Cheemeni on 6-10-2001 and agreed to furnish the estimate for electrification works in the jail.

The Executive Engineer, PWD Electrical Division, Kozhikode vide letter dated 21-5-2002 submitted an estimate amounting to ₹ 5.55 lakh for the said work and requested to deposit the amount.

Vide letter dated 14-6-2002, the Prison Department has requested Government to accord Administrative Sanction for the estimate amounting to ₹ 5.55 lakh for the electrification works (which comprises of ₹ 2.55 lakh for wiring and ₹ 3 lakh for line extension). Government have accorded sanction vide G.O. (Rt.) No. 1890/02/Home dated 18-9-2002. Both the amounts has been drawn separately KSEB accepted the DD for ₹ 2.55 lakh on 16-5-2003 and refused to accept the DD for ₹ 3 lakh stating that they had not taken the estimate for the extension of line to the jail. Further KSEB has submitted an estimate amounting to ₹ 8,86,500 for line extension works, through their letter dated 14-11-2003.

The Prisons Department has requested Government to accord administrative sanction for ₹ 5,86,500 additionally for the said work. Government has accorded Administrative Sanction for the same vide G.O. (Rt.) No. 475/04/Home dated 23-2-2004.

DD for ₹ 8,86,500 was handed over to KSEB on 20-3-2004. KSEB authorities informed that as per their estimate, the 11 KV line was proposed to be extended through the land of Plantation Corporation. KSEB requested Plantation Corporation to accord sanction for the same. But they had not issued the sanction. To sort out the issue and for timely implementation, the sketch was revised and proposed to extend the 11 KV line over the land owned by Prisons Department. Sanction for the same has been issued by the Department on 25-5-2004.

The Prisons Department has vigorously followed KSEB authorities to complete the works in time. On 3-2-2005, KSEB reported that the work could be completed at the earliest. The delay was due to the shortage of some line materials etc.

On 4-5-2005, KSEB had requested to remit an amount of ₹ 6,300 towards cash deposit and ₹ 2,000 towards service connection charges, for getting service connection to the open jail.

Finally, on 11-7-2005, electric connection has been obtained in the Open Prison, Nettukalthery.

From the above said facts, it is clear that no delay has been occurred on part of Prisons Department in obtaining the electrical connection to the Open Prison, Cheemeni. Only some technical reasons as discussed above resulted in the delay.

Further Recommendation

(Para Nos. 11, 12 and 13)

1.7 The Committee is astonished to note that employees were posted at Cheemeni jail before it started functioning and they were paid for 17 months for no work. The Committee recommends that strict monitoring should be done by the Finance Department whether the practice of wastage of Government money is going on in any department by disbursing unnecessary pay and allowance to the idle staff and urges the Home Department to initiate steps to avoid such unfruitful expenditure in future.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE ACTION IN THE LIGHT OF THE REPLIES FURNISHED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 4, Para No. 58)

2.1 The Committee understands that there was inordinate delay from the part of the Home Department for the preparation and submission of Annual Action Plan for the Scheme of Modernization of Police Forces launched by the GOI. The Committee expresses its serious concern over the fact that the AAP which should ideally be submitted by 15th May every financial year was not done during the periods from 2000-01 to 2005-06 except in the cases of 2000-01 and 2004-05. Moreover the delayed approval of Annual Plans resulted in the delay in the implementation of the scheme and also in very low expenditure from the allotted Scheme Fund.

Action Taken

2.2 The funds sanctioned by MHA from 2000-01 to 2005-06 has been utilized completely and 100% utilization certificate has been furnished to MHA.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 5, Para No. 59)

2.3 Even though the Department substantiated the reasons for the delay in submission of the AAP which resulted in underutilization of scheme fund, the Committee is not fully satisfied and remarks that the Department cannot

formulated by themselves the submission and approval procedures which were not in tandem with the usual ones. The Committee also does not appreciate the remarks of the Department that the delay occurred due to late approval by GOI. The Committee laments the action of the department which transferred huge unspent balance amounts to Kerala Police Housing Construction Corporation and getting the accrued interest which were meant for the execution of the project.

