

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

(1978-80)

THIRTIETH REPORT

(SIXTH ASSEMBLY)

Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71, 1971-72, and 1972-73, Appropriation Accounts, 1970-71, 1971-72 & 1972-73 and Finance Accounts, 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73 of the Government of Assam relating to Irrigation, Flood Control, Finance, Public Works (R & B) and Home (Police) Departments.



(Presented to the House on 5th April, 1979)

ASSAM

ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT, DISPUR, GAUHATI-6

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(i)

COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
COMMITTEE (1978-80)

CHAIRMAN :

1. Shri Hemen Das.

MEMBERS :

1. Shri Golok Rajbanshi
2. Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi
3. Shri Santi Ranjan Das Gupta
4. Shri Premadhar Borā
5. Dr. Tarini Mohan Barooah
6. Shri Mohammad Azad Ali
7. Shri Nagen Sarma
8. Shri Abdul Latif

SECRETARIAT :

1. Shri P. D. Barua, Secretary
2. Shri N. Deuri Bora, Under Secretary
3. Shri B. Goswami, Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, Shri Hemen Das, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report, on their behalf, present this Thirtieth Report on Paras 42, 37, 39 and 40 on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71. Paras 24, 25, 25(b) and 27 on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72 and Paras 18, 19, 20, 53, 53(b), 53(c), 53(d) and 62 on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73 relating to Irrigation Department, Paras 55 and 56 on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73 relating to Flood Control Department, Paras 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 53 (b) on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71, Paras 4, 6, 36(b), 8, 9, 11 and 12 on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72 and Paras 4, 7, 9, 10, 12, and 13 on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73 relating to Finance Department, Paras 20, 21 and 22 on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72 relating to Public Works (R & B) Department and Paras 36, 37 and 38 on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73 relating to Home (Police) Department.

2. The Reports and Accounts were laid on the Table of the House on 4th March, 1974, 16th September, 1974 and 5th February, 1975 and the same were examined by the former Committee in their sittings held on 28th Nov., 24th December, 1975, 7th April, 3rd, 8th, 10th May, 23rd, 24th July, 25th August, 13th October, 17th, 21st December, 1976. The Draft Report of the Committee was considered on 20th December, 1977, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 23rd and 24th January, 1978 by the former Committee, but could not present it to the House due to the sudden dissolution of the Legislative Assembly on 3rd February, 1978.

3. The paras 36, 37 and 38 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73

relating to Home (Police) Department were further examined by the present Committee on 19th May, 1978 and the Draft Report on the said paras were considered and adopted by the present Committee in its sittings held on 9th and 23rd February, 1979, and the rest of the paras were considered and adopted by the present Committee in their sittings held on 20th May, 1978.

4. A statement showing the Summary of the recommendations of the Committee is given in Chapter II of the Report.

5. A list of Officers examined and time devoted in examination has been appended to the Report as Appendix I at pages 104.

6. The Committee places on record its appreciation for the valuable guidance and assistance rendered to the Committee during the course of examination by Shri D. Jerath, I. A. & A. S., Accountant General, Assam and Meghalaya etc. and Shri I. P. Sing, I. A. & A. S., Senior Deputy Accountant General, Assam and his staff. The Committee also expresses its thanks to the official witnesses of the Department concerned for their co-operation.

HEMEN DAS

Chairman,

Public Accounts Committee.

Dated Dispur:

The 29th March, 1979.

CHAPTER—I

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

Para 42 at page 47 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71, Purchase of power pumps :—

For purchase of four power pumps for Jagiroad Irrigation work (Nowgong and Kamrup districts), the Superintending Engineer, Planning, had invited quotations in August 1969. The Purchase Board in its meeting on 3rd September, 1969 decided that specifications of the pumps quoted by a firm of New Delhi were as per requirement and recommended purchase from it at its quoted price of Rs. 1.48 lakhs (inclusive of freight, insurance and taxes). The pumps were, however, purchased in May 1970 from a Shillong firm for Rs. 1.95 lakhs (inclusive of taxes). Reasons for purchase of the pumps contrary to the recommendations of the Purchase Board resulting in extra cost of Rs. 0.47 lakhs are not available.

The Brahmaputra Flood Control in course of examination on 28.11.75 stated that this Para relates to Irrigation Department. Thereafter the Committee asked the Irrigation Department to furnish a written statement. The Department in their letter No. FCA(B) 143/71/Pt/310 dated 30.12.76 furnished the following :—

There is no recorded reason in the concerned file as to why orders for supply of pump-sets were placed on M/S. Ravi Brothers contrary to the decision of the Purchase Board held on 23.9.69.

On examination of the case, however, it appears that on receipt of a telegram from M/S Greaves Cotton alleging inadequate capacity of the pumps offered by M/S Flowmore and a letter from M/S Ravi Brothers, the case was reviewed by the then Chief Engineer & Secretary (now retired). There is however no written notes and orders on review in the concerned file.

The comparative qualities, rates etc. of the two types of pumpsets offered by M/S Flowmore and M/S Ravi Brothers are stated below:—

Details	M/S Flowmore	M/S Ravi Bros
(a) Type of pump/pumps	Fairbanch Morse	Kirloskar
(b) Type of Motor cost of (a) and (b)	Siemen/ Kirloskar 90 H.P. NEEF	-do- 136 H. P.
	Rs.23,900	Rs. 33481
(c) Type of starter	MEI	MEI
cost	Rs.3400	Rs.5155
(d) Types of Vacuum pump	Flowmore model	Kirloskar
cost	Rs.4500	Rs.3946
(e) Types of Reflex valve	No make	No make
cost	Rs.2600	Rs.3055
(f) Total cost per set	Rs.34,400	Rs.45,637
(g) Discharge (i) 16-ft. head (Monomatric)	24.50 c. f. s.	29.9. c. f. s. (840 ft/sec)
(ii) at 27 ft.	20.0 c. f. s.	27.86 c. f. s. (770 ft/sec)
(iii) at 33 ft.	16.45	25.42 (700 ft/sec)
*No. of pumps required for 110 cusecs for = condition (i)	110 24.5=5 Nos.	110=3.6=4 nos. 29.9
*Cost involved 1	5 sects=Rs.1,72,000	4 sects=Rs 1,82,548

It transpires from the comparison that although the number of pump-sets specified to provide 110 cusecs was 4 Nos. as per NIT, the number required in case of pump-sets offered by M/S Flowmore and M/S Ravi Brothers are 4.4 Nos. (5 Nos.) and 3.6 Nos. (4 Nos). The offer of M/S Flowmore was therefore not as per requirement of NIT. as 4 pump-sets offered by M/S Flowmore can

deliver discharge of only 98 cusecs against the required 110 cusecs at 16 ft. monometric head.

Another consideration also might have weighed against the decision of Purchase Board which does not appear to have been correctly informed of the comparative merits and drawbacks. The clear intention was to install 4 pump-sets or a barge according to which the NIT specified 4 pump-sets. In case of pump-sets offered by M/S Flowmore 5 pumps would have been required to meet the requirement of 110 cusec. Larger barge would have been required for the 5 pump-sets resulting in increase in cost and difficulty in maintaining equilibrium in the barge.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee takes serious note of the unauthorised departure from the recommendations of the duly constituted Purchase Board resulting in extra expenditure of Rs. 0.47 lakhs. If some subsequent developments had taken place, the matter should have again been put up to the Purchase Board for reconsideration; otherwise, sanction of the Government should have been obtained for this departure giving adequate justification.

The Committee recommends that responsibility should be fixed on the officers concerned who authorised this purchase at a higher cost by deviating from the recommendations of the Purchase Board without proper authority and without recording any reason for the same.

Paragraph 37 at page 45 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71. Purchase of wire nettings.

For use in flood protection works the Executive Engineer, Hailakandi Embankment and Drainage Division (Hailakandi), purchased galvanised wire nettings worth Rs. 3.69 lakhs from certain local firms against orders placed by him between December 1969 and May 1970. The purchases were made on the basis of limited tender enquiry issued (November 1969) to a few selected firms and also without the approval of the Purchase Board.

The Purchase Board approved lower rates in April, 1971 for wire nettings of the same specification and purchases during 1971-72 were made at these rates. With reference to the rates approved by the Board in April, 1971, the extra expenditure on the earlier purchase at higher rates was Rs. 0.88 lakhs.

The Brahmaputra Flood Control in course of examination on 24th November, 1975 stated that this para relates to Irrigation Department. Thereafter the Committee asked the Irrigation Department to furnish the written reply on this para. The Department in their letter No.FC (BT).161/73/51, dated 13th October, 1976 furnished the following :—

Advertisement for inviting quotations for supply of wire-netting sheets of different sizes was made in the news papers name "Dhaleswari" and "Purbayan" and the same was published on 24th September, 1969 and 26th September 1969 respectively. So the question of limited tender enquiry issued to selected firms does not arise. The last date of receiving quotations was 6th December 1969 and the work was allotted on 10th December 1969. This shows that the distribution of work was started immediately to meet up the immediate requirement for works of urgent nature. (Further E. E. has stated that he did not know about the requirement of approval of purchase board for such purchase.

There is no approved rates of the purchase board for wire-netting sheets of this specification during 1969-70 with effect from December, 1969 to May, 1970. The purchase board approved rates for wire-netting sheets of different specification during 1971-72.

As work was allotted at lowest rate during 1969-70 the question of loss amounting Rs. 0.88 lakhs does not arise.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is not happy in the way the purchase was made. However, the Committee recommends that in future the Department should make purchase of materials at the rates approved by the Purchase Board.

Para 39 at pages 45-46 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71-Dyke on Kathakhal river.

In November 1969 construction of a dyke along the right bank of Kathakhal river from Roopcherra to Lakherra (Cachar District) was administratively approved

for Rs. 32.80 lakhs to owned spilling of Kathakhal river in the adjacent cultivable land. The work was started in January, 1970 on the basis of a working estimate (detailed estimate is yet to be sanctioned December, 1971) and Rs. 21.25 lakhs were spent on earthwork and turfing. In December 1970, another estimate was prepared for Rs. 6.13 lakhs for restoration of 1.78 lakhs cubic metres of earthwork in the embankment reportedly damaged by rains and floods of July, 1970. The restoration work commenced from March, 1971. Damage to the earthwork occurred because in July, 1970 the embankment was incomplete in the following respects:—

- (i) In the assigned reaches of the embankment the contractors had failed to complete earthwork by March, 1970 (stipulated in the contract). Work in almost all the reaches continued upto June 1970 when monsoon set in and in some reaches even upto September, 1970.
- (ii) Out of Rs. 6.66 lakh cubic metres of work for breaking clods and ramming by rollers necessary for settlement of loose earth in the embankment, only Rs. 2.11 lakh cubic metres were done.
- (iii) Out of Rs. 1.96 lakh square metres of turfing required in side slope of the embankment, nothing was done before July, 1970.
- (iv) Construction of six sluice culverts proposed in the working estimate was not taken up (November, 1971) leaving gaps at those places of the embankment.

The matter was reported to the Chief Engineer and Government in October, 1971; reply is awaited (December 1972).

The Brahmaputra Flood Control Department in course of examination on 28th November 1975 stated that this para relates to Irrigation Department. Thereafter the Committee asked the Irrigation Department to furnish written statement. The Department in their let-

ter No. FC(BT) 161/73/51, dated 13th October, 1976 furnished the following :—

The execution of the work was delayed primarily due to trouble over possession of land by the Civil authority (12/69). The alignment of the dyke under-went some changes due to objection from public as well as garden authority. The change of alignment was approved by the Chief Engineer. The change of alignment kept the factory house Vernapur Tea Estate within country-side which previously was in river-side. As a result the execution of the work could not commence in time.

2. As regards breaking of clods by ramming the actual position is :—

A quantity of 2,36,387 M³ of earth was compacted by engaging Muster Roll during the period 4/70 to 7/70.

Prior to that further quantity of 3,97, 700 M of earth was compacted in similar way during the period January 1970 to March 1970. Thus, giving total, volume of compaction after breaking of clods 6,34,087 M³ against estimated quantity of 6,66,112 M³ but Accountant General has mentioned only, 2,11 lakhs M³.

3. Normally turfing is done to embankment already brought to design level before the on set of monsoon immediately after execution. But, in this particular case, execution was delayed due to the reason stated above and partly due to early frequent rain. It may be mentioned that natural turf started growing on the side slopes which covered approx 50% of the area.

4. Out of six numbers of sluices proposed in the embankment five are of minor nature and the gap for the minor sluices were closed before monsoon just to prevent any damage to the dyke by rush of flood water.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee feels that if the execution and timing of the work had been properly planned, damage during the monsoon could have been avoided. The matter needs detailed investigation and a report of the same may be submitted to the Committee within 3 months from the date of presentation of this report to the House.

Para 40 at page 46 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71 "Excess appointment of staff."

According to instructions from the Chief Engineer (March 1969) Embankment and Drainage Divisions could appoint two patrollers per kilometre of embankment for four months from June to September for proper maintenance of embankments during floods. In Hailakandi Embankment and Sub-divisions 179 patrollers were appointed from June to 20th September, 1970 against the permissible number of 114 patrollers for 57 kilometres of embankment under it. Nothing was on record to justify excess appointment of 65 patrollers and consequent extra expenditure of Rs. 0.36 lakh.

In 1970-71 as against the Sub-divisional officers proposal for appointment of 180 number of patrollers the Superintending Engineer on the recommendation of the Executive Engineer sanctioned 146 number of patrollers.

The Brahmaputra Flood Control Department in course of examination on 28th November, 1975 stated that this para relates to Irrigation Department. Thereafter, the Committee asked the Irrigation Department to furnish a written statement. The Department in their letter No.FC(BT)161/73/51, dated 13th October, 1976 furnished the following statement which is given below :-

The yard stick circulated by Chief Engineer was intended for embankments. There is a big sluice at Boroitoli protecting Hailakandi town neighbouring villages from on slaught of flood. The sluice got damaged in 1969-70 which necessitated appointment of extra petrollers to save it from further damage. On the Country side of this sluice, there is big channel named Pola Nadi. Due to sitting, the bed of channel got raised. This caused water logging in paddy field situated upstream and spilling over both banks resulting the damage to the crop. The circumstances necessitated keeping the channel clear and maintenance of the bund. As such engagement of petrollers were unavoidable. There is another channel named Jita Nadi in the west of Hailakandi town. Due to heavy debris in the river there had been water logging in the upstream paddy field. This also required clearing the channel and maintenance of bund along it. As the

existing petrollers in the embankments could not be engaged in other works, appointment of additional strength was considered necessary.

The flood drill estimate was for Rs. 1,17,120 against which expenditure of Rs. 1,07,596 was incurred.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that appointment of staff in excess of the permissible limit should be made only after obtaining the orders of the competent authority.

Paragraph 24 at page 49 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72 Drainage of Badiasnisa Beel

Executive Engineer, Tezpur Irrigation Division (Darrang district), submitted (November 1963) a scheme viz. Drainage of Badiasnisa Beel for lowering the water level in the beel by 3' to 4' through a drainage channel from the beel upto Barnadi river. The scheme was prepared to facilitate cultivation of boro paddy in the neighbouring areas of the beel which were otherwise constantly waterlogged. The scheme was approved (estimated cost Rs. 2 lakhs) in March 1964. Estimates provided Rs. 0.26 lakh for acquisition of land for the drainage channel. Work was, however, taken up during 1963-64 without acquiring the land for the channel. Residents of the area objected to the work on the ground that the channel was not required by them. As a result of their representation, work was stopped in April, 1967.

Rupees 0.45 lakh were spent on the work upto April 1967 and Rs. 0.29 lakh were spent on the work after that date. The expenditure incurred after April 1967 was on construction of temporary accommodation, purchase of materials, entertainment of work charged establishment etc.

The Committee wanted to know whether any survey was conducted before taking up the scheme, the official witness could not give information to the Committee for want of records. The Committee then asked that accor-

ding to the para 304 of the Assam Public Work Department code no work should be commenced on land, the possession of which has not been duly delivered by responsible (Revenue) authorities, the official witness stated that "there may have been some sort of negotiation between the pattadars and the Government officials at that time because at the time this used to be the practice. There are ample instances that schemes were executed before lands were handed over. However, on two occasions land acquisition for this scheme was started, there is no doubt about it. The Revenue officers gave indications asking the department's representative to be present at the site to take over the possession of the land. Whether the land had been taken over or not, there is no records to show.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that responsibility should be fixed on the officer/officers for commencing the work before taking possession of the land and also for incurring expenditure after the stoppage of work.

Paragraph 25 at page 49 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72. Report 1971-72. Incomplete Irrigation Scheme :—

(a) Bengenajulle Irrigation scheme sanctioned in August, 1966 to provide irrigation facilities to 8,180 acres of land within the jurisdiction of Tezpur Irrigation Division provided for construction of headworks on the river Bengenajulle in the first phase and one canal each on the right and left banks in the second phase. Work on the first phase was completed in 1969-70 at a cost of Rs. 5.68 lakhs. Work on the second phase could not be taken up as doubts were expressed (September, 1969) by the Additional Chief Engineer on the availability of adequate water from Bengenajulle even for one canal. He suggested examination of the feasibility of augmentation of the water of Bengenajulle river by diverting into it water of Belsiri river. Final decision in the matter has not been intimated (September, 1973).

As canals have not been constructed, the water impounded is not being used for irrigation.

The Committee examined official witnesses on this para on 24/12/75, 7/4/76, 13/10/76 and 16/10/76. During the course of examination, the Committee was made to understand that the survey was conducted before taking up the scheme sometime in 1959 by the Gauhati investigation division. The Secretary, Irrigation also informed the Committee that the report on the rough estimate contains two statements on availability of water one shows the maximum and minimum discharge available in the river monthwise and yearwise from August, 1958 to October, 1962 and the other shows the number of days for which discharge of 10, 20, 30 upto 140 causes are available for the years 1959 to 1962. On the basis of these estimates, the scheme was taken up.

So far as the phase I is concerned, the project was formulated in October, 1964 and it was sent to the Government in the same year and that the estimate was prepared as rough estimate. Phase-I comprised of the diversion work (i.e. the head work). "I am speaking about phase-1; it was prepared in October, 1964 and the Technical sanction was accorded in 1965."

On a query as to whether the water was not sufficient at all even for the right canal, leaving aside the left canal and this scarcity of water happened after 1964; the official witness replied that after all that particular stream is not snow-fed; it is rain-fed. But on account of extensive deforestation, presumably, the people, who cultivated forests lands for agricultural purpose, might have put certain bunds across the stream (upstream of the distributing point) in order to irrigate their own lands. This possibility cannot be precluded. Right from the far-off Bengal upto the district of Darrang, the indigenous system of irrigation is extensively prevailing. This needs to be further studied whether there was subsequent diminution in upland discharge. This is one of the reasons for which the discharge was dwindling. The first phase was completed in 1964 and in the meantime the second phase was taken up in 1965-66 and the Additional Chief Engineer, visited the site sometime in 1969.

On being asked as to whether the scheme was drawn up in 1964 and whether the Department have taken into

account the figures of water discharge for the years 1961-62, 1962-63 and 1963-64 which were alarmingly very low; the official witness stated that a study should have been carried out to find out what was the basic reason for the diminution of the discharge coming from the upland, this should have been investigated by the Executive Engineer but this was not done.

Recently in the same district, we have got an irrigation system at a place called Mora Dhanshri; there on account of unscrupulous bunding of the villagers in the upper reaches of the river a situation arose where upland discharge at our headwork was substantially low and we were at a point of taking action against these people, but somehow the whole problem was locally solved.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee would like to know whether this scheme has been finally abandoned. The Committee is not happy to note that this scheme involving huge expenditure was drawn up and executed without proper scrutiny.

The Committee recommends that a detailed investigation should be made and responsibility fixed on the officials at fault.

Para 25 (b) at page 49 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72.

For providing irrigation facilities from Kokadanga river to certain areas in Amguri and Kharikatia mouza within the jurisdiction of Jorhat Irrigation Division, Amguri Kharikatia Irrigation Scheme consisting of headworks, a main canal and two distributory channels (estimated cost Rs. 5.43 lakhs) was taken up in 1962-63. The headworks were completed in April, 1965, but excavation of main canal and the channels has not been completed so far (November 1973). Expenditure on the scheme was Rs. 4.07 lakhs till March 1971.

The Committee wanted to know why the scheme could not be completed; the official witness stated that the Department had to suspend the scheme on account

of the hostile activities from the Titabor side because the worksite itself was within the disturbed areas as declared by the D.C., Sibsagar in 1960. Subsequently this matter came up for discussion, and prior to that the matter was taken up with the Political Department pointing out our difficulties and to provide protection for safety and security of our work-staff. The political Department took it up with the Inspector General of Police and the Deputy Commissioner. But the Deputy Commissioner gave a different version; he did not mention anything about the Police protection to the contractors or to the departmental officers. Now, of course, peace and tranquility having returned, we will take up the work.

RECOMMENDATION

As the normalcy is stated to have returned now, the Committee would like that the scheme may be completed.

Para 27 at page 51 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72-Expenditure incurred without, or in excess of detailed estimates :—

Ordinarily no new work may be commenced or any liability incurred thereon until a detailed estimate is sanctioned. A revised estimate is required to be prepared when the sanctioned estimate is likely to be exceeded by more than 5 per cent.

Upto March, 1972 Rs. 487.39 lakhs were spent on forty-two works, in addition to those mentioned in the earlier Reports, each costing more than rupees three lakhs though detailed estimates for these works had not been sanctioned. On seventeen other works expenditure was incurred in excess of 5 per cent of the sanctioned estimates upto March, 1972, the total excess being Rs. 1,35.75 lakhs. Department-wise details are given below. Particulars of the individual works on which expenditure over rupees ten lakhs was incurred without detailed estimates and of works where the expenditure exceeded the estimates by over rupees five lakhs and

also in excess of 5 per cent of the estimates are mentioned in Appendix V and VI of the Report of the comptroller and Auditor general of India for the year 1971-72.

Department	Want of estimate		Excess over estimate	
	Number of works	Expenditure upto March 1972	Number of works	Amount of excess upto March 1972
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(In lakhs of rupees)				
Roads and Buildings Wings	7	80.84	7	90.85
Flood Control and Irrigation Wing	22	1,76.68	4	16.81
Brahmaputra Flood Control Commission	12	2,23.66	6	28.08
Public Health (Engineering) Branch.	1	6.21	...	..
Total—	42	4,87.39	17	1,35.74

The Committee wanted to know as to why the Gauhati Irrigation Scheme, Jagiroad Irrigation Scheme, Khetri Extension Scheme and Sukla Irrigation Scheme were undertaken without any estimates; the official witness stated that execution of works without technical sanction is of course highly objectional and normally that is not allowed under rules. But the Irrigation schemes were taken up on account of certain urgency. Therefore, schemes had to be executed and subsequently Technical sanctions to all these schemes were issued but not before the starting of the works.

During the course of examination the Committee was given to understand that the Executive Engineer commenced the work without any proper authority. The administrative approval was issued on 14th October, 1969 and the work was commenced after the administrative approval was obtained.

It is very difficult to give technical sanction at the time of issue of administrative approval. Now there is one defect in the provision of the P.W.D. code. The code

says that a proposal can be initiated for obtaining administrative clearance on the basis of a rough estimate but the technical sanction cannot be issued on the basis of rough estimate. When a proposal is to be initiated, all the detailed estimate is rather indispensable. When a proposal is to be initiated viability or suitability of a Particular type of scheme Pertaining to certain works and critical examination design and financial involvement added together, a proposal is initiated for obtaining administrative approval from the respective department.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that an enquiry to be instituted against the officer/officers for excesses made. The result of the enquiry should be intimated to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of the report to the House.

Paragraph 18 at pages 36-37 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73 - Civil Works of Sokomotha Scheme .

In December 1969, the Executive Engineer (Agriculture), Gauhati invited tender for the civil works (estimated cost : Rs. 1.94 lakhs) of Sokomotha Irrigation Scheme (Darrang District). Of the six tenders received, the lowest tender for Rs. 1.85 lakhs was accepted (February 1970) and work allotted to the contractor. The work was completed in February 1971 at a cost of Rs. 2.71 lakhs. In actual execution there were wide variations under the following items between the quantities estimated and those actually executed :—

Items of work	Quantity		Rate	
	Estimated)	Actual	As per the lowest tenderer	As per another tenderer
(In cubic metre)			(In rupees per cubic metre)	
1. Earthwork in excavation, etc. including bailing out water	2,327	5,015	2.00	1.30

Items of work	Quantity		Rate	
	Estimated	Actual	As per the lowest tenderer	As per another tenderer
	(In cubic metre)		(In rupees per cubic metre)	
II Earthwork in excavation, etc., without bailing out water	5,712		2.00	1.75
III Cement concrete work for ring wall, piers, etc.	9	461 110		98
IV Cement concrete work in floor without shuttering	1,154 11		93	90
V Cement concrete work in floor with shuttering	-- 1,007		110	102

Computed on the basis of the quantities of work actually done the overall tender of another tenderer, whose rates for some items have been mentioned in column 5 above, and whose tender, on the basis of the estimated quantities was the third lowest, would have been lower by Rs. 0.16 lakh. Further, execution of cement concrete work in the floor with shuttering instead of without shuttering as provided in the estimate also resulted in additional extra expenditure of Rs. 0.17 lakhs. * *

The Committee wanted to know the reasons for wide variations under 5 items of the work between the quantities estimated and those actually executed; what are the reasons for these variations; the official witness stated that it is agreed that there have been wide variations particularly with regard to items relating to earthworks where against a provision of Rs. 2,300 made for

**1,007 cubic metres of work at Rs. 17 per cubic metre (Rs. 110-Rs.93).

the scheme, it ultimately came up to Rs. 10,000/-. The was necessitated because of the change in the design considered necessary in course of implementation of the scheme. With regard to cement concrete work, it does not appear that there had been very substantial change or increase in the actuals. Difference had been with regard to cement concrete work 'with shuttering' and 'without shuttering'. Cement concrete work done with shuttering had undergone very substantial difference. The work estimates had to be changed because of the change in the design. In the tender notice also, mention was made of both items 'with shuttering' as well as 'without shuttering'. In course of the work it was found that same shuttering work was necessary in addition to the work 'without shuttering'.

Then again, it would not be correct to go by a few items alone. The total cost shall have to be calculated from the rates quoted for the various items. The report covered only 5 items, but there were other items also. The report compared the rates of the accepted tenderer with the rates of another tenderer, that is the 3rd lowest tenderer but the 3rd lowest tenderer was not found to be the appropriate person to allot the work, because his rates were found to be absurd.

Two items quoted in the Audit Report that in the 1st one relating to earthwork including bailing of water (1.30) and the earthwork without bailing (1.75). Actually the rates should have been in the reverse order; the rate should be higher where the bailing out of water is to be done. There are quite a number of items which have been mixed up, and he was not the proper person to be given the work.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that the Department should take every care to scrutinise the estimates before it is finally accepted so that the Government do not have to incur additional expenditure. In this particular case, it may be examined whether the officer concerned accepted the tender after proper scrutiny. The report in this regard may be furnished to the Committee.

Paragraph 19 at Page 37 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73—Barnadi Minor Irrigation Scheme—Phase I.

In tender notice (December 1968) issued by the Executive Engineer (Agriculture), Gauhati for the construction of the Barnadi Minor Irrigation Scheme-Phase I (Darrang District) tenderers were required to quote their rates for reinforced cement concrete work inclusive of the cost of sand, stone, metal and gravel. The tender notice specifically mentioned that the tenderers would be paid for finished items only. Of 5 tenders received (December 1968), the lowest tender for Rs. 1,60,659 was exclusive of the cost of carriage beyond 5 mile radius of the site of the work whereas the second lowest at Rs. 1,61,255 was inclusive of the cost of carriage. The contract was awarded (March 1969) by the Executive Engineer to the lowest tenderer on his agreeing not to charge anything extra for the transport of material upto 10 miles radius of the site of the work on the assumption that sand, stone, etc., would be available within this radius. The contractor was paid (March 1970) Rs. 0.35 lakh extra for the carriage of sand (Rs. 0.19 lakh) and metal (Rs. 0.16 lakh). Of this, Rs. 0.19 lakh were paid for the carriage of sand obtained from a quarry within 10 miles radius of the work site. Had the work been allotted to the tenderer whose tender was inclusive of carriage charges the extra expenditure of Rs. 0.16 lakh would have been avoided.

The Committee wanted to know why the first lowest tender which was exclusive of the cost of carriage beyond 5 miles radius of the site of the work was accepted when it was known to the Department that sand, stone etc. are not available within even 10 miles radius of the site of the work; the official witness stated that there were two points: One was about payment of Rs. 0.19 lakhs contrary to the terms of the agreement and that was found to be a mistake. This amount was recovered later on and deposited into the Treasury on 16th August, 1970. With regard to payment of the transport cost, the original stipulation was that stone and sand would be available within 10 miles. In fact, these two items were available

correspondence with the Forest Department and the Government for allowing utilisation of stone and sand from these quarries, but no order from Government was actually received until March, 1970. Even then the Department did make attempts to get stone from the quarry which was within this limit of 10 miles but, then, the departmental officers were informed that the contractor was unable to supply stone as he already had heavy commitments elsewhere. So the Department had to go beyond 10 miles and get the stone from another place. So he had to be paid Rs. 16,000/- as transport cost. The Department got approved of the Government, i.e., on the 16th March, 1970 that stone and gravels could be brought down from the Forest quarries by the Irrigation Department but before this, work was allotted and supply was made.

On a query as to why the position was not ascertained earlier whether stone would be available or not; the official witness replied that the lower level officers were also not quite clear that sand and stone would not be available from the Forest Department. For the Agriculture Department and the Irrigation Department, works of this nature were still new and all the officers were not fully aware of the formalities that special permission of the Forest Department would be necessary.

This type of work was new to the Department and officers were not aware of the procedure.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that responsibility should be fixed on the officer or officers for whose negligence or ignorance the department had to incur extra-expenditure of Rs.16,000/-. The action taken should be submitted to the Committee within two months from the date of presentation of the Report to the House.

Para 20 at page 37-38 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73.

Pansudisa Irrigation Project (North Cachar Hills)—In April, 1971 the Executive Engineer (Hills) asked the Subdivisional Agricultural Engineer, Karimganj (Cachar District) to conduct a feasibility survey of and prepare plans, design and estimate for the Pansudisa Irrigation Project with a view to utilising the water of the Pansudisa river for irrigating 400 acres of land in Nayapur village (North Cachar Hills). In October, 1971 the Subdivisional Agricultural Engineer reported to the District Agricultural Officer, North Cachar Hills that the project was not feasible as the water discharge of the Pansudisa was almost nil during winter and available water during the monsoon was only knee-deep. However, before this report was received the District Agricultural Officer invited tenders (March, 1971) for the construction of a bund on the Pansudisa and a channel to carry water to the fields (approximate value: Rs. 0.90 lakh) and allotted the work to the lowest tenderer at a total cost of Rs. 1.37 lakhs.

Subsequently, at the instance of the Chief Executive Member, North Cachar Hills District Council, Haflong the Executive Engineer, Flood Control and Irrigation Division, Haflong prepared (November, 1971) a scheme for the construction of a bund on the Pansudisa and a channel to carry the water to the fields (estimated cost: Rs. 3.36 lakhs). The scheme was approved by the Director of Agriculture (January, 1972) and the District Agricultural Officer, North Cachar Hills allotted (January, 1972) the work for Rs. 3.73 lakhs to the same contractor who had been selected earlier after executing a modified agreement with him. In July, 1972 the Executive Engineer (Agriculture), Mikir Hills rejected the alignment of the channel on the ground that a considerable amount of money would be required for digging the channel and that in a certain portion the channel depth would be 25 feet which would cause severe silting of the channel due to land slides. He

suggested that an alternative alignment be found, Doubts were also expressed by him regarding the availability of adequate quantity of water for irrigation. Work on the project was stopped (November 1972) after Rs. 2.65 lakhs (Rs. 0.01 lakh on cutting and clearing the jungle, Rs. 2.13 lakhs on earth cutting and filling in the bund construction and Rs. 0.51 lakh on collection of boulders) had been spent and has not been resumed so far. The investment has not so far (August 1974) resulted in any benefits to the cultivators.

The matter was reported to the Government in June 1974; their reply is awaited (September, 1974).

The Committee enquired that in October, 1971 the Sub-divisional Agriculture Engineer reported to the District Agriculture Officer, North Cachar Hills that the Pansudisa Irrigation Project would not be feasible as the water discharge by the Pansudisa was almost nil during winter and available water during the monsoon was only knee-deep, in the face of this report why work was allotted for execution in January, 1972; the official witness stated that it has been observed that full technical competence was not there. When this work was initially taken up by the Director of Agriculture he thought of having some kind of a bund in the orthodox manner, but later on it was found that would not stand. There should be some kind of a well-designed dam. After a detailed work by expert, it was found that the scheme involved higher amount. Accordingly, a scheme of Rs. 3.73 lakhs was taken up.

On a query as to why the Sub-divisional Agriculture Engineer was not considered reliable when he reported in October, 1971 that the project would not be feasible; the official witness replied that it was not that there was no water at all, but the quantity was small and it was not thought that even if this small quantity could be utilised, atleast some area could be brought under cultivation.

On being asked as to why again it was stopped in November, 1972 the official witness stated that when the work was completed, it was found that the water level did

not go up beyond a certain level. From that it appeared that there might be some factor which caused leakage of water and therefore it did not go beyond a certain level. Whether or not there could be any leakage, that could be found only after proper geological survey, but the scheme being small, geological survey was considered not justified.

On being questioned that some deficiency was pointed in November, 1971 after this whether the Department examined that it would be a feasible proposition; the official witness replied that the Department examined the scheme. The original scheme did not work for which reason a new scheme was sanctioned which involved Rs. 3.37 lakhs after 1971.

The Committee then wanted to know the present position of the scheme; the official witness stated that it has been found that it was to be considered first as a live scheme, and therefore, there was to be some provision in the Budget in the subsequent year, but it now appears that it was not really considered as a live scheme. Meanwhile, the Fishery Department came to the picture and they also thought of some scheme. The Irrigation scheme has, however, not been altogether dropped. As a matter of fact, instruction has been issued—in course of the examination when I found that, it should be still revived to examine if by some other means some sort of a lift irrigation scheme could be taken up. It is rather unfortunate that after November 1972 no decision was arrived at as to what should be done about this scheme. The local authorities, the District Council, was of the view that it would be worthwhile taking it up as an irrigation scheme.

RECOMMENDATION

The work on the project was stopped on the basis of the Report of the Executive Engineer, Agriculture, Mikir Hills, in November, 1972 after incurring a huge expenditure, which appears to be an infructuous; the Committee therefore recommends that there should be an investigation into the matter. The result of the investigation should be reported to the Committee within two months from the date of presentation of this report to the House.

Para 53 at page 111 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73.

53. Delay in the completion of irrigation schemes:— Four canal irrigation schemes (estimated cost: Rs. 24.28 lakhs) with command area of 18,000 acres were taken up in Jorhat Irrigation Division towards the end of 1961-62. Though Rs. 45.12 lakhs were spent upto September 1973 on the schemes the area irrigated is only 4,693 acres. Details of these schemes are as under:—

(a) The Fallanguni irrigation scheme (estimated cost: Rs. 4.53 lakhs) to irrigate land measuring 5,500 acres reclaimed in the Morongi mouza in the Golaghat Sub-division for the rehabilitation of the erosion affected people of that Subdivision was taken up in March 1962. In September 1968 the Executive Engineer prepared revised estimate (Rs. 14.98 lakhs) to provide additional works necessitated by the command area being sub-hilly high ground with numerous low lying patches; revised estimate awaits sanction (January 1974). Rupees 11.05 lakhs have been spent on the scheme and work on the cement concrete falls (estimated cost: Rs. 0.48 lakh) and a hume pipe aqueduct (estimated cost: Rs. 1.38 lakhs) remains to be done (January 1974). The scheme has irrigated an area of 947 acres only. The Executive Engineer stated (January 1974) that because of the existence of undulations in the area full command area would not benefit even after the completion of the remaining structures unless the area was levelled.