The Committee stresses on the fact that the proposal for allotment shall be submitted before the due date fixed in the Budget Manual and by the Finance Department so that the same can be approved and included in the Budget of the subsequent financial year which will eventually allow the Central and State allotments to be earmarked to the respective Heads.

Action Taken

2.4 There is no 'underutilization' of funds under MoPF sanctioned for each scheme year. The funds released by MHA from 2000-01 to 2009-10 has been utilized completely.

Unspent balance was not transferred to KPHCC. Funds for construction were transferred to KPHCC on the basis of approved outlay. Later due to shortfall in release of funds by MHA, part of the funds transferred to KPHCC has been resumed. The interest earned on Central fund for MoPF by KPHCC has been utilized for the completion of construction for which excess amount is required.

Sufficient funds were provided in the State budget each year and there was/is no difficulty in getting funds for MoPF through State budget.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 6, Para No. 60)

2.5 The Committee notes with much concern the fact that the Government underutilized the annual allocation fund and the percentage of utilization ranged from 50 to a meagre one per cent which the Committee finds very disgusting. Even though the Department defended their stand by pointing that most of the expenditure could be counted only in succeeding financial year and that there was no loss to the Government since the amount was being utilized fully, the Committee discards the contention and remarks that State has huge loss through the cost escalation factor of the construction materials and equipments.

Action Taken

2.6 The cost escalation in construction of buildings is due to the reason that the unit cost fixed by GOI is quite inadequate as the unit cost is not in conformity with schedule of rates prevailing at the time of approval of the schemes. As PWD norms are to be followed in the case of construction activities, the estimates are to be prepared based on the rates prevailing at the time of tendering the work. Another reason for the excess in cost is the percentage excess at which the contractor takes up the work to meet the increase in cost of materials from time to time over and above the SOR. In addition to this, charges towards electricity connection, water supply connection as per the rates fixed by the concerned authorities from time to time has also to be met. In certain cases charges towards regularization fee for getting building number from local bodies are also to be met. All these factors contribute excess expenditure.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 7, Para No. 61)

2.7 The Committee severely criticizes the deviation that happened in the approved action plan in purchase of vehicles, weapons and equipments, change of site of construction, delay in handingover the site, non-availability of site, certain deals done without the permission of Ministry of Home Affairs etc., which indicates the improper assessment of requirements and the naive approach of the Department officials in undertaking a project which involved huge sums of money.

The Committee condemns the lapse on the part of the Department in convening State Land Experts Committee which is supposed to study and approve works of the Department.

Action Taken

2.8 Annual Action Plan for MoPF was prepared by projecting the requirements to minimum to cover all the components under MoPF.

During the implementation, certain factors such as lack of sufficient vendors, lack of equipments which required qualities, lack of hindrance free sites etc. affects the plan. Moreover the requirements/priority may vary from time to time.

Hence to meet the priorities, the number of items/cost may have changed.

This cannot be termed as a diversion/deviation. It may also be noted that during these years (2001-02 to 2005-06), State have spent an amount of ₹ 46.38 crore in excess than the State share due.

Recommendation*(Sl. No. 8, Para No. 62)*

2.9 The Committee do not appreciate the action of the Department to transfer and deposit the project fund towards KPHCC and showing as utilized. The Committee urges the Department to speed-up the works undertaken by KPHCC to avoid any sort of delay.

Action Taken

2.10 KPHCC has taken up earnest effort in getting the works completed within the scheduled date. However there was some delay due to reasons beyond the control of KPHCC such as changing the location already selected, making the site free of hindrances, unexpected monsoon, Government ban on sand mining, time taken to rearrange the work in the case of work abandoned by the contractor etc. However, KPHCC is taking utmost care in the execution of the work in a time bound manner.

Recommendation*(Sl. No. 9, Para No. 63)*

2.11 The Committee expresses its displeasure over the non-utilization of funds through the Letter of Credit accounts opened in SBT though it was shown as utilized in progress reports. The Committee is also unhappy over the omissions, irregularities, diversion and deviation from approved action plans in implementing various schemes and also in not obtaining approval of Ministry of Home Affairs before making any variation from the prescribed norms. On the contrary the Committee backs certain deviation from prescribed norms especially in the construction of Police Quarters where the dimensions were increased from the original plan. The Committee urges for regularizing any useful changes that adds to the comfort of living of policemen.