The Committee asked that the scheme was taken up for execution in March, 1962. After 6½ years, the revised estimate to provide additional works necessitated by the command area was prepared; why then at the time of preparation of the original estimate, all the requirement for the scheme could not be assessed. The Official witness stated that this scheme is situated at Golaghat Sub division. Just adjacent to the command area there are some tea gardens. As far as I recollect that command area was reclaimed by the Agriculture Department sometime in the year 1954-55 or 1955-56, to settle certain landless people, more particularly the people coming from the Majuli area on account of the erosion. The Government

made certain schemes for rehabilitation of certain people from the areas which were affected by erosion on account of flood; these people were to be resettled. The department was asked to provide irrigation facilities. The Department took up the scheme at that time-of course concept of the command area development was very poor at that time. The gross command area was supposed to be 4000 acres and the net or field command area 2000 acres although in the report it has been stated as 5000 acres. In reality, however, this is not correct. In gross area items like roads buildings etc, were included. In actual fact, this is a three-tier business: the gross area, the net area and the irrigable area. So far as this scheme is concerned, the total gross area is 4000 acres and 2500 acres is the net irrigable area. There was also some defects. The command area was adjacent to the tea gardens and as we know in the tea gardens, the ground level area cut up. Similarly, as because this area is nothing but an extension of the tea garden area, quite naturally the command area is also cut up and this is precisely the reason for which the Agriculture Department took up land reclamation scheme in 1954-55 or 1955-56 and we had to provide the irrigation facilities. The source was a beautiful one, from the river but on account of the undulatory nature of the country it was not possible to provide irrigation facilities covering the entire 2500 acres. Irrigation facilities were provided to the extent of 1200 or 1300 acres gross area which represent about 65% of the total area.

The reason for which we have not been able to achieve 100% of the irrigable area is on account of the cut up nature of the country and the field channels could not be connected with the main canal. The field channels were to be excavated by the beneficiaries at their own expenses. This was not done by them and on account of the limitations imposed due to the topographical nature the maximum efficiency was not possible.

Asked as to what were the reasons for selecting this scheme when the Department knew that due to topographical nature of the locality the proposed command area could not be achieved; the official witness stated that resettlement of the landless people and also erosion affected people more particularly in the Bokakhat Mouza

under Golaghat Subdivision. Because at that time Majuli was in the grip of flood and there was extensive erosion affected people in the command area land which was lying fallow and the Agriculture Department took up land reclamation scheme. Now, with regard to the land reclamation scheme, it was not possible on the part of the Agriculture Department to level the plots completely because the top layer of the soil was extremely hard and that was the precise reason for which the land reclamation could not be done properly.

The Committee then asked the official witness to furnish a note showing the gross area that has been reflected in the estimates. The Department in their letter No. FCA(A)21/75/Pt/95, dated 23rd December, 1976 furnished the following :—

Fallangani Irrigation Scheme :

- (a) Cross Command area as per original sanctioned estimate = 2500 acres (2000 acres in the main and 500 acres in the Distributory canal).

Net command area as per original sanctioned estimate = 2050 acres (cultivable command area).

- (b) Reasons for delay in completing the work is due to additional and alternation of some structure at the time of execution and also due to increase of volume of works. Delay is also partly due to scarcity of cement at the time of execution of works.
- (c) The works on the cement concrete falls were completed much earlier. But the work for construction of aqueduct of field channel was not at all taken up and so the question for taking of 7 years time for completion of this work does not arise.
- (d) A statement showing the items of works as per original estimate and revised estimate.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee feels that the estimates prepared were immatured and without assessing all the requirements of the scheme. As a result the Department could not achieve the target command area in spite of revision of schemes which ended in huge expenditure.

The Committee recommends that investigation should be made as to the reasons for which work on the cement concrete failed and the hume pipe aqueduct could not be completed. Responsibility should also be fixed on the officer/officers due to whose negligence the draw-backs pointed out were not taken into account at the time of survey and preparation of estimates.

Para 53 (b) at Pages 111-112 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73.

(b) The Charaipani irrigation scheme (estimated cost: Rs. 6.73 lakhs) was sanctioned (February, 1964) to irrigate 4,500 acres of land near Titabar in Jorhat Civil Sub-division. Work on the first phase of the scheme comprising headwork on the Charaipani river and right bank canal commenced in March, 1962. In August, 1968 the Executive Engineer prepared a revised estimate of Rs. 14.98 lakhs to include the left bank canal (2nd phase), jungle clearance, culverts and cross drainage works for the right bank canal system, etc.; sanction to this estimate is awaited. The expenditure on the scheme till January 1974 was Rs. 9.53 lakhs and earthwork (estimated cost: Rs. 0.83 lakh) in embankment along the Charaipani river only remained to be done mainly because of objection from the public to the construction of the embankments. Only 2,326 acres have been irrigated under the scheme. Shortfall in the irrigated area has been attributed by the Executive Engineer (January 1974) to non-utilisation of irrigation facility for double cropping by the absentee landlords.

The Committee wanted to know that the scheme was taken up in March 1962. After $6\frac{1}{2}$ years, a revised

estimate for jungle clearance, inclusive of left bank canal construction of culverts and cross drainage works for the right bank was prepared. Why at the time of preparation of the original estimate, all the requirement of the scheme could not be assessed ?

The official witness stated that so far as this scheme is concerned it had two phases. The first phase consisted of construction of cross and head regulator across the river and at the head of the canal on the right. Now after getting benefit of irrigation, the people on the left bank demanded they should be also given some share of the river water for irrigation facilities. The Department took up some survey work to find out the extent of irrigation facilities that could be given to the left bank and from the study of the availability of river water, the Department came to the conclusion that with the available water in the river it would not be possible to give the irrigation facilities to the left bank. Therefore, the scheme was restricted only to phase one i.e. right bank canal. For phase two estimate was submitted but no work was done.

On a query as to the gross and net command area, the official witness informed the Committee that the assessment was made by an impartial body i.e. the Block Development Officer, Titabar. According to his report in 1969-70 the total gross area was 4500 acres and net 2000 acres and total area brought under irrigation was 3000 acres. Maximum area under irrigation in 1974-75 was 45000. It depend on the distribution of rainfall. If the rainfall was uniform the demand for canal water would be less and it would be able to cover a larger area. During the khariff crops season supplement from canal is made, but in Sali crop demand from canal is much less provided the rainfall is uniform. During 1974 there being a bumper Sali crop people were not inclined to go for the second crop.

During the course of examination, the official witness further stated that about the coverage of area by the scheme was reported by an agency which is impartial and according to the report of the officer concerned, i.e., Block Development Officer in 1974-75 a total area of more than 3800 under sali crop was covered by the scheme. The Committee enquired if the department accepted the report of the BDO in all cases, and the

official witness stated that in all cases the department accepted such reports. On an enquiry if the department maintained any record of land irrigated by a particular scheme, the official witness stated that the concept of realising revenue from the beneficiaries in the past was completely absent. In 1974-75, there was some attempt to enforce this through the Gaon-Panchayats. The department maintained record scheme-wise identifying the area. The official witness further stated that with the passage of the Irrigation Bill, which is likely to be placed in the Assembly for enactment, during its next session the department will be in a position to assess the revenue and realise it.

The Committee then asked the official witness to give a note regarding the command area irrigated and the Department in their letter No. FCA(A).21/75/Pt/54 dated 29th May, 1976 furnished the following :—

Charaipani Irrigation Scheme :

- (a) Gross Command area to be benefited as per estimate = 4500 acres.

Net command area to be benefited as per estimate = 2000 acres (shown as 2013 acres in the sanctioned estimated against right Bank canal).

- (b) In 1975, 810 hectares of land was ready for supplying water from this scheme. But actually water was supplied in 652 acres as per the request of the cultivators, although they did not sign the agreements. Subsequently, notices were served to pay, water tax for the water supplied to the cultivators in Kharif season as a result of which they neither paid the tax nor make any further request for water during Rabi crop of 1976.

- (c) A statement showing the items of works as per original estimate and revised estimate.

Recommendation

It appears that this scheme has been taken up without assessing realistically the likely demand from the cultivators. The utilisation of this scheme in 1975 has been only 33% of the capacity, and in 1976, there appears to have been no demand from the cultivators. The Committee recommends that in future such like schemes should be taken up after carefully assessing the likely demand from the cultivators so that the huge expenditure on such like schemes does not go waste.

Para 53 (c) at page 112 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73.

The Kankochang Irrigation Scheme (estimated cost: Rs. 4.26 lakhs) was sanctioned in March 1964 to provide irrigation to 4,000 acres in the Bokakhat mouza from the Kankochang river. The estimate was revised by the Executive Engineer to Rs.14.54 lakhs in July, 1971 due to increase in rates during actual execution, changes in the structural design, additional works and provision for unforeseen items of expenditure, modification of the head and the cross regulators, etc.; this estimate has not been sanctioned by the Chief Engineer (January 1974). Certain additional remodelling works were proposed by the Executive Engineer subsequently and the estimated cost is likely to be Rs. 18 lakhs. Expenditure on the scheme till November 1973 was Rs. 11.66 lakhs. Only 30 acres have been irrigated so far. The Executive Engineer stated (January 1974) that the head regulator and the cross regulator need remodelling and the canal in certain reaches has to be entirely covered by barrel pipes to avoid being blocked due to hill slips and until this remodelling was completed, the target of irrigation cannot be achieved.

The Committee asked that the scheme was taken up in March, 1964. After more than 7 years, a revised estimate was prepared due to increase in rates, changes in structural design, modification of head and cross regulations etc., whether the original structural design was defective; the official witness replied that in this scheme

there were certain basic deficiencies and there might be various reasons also for which the Kankochang Irrigation Scheme is yet to be commissioned. This scheme was sanctioned to provide irrigation facilities to 4,000 acres in Bokaghat Mouza from the Kankochang river. The estimate was revised by the Executive Engineer due to increase in rates during actual execution, changes in this structural design and other additional works etc. Then, certain additional remodelling works were proposed by the Executive Engineer subsequently. Expenditure on this scheme till November, 1973, was Rs. 11.66 lakhs. This Kankochang river is a tributary of a major river. Instead of taking up the scheme from the major river, the department decided to construct the headwork from the tributary where there is a big hump of the hill. As a result of this, the flow of river water is obstructed by the door of the headwork and irrigated water cannot flow to higher portions. Then, the cutting down of this hump is a very costly affair. Therefore, the Department has decided to stop the work and in its place we have sanctioned another estimate for augmentation of water from the major river. Revised estimate has also been incorporated accordingly. This is the reason for which the scheme is not yet commissioned. Due to this topographical difficulty, the Department has decided to stop the work and to take up another scheme for augmentation of water from the major river to provide irrigation water to Panbari Agricultural Farming Corporation and as this major river is an ideal one we have taken up this new scheme at a cost of Rs. 6,42,900.

The Committee then asked the official witness to give a written statement about the latest position. The Department in their letter No. FCA(A)21/75/Pt/95, dated 23rd December, 1976 submitted the following:—

Kankochang Irrigation Scheme :

- (a) Area to be irrigated by Lift Irrigation in connection with Kankochang Irrigation Scheme (Augmentation of Kankochang Irrigation Scheme) -5000 acres.
- (b) A statement showing the items of works as per original estimate and revised estimate.
- (c) Expenditure upto 1975-76 is Rs. 111,95,324.10 p.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is constrained to observe that the scheme was taken up without proper topographical survey and there was faulty planning as it had to be redesigned, modified and remodelled several times. There was considerable delay at various stages. The Department has admitted that the scheme had some basic deficiencies. The defective planning and the delays resulted in huge expenditure while the achievement as compared to the target was almost negligible. The Committee recommends that the matter should be thoroughly investigated by an agency within the department and appropriate action should be taken against officials responsible for defective planning, faulty designing and also for delays at various stages. The results of investigation should be reported to the Committee within 3 months from the date of presentation of this report to the House.

Para 53(d) at page 112 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73.

The Philobari irrigation scheme (estimated cost : Rs. 8.76 lakhs) for irrigating 4,000 acres of land situated between the Doomdooma and the Maulajan rivers reclaimed for rehabilitation of the flood affected and the landless people was taken up during 1962-63. The scheme comprised a blind earthen dam across the Doomdooma river and a head regulator. The estimate of the scheme was revised from Rs. 8.76 lakhs to Rs. 13.15 lakhs (April 1966). Rupees 12.37 lakhs have been spent on the scheme so far (March 1974). The maximum area irrigated in a year so far has only been 1,390 acres. The Executive Engineer stated (January 1974) that shortfall in irrigated area was due to undulating character of the command area.

The Committee wanted to know that the scheme was taken up in 1962-63 at the estimated cost of Rs. 8.76 lakhs; the estimated cost was revised to Rs. 13.15 lakhs in April, 1966. What were the reasons for revision of the estimate? As against target of 4,000 acres, only 1390 acres could be irrigated. The Executive Engineer attri-

buted the shortfall to undulating character of the command area. Was this factor not taken into consideration at the time of preparation of the scheme? If so, was not any remedial measures suggested?

The Philobari irrigation scheme was taken up after Central Tractor Organisation carried out land levelling. This scheme was meant for giving settlement of land to the landless and erosion affected people also. These areas were contiguous to the tea gardens. The scheme was taken by the Centre and the Department were only to provide irrigation facilities for this. Since 1966-67 upto 1975-76 the net area covered was 1,600 acres. The Department not responsible for the land levelling, etc. They were only to provide water.

The Committee then asked the official witness to submit a statement showing the reasons for increase of costs. The Department in their letter No. FCA(A) 21/75/Pt/95 dated 23rd December, 1976 furnished statement where the reasons for increase of cost were attributed as follows :—

(1-3) The area comprised of valley and bridges for canal system the alignment were selected bridge line of contourplan and accordingly survey was carried out along the centre line of the channels. Separate survey was not done for both sides of marginal embankment. But during execution more earthwork had to be done for filling up low valleys and in slope of the bridges along the marginal bund. Extra earth work in filling n/s and L/s of aqueducts was found necessary during execution. The tender rate was also found higher than the sanctioned estimate rate.

(g) Guide bund was new item had to be included to guide the flow of unnatural cross drainage.

(h) Wide earthen spur was found unnecessary and delated.

(4) Extra lead and left was found necessary during execution of work which was not included in the original estimate.

- (6) L.S. Provision was made in the original estimate which was found not workable.
- (8) The new provision had to be made as found necessary during execution.
- (9) Tendered rate was higher.
- (10) One small goodown, one Mohurir's shed and a watch man tower had to be ready provided as formal necessary.
- (11) L.S. provision was made earlier. In execution L.S., provision was found not adequate.
- (12) Approach roads to head regulator, wier cum bridge aqueducts falls, etc. was made earlier. In execution L.S., provision was found not adequate.
- (13) Special I. & P. Nil.
- (14) Land acquisition and compensation was found not adequate.
- (15) Work charged establishment was found not adequate.
- (16) Boulder pitching at out fall of escape channel was elected was found for necessary.
- (17) L. S. provision which was made in the original estimate was found not adequate.
- (18) Diversion of Forest Department Road was found necessary as the main canal passes over an existing forest road for nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
- (19) Brick lining of channel was necessary due to existance of very porous send during execution.
- (20) Excavation of drainage channel to Phillubari T.E. and forest road was submerged due to construction of marginal bund.
- (21) Inspection path had to be made as per C. E.' instruction at site for convenience.
- (22) M. & R. construction period had to be added as instructed.
- (23) Provisions of an open deep intercepting drain was found necessary during execution.

- (24) Construction of a fish ladder in Tall cumbridge was found necessary during execution as verbally instructed by C.E. at site.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that such like schemes should be taken up only after detailed and proper survey and all important factors like undulating character of the command area should have been thoroughly considered before executing the schemes.

Para 62 at page 119 read with Appendix V at page 236 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73.

The paragraph brings out that the irrigation wing spent Rs. 81.85 lakhs upto March, 1973. On 13 works without any estimate and also indicates that an one other work, expenditure was incurred by the Department in excess of 5 per cent (over Rs. 5 lakhs in each case) of the sanctioned estimate upto March, 1973, the excess being Rs. 1.50 lakhs.

According to Rule 230 of the Assam P.W.D. code, no work should be commenced unless a detailed design and estimate have been sanctioned.

According to Rule 338 of the Assam P. W. D. code, a revised estimate must be prepared when the expenditure on work is in excess of 5 per cent of the sanctioned estimates.

The Committee wanted to know as to how and why the works were undertaken without any estimate; the official witness stated that against certain number of schemes as has been shown against this department, 7 numbers belong to Irrigation and 6 numbers belong to Flood Control. Out of this 7 Nos. Bannajuli Irrigation Scheme phase I, the expenditure that has been shown upto March, 1973 is Rs. 5,70,709. This particular expenditure has been held under objection for the reason that the estimate has not been sanctioned but our records show that the scheme was sanctioned as far back as 1966.

It was a system in the department that after obtaining administrative approval they used to start work. Now the Committee has issued a directive that an enquiry Committee should be set up and we have already constituted a Committee though the order is not out yet. But thing as it stood at that time it used to be almost a practice that as soon as administrative approval was received, the Executive Engineer started the work.

Now, so far as the Kaliabor lift scheme is concerned I would like to give the background. Kolong river has its mouth near Brahmaputra. In 1964 there was a worse situation of flood; even Nowgong town was threatened. Dr. K.L. Roa, the then Union Minister for Irrigation had to visit the particular spot. He himself saw the devastation and it was decided that the Kolong mouth should be sealed. This was done and the Nowgong town was protected but it created a very adverse situation. That means all the flood water used to come through the Kolong when the river was not in high spate and that was prevented by the Kolong dyke as a result of which even the rating of jute could not be done. Realising the gravity of the situation the Assam Flood Control Board made a decision that there should be a scheme for providing irrigation water and this should be done on a priority basis. Mr. Chaliha, the then Chief Minister was very keen that this should be done on a priority basis and therefore a scheme was formulated, it was discussed and considering the urgency of the scheme this particular work had to be carried out by not observing all the provisions of the rules and these are the precise reasons for which the schemes or works in this scheme had to be done.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that the findings of the Enquiry Committee which was constituted by the Department and the action taken thereon should be intimated to the Committee within 3 months from the date of presentation of this report to the House. The Committee further recommends that no work should be started without estimates, and in extremely urgent situation, immediate action should be taken to prepare the estimates and get the export-facto approval from the competent authority.

FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT

Para 55 at pages 113-114 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73.

Entertainment of muster roll labours:—The Executive Engineer, Nowgong Embankment and Drainage Division, detected (October 1971) that the Sub-divisional Officer, Morigaon, had paid Rs.0.38 lakh (August 1971) to muster roll labourers engaged (July 1971) without approval and that the expenditure had been debited to the maintenance estimate of a dyke for which adequate work-charged staff had been sanctioned and employed. The case was reported by him to the Superintending Engineer (March 1972). The Sub-divisional Officer concerned was placed under suspension (June 1972) for his refusal to hand over charge of Morigaon Sub-division on his transfer to Goalpara Embankment and Drainage Division.

The Government were requested (August and October 1973) to intimate the action taken against the Sub-divisional Officer for entertainment of muster roll labourers unauthorisedly; their reply is awaited (July 1974).

The Committee wanted to know when the proceedings was drawn up against the Sub-divisional officer; the official witness stated that the Sub-Divisional Officer was placed under suspension in June, 1972 for unauthorised entertainment of master roll labourer without approval and also for refusal to handover charge.

The Committee then enquired as to what action is being taken by Government; (the official witness stated that the case is still not finalised; he is still under suspension. An enquiry was taken up by Shri K. C. Pathak, who had been appointed Enquiring Officer. Earlier the S. D. O. himself was not giving all the informations required by the Enquiring Officer; then later on, the S. D. O. asked for all sorts of records from the department on which he was asked to be examined. In this way, he has been using all delaying tectics. Recently, the Department has decided that in case the S. D. O. does not attend ex-parte decisions may be taken if necessary.)

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that the findings of the enquiry instituted against the delinquent officer and the action taken thereon be intimated to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of this Report to the House.

Para 56 at pages 114-115 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73-Road-cum bund on the Desangmukh steamerghat approach road :—

During 1969 floods the road-cum-bund on the Desangmukh steamerghat approach road (length: 3 kilometres approx.) under the Sibsagar (Road and Buildings) Division was overtopped throughout its length by 3 to 4 feet. Thereafter, finding its maintenance difficult, the Chief Engineer, Roads and Buildings proposed (July, 1969) to the Chief Engineer, Flood Control and Irrigation Wing that the maintenance of the road-cum-bund be taken over by the later. On instructions from the Chief Engineer, Flood Control and Irrigation Wing, the Executive Engineer Sibsagar Embankment and Drainage Division inspected the road-cum-bund in September, 1969 and reported to the Chief Engineer that if it was decided to take over the road-cum-bund certain improvements and protection works (estimated cost: Rs. 9.69 lakhs) would be necessary. However, a decision on transfer of the road-cum-bund to the Flood Control and Irrigation Wing was not taken till June, 1970. The road cum-bund was heavily breached by the flood on the 21st June 1970. Attempt made by the Roads and Buildings Division to close the breach having failed after they had spent Rs. 0.87 lakh, the work of breach closing and maintenance of the road-cum-bund was transferred by the Government to the Flood Control and Irrigation Wing on the 11th August, 1970. An Additional Executive Engineer with necessary staff was appointed in the Sibsagar Embankment and Drainage Division for breach closing work which was stated to have been completed on the 31st August, 1970. The closure bund * was

** Breach closing work done in August, 1970*

breached again in September, 1970 flood and abortive attempts were made to close the breach. However, the work was abandoned on the 5th October, 1970, under orders of the Chairman, Brahmaputra Flood Control Commission. the expenditure upto the date of abandonment including the liabilities incurred was Rs. 10.57 lakhs (actual expenditure: Rs. 6.07 lakhs, liabilities: Rs. 4.50 lakhs). The work was again taken up in November 1970 and completed in February 1971 at a cost of Rs. 2.90 lakhs.

On the 28th October 1970, the Government appointed an Enquiry Committee to enquire into :—

- (i) the causes of failure of the breach closing work,
- (ii) whether the work done was in accordance with the specifications,
- (iii) whether regular tenders had been invited,
- (iv) whether there was slackness of supervision by any officer, and
- (v) whether there had been any excess payment.

A copy of the report of the Enquiry Committee asked for in July 1972 and January 1974 has not been furnished by the Government (October 1974).

The Committee asked the official witness as to what were the specific difficulties experienced by the Roads and Building Wing of the P.W.D., in the maintenance of the road-cum-bund; the official witness stated that normally, the road bunds are not supposed to act as dyke; in that case they have the machinery to tag the Brahmaputra.

During the course of examination the Committee was given to understand that originally this road-cum-bund was constructed by the R&B wing of the P.W.D. and after the breach took place, this was handed over to the Flood Control Department. The Brahmaputra Flood Control did their best and attempted to close the breach in whatever condition it was at that time and closed the bund which of course unfortunately breached at different points. From 11th August, 1970 this had been visited by the Member, Construction as well as the then Chairman Brahmaputra Flood Control Commission, and one man

enquiry Committee was appointed and he has since submitted his report.

The Committee then asked the official witness to furnish a copy of the Enquiry report. The Department in their letter No.BFC (con) 18/73/8 dated, 1st January, 1976 furnished a copy of the Report to the Committee. In paras 4 and 5 of the findings of the Report it is stated as under :—

4. The very fact that the work was completed within the target date shows that all the officers and staff had put in their best for which they deserve commendation. However, records/accounts were not maintained/scrutinised properly as a result of which overpayment to the extent of Rs. 37,298.02 p. occurred for which inadequacy of staff at site as well as in the Divisional Office may also be the reason.

5. As far as could be ascertained from the available records the overpayment amounted to Rs. 37,298.03 p. as shown in Annexure—II at pages 105-108.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that steps should be taken to recover the overpayment of Rs. 37,298.02 p from the contractors concerned as far as possible, and the steps taken should be intimated to the Committee within 3 months from the date of presentation of this report to the House.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Para 2 at page 2 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the years 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73—Budget and actuals :

(a) The Budget estimates of Revenue receipts for 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73 are given below :—

Year	Budget	Actuals	Variation	
			Amount of increase (+) decrease (—)	Percentage
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(In crores of rupees)				
1970-71	1,11.04	1,01.19	—9.85	9
1971-72	1,14.36	1,17.58	+3.22	3
1972-73	1,17.44	1,16.11	—1.33	1

(b) The year 1970-71 ended with a shortfall in revenue receipt by Rs.9.85 crores compared to Budget estimates. The year 1971-72 ended with a revenue deficit of Rs.24.61 against the anticipated Rs.5.94 crores in the Budget and the year 1972-73 ended with a revenue deficit of Rs. 2.85 crores against the deficit of Rs.10.97 crores anticipated in the Budget.

The Committee wanted to know as to what were the reasons for shortfall in revenue receipt in the year 1970-71 compared to Budget estimates and whether the short-fall has been analysed to see whether the gap was due to inaccurate estimates or non-realisation of Government revenue; the Department has furnished a written statement to this effect wherein it was stated that the shortfall in Revenue Receipts (Actuals) during 1970-71 compared to the Budget Estimates for that year was Rs. 9.85 crores. The estimates for 1970-71 was based on the lines of actual collections during 1969-70 but the actual collection during 1970-71 fell below the collection of 1969-70. The Budget Estimates for 1970-71 fell short mainly under the following heads :—

(i) Agricultural Income Tax	—0.99 crores.
(ii) Sales Tax and other Taxes and duties	—2.18 "
(iii) Road Transport	—3.23 "
(iv) Grants-in-aid from Centre	—3.24 "

The shortfall under the Road Transport Scheme was due to creation of the Road Transport Corporation and less receipts under Taxes and grants-in-aid from the Centre was mainly due to creation of Meghalaya.

In reply to a question as to what were the reasons for increase in the Revenue deficit in the year 1971-72 the Department in a written statement furnished as follows :—

The increase in Revenue deficit during the year 1971-72 is mainly due to acceptance of more liability through Supplementary Demand without any corresponding increase in receipts which were unforeseen and unavoidable and of essential nature. The additional liabilities were mainly under Expenditure on Displaced persons, (Rs.6.83 crores) Famine Relief (0.73 crores) Irrigation (3.36 crores) P. C. and D. (0.69 crores) P. W. D. (2.52 crores), Int. rest (2.15 crores) Implication worked out Rs. 3.12 crores for Interim Relief.

The Department in reply to another question as to what were the reasons for less revenue receipts during the year 1972-73 compared to Budget estimates for the year and actuals of the previous year; stated in a written statement that the Revenue gap as anticipated in the original Budget was Rs.10.97 crores. In the Actuals this gap was narrowed down to Rs.2.85 crores. This was mainly due to less expenditure under Irrigation, (1.84) crores F. C. I. (1.97 crores) P. W. D. (4.66 crores) Displaced Persons (0.71 crores) for non-implementation of certain schemes under Irrigation, Flood Control Departments and also for less expenditure under stock and suspense accounts of P. W. D.

In reply to another question as to what steps do the Finance Department propose to take to reduce the gap between the revenue receipts and expenditure to minimise the extent of borrowing and interest liability on borrowing; the Finance Department in a written statement stated that the Financial Commissioner had explained before the Committee, the necessity for the borrowings in the developing economy of the State. Out of the total expenditure of Rs.120 crores in the Revenue Accounts during the year, an amount of about Rs.14 crores represents Plan expenditure. The balance of Rs. 106 cr. is mainly non-plan committee expenditure on accounts of salaries, maintenance etc. including Interest payment of about Rs.12 crores. Finance Department however, keep watch and see that the strictest economy is maintained in non-plan expenditure. It is seen from the provisional accounts for 1975-76 that the revenue gap in that year was wiped out. The position is expected to improve further as and when the State Public Undertakings start giving suitable returns. In this direction, a Department of Public Enterprises has been created & Task Forces have been appointed to go into the working of the Public Enterprises.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is constrained to see that there is a huge gap between the revenue receipts and the expenditure. The Committee recommends that tangible steps should be taken to minimise the extent of borrowing and interest liability on borrowing. Steps should also be taken to realise the arrears of Revenue

Para 3 at pages 2-3 of the Report of the Comptroller. and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71

The variation in 1970-71 as compared to that in 1969-70 are indicated below:—

(In crores of rupees)			
	1969-70	1970-71	Increase+ Decrease—
(i) Revenue raised by the State Government—			
(a) Taxes, duties and other principal heads of revenue.	31.88	28.15	—3.75
(b) Receipts from projects, Government companies etc. and other receipts.	10.68	7.91	—2.77
(ii) Receipts from Government of India—			
(a) States' share of divisible taxes ..	16.03	17.90	+1.87
(b) Grants-in-aid from Government of India—			
1. Under Article 275 of the Constitution ..	22.29	18.46	—3.83
2. Other grants ..	30.17	28.77	—1.40

	(In crores of rupees)		
	1969-70	1970-71	Increase+ Decrease
(iii) Public Debt—			
a) Loans from the public (Permanent debt).	4.98	4.14	—0.84
(b) Loans from the Government of India.	70.46	64.49	—5.97
(c) Loans from the Reserve Bank of India.	84.33	1,16.73	+32.40
(d) Other loans	0.24	0.33	+0.09

During 1970-71 Government received Rs.47.23 crores as grants (47 per cent of total Revenue receipts) and Rs.64.49 crores as loans from Government of India, the corresponding figures for 1969-70 being grant Rs.68.49 crores (62 per cent) and loan Rs.70.46 crores. The former included grant of Rs.18.46 crores for administration of the Sixth Schedule (Part A) areas under Article 275 of the Constitution.

The Committee while examining this Paragraph on 24th July, 1976 asked the official witness of the Finance Department to furnish written reply to the questionnaire prepared by the Committee. The Department in their letter No.FM.120/76/3, dated 12th August, 1976 furnished the written statement as below:—

Question:

What are the reasons for shortfall in Receipt under the following heads compared to 1969-70?

Taxes, Duties other principal heads on Revenue Receipts from projects Government companies etc. ?

Answer:

The shortfall in Revenue Receipt during 1970-71 from that of 1969-70 under the items mentioned are mainly under following :—

- (1) 1.15 Crores less receipts under Agri. Income Tax.
- (2) 0.36 Crores less receipt under Land Revenue.
- (3) 0.70 Crores due to less receipts under Sales Tax.
- (4) 0.45 Crores due to less receipt under the Taxes & Duties.
- (5) 0.41 Crores under other Social & Dev. Service.
- (6) 2.46 Crores due to creation of Road Transport Corporation. The receipt did not accrue to the Consolidated Fund of the State and formed part of the State Transport Corporation Fund.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that Finance Department should examine the reasons for less realisation of taxes & dues under the Agricultural Income Tax, Land Revenue, Sales Tax and other Taxes and Duties.

The steps taken for early realisation of outstanding taxes and other dues should be intimated to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of this Report before the House.

Para 4] at page 3 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71

According to the information furnished by Government there were arrears of collection under the following heads of revenue:—

Head of revenue	(In crores of rupees)	
	Arrear on	
	31st March 1970	31st March 1971
Land Revenue ..	3.71	3.86
Taxes on agricultural income/ sales tax (including tax on liquor). ..		1.48
Taxes on goods carried by road or inland waterways. ..		2.63
Taxes on motor vehicles ..		0.64
Forest revenue ..	1.37	1.38
Other taxes such as profession tax, electricity tax, electricity duty, immovable property tax etc. ..		0.49 0.94

The Committee observed that there was heavy arrears on the land revenue and asked the official witness to furnish a detailed statement regarding the latest position ending 31st March, 1976 and the

reasons for arrears in land Revenue. The Department in their letter No. FM.120/76/3, dated 12th August, 1976 furnished the following:—

Arrear position as available in the Department is furnished below:—

		(Rs. in lakhs.)
Item	Amount	
1. Taxes under C. T :		
(i) Assam Sales Tax ..	167.90	
(ii) Assam Finance Sales Tax	293.31	
(iii) Central Sales Tax ..	83.17	
(iv) Sales Tax on Petrol ..	40.23	
(v) Purchase Tax ..	22.39	
(vi) Professional Tax ..	13.28	
(vii) Assam Passangers & Goods Tax. ..	186.81	
(viii) Electricity Duty ..	21.10	
(ix) Carriage Tax ..	175.86	
(x) Amusement Tax ..	0.41	
(xi) Agricultural Income Tax	147.39	
TOTAL	1151.85	(As on 31.3.76)
2. Motor Vehicle Tax ..	43.87	(As on 31.3.76)
3. Forest Revenue ..	163.63	(As on 31.3.75)
4. Land Revenue ..	845.64	(As on 31.3.75)

GRAND TOTAL 2202.99

Due to successive floods in the State, collection of Land Revenue is not satisfactory and is in arrears. Besides a large number of cases are pending under Bakijai proceedings. However, Revenue Department has taken active measures to realise the arrears.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee would like to know as to what are the specific measures taken by the Finance Department to realise the arrears of revenue in different Departments of the Government.

The Committee may be apprised of the steps taken within three months from the date of presentation of this report to the House.

Para 4 at page 4 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72 and Para 4 at page 4 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73. Arrears in the collection of Revenue:

The arrears in the collection of revenue according to information furnished by the Government till 31st March, 1973 under the following heads of Revenue are given below:—

Heads of revenue	(In crores of rupees)	
	Arrears on the 31st March	
	1972	1973
Land Revenue	6.52*	6.55*
Taxes on agricultural Income	1.27	1.32
Sales tax	2.93	3.16
Taxes on goods carried by road and inland waterways	2.33	2.30
Taxes on motor vehicles	0.64	0.42
Forest revenue	1.53	1.63
Other taxes such as profession tax, electricity duty, immovable property tax, etc.	0.96	1.09

*As on 30th June.

The Committee examined the above paras on 23rd, 24th July, and 25th August, 1976 and asked the official witness to furnish the latest position of collection of arrear revenue and the steps taken thereon for prompt realisation of the arrears. The Government in their letter No.FM. 120/76/7, dated 28th September, 1976 furnished the following:—

1. The present position of arrears as available is furnished below:—

(i) Assam Sales Tax	..	167.90 lakhs.
(ii) Assam Finance Sales Tax	..	293.31 lakhs.
(iii) Central Sales Tax	..	83.17 lakhs.
(iv) Sales Tax on Petroleum	..	40.23 lakhs.

(v) Purchase Tax	..	22.39 lakhs.
(vi) Professional Tax	..	13.28 lakhs.
(vii) Assam Passengers & Goods Tax	..	186.81 lakhs.
(viii) Electricity Duty	..	29.10 lakhs.
(ix) Carriage Tax	..	175.86 lakhs.
(x) Amusement Tax	..	0.41 lakhs.
(xi) Agricultural Income Tax	..	147.39 lakhs.

Total:— 1159.85 lakhs.

(As on 31.3.76)

2. Motor Vehicle Tax 41.87 lakhs.

(As on 31.3.76)
163.63 lakhs.

3. Forest Revenue

(As on 31.3.75)

4. Land Revenue 845.64 lakhs.

(As on 31.3.75)

GRAND TOTAL 2210.99 lakhs.