Action Taken

2.12 The observations are noted for future guidance and deviation if any, will be taken up only after obtaining Government approval.

Recommendation*(Sl. No. 10, Para No. 64)*

2.13 The Committee understands that one of the main reasons for the long delays in effective utilization of released scheme funds is the non-availability of sufficient land for construction and the lack of provisions for land acquisition.

Hence the Committee recommends for making necessary arrangements for acquiring required land for construction of buildings for Police Department and also recommends that the Police Department should be given provision for a Budget Head for acquiring land for construction purpose.

Action Taken

2.14 Earnest efforts have been initiated by Government to provide the required land for construction of building for Police Department. The Director General of Police is directed to submit a proposal to Finance Department for providing a Budget Head for acquiring land for construction purpose of the Police Department.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 11, Para No. 65)

2.15 The Committee notes with concern that the Department could not construct 160 rest rooms for WPCs (Women Police Constables) as per the approved plan on the scheduled time span. Due to the inordinate delay in the timely completion of works, the Department had to compromise on the dimensions of the rest rooms constructed in the later stages to fit into the allotted budget due to the cost escalation factor of construction materials. The Committee strongly feels that the size of any structure should be clearly pre-defined in AAP to avoid any such kind of adjustment happening in future works. From the witness examination and subsequent replies from the officials, the Committee strongly feels that the construction cost should be decided based on the Schedule of Rates of each State for each year which will avoid the budget deficit on construction and hence the Committee recommends for such a clause while finalizing any action plans in future.

Action Taken

2.16 The area of buildings sanctioned under MoPF has been fixed by MHA as per norms. The area fixed for WPC rest rooms is very small and normally no contractor will come forward to take such a small work. Therefore, KPHCC had to invite tenders for the work more than two or three times resulting in time lag by way of observing tender formalities as per rules. Also the unit cost of the building approved under MoPF is as per the norms fixed by MHA. Hence it is not possible to propose the area or unit cost of the building in AAP.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 12, Para No. 66)

2.17 The Committee is terribly upset over the act of the Department in diverting the funds (₹ 5.60 crore) assigned for the construction of Upper Subordinate Quarters (USQs) and Lower Subordinate Quarters (LSQs) at

Kerala Police Academy (KEPA) towards building Senior Office Quarters, Mess, Ladies Hostel, Visiting Officers' Quarters etc. which were not at all prescribed in the approved action plan resulting in the denial of family accommodation to over 150 Subordinate Officers. The Committee flays this flagrant violation committed by the officials in doing works neither mentioned in AAP nor getting approval from GOI, State Government or from SLEC. However considering the circumstances that may have prompted for such a diversion, the Committee opines that the Department could go ahead with ratifying the out of the way works but with a strong warning not to repeat any such deeds under any circumstances in future.

Action Taken

2.18 The funds meant for the construction of LSQ and USQ were utilized for the construction of various facilities for Training Officers and Women PCs and Instructors, Visiting Officers transit accommodations etc. which were found very much essential for the functioning of Police Academy. The directions contained in this para are noted for future guidance.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 13, Para No. 67)

2.19 Expressing its dissatisfaction over the inordinate delay in occupying the constructed Police Quarters due to lack of electricity and water connection, the Committee stresses that the Department officials must make necessary arrangements for applying and getting the water and electricity supply right from the construction stage, even before allotting building numbers. The Committee adds that the Department should apply for electric connection in OYEC category and should also begin the wiring works during construction stage itself.

Action Taken

2.20 Action will be taken to obtain water connection and electricity connection to the building during the construction stage itself.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 14, Para No. 68)

2.21 The Committee is disappointed to note that though a considerable share of scheme fund was allocated for enhancing the mobility of police forces by purchasing new vehicles, the purpose was defeated since the newly purchased vehicles were literally taken as replacement for the old condemned vehicles. Moreover the Department did divert some of the funds for non-approved purchases which the Committee agrees to disagree. However the Department substantiated their action by pointing that the State Government has no budget allocation component for mobility as the Centre has.