Due to successive floods in the State, collection of Land Revenue is not satisfactory and lying in arrears. Besides a large No. of cases are pending under Bakijai proceedings. However, Revenue Department has been taking effective measures including special collection drives to realise the arrears. As regards other Departments, similar measures are being taken by them to realise the arrears.

RECOMMENDATION

As regards the land revenue, the Committee appreciates the difficulties of the flood affected ryots and recommends that effective steps be taken to realise the arrears from those who can afford to pay.

The Committee further recommends that there should be investigation to ascertain the reasons for huge arrears of revenue other than land revenue. The report of the investigation and the steps taken should be intimated to the Committee within 3 months from the date of presentation of this report before the House.

Para 6 at page 7 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71

Para 6 at page 6 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72

Para 7 at page 8 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73

Debt position of Government

The outstanding public debt at the end of 1970-71 was Rs.3,44.38 crores, at the end of 1971-72 was Rs.3,87.41 crores and at the end of 1972-73 was Rs.3,99.89 crores.

An analysis of the public debt compared to the corresponding amount at the end of the two-preceding years is given below:—

(In crores of rupees)

		Public Debt on 31st March		
		1971	1972	1973
Public Debt	..	29.45	33.56	38.53
Floating Debt	..	29.01	44.95	1.19
Loans from the Government of India		2,84.05	3,07.19	3,58.56
Loans from the autonomous bodies		1.87	1.17	1.61
Total		3,44.38	3,87.41	3,99.89(A)

During 1972-73 the public debt of the Government increased by Rs.23.15 crores as shown below:—

(In crores of rupees)

		Loans		Net
		Raised	Discharged	increase+ Decrease—
Open market loans	..	4.98	0.01	+4.97
Floating debt	..	41.70	85.46	—43.76
Loans from the Government of India	..	90.13	28.16	+61.97
Loans from the autonomous bodies		0.15	0.18	—0.03
Total	...	1,36.96	1,13.81	+23.15

In addition to the amounts borrowed by the Government directly it had the following liabilities on the 31st March, 1973.

(In crores of rupees)

Non-interest bearing obligations—

Deposits with the Government and other earmarked funds.	34.31
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Deposit bearing interest	0.17
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(ii) **Open market loan:**—An open market loan of Rs.4.97 crores was raised by the Government during the year bearing interest at 5½ per cent and redeemable at par in September 1984.

(iii) Ways and means advances and overdrafts from Reserve Bank of India

Under an agreement with the Reserve Bank of India, the Government has to maintain with the Bank a minimum balance of Rs.20 lakhs on all days. If the balance falls below the agreed minimum, the Government can take ordinary ways and means advances from the Bank. In addition, special ways and means advances are also made available against the Government of India securities held by the State Government. Both the advances carry interest at one per cent below the bank rate in force. The limit upto which ordinary and special ways and means advances can be taken are mutually agreed upon between the Bank and the Government. (During 1972-73 the Government could take ordinary ways and means advances upto Rs.60 lakhs and special ways and means advances upto Rs.2.60 crores). If the cash balance with the Bank is below the agreed minimum even after taking these advances, the Bank allows overdraft on which interest is charged at the bank rate.

How far the Government was able to maintain this minimum balance with the Bank in 1972-73 is shown below :—

Number of days on which the minimum balance was maintained without obtaining any advance.	348
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Number of days on which the minimum balance was maintained by taking ordinary and special ways and means advances.	16
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Number of days on which overdrafts had to be taken as minimum balance could not be maintained even after taking ordinary and special ways and means advances to the full extent.	1
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(a) **Ways and means advances.**—At the end of the previous year Rs.3.20 crores were outstanding as ways and means advances. During the year Rs.6.85 crores were repaid during 1972-73 leaving a balance of Rs.1.19 crores at the end of the year. Rs.6.28 lakhs were paid as interest on these advances.

(b) **Overdrafts.**—The overdraft outstanding at the end of the previous year was Rs.41.75 crores. During the year on one occasion the cash balance of the Government with the Bank was below the prescribed minimum even after availing of ordinary and special ways and means advances. Rupees 34.84 crores were obtained as overdraft. The entire amount of overdraft including the previous balance was repaid during the year. Rupees 24.79 lakhs were paid to the Bank as interest on overdraft.

The interest paid to the Bank on the ways and means advances and the overdrafts during the three years ending 1972-73 is given below :—

(In crores of rupees)

Year	Amount
1970—71	0.50
1971—72	0.78
1972—73	0.31

(iv) **Loans from the Government of India.**—(a) The loans received from the Government of India and outstanding at the end of March 1973 (Rs.3,58.56 crores) represented 90 per cent of the public debt of the State (Rs.3,99.89 crores).

There was an increase of Rs.61.97 crores under borrowings from the Government of India during 1972-73 compared to those on the 31st March 1972. The increase was due to more loans sanctioned by the Government of India for State Plan Schemes including agricultural production, housing and major irrigation schemes (Rs.21.67 crores), and other purposes (Rs.53.07 crores) and larger share of small savings collections (Rs.1.36 crores) offset by larger re-payments of loans for miscellaneous development (Rs.13.63 crores) industrial development (Rs.0.03 crores), community development, co-operation and national extension service schemes (Rs.0.41 crores) and water supply and drainage schemes (Rs.0.06 crores).

The loans from the Government of India included loans for the rehabilitation of displaced persons (balance on the 31st March 1973 Rs.8.50 crores), the terms of repayment of which have not been settled so far (September 1974). According to the terms stipulated by the Government of India, repayment of Rs.76.82 lakhs as principal and Rs.56.13 lakhs as interest was due at the end of March 1973 ; of this Rs.16.46 lakhs were written off by the Government of India during 1972-73.

(b) Loans sanctioned by the Government of India for clearance of overdrafts:—

During 1972-73 the Government of India sanctioned ways and means advances of Rs.28.05 crores to the State Government for the clearance of overdrafts. These were converted into loans (Rs.27.35 crores) and grants (Rs.0.70 crores) during may 1972 to December 1972 and March 1973.

(v) Interest charges:—Interest payment on debt are analysed below

	1970—71	1971—72	1972—73
	(In crores of rupees)		
(I) Interest paid by Government	12.00	19.18	9.46
(II) Deduct—			
(a) Interest received on loans and advances given by Government	0.16	0.13	0.46
(b) Interest realised on investment of cash balances	0.05	0.01	0.25
	<hr/> 0.21 <hr/>	<hr/> 0.14 <hr/>	<hr/> 0.71 <hr/>
(III) Net burden of interest on revenue	11.79	19.04	8.75
(IV) Net interest as percentage of total Revenue	12	16	8

(vi) Amortisation arrangements (a) Sinking Fund for amortisation of loan:—The Government has created a Sinking Fund for amortisation of (i) all the market loans and (ii) three of the loans from the Government of India. The balance of all loans from the Government of India on the 31st March 1973 was ; Rs.3,58.56 crores three of these loans for which Fund has been created are : Loan of Rs.1.40 lakhs for Industrial Housing Scheme, 1952 ; Rs.3 crores Special Loan 1975 (these were allocated to the Government of Assam out of the proceeds of market borrowings of the Government of India in 1963-64) ; and Loan under the Scheme of sharing small savings collection (balance on the 31st March 1973 ; Rs.30.86 crores); Amortisation arrangement has not been considered necessary for the other loans from the Government of India. Total amount appropriated out of the revenue during 1972-73 was Rs.3.48 crores for market loans ; Rs.2.74 crores and for loans from the Government of India; Rs.0.74 crore). The balance in the Fund at the end of the year was Rs.20.57 crores. Out of this Rs.2.79 crores were invested in the securities of the Government of India. Other State Governments and statutory bodies and the remaining amount of Rs.17.78 crores was marged in the general cash balance of the State.

(b) **Sinking Fund for the depreciation of loans** :—The Government have also created a Sinking Fund for depreciation of 7 market loans (face value: Rs.20.22 crores). During 1972-73 Rs.0.26 crore, 1 per cent of the face value of these loans, was appropriated from the revenue to this fund. The balance at the credit of the fund at the end of the year was Rs.2.48 crores. Out of this Rs.0.59 crore, were invested in the securities of the Government of India, other State Governments and statutory bodies and the remaining amount of Rs.1.89 crores was marged in the general cash balance of the State.

The Committee examined the official witness on these paras on 23rd, 24th July, 1976 and also on 25th August 1976 and asked the Department to furnish the written statement. The Department in their letter No.FM.120/76/7, dated 28th September 1976 furnished the following statement:—

Appointment of Public Debt in respect of Central Loans between Assam and Meghalaya has been made provisionally fixed at the ratio of 95.88 : 4.12 pending final allocation and discharge of public loans is being made accordingly. Government of India's Loan outstanding on 1st April 1970 is Rs.257,24,40486. Meghalaya's share @ 4.12 per cent transferred to this State is Rs.10,60,79,909. Market Loan has been apportioned at the ratio of 94.43 per cent and 5.57 per cent between Assam and Meghalaya respectively as per provision of N. E. A. (R) Act 1971.

A Statement showing the per Capita Public Debt in Assam in relation to some of the States is showing in Annexure III at page ...109

In the interest of growing economy of the State, the borrowing of funds for development purposes become essential. This principle is more or less applicable in other State of India. Even the Government of India is also obtaining foreign loans as well as internal borrowings to meet the commitment of the Plan outlay. When Government investment in Public Undertakings start yeilding sufficient revenue, State's liability will be minimised to that extent. In that direction, State Government have appointed a Tusk Force to go into the functioning of each public sector undertaking has also set up the Department and Public Enterprises recently.

The system of overdraft with the R. B. I. had already been discontinued with effect from May 1972. The State Government has taken certain measures like allotment of fund though Letter of Credit on the basis of the available resources to curtail the overdraft and maximum possible economy in expenditure has also been enforced. As a result of the measures undertaken the State Government had no occasion to go in for overdraft for the last three years.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that steps should be taken by the Department to arrest the growth of public debt of such a magnitude and also to keep the incidence of ways and means advances and overdraft to the minimum.

Para 53 (b) at page 54 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71.

Para 36 (b) at page 56 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72.

Arrears of assessment

These two paras bring out the arrears of assessment under the four Sales tax laws (Sales Tax, Finance Sales Tax, Central Sales Tax, Sale of Petroleum and Petroleum Products) at the end of 1970-71 and 1971-72. Arrears of assessment as at the end of 1971-72 were:—

	No. of cases
Sales Tax Act	12,750
Finance (Sale Tax) Act	13,953
Central Sales Tax	6,618
Petroleum and Petroleum Products	688
	<hr/> 34,009

Figures as at the end of 1972-73 were not furnished by the Department of 34,009 cases, nearly 18,000 were more than old.

The relevant provisions of the Sales Tax Act (corresponding provisions are there in other Acts are—

Section 16 requires every registered dealers to furnish returns of his turnover by the prescribed dates. Under Rule 21(1), the returns are submitted quarterly by the end of the succeeding months.

Section 17 gives the power for summary assessment in cases return is not submitted or the returns are incomplete.

The Acts and the Rules also provide for appeals and revision of assessments.

The Committee examined this paras on 23rd July, 1976 and the Official witness of the Department was asked to furnish written statement showing the latest position with regard to appeal cases, Bakijai

cases and Superintendent of Taxes. The Department in their letter No. FTX. 232/76/51 dated 21st August, 1976 furnished the following :—

It is seen that as on 31st March, 1975 only Rs. 164.87 lakhs remained as arrears of Sales Taxes of 31st March, 1972 as per break-up given below :

- (i) Appeal Cases Rs. 57.44 lakhs.
- (ii) Bakijai Cases Rs. 76.49 lakhs.
- (iii) Superintendent Rs. 30.94 lakhs.
of Taxes.

Total— Rs. 164.87 lakhs.

The number of pending cases categoriwise is shown below :—

Nature of cases	Number of cases	Amount involved
(1) Appeal Cases	269	Rs. 57.44 lakhs
(2) Bakijai Cases	9256	Rs. 76.49 lakhs.
(3) Superintendent of Taxes	297	Rs. 30.94 lakhs.
Total—		9822 Rs. 164.87 lakhs.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that the Government should take some special steps to get these pending cases finalised expeditiously. Steps taken in this regard may be intimated to the Committee within 3 months from the date of presentation of the Report to the House.

Para 8 at pages 10—12 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71.

Para 8 at pages 11—15 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72.

Para 9 at pages 13—18 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73.

Loans and Advance by the State Government

(a) The actuals of disbursements of loans and advances by the Government for 1972-73 as compared with (i) the budget estimates and (ii) the budget estimates plus supplementary provision along with the corresponding figures for 1970-71 and 1971-72 are shown below:—

Year	Budget	Budget plus supplementary	Actuals	Variation between columns (4) and (3)	
				Amount of decrease	Percent
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(In Lakhs of Rupees)					
1970-71	5,56.03	8,06.94	7,34.18	72.76	9
1971-72	4,79.15	5,89.06	4,31.17	11,57.89	27
1972-73	3,25.54	6,61.93	5,22.14	1,39.79	21

The break-up of budget estimates plus supplementary grants/appropriation obtained during the course of the year and actual expenditure shown prepage between Plan and Non-Plan is given below—

Year	Budget Plus Supplementary	Actuals	Variation between columns (2) and (3). Amount of increase (+) decrease (—) (percentage in brackets)	Increase (+) decrease (—) over expenditure of the previous year (percentage in brackets)	Budget plus supplementary	Actual	Variation between columns (6) and (7). Amount of increase (+) decrease (—) (Percentage in brackets)	Increase over expenditure of the previous year (percentage in brackets)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
(In crores of rupees)								
1970-71	6.12	5.77	-0.35 (6)	+1.61 (39)	1.95	1.57	-0.38 (19)	+0.23 (15)
1971-72	3.60	2.99	-0.61 (17)	-2.78	2.29	1.32	-0.91 (42)	0.25 (16)
1972-73	2.82	2.07	-0.75 (27)	0.92 (31)	3.80	3.15	0.65 (17)	+1.83 (49)

VARIATION IN THE NON-PLAN EXPENDITURE

The shortfall of Rs. 65 crores (column 8) during 1972-73 was mainly due to (i) non-sanction of loans to Karimganj Municipal Board and Gauhati Municipality wing to non-finalisation of their loan applications, (ii) non-sanction of loans to refugees (New migrants) owing to late receipt of fund from the Government of India and (iii) less utilisation of fertilisers and pesticides owing to shortage of the same during Rabi season,

The increase of Rs. 1.83 crores (column 9) over the expenditure of 1971-72 was mainly under Loans and Advances by the State Government-IX-Tea Garden Land Utilisation Loans, etc.,

Variation in the Plan Expenditure :

This shortfall of Rs. 0.75 crores (column 4) during the year 1972-73 was mainly due to (i) the post budget decision not to sanction loans to the "Gramdan Areas" and the "Panchayats" owing to proposed changes in the Panchayati Raj from 1973-74, (ii) non-sanction of the Schemes of Co-operation Department, (iii) non-finalisation of proposal for loan to Assam State Electricity Board for power project owing to non-receipt of details and (iv) non-issue of loans under the National water Supply and Sanitation Programme owing to late receipt of sanction and scarcity of construction materials.

(b) The budget and actuals of recoveries of loans and advances for three years ending 1972-73 are given below :—

Year	Budget	Actuals	Variation	
			Amount of increase (+) decrease (—)	Percentage
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(In lakhs of Rupees)				
1970-71	1,47.10	3,11.15	+1,64.05	122
1971-72	2.04.37	92.91	—1,11.46	55
972-73	1,87.12	1,69.95	—17.17	9

(c) The total loans and advances given by the Government and outstanding at the end of March 1973 were Rs. 1,10.49 crores, as shown below :—

	Balance on the 31st March, 1972	Balance on the 31st March, 1973	Increase+ Decrease—
(In crores of Rupees)			
(1) Loans to Municipal Corporations/Municipalities/ local bodies, etc.	6.40	6.79	+0.39
(2) Advances to cultivators	3.84	3.94	+0.10
(3) Loans under Community Development programme	0.29	0.28	—0.01
(4) Loans to displaced persons	8.15	8.22	+0.07
(5) Loans to Government servants	3.17	3.29	+0.12
(6) Miscellaneous loans and advances—			
(i) Rehabilitation loans ...	3.44	3.60	+0.16
(ii) Loans to Co-operative institutions and Banks.	2.37	2.52	+0.15
(iii) Loans under Low income group housing scheme.	1.07	1.10	+0.03
(iv) Loans to major industries	0.94	1.04	+0.10
(v) Other miscellaneous loans and advances.	5.40	8.06	+2.66
(7) Loans to statutory corporations, boards and Government Com- panies—			
(i) Loans to State Electricity Board.	71.17	71.57	+0.40
(ii) Loans to Assam Financial Corporation.	0.08	0.08	...
(iii) Loans to Assam and Meghalaya States Road Transport Corporation.	0.65	..	—0.65
Total ...	1,06.97	1,10.49	+3.52

(d) Arrears in the recovery of loans.—(i) According to orders issued by the Government the Administrative Departments are required to intimate to Audit every year the arrears (as on the 31st March) in the recovery of the principal of and interest on loans the detail accounts of which are maintained by the Departmental Officers. Such information as on the 31st March 1973 was not received in complete form from 3 out of 6 Departments (September 1974). The information received from 3 Departments, along with the position of arrears as on the 31st March 1972 in respect of these and the other Department is given below :—

Name of the department and the purpose for which loan was granted.	Arrears on the 31st March, 1972		Arrears on the 31st March, 1973	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
	(In lakhs of rupees)			
(1)	(2)		(3)	
Revenue—				
Revenue Advances to cultivators	2,01.23	60.93	Information not received	
Town and Country Planning—				
(i) Low income group housing scheme	19.94	12.79	13.93	13.56
(ii) Middle income group housing scheme	5.23	3.38	2.31	4.66
Relief and Rehabilitation—				
Rehabilitation loan	1,29.14	23.62	Information not received	
Industries —				
Industrial loans	85.74	19.57	1,03.95	9.58
Tribal Areas—				
Loans to district and regional Councils (Assam)	13.29	...	Information not received	
Sericulture and Weaving—				
Loans for development of Sericulture and Weaving	5.22	2.26	5.72	2.42

(ii) Out of loans and advances to Municipalities, Local Bodies, etc. the detailed accounts of which are maintained by the Audit Office, recovery of Rs. 1.16.82 lakhs was overdue at the end of 1972-73 (Principal : Rs. 53.72 lakhs, interest : Rs. 63.70 lakhs).

(iii) The Government paid Rs. 71.57 crores to the Assam State Electricity Board as loan upto the end of March 1973. At the end of March 1973 the recovery of Rs. 6.86 crores as principal and Rs. 26.97 crores as interest had become overdue.

(c) The certificate of proper utilisation are required to be furnished to Audit by the Departmental Officers within a reasonable time (as may be specified in the letters sanctioning the loans). For loans the detailed accounts for which are maintained by the Audit Office the certificates were not received upto September 1974 in 1841 cases covering loans of Rs. 75.89 crores as shown below :—

Department	Year of Payment	Building Loans		Other Loans		Total	
		Number of certi- ficates	Amount	Number of certi- ficates	Amount	Number of certi- ficates	Amount
(Amount in lakhs of rupees)							
(1)	(2)	(3)		(4)		(5)	
Municipal Adminisa- tion	1941-42 to 1972-73	...		131	2,66.22	231	2,66.22
Power (El- ectricity)	1958-59 to 1972-73	...		142	71,17.32	142	71,17.32
Industries	1958-59 to 1972-73	...		1,531	1,42.00	1,531	1,42.00
Town and Country Planning	1969-70 to 1972-73	37	64.22		...	37	64.22

The consolidated utilisation certificates were not received upto September 1974 in 654 cases covering loans of Rs. 3.37 crores, the detailed account of which are maintained by the Departmental Officers. The department-wise particulars are shown below :—

Department	1968-69		1969-70		1970-71		1971-72		Total	
	Number of certificates	Amo. unit	Number of certificates	Amo. unit	Number of certificates	Amo. unit	Number of certificates	Amo. unit	Number of certificates	Amo. unit
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
(Amount in lakhs of rupees)										
Revenue	86	21.60	49	11.76	35	4.44	58	10.45	228	48.25
Education	60	5.82	48	5.79	48	5.59	32	2.64	198	19.84
Relief and Reha- bilitation	42	26.14	15	11.43	28	19.51	7	4.20	92	61.28
Co-operation	16	10.26	13	7.10	20	26.44	25	21.89	74	65.69
Town and Coun- try Planning	...	..	..	...	...	...	32	1.39.47	32	1.39.47
Industries	1	0.20	4	0.86	3	0.03	22	1.20	30	2.29

The Committee examined the official witness of the Finance Department on 24th July, 1976. In course of examination, the official witness was asked to furnish a written statement showing the reasons for non-recovery of overdue amounts and present position of recovery of arrears dues from the Municipal Boards and the Assam State Electricity Board. The Finance Department in their letter No. FM. 120/76/7, dated 28th September, 1976 furnished the following :—

Due to greater decentralisation of financial powers for effective implementation of the Plan Schemes, the Administrative Department are competent to sanction loan upto certain extent without concurrence of Finance and they are responsible for the recovery of instalments together with the interest. Finance Department pursue the matter with the Administrative Departments for effective realisation of all over dues instalments together with the interest thereon. The present position of the arrears as available is furnish (Statement II). Sometime past, a meeting was held with all the Financial Advisers and Finance and Account Officers and they were impressed upon the urgency of making their records upto date and also to improve recovery. As regards the arrear dues from Municipal Boards etc. the Administrative Department has taken up with the Boards for realisation of arrear dues. Finance Deptt. has instructed the Depitts. to adjust the arrears against the advances due to the Municipal Boards.

As regards Electricity Board, their present financial position is not sound and they are not in a position to make payment of the dues to the State Government immediately. However, they have estimated to make payment of some amount during the Fifth Plan Period.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is not happy over the huge amount of arrears overdue to be recovered against loans and advances specially from Assam State Electricity Board and the Municipal Boards.

The Committee recommends that the department should exercise stricter control over this matter and ensure that the instalments of principals and interests due to be paid should be recovered in due time. The Committee would like to know the amount of arrears which have been adjusted against the advances due to the Municipal Boards as proposed by the department.

The Committee also recommends that investigation should be made regarding the financial soundness of the Assam State Electricity Board, and the reasons as to why the Board has failed to repay. The results of the investigation should be intimated to the Committee within 3 months from the date of the presentation of this report to the House.

Para 9 at page 13 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71.

Para 9 at page 15 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72.

Para 10 at Pages 18-19 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73.

Acceptance of balances :

This paras bring out that in a large number of cases, the authorities administering the loans and advances and the administrators of the deposit accounts have not communicated their acceptances of balances outstanding in the books of the audit office.

The Committee asked the official witness to furnish a statement as to what steps have been taken by the Department as co-ordinating agency to ensure that the acceptances of balances are sent to audit office for reconciliation of balances. The Department in their letter No. FM. 120/76/7, dated 28th September, 1976 furnished the following information :—

Finance Department has been taking up the matter with the respective administrative Departments on receipt of such intimation from Audit office for timely verification of the departmental expenditure figures with those booked in Accountant General's Office. In this connection the latest circular from the Finance Department vide letter No. BB. 37/76/22, dated 7th July, 1976 is at Annexure IV at pages 110—111.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that all these outstanding cases should be cleared immediately and the Committee informed of the latest position within 2 months from the date of presentation of this report to the House.

Para 11 at pages 14-15 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71.

Para 11 at page 17 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72.

Para 12 at page 20 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73.

Investment :

Government invested Rs. 2.55 crores in the year 1970-71, Rs. 3.22 crores in the year 1971-72 and Rs. 4.99 crores in the year 1972-73 in the commercial and industrial undertakings owned by it. The investment during the year 1972-73 in other commercial and industrial undertakings consisted of investment of Rs. 18 lakhs in the Ashoka Paper Mills Ltd.

The total investment of Government in the share capital of different concerns at the end of 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73 was Rs. 18.69 crores, Rs. 21.79 crores and Rs. 26.59 crores respectively the dividend/interest received therefrom was Rs. 0.01 crore (0.05 percent), Rs. 0.01 crore (0.05 percent) and Rs. 0.02 crore (0.08 percent) respectively. Further details are given below :—

(Reference : explanatory note I of statement No. 2
of Finance Accounts 1972-73)

Particulars of investments at the end of three years ending March, 1973.

	1970-71			1971-72			1972-73		
	Number of concerns	Investment	Dividend/Interest received	Number of concerns	Investment	Dividend/Interest received	Number of concerns	Investment	Dividend/Interest received
	(In crores of rupees)			(In crores of rupees)			(In crores of rupees)		
(i) Statutory Corporation	2	0.58	..	3	1.12	...	3	2.78	..
(ii) Government Companies	15	14.37	..	15	15.91	..	16	18.80	...
(iii) Joint Stock Companies	10	0.89	...	11	1.53	...	9	1.48	..
(iv) Co-operatives	838	2.85	...	875	3.23	..	879	3.53	...
Total—	865	18.69	0.01	904	21.79	0.01	907	26.59	0.02(a)

The Committee wanted to know the control exercised by the Finance Department to see that money invested by the Government brings suitable financial returns; the official witness stated that recently a conference of the officers of the Public undertakings on these points was held. Serious efforts are being made towards improvement Task Forces will go to the field and find out about their performances.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee would like to be apprised of the concrete steps taken to ensure proper financial returns for the money invested by the Government, and whether there has been any improvement in the financial returns during the last 2 years. The Committee may be informed of the results/latest position within 3 months from the date of presentation of this report to the House.

Para 12 at page 15 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72.

Para 12 at page 18 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72.

Para 13 at pages 20-21 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73.

Utilisation certificates

The Committee wanted to know as to whether Finance Department take into account proper utilisation of previous grants before concerning payment of further grants; the official witness stated that the Department is making attempts for improvement. If the same party is to get another grant then we verify whether the money already taken has been utilised.

The Committee then asked the official witness to furnish a statement about the latest position. The Department in their letter No. FM. 120/76/7, dated 28th September, 1976 furnished the following written statement :

(i) As per rules utilisation certificates are required to be submitted by the authorities sanctioning grants-in-aid within a reasonable time. The various sanctioning authorities insist on submitting the utilisation certificate in respect of the grants sanctioned by them immediately after the expenditure is incurred. The Finance Department issues suitable instructions from time to time requiring the various Administrative Departments/Heads of Departments, to submit outstanding utilisation certificates to the Accountant General timely. Finance Department even insist that before sanctioning the subsequent grants, submission of outstanding utilisation certificate in respect of the earlier grants should be ensured. Inspite of these, however, the position seems to be anything but satisfactory. In some cases, the utilisation certificates are required to be countersigned by the Local Auditors. Since in the past few years, the number of institutions receiving grants-in-aid has increased enormously, it has not been possible on the part of the Local Auditors to cope with these increasing volume of works. Finance Department has discussed this matter with various Administrative Departments so as to bring about a solution to this problem. This matter is also proposed to be discussed with the Accountant General's Office so that a way can be found out.

The Finance Department has instructed that unless the utilisation certificates in respect of earlier grants are furnished subsequent grants should not be sanctioned (Memo No.FM.123/76/2, dated 13th August 1976 at Annexure V at page 112. All Administrative Departments have also been requested to make an all out effort for the liquidation of all arrears relating to utilisation certificate within 3 months (Memo No. FM. 123/76/1, dated 12th January 1976 at Annexure VI at pages 113—114.

(ii) Regarding action taken on the findings of the Examiner of Local Accounts, it may be stated that Finance Department invariably sees to it that subsequent grants are not sanctioned unless the utilisation certificate in respect of the previous grants were submitted. Circulars have been issued by Finance Department to the various Administrative Departments to act on the Examiner of Local Accounts, reports vide Memo No.FE-G.89/71/Pt.-I/136 dated, 1st October, 1975 at Annexure VII at pages 115—117 and D.O. No. FEG.89/71/Pt/154, dated 19th May 1976 etc., at Annexure VIII at page 118.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee reiterates its recommendations contained in its earlier reports and also recommends that Finance Department should make investigations as to the important points noted by Audit in connection with the grants paid to various bodies and the authorities in chapter VII at pages 145-164 of the C.A.Gs. Report, 1972-73.

Action taken should be intimated to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of this report to the House and also recommends that the Finance Department should investigate the important points noted by the Audit in connection with the grants paid to the various Bodies and Authorities.

PUBLIC WORKS (ROADS AND BUILDINGS)

Para 20 at pages 39-47 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72 Improvement in Jowai Badarpur Road.

Shillong-Jowai-Badarpur road (length 108 miles), connecting Shillong and Badarpur (Cachar district) via Jowai (old Khasi and Jaintia Hills district) and providing a link with Tripura, was constructed by the State Government between 1947 and 1949. The road passes through hills except at a few places where it passes through a valley. The road had a formation width of about 16 ft. in the hill stretches and slightly more in other stretches. Due to strategic importance of the road, the Government of India decided in 1964 to make certain improvements to the road. The improvements were to be made through the agency of the State Government, the entire cost being met by the Government of India. The road was divided into three sections and separate estimate were prepared by the State Government for each section. The estimate were administratively and technically approved by the Government of

India in March 1964, December 1968, March 1969 and September 1969. The total estimated cost of the improvements proposed to be made was Rs.1,88.61 lakhs, as shown below:—

Works	Amount sanctioned (Rupees in lakhs)	
Section 1.44 miles Shillong-Jowai section.	Improvement and widening in formation.	54.31
Section 11.48 miles of Jowai-Badarpur section.	(a) Improvement and widening in formation.	74.87
	(b) Widening of hard crust	21.25
Section III. Remaining 11 miles Jowai-Badarpur section	Improvement and widening in formation	38.18
Total		1,88.61

Detailed estimates for the works were to be prepared by the State Government in consultation with the Superintending Engineer, Ministry of Transport and Shipping (Roads Wing), and approved by the Ministry. Detailed estimates were, however, not prepared for the work widening of hard crust' [Section II (b) above] in the other three items of work, though detailed estimates were prepared, the Ministry has not approved them so far.

(2) Improvements to the Jowai-Badarpur portion of the road (consisting of Sections II and III referred to above) were initially entrusted to the Jowai Public works Division and later (May 1969) to a newly formed Jowai Badarpur Road Construction Division. The work was, as stated by the Executive Engineer of the later Division, completed in August 1971 at a cost of Rs.1,39.50 lakhs.

The Jowai-Badarpur Road Construction Division was also entrusted with annual and special repairs of the entire Shillong-Jowai-Badarpur Road and also restoration of damages caused to the road by floods and other causes. During 1969-70 to 1971-72 the division spent Rs.1,87.75 lakhs on this works.

(3) The road was declared a National Highway in July 1971 and in September 1971 it was taken over by the Border Roads Organisation after a joint physical verification conducted in the same month by the State Public works Department and the Border Roads Organisation.

(4) The following points came to notice during the local audit of the Jowai-Badarpur Road Construction division in March-May 1972 some of which had been found out during the above joint inspection.

(i) **Widening in formation:**—According to the estimates, Rs. 763.38 lakhs were sanctioned for widening in formation (from an average width of 16 feet to 20 feet) of the Jowai-Badarpur portion of the road (Sec.

tions II and III). Though the work was executed at rates 5 per cent below the estimated rates, the actual expenditure incurred was Rs. 103.01 lakhs (August 1971), nearly 34 per cent above the sanctioned estimates. Recorded measurements show that payments were made for average widening of 13.74 feet and 11.86 feet in sections II and III of the road respectively against 4 feet provided in the sanctioned estimates. Average width of the road after taking into account widening done as recorded in the measurement books should have been 29.74 and 27.86 feet in sections II and III respectively. Actual average width of the road was, however, found on joint physical verification to be 23.55 and 24.44 feet for sections II and III respectively. Proportionate value of work found on physical verification as not having been done is Rs.40.93 lakhs.

(ii) **Widening of hard crust:**—The sanctioned estimates for widening of the hard crust from an average width of 9 feet to 12 feet in sections II and III respectively was for Rs.21.25 lakhs. The actual expenditure incurred on the work upto August 1971 was Rs.24.65 lakhs (nearly 14 per cent over the sanctioned estimates). According to the Division this was due to the fact that the average width of the hard crust had, during actual execution, increased to 15 feet. The Division also stated that thickness of the crust ranged between 5 inches to 9 inches. However, the joint physical verification disclosed that the actual average width of the hard crust was only 10.2 feet with thickness ranging between $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches and 4 inches. Proportionate value of the work fund on physical verification as not having been done is Rs.14.20 lakhs.

(iii) **Expenditure on repairs and maintenance:**—(a) Expenditure on repairs and maintenance including flood damage restoration was Rs. 6.16 lakhs, Rs.68.37 lakhs and Rs.113.23 lakhs in 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72 (April 1971 to November 1971) respectively for the entire Shil-long-Jowai-Badarpur Road. Cost of repairs and maintenance per mile in each year works out of Rs.0.06 lakh, Rs.0.66 lakh and Rs.3.44 lakhs for these three years respectively.

(b) Out of Rs.187.76 lakhs spent on repairs and restoration, there were no detailed estimates for works valued at Rs.83.12 lakhs which included Rs.29.14 lakhs spent on the following works of original nature but charged to repairs—

(i)	Earth work ..	Rs.	28.22 lakhs
(ii)	Extension of inspection bungalow at Khliheriat	Rs.	0.31 lakh
(iii)	Construction of protection wall of Sonapur inspection bungalow.	Rs.	0.44 lakh
(iv)	Repairs of rest house and Godown at Sonapur	Rs.	0.03 lakh
(v)	Electric Installation for P.W.D. Buildings at Khliheriat.	Rs.	0.14 lakh
Total		Rs.	29.14 lakhs

(c) Of the total expenditure of Rs.3,78.14 lakhs incurred on original works and repairs of Shillong-Jowai-Badarpur Road during 1969-70 to 1971-72 (upto November 1971), the liability of Rs.1,05.51 lakhs (27 per cent) was incurred during the last two months (July and August 1971) before the road was handed over to the Border Roads Organisation (September 1971). Major portion of this expenditure was on repairs.

(b) Rupees 28.92 lakhs were spent on special repairs to road between 55th and 65th mile during 6th to 31st August 1971. While returning the estimates (Rs.20.40 lakhs) prepared (August 1971) by the State Public Works Department the Ministry of Shipping and Transport (Roads wing) observed (October 1971) that :—

- (i) The rate of repairs at Rs.1.70 lakhs per kilometres (length of stretches to be repaired 12 Kilometres) was excessively high ;
- (ii) Considering the low intensity of traffic, the road could not have deteriorated to the extent indicated in the estimates;
- (iii) The road had not been properly maintained causing depressions 5 to 6 feet deep at places;
- (iv) Availability of 5000 labourers per day for the work was doubtful; and
- (v) Collection and laying of estimated quantities of material within the available working days was not possible.

Besides, the special repairs referred to above, annual repairs and flood damage repairs (proportionate cost Rs.8.70 lakhs in the absence of actual cost) had also been carried out to this portion of the road during 1971-72.

The joint physical verification (September 1971) disclosed that the road was in a badly damaged condition.

- (iv) **Retaining walls:**—As widening of formation width was to be done by cutting the hillside, the Government of India had, when according approval to the estimates in March 1969, expressed the view that retaining walls may not be necessary. Accordingly, only Rs.1.67 lakhs were provided for these works in the estimates approved by the Government of India. Test check by Audit disclosed that Rs.9.13 lakhs were spent on construction of these walls between 10 and 104 miles of which Rs.5.50 lakhs were charged to repairs/restoration work. Records of retaining walls in existence prior to commencement of work of improvement and walls constructed as part of improvement and repairs were not available when test audit was conducted. The Superintending Engineer, Southern Assam Circle, found (1970 and 1971) that the retaining walls were constructed without any design and specifications.