Action Taken

2.22 Police Department have purchased vehicles according to the approved action plan of MoPF and after obtaining purchase sanction from Government.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 15, Para No. 69)

2.23 The Committee notes with concern that the Department had diverted its funds to many out of the way purchases violating the norms of the Scheme especially in purchase of vehicles for policing and operational purpose. The Committee opines that the Department should take immediate measures to ratify all these diverted excess expenditures lest the GOI would adjust all these amounts as due from the State, thereby creating an economic burden on the State Government.

Action Taken

2.24 The excess expenditure was due to the escalation of cost of vehicles and due to the revision of Excise Duty and taxes and all the additional amounts were paid after obtaining sanction from Government.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 16, Para No. 70)

2.25 The Committee is disgusted to note that the deviations from approved action plan had crept even into the purchase of arms and ammunitions. The Committee discards the explanation given by the Department that paucity of funds forced them to go ahead with the purchase of weapons which were never mentioned in the AAP and criticizes the approach of the officials in dealing with the Central fund according to their will and wish. The Committee reiterates the urgent need of ratifying such deviations along with getting the approval from State Government.

Action Taken

2.26 The purchase was made as per the allotment of MHA and after obtaining sanction from Government.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 17, Para No. 71)

2.27 The Committee laments that even though the construction of Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) at Kannur and Thrissur were belatedly completed due to the non-synchronisation of the purchase of equipments for

scientific aids with the construction and posting of staff, these equipments worth crore of rupees were lying idle and unused. The Committee recommends that the required staff must be posted with immediate effect and if there occurred a delay in posting of staff through PSC, then the Department should post staff on temporary basis. The Committee also finds the act of Department in going ahead with the purchase of Forensic Equipments from M/s LAB India was very fishy when there was a lower tender offered by M/s NIU Lab at a rate which was lower by ₹ 18.64 lakh compared to the former company. The Committee adds that the same methodology was adopted even during the tender process and purchase of 11 Speed Check Radar Guns @ ₹ 5.60 lakh per piece from M/s TURBO Consulting Company, New Delhi ignoring the lowest quotations of ₹ 2.58 lakh per piece offered by another firm on the plea that the model proposed to be purchased has superior features. The Committee seriously condemns this deed of the Department which gave a work order at their will and pleasure without any proper sanction from the Government resulting in extra liability to the Government. The Committee expresses its utmost dissatisfaction in such an appalling act from the Department.

Action Taken

2.28 Both the Regional Forensic Science Laboratories are fully functional now.

Regarding the purchase of Atomic Absorption Spectrometer, the purchase was based on the recommendation of the technical committee constituted for the selection of the item. The Committee consists of technical experts who have knowledge about these items. The purchase of Speed Check Radar was based on the recommendation of the technical committee constituted for the selection of the item.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 18, Para No. 72)

2.29 The Committee deplores the act of department officials in under utilizing the outlayed allotted amount to ameliorate the training and infrastructure facilities of Police Department. On top of that the Department transferred ₹ 4.23 crore to KPHCC towards construction of Indoor Training Centre, Swimming Pool, Traffic Training School etc. but most of the works were either halted halfway through or got delayed inordinately. The Committee flays such lapses, which has become a usual practice in departmental repertoire.

Action Taken

2.30 There was delay in completion of the work of construction of Indoor Training Centre, Swimming Pool and Traffic Training School as the contractor had abandoned the work and due to re-arrangement of the work. Tenders for re-arranging the work had to be invited three times in order to get a competitive rate.

Regarding the work of Swimming Training Centre, the site originally selected was found to be not suitable as rocky strata was found while excavation. There was delay in identifying a new suitable site for Swimming Training Centre and Traffic Training School. Now the works of Indoor Training Centre and Swimming Training Centre are nearing Completion. The Traffic Training School has been awarded on 13-9-2010 and work is in progress.

Thiruvananthapuram,
16th December, 2014.

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

APPENDIX

SUMMARY OF MAIN CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Para No.</i>	<i>Department concerned</i>	<i>Conclusion/Recommendation</i>
1	1.7	Home	The Committee is astonished to note that employees were posted at Cheemeni jail before it started functioning and they were paid for 17 months for no work. The Committee recommends that strict monitoring should be done by the Finance Department whether the practice of wastage of Government money is going on in any department by disbursing unnecessary pay and allowance to the idle staff and urges the Home Department to initiate steps to avoid such unfruitful expenditure in future.