(b) Rupees 0.74 lakh were spent on construction of a retaining wall (1,296 cubic metres) between 40th and 48th mile during December 1969 to August 1971. The joint physical verification by the State Public works Department and Border Roads Organisation disclosed that only 622.30 cubic metres (cost: Rs. 0.38 lakh) of retaining walls were in existence in this portion of the road.

(v) Clearance of slips:—Earthwork in clearance of land slips, taken up as a part of repairs and maintenance of the road, involved work in ordinary soil and embedded boulders. The volume of earthwork in ordinary soil was to be determined on the basis of gross volume of slips less volume of embedded boulders for which a separate and higher rate was to be paid. In eight cases although as per entries in the measurement books (April and August 1971) the gross volume of slips (1.21 lakh cubic metres) and volume of embedded boulders in slips (0.12 lakh cubic metres) were separately recorded, payments for earthwork in slips were made (June 1971 to September 1971) by the division for the gross volume of slips without deducting the volume of the boulders. Payments were also made in addition for the volume of embedded boulders after cancelling the deductions for volume of embedded boulders shown in the measurement book (excess payment: Rs. 0.21 lakh). The cancellation has not been attested nor were orders under which the entries were cancelled shown to Audit.

(vi) Excavated hard rock and felled trees not accounted for:—Recorded measurements of original and repair works disclosed that 2.16 lakh cubic metres of hard rock were blasted and 14,292 pine-wood trees (9.23 lakh cubic metres; value Rs. 5.76 lakhs) were felled during earthwork. These rocks and felled trees were neither accounted for nor was their disposal traceable from records. Even allowing 60 per cent loss during blasting 0.86 lakh cubic metres of hard rock (value: Rs. 13.27 lakhs) and trees (value: Rs. 5.76 lakhs) which should have been accounted for have remained out of Government account.

(vii) Purchase and accountal of materials:—(a) Nine hundred and seventy-three cubic metres of road meta 1,87 cubic metres of boulders and 380 cubic metres of sand (total value: Rs. 0.56 lakh) were not handed over

to Border Roads Organisation on 1st September 1971 nor were these transferred to other divisions.

(b) Orders for four hundred rock drill rods (cost : Rs. 1.97 lakhs) and 8,000 running feet wire ropes (cost Rs. 1.16 lakhs) were place during September/October 1971 though the road had been handed over to the Border Roads Organisation on 1st September 1971.

(c) Four hundred and fifty rock drill rods (cost Rs. 2.21 lakhs) 13,000 running feet of wire ropes (cost Rs. 2.12 lakhs) and 11,340 square feet of tarpulins (cost : Rs. 0.14 lakh) purchased were not accounted for in the value accounts of the division.

(d) Unnecessary movement of cement to and from Sub-divisions in four cases resulted in avoidable expenditure of Rs. 2.21 lakhs mentioned below :—

1. Ten thousand quintals of cement were transported from Cherapunji to Khliehriat between April and October 1971 at a cost of Rs. 2.11 lakhs ; during the same period, 8,835 quintals of cement was transferred from Khliehriat to Public Works Divisions at Gauhati, Nalbari, Jorhat and Mangaldoi at a cost of Rs. 1.68 lakh. Had the cement been transported direct to these divisions from Cherrapunji, Rs. 1.34 lakhs spent on carriage of this quantity back and forth between Shillong and Khliehriat could have been saved .

2. In July and August 1971, 2830 quintals were carried from suppliers' godown at Shillong to Umkiang at a cost of Rs. 40 lakhs. Of this, 1,110 quintals were transported through the same contractor to Nongestoin and 1,000 quintals to Jhalukbari (Gauhati) in August 1971. Unnecessary double movement of cement between Shillong to Umkiang and back from Umkiang viz Shillong to these places could have been avoided resulting in a saving of Rs. 0.60 lakh.

3. In October 1971, 1,890 quintals of cement was carried from Umkiang to Pynursla at a cost of Rs. 0.34 lakh and during the same month 2,000 quintals was transferred from Pynursla to Gauhati at a cost of Rs. 0.22 lakh. Had the cement been diverted direct to Gauhati from Umkiang instead of routing it through Pynursla,

expenditure of Rs. 0.15 lakh incurred on the movement of this cement from Shillong to Pynursla and back could have been avoided.

4. Between July 1971 and September 1971, 1,560 quintals of cement were transferred from Khliehriat to Shillong (cost of carriage Rs. 0.05 lakh) and during the same period 720 quintals were carried from Shillong to Umking. Had the cement been carried from Khliehriat to Umkiang from where 1,560 quintals of cement were diverted to Shillong, expenditure of Rs. 0.12 lakh (avoidable double movement from Shillong to Khliehriat) could have been avoided.

(e) In August 1971, 6000 bags of cement (cost: Rs. 0.81 lakh) were handed over to a carriage contractor without obtaining any security deposit from him. The contractor was to deliver 2,000 bags of cement each to Dibrugarh, Sibsagar and Jorhat (Roads and Buildings) Divisions. Receipt of 984 bags of cement was acknowledged by Jorhat and Sibsagar divisions (September 1971). Dibrugarh Division had not confirmed receipt of cement in the absence of details of chalans. Receipt of the remaining bags has not been acknowledged so far (February 1973). Information regarding action against the contractor taken for non-delivery of 3,016 bags of cement (cost: Rs. 0.42 lakh) sent to Sibsagar and Dibrugarh Divisions is awaited (April 1974).

(f) Rupees 2.58 lakhs were paid for carriage of 22,820 bags of cement from Assam Cements Company godown at Shillong and Cherrapunji to Kathigorah (rail head Badarpurghat). The order for supply of cement was placed outside the rate contract between Assam Cements Company and D. G. S. and D. Had the order been placed on the basis of the rate contract, Assam Cements Company would, according to the term of the rate contract, have supplied cement F. O. R. Badarpurghat and most of the expenditure incurred due to transport of cement by road could have been saved.

(g) Between August and November 1971 payment was made for supply of 30 tonnes of bitumen (Rs. 0.22 lakh) and 2,124 cubic metres of stone metal (Rs. 0.57 lakh). Entries showing the receipt of these items were neither traceable in the value accounts of the division

nor was their utilisation or transfer to other divisions shown to Audit.

(h) Six hundred and eighty -five cubic metres of road metal and peagravel (Rs. 0.31 lakh) and 131 cubic metres of soling stone (Rs. 0.05 lakh) received and taken in the value accounts of the division in January-February 1971 were omitted from the March 1971 accounts and the subsequent accounts.

(viii) Advances to Contractors:—Rupees 0.57 lakh paid as advance to 3 contractors in Lumsang and Shang-pung subdivisions were to be recovered at the time of final closure of the division on 30th November 1971. Information about recovery of the advance is awaited (April 1974).

(ix) Recovery of royalty on boulders and metals:—Royalty is to be recovered from contractors for materials collected by them from forests for executing works of the Public Works Department. Recovery is to be made by the department from the bills of the contractors at the rate fixed by the Forest Department. Scrutiny of paid vouchers for two months (September and November 1971) showed that final payment for supply of 380 cubic metres of sand and 16,614 cubic metres of boulders and metals were made to eight contractors without recovering royalty (Rs. 0.55 lakh). Information about subsequent recovery or action taken against these contractors is awaited (April, 1974).

(x) Non-acceptance of lowest tenders:—Tenders received at 10 per cent and 12 per cent below the schedule of rates for earthwork in formation widening between 97th and 107th mile were not accepted and the work allotted to other contractors at 5 per cent below the schedule of rates without recording any reasons (avoidable expenditure: Rs. 0.24 lakh).

Lowest tender at 5 per cent below the schedule of rates for earthwork in formation widening between 48th and 96th mile was not accepted on the consideration of urgency (avoidable expenditure Rs. 0.45 lakh). Work was started in June 1969 and completed only in August 1971.

The Committee examined the official witness of the P. W. (R&B) Department on 8th and 10th May, 1976.

The Committee wanted to know that in March, 1975 Government intimated that all the papers connected with Jowai-Badarpur Road Construction Division were seized by the C. B. I. ; with regard to present position of the C. B. I. case ; the official witness stated that the C. B. I. requested the Department to give sanction to prosecution of certain officers and the Department has communicated their decision.

On being asked as to whether the C. B. I. had finalised the enquiries in all cases ; the official witness stated that it would be difficult to say because the whole case is with them.

The Committee then asked the official witness to furnish a detailed note on this para. The Department in their letter No. ADT.210/74/22, dated 24th, 25th August, 1976 furnished the following note :—

The C. B. I. has completed and finalised investigation on the following points :—

- (1) Wasteful expenditure on unauthorised works.
- (2) Fictitious and inflated measurements.
- (3) Inflated and fictitious payments.
- (4) Works executed in excess of quantity awarded and payment made for such excess works.
- (5) Arbitrary fixing of rates.
- (6) Payment at rates higher than those admissible as per schedule of rates.
- (7) Financial irregularity and rush of expenditures at the fagend of the closing of the Division between July and August, 1971.

In the followin cases sanction for prosecution of the officers have been accorded from this Department, by Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (R&B) and by the Director of Accounts, Assam.

Name of Officers	Authority according to	Sanction.
(1) Shri P. C. Mech, E.E., J.B.R.C. Division	—	Secretary, P.W.D. in 2 Nos. of cases
(2) Shri S. Sing, S.D.O. Khleiriet Subdivision	—	—do— in one case
(3) Shri Upendra Ch. Sarkar, Subdivisional Head Assistant.	—	Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (R & B).
(4) Shri Lambodar Laskar, Bill Clerk, J.B.R.C. Division.	—	—do—
(5) Shri Haren Kumar Bora, Sectional Officer, Khleiriet Subdivision.	—	—do—
(6) Shri Kalidas Choudhury, Divisional Accountant.	—	Director of Accounts, Assam.

It may be mentioned here that for want of connected papers and records relating to J.B.R.C. Division which were seized by C.B.I., State Government's comments on the Audit Para at draft stage could not be offered in time. Some of the records (containing 14 steel trunk load and 6 gunny bags fully packed) have been received back from C.B.I. Counting of these records as per list made available by C.B.I. took more than a week i.e. 6.8.76 to 13.8.76. Proper scrutiny and examination of the records now returned back will take at least 6 months time for the purpose of offering State Government's comments on the para, provided relevant records are available. Some responsible Officers and staff will also be required to be engaged particularly for the purpose. It may be mentioned here that C.B.I. has returned these records with the condition that these should be preserved with utmost care and produced before the Court/Police as and when required. It may kindly be appreciated that for imposition of the above condition scrutiny of the records in the usual way will not be possible.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee may be informed of the latest position of the case filed against 6 departmental officials. The Committee would also like to know whether any other person have also been held responsible in this case as per preliminary report of the CBI/any other departmental investigation, and what action is being taken against those persons.

As required under Government rules, in addition to CBI enquiry, the department is also supposed to hold departmental enquiry/investigation. A copy of the departmental investigation report may also be submitted to the Committee.

The Committee further recommends that this case should be vigorously presued so that the case may be expeditiously disposed of as it has already been pending for a long time.

Para 21 at page 47 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72.

Undue financial aid to a contractor:— The construction of a permanent reinforced cement concrete bridge over the river Kumutia (Lakhimpur district) on the 15th mile of the North Trunk Road was allotted to a contractor (January 1970) for a lump sum of Rs.22.53 lakhs with the stipulation that the work should be completed by 31st March 1971. While tendering, the contractor had offered rebate of 1 per cent from bills provided advance of 5 per cent of the quoted value of the work was paid with the work order recoverable on prorata basis with the progress of work. The agreement (executed in March, 1970) however, provided only for interim payment of 5 per cent of the contract value against preliminary expenses of construction of shed and obtaining machines at site, etc., without stipulating any recovery on prorata basis nor was a provision made for rebate as originally offered by the contractor. Thus, the agreement provided for extra benefit to the contractor and deprived Government of Rs. 0.23 lakh as rebate.

The Committee wanted to know whether in February, 1976 Government intimated that the offer of the contractor was not covered by any rule of the Assam P.W.D. Code and that 5 per cent advance payment could not be granted without any scrutiny, and whether it was not possible on the part of the Department to persuade the contractor to accept advance payment with the progress of work and to give the benefit of the rebate and any attempt made in this regard to get the possible benefit of the rebate ?

The official witness stated that the matter has been presented in a slightly different way than what actually the thing is in that the firm put a condition that if they are given 5% of the tendered value as financial aid as per the P.W.D. code then they will give 1% of the total value as rebate. But as this cannot be given without the sanction of the Finance Department, it was not possible to give. The other part of it was that as per the work progress the contractor was given payment in stages. Therefore, these two things are completely different things and there is no irregularity in this case.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee feels that Government interest should always be safeguarded and no undue benefit should be extended to any contractor.

Para 22 at page 48 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1971-72. Payment for supply of stone material Diphu Roads and Buildings Division :—

22. In terms of the standard agreement for supply of stone material for road construction royalty clearance certificates from the Forest Department have to be produced by a contractor before payment for the supply of stone material is made to him. This is with a view to ensure that supply has been made by the contractor from an

approved quarry and forest royalty due for the extracting the stone has been paid by him.

In one case an advance of Rs.0.50 lakh was paid to a contractor on 21st May 1968 for stone materials stated to have been supplied by him but not measured. The payment would be justified if the contractor had at least supplied 1,951 cubic metres of stone material. It was, however, seen that the contractor had obtained from the Forest Department a permit for collection of 500 cubic metres of materials only. The permit was obtained by the contractor on the same day on which the advance was paid to him.

In another case, a contractor was paid (May 1969) for 8,533 cubic metres of stone material (value : Rs.1.72 lakhs) as against 4,835 cubic metres (value : Rs.0.98 lakh) of stone material reported by the Forest Department to have been removed by the contractor between February 1968 cubic metres of stone material were paid to the contractor though there was no proof of his having extracted the stone from an approved quarry and of his having paid the royalty due to the Forest Department.

The Committee enquired as to why payment was made without being satisfied that the contractor was permitted to collect sufficient quantity of stone materials and royalty to the extent supplied was paid by him to the Forest Department; the official witness stated that this was a mistake. Of course, the executive Engineer this was a mistake. Of course, the Executive Engineer through his bills. The royalty amount has been recovered and the advance has also been fully recovered.

On a query as to who took the final measurement, the official witness stated that the record is not with him but he will supply the information.

The Committee then asked the official witness to furnish a written statement and the Department in their letter No. ADT. 318/69/11, dated 4th June, 1976 furnished the following :—

As desired by the Public Accounts Committee, I am directed to furnish below the information for favour of necessary action.

(A) Advance of Rs. 60,000/-

- (1) Final measurement was recorded by Shri Pradip Das, S/O on 28-10-68, 29-10-68; 30-10-68 and 29-11-68 and check measurement was done by Shri D. C. Das, S. D. O. on 18-12-68 and 24-1-69.
- (2) The entire quantity of 2456.97 m3 is covered by Forest permit (for 2514 m3).

(B) Advance of Rs. 50,000/-

- (1) The measurement was finally recorded by Shri B. N. Das, S.D.O. on 3-4-69, 6-4-69, 17-4-69 and 21-4-69; but no check measurement was done.
- (2) The entire quantity of 8914.96 m3 supplied by the contractor is not covered by Forest permit which was for 5823.50 m3 only as produced by the contractor.

(C) The estimated quantity was justified in relation to the work for which it was drawn up.

The Department in their letters No. ADT.318/69 dt. 18th February, 1977, No. CON. 33/75/18—19, dated 17th February, 1977 informed the Committee that the officers concerned were warned to be more careful in future.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee feels that Administrative Department and Government should not simply pass strictures against the officers concerned but should take some positive action against them for waste of public funds caused through their wilful actions or contributory negligence. In order to toneup administrative integrity and efficiency, it is absolutely essential that officials found guilty of such acts are dealt with promptly and severely. The Deptt should see that such instances never occur in future.

HOME (POLICE) DEPARTMENT

Para 36 at page 71 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73-suspected defalcation.

The pay and allowances of the Inspectors of police are drawn by the incumbents themselves in the gazetted pay bill forms duly countersigned by the Superintendent of Police of the District in which they are posted.

In case the Inspectors are attached to the Special Branch and posted in the districts, their pay bills are countersigned by the Deputy Inspector General of police/ Superintendent of Police, Special Branch, Shillong.

Audit of pay bills of the Inspectors of Police of the Special Branch for the period from December 1970 to February 1974 disclosed that pay and allowances in respect of 52 Inspectors for varying periods were drawn twice over-once from the Treasury of the district in which they were posted and again from the Shillong Treasury on pay bills countersigned by the Deputy Inspector General of Police/ Superintendent of Police, Special Branch, Shillong. In four other cases, pay and allowances were drawn for Inspector of Police who had either retired from service (2) or had been transferred to the Government of (I)/ Government of Meghalaya (I). This has resulted in loss of Rs. 1.08 lakhs (August 1974).

The Government stated in July 1974 that an officer of the Finance Department has been asked to enquire into the matter.

The Committee enquired as to how the fictitious bills were countersigned by the responsible officers like Deputy Inspector General or Superintendent of Police without proper scrutiny, the official witness stated that the fact that some fraudulent transactions had taken place first came to the notice in the office of the D.I.G., S.B. and it was thought at that time to be a small amount of about 12,000 rupees. Subsequently following detailed investigation the amount went on increasing and it had gone upto approximately Rs. 1,27,130.44. The investigations show that this could occur because of the wrong procedure relating to

the drawal of pay-bills of Inspectors. They are not gazetted officers and hence no pay slips are issued for them by the Accountant General and the Treasury is also not aware as to how much they are to draw. On the other hand they are drawing officers and their bills are merely countersigned by the D.I.G., S.B. or by the S.P. under whose control they are. D.I.G., S.B. used to maintain a register for such bill. But since 1970 this procedure has been changed and they had started to maintain the register monthwise where salary etc. are put and as a result a cross check is possible whether a person was drawing twice or once. The Department have already registered a police case.

Our investigation showed that the Treasury Officer and another officer of Treasury office were also partially responsible because, some bills which were not passed, were also passed by the Treasury. The Department have tried to recover the amount defalcated and now requested the Meghalaya Government to move the Court in Shillong to attach the property of the two Accounts involved in the case. But the Department have not heard so far as to what action has been taken from their end.

On a query as to how the senior officer could countersigned the bills without verifying every items; the official witness stated that apparently in some of the cases this happend that there was double countersignature but in some cases it appears that entries in the register were not signed. In fact in some cases, there are no entries in the register at all. The officers were posted in different district headquarters and after sometime they were again transferred to somewhere else. But a false bill was prepared in his name at Shillong and submitted it to the Treasury.

The Committee then asked the official witness to furnish the latest position of the case and the Department in their letter No. PLA. 504/74/Part/9, dated 31st December, 1976 stated as follows:—

Steps were taken to ascertain from Meghalaya Government as to the present position of the case concerning defalcation of money in the office of DIG(SB). It has been learnt that the case was previously being investigat-

ed by an officer who has since retired. The case is now being investigated by an Inspector of Meghalaya CID. The investigation of the case has been delayed, it appears, for the following reasons :

- (1) Examination and collection of specimen signatures of 6/7 Inspectors, DY. SPs. and one IPS. Officer, who is at Simla.
- (2) Seizure of documents, examination of officers from State Government and from Shillong Treasury.
- (3) Despatch of exhibits and documents to hand-writing experts for opinion.
- (4) Shortage of investigating staff in Meghalaya CID.

Meghalaya Government is being requested to expedite the investigation of this case and also for completing action for attachment of the property of the accused persons.

On 19th May, 1978 the Committee again examined the official witness and wanted to know the latest position of this case. The official witness stated that the case is still pending with the Government of Meghalaya and the relevant documents are now in the Forensic Laboratory.

During the course of examination the Committee was given to understand that no enquiry had been conducted against the Treasury Officer who was said to have been partially responsible by the Department. The investigation against the Sr. Officers who were alleged to have been involved in this case could not be completed for want of records. No amount of money was realised from the defaulting officers although Meghalaya Government was asked to attach some properties (1977). The official witness assured to make an attempt to finalise the case within three months.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is constrained to see that the matter which could be done easily within a short span of time is delayed in one plea or other and due to negligence on the part of the Department.

The Committee recommends that the Deptt. should investigate and ascertain whether anybody other than the Accountants have been found to be involved in this fraud and whether the senior officers who countersigned the bills are found to be responsible. The Report of the investigation together with the action taken be intimated to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of this Report before the House.

Paragraph 37 at pages 71-72 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73-
Purchase of sub-standard material.

In November 1972 the Inspector General of Police placed orders with a firm for the supply of 3,700 woollen blankets at Rs. 37 per blanket. The blankets were to be supplied to six different Assam Police Battalions with the stipulation that the supplies were to be completed by the 31st December, 1972. The delivery period was extended upto the 30th June, 1973.

A test check of the records of two Battalions to which the blankets were supplied (July, 1973/May, 1974) disclosed the following :—

The Commandant of the 6th Assam Police Battalion reported (March 1973) to the Assistant Inspector General of Police (Administration) that the 788 blankets supplied (March, 1973) by the firm were of a quality other than that of sample supplied. The Assistant Inspector General of Police; however, considered the blankets supplied to be of better quality and texture than the sample and advised (May 1973) that the blankets supplied should be accepted and payment made of the blankets received, 359 blankets issued to the police personnel in June 1973

were found to have worn out within three months. The Commandant reported (September 1973) the matter to the Inspector General of Police. The later stopped (November 1973) further issue of blankets to the police personnel and appointed (November 1973) a Board of experts to examine the blankets. The results of investigations are awaited (July 1974).

Again, the Commandant of the 2nd Assam Police Battalion reported to the Inspector General of Police (March 1973) that 800 blankets supplied by the above firm (March 1973) were examined by a Committee of Officers and found to be inferior in quality compared with the sample supplied and that all blankets were rotten. It was also stated by the Commandant that the blankets would not last for more than a year against the normal life of six years. The blankets were, however, accepted on the advice of the Inspector General of Police (May 1973) who considered the quality of the blankets within the permissible limit of 5 per cent variation and Rs. 0.28 lakh were paid (May 1973) for 750 blankets which were accepted.

The Committee examined the official witness on this paragraph on 17th December, 1976. As the Committee was not satisfied with the evidence tendered by the official witness in certain points, the Committee examined the Inspector General of Police along with the Secretary of the Department on 21st December, 1976 and on 19th May, 1978.

During the course of evidence the following facts were revealed—

The Purchase Board selected the stuff and orders were placed with the supplier Firm. When the Commandants of the 2nd A.P. Bn., and 6th A.P. Bn. reported that the quality of blankets was inferior. The I.G.P. set up a Board and the Board examined the blankets and reported that the bulk of the blankets supplied was in no way inferior to the sample and found that the blankets were of approved quality and there was no difference with the sample. The Board also recommended that the samples should be sent to Alipore Test House, Calcutta for expert opinion.

From the evidence tendered on 21st December, 1976 it was admitted by the official witness that entire amount due to M/S. Prag Industries the supplier was paid, and no explanation was called for from the Members of the Purchase Board for accepting the Sub-standard material.

In course of examination of the official witness on 19th May, 1978, the Committee asked as to whether the firm is supplying blankets even now and Shri S. Chakravarty, D.I.G. (Administration) replied that this firm is no longer supplying blankets but they have been selected for contract supply of boots by the last purchase Board. It may be pointed out that when the Purchase Board decided to give them contract for boots the interpretation of the Alipore Test report by State Quality Control Officer was not there and there was nothing against the firm at that time.

In reply to a question as to what action has been taken by the Inspector General of Police or by the Government to ensure that in future such sub-standard materials would not be purchased, the Secretary, Home replied that the D.I.G.P. has already stated that the good quality cloths are being obtained from reputed firms. This firm (M/S Prag Industries of Gauhati) is going to be black listed and the Department will try to stop all business with them.

The Committee then asked the official witness to furnish a written reply indicating the latest position. The Department in their letter No. S/III-306/184, dated 29th July, 1978 furnished the following :—

1. M/S. Prag Industries of Gauhati were asked to supply 3,700 pieces of wollen blankets at the rate of Rs. 37.00 per pieces and as per sample/counter samples approved for the blankets, in the year 1972-73. Complaints received from some of Battalion Commandants as regards the quality of the blankets supplied *vis-a-vis* the approved sample/counter samples ultimately resulted in the above Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Samples taken at random from the bulk supplies made by the Firm at 2nd A.P. Bn., 5th A.P. Bn. and 6th A.P. Bn. H. Qrs (2 from each of the Units) were then sent along with approved sample/coun-

ter samples to Alipur Test House at Calcutta on 9th March, 1977 for obtaining expert opinion as regards the quality of the blankets supplied. The opinion of Alipur Test House has since been received. Since the test report was in a technical language, interpretation on the same was obtained from the Quality Control Officer of the State Government. The interpretation given by the Quality Control Officer indicated that neither the approved sample nor the counter samples as regards the blankets were in conformity with the specifications as laid down by the ISI (Indian Standard Institute) in respect of wollen blankets. Our office thereupon wanted to know specifically as to whether the samples from the bulk supplies made by the Firm were 'better than or inferior to' the samples or the counter samples. The reply received from the Quality Control officer (vide his letter No.GOC. 20/pt/III/77/192, of 6th May/78) said that the samples from the bulk supplies were inferior to the counter samples. On a further query from our office as to whether the range of inferiority in respect of the samples from the bulk supplies was within the limits of 5% + variations, the said Quality Control Officer replied that the range of variation as a whole could be considered within the relaxation limit of + 5% variation (vide letter No. GOC. 20/pt. III/77/198, dated 30.5.78). The Quality Control Officer further confirmed that "in case of Wollen blankets, an average relaxation of + variations is admissible under ISI leaflet No. IS 895-1957 (vide letter No. GOC. 20/pt. III/77/199, dated 2.6.77).

2. The said Firm also was selected for supply of 31,000 pairs of ammunition boots (on the recommendation of the State purchase Board) during the current financial year. In view of the original report received from the Quality Control Officer (vide letter No. GOC. 20/pt.III/77/192, referred to above) that the quality in respect of the samples from the bulk supply viz the approved sample/Counter samples was considered inferior (the subsequent interpretation was still then not available), and in view of the verbal instructions the PAC gave direction not to offer them any more contracts, the contract in respect of supply of ammunition boots during the current year was withheld from the Firm, and as a penal measure in respect

of supply of blankets during 1972-73 (which were considered inferior), the security deposit pledged with the Department by the Firm was forfeited to the Government (vide this Office Order No. S/III-306/177, dated 1.6.78).

3. The Firm submitted an appeal against the said Orders on 12/6/78, and the subject had to be discussed theadbare once again. In the meantime, the Quality Control Officer also submitted his reports stating that the range of inferiority in respect of the samples from the bulk supplies vis-a-vis the approved/counter samples of the blankets could be considered within the relaxation limit of + variations. The report of the Alipur Test House also was carefully examined in the light of the ISI specifications. It was seen that both the sample and the counter samples approved were far inferior compared to ISI specifications in respect of blankets. In short, the Purchase Board itself selected a bad quality blanket as sample, of course, the blankets supplied by the Firm showed a slight inferiority, but that too remained within + 5% variation range. The Firm could not, therefore, have been found guilty of supplying blankets inferior in quality to the samples approved. Under circumstances, the penal action ordered against the Firm were lifted. The Firm also was allowed to supply 31,000 pairs ammunition boots-an item for which the Firm was recommended by the State Purchase Board as supplier to be appointed this year. The last part of the decision was felt all the more imperative in view of the fact the ammunition boots were required extremely urgently and any measure to select a new supplier was surely to result in delay that could hardly be entertained by the Department.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee regrets to note that inspite of the clear cut opinion given by the Quality Control Officer that the samples from the bulk supplies were inferior to the counter samples, the Department has taken the shelter the minus variation limit admissible and given the benefit to the supplier firm (viz. M/S Prag Industries of Gauhati) not only in respect of supply of inferior blankets but also allowed the firm to supply 31,000

pairs of ammunition boots even after the establishment of fact that the firm supplied inferior quality of blankets and also after the assurance given to the Committee that the firm will be blacklisted and stopped all business with it.

The Committee therefore recommends that a non-official high-powered Committee should be constituted to go into the details of the matter as to whether the persons constituting the Prag Industries are getting contracts of the Home (Police) Department in the garb of various firms since a long time and cheating the Government by supplying various sub-standard materials to the Department and whether the authority is also showing undue privilege to these firms. The report of the non-official High-powered Committee should be submitted within three months from the date of the presentation of this Report.

The Committee further recommends that pending report of the Non-official High-powered Committee neither the payment nor any contract should be made with M/S Prag Industries and its allied.

Paragraph 38 at pages 72-73 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73-Shifting of the 4th Assam Police Battalion Headquarters.

In August 1970 the Government approved a proposal to shift the headquarters of the 4th Assam Police Battalion from Dergaon to Haflong. In View of this decision building materials worth Rs. 3.44 lakhs (timber : Rs. 0.95 lakh, bricks, sand and gravel Rs. 1.23 lakhs, steel Rs. 1.19 lakhs and miscellaneous : Rs. 0.07 lakh) were purchased by the Inspector General of Police between March 1971 and March 1972 for the construction of the headquarters at Haflong. Besides, Rs. 0.37 lakh were paid to M/S Assam Cements Limited for the supply of 140 tonnes of cement (the cement is yet to be delivered-July 1974). Against land measuring 350 acres required for the construction of the headquarters, 121 acres were allotted (November 1971) to the Department by the North Cachar

Hills District Council; the possession of the land has, however, not so far been handed over to the Police Department (February 1974). After an inspection of the site in July 1973, the Commandant of the Battalion reported to the Inspector General of Police that it would not be practicable to undertake the construction unless availability of sufficient water was first ensured. The Department is considering an alternative site at Mahur and Diphu for locating the battalion headquarters. Further developments are awaited (July 1974).

Physical verification conducted by a Committee of Officers of the Battalion in August-September 1973 disclosed that building materials worth Rs. 0.40 lakh were either short or had been rendered unserviceable. In addition, 968 pieces of timber were also found to have become unserviceable.

The Committee wanted to know why did the Inspector General of Police purchase these building materials and was it not the provision for consideration of the building etc. made in the Budget under Public Works major Head so that the works could be executed by the Public Works Department; the official witness stated that the decision to shift the Battalion headquarters of 4th AP Bns. was taken in 1970 and it was duly communicated to all concerned. In May/70, proposals were being considered for constructing some quarters for a number of Battalions together, and it was felt that it could be done cheaply by purchasing the materials departmentally and by carrying out the construction work on 'sramdan' basis by each of the battalions. Accordingly, on 16th February 1971 the State Government agreed to the execution of some buildings by 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th AP Bn., with a total expenditure of Rs. 15 lakhs and that expenditure was to be debitable on "23-Police" Head. This was to be done departmentally. Accordingly, steps were taken by the various Battalions to start construction; materials were ordered to be supplied and these were supplied at sites. All the Battalions could proceed with the work except the 4th AP Bn., because of the difficulty about land. Earlier, approximately, 350 acres of land was promised to be allotted to the Battalion by the District Council, North Cachar Hills. But subsequently, only 42 acres of land were made available and this was found to be too small an area for a battalion headquarter for which

large area is required for various facilities. So, that held up the construction work to a great extent, and then it was also found that there was shortage of water in that locality. And if the water was to be brought there by a pipeline, then it would cost considerable amount. At that stage, alternative proposals were considered as to whether the headquarter could be set up at Diphu or it could be taken to Mahur. That is how the work got held up.

On a query as to why the Government order for materials when the Department was not sure of the availability of land and water etc. the official witness stated that the materials were there at the old site and at that time the idea was that the construction would start definitely although the problem of water was not noticed at the earlier stage.

On being asked as to whether there was any feasibility report about the shifting of the Head Quarters from Dergaon to Haflong; and why the building materials worth Rs. 3.44 lakhs were purchased before getting possession of the land; the official witness replied that such a feasibility report probably was not drawn up, because it was considered that work would be done departmentally and it was thought that it would not be difficult to get the requisites, but subsequently, these problems came to light. The materials for all the battalions were ordered simultaneously and works progressed in all the sites except Haflong where the materials were stacked and where there was some difficulty about land.

On being questioned as to what were the reasons that the building materials worth Rs. 40,000/- were either short or rendered unserviceable; the official witness stated that these had been stacked together and we had asked the DIG (Training to look into the matter in August 1972 and he reported that negligible quantity of the materials had been damaged; but he felt that to prevent further deterioration, some chemical preservatives such as DDT, gamaxin and such other things should be used and he also asked the Commandant, 4th AP. Bn. to do this. Probably, this was not sufficient and that is why some more materials got damaged. We have constituted a Board to look into this question and to report as to exactly how much has been damaged or rendered unserviceable. Some

of these materials have been transferred to the local SP who started his local Head Quarter at Haflong; and as and when this project demands we will be getting fresh materials.

Thereafter the Committee asked the official witness to furnish copy of investigation report by the Board to which the Department agreed to supply as soon as it was available.

The Deputy Inspector General of Police (Administration) Assam in his letter No.A/XVI/10/77/12, dated 6th June, 1978 submitted a report addressing the Under Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly which is given below :—

"On 12th August, 1974 the Inspector General of Police, Assam constituted a Board with Shri B. C. Sarma, I. P. S., the then D. I. G. of Police, (T) as Chairman alongwith two other local officers as members to inspect the materials in the site and to submit report to I. G. P. regarding the loss incurred to Government if any of building materials of 4th A. P. Battalion, Sontila. Thereafter, the aforesaid enquiry could not be completed in time by Shri B. C. Sarma although he remained busy in compiling and collecting datas from various offices. After his transfer from the office of the D. I. G. (T), the matter was referred to his successor Shri A. C. Dutta, I. P. S., D. I. G. (T), immediately after the P.A.C. meeting of December, 1976 who completed the enquiry in April, 1978. As his report was also not complete, he was asked to submit a modified report after further enquiry. He has submitted a report on 31st May, 1978 (a copy of his report alongwith the copy of enclosure at Annexure—IX at page 119.

From the above report of the D. I. G. (T), we find that perhaps the main items i.e. 1st class and 2nd class bricks (item Nos. 43 and 44 of the D. I. G. (T)'s statement) would be relevant to the audit para. The audit report concerning the para points out that the Board with Shri N. C. Bhattacharjee, 2nd in Command, 4th A. P. Battalion as President and one Assistant Commandant, one Sub. Major, one Q.M.I. and one Assistant Engineer of P.W.D., as members physically verified the stock of bricks according to the classification. This Board was

set up by the Commandant, 4th A. P. Battalion on 10th March, 1971 for receipt of building materials at Sontila. As per audit note work order was for 1,92,500 first class bricks at the rate of Rs. 279.00 per thousand and work order was also there for 45,000 of second class bricks at the rate of Rs. 244.00 per thousand. The Board headed by Shri N. C. Bhattacharjee reported to the Commandant, 4th A. P. Battalion, as per opinion of the Assistant Engineer, P. W. D., that all the bricks supplied by M/S. Kaloo Ram & Sons, approved contractor were of Second class quality. Vide Annexure X at pages 120-122).

Subsequently, on representation of the supplier M/S. Kaloo Ram & Sons, the I. G. P., Shillong vide Signal No.S-VI/1008/Vol I/57, dated 10th July, 1971, directed the Commandant, 4th A. P. Battalion to obtain certificate from the Executive Engineer, Haflong and submit the same to the I. G. P.'s office urgently. The I.G.P.'s office also directed the Commandant, 4th A. P. Battalion on 15th July, 1971 to pay the price of 1,56,343 Nos. of First class bricks and 35,750 Nos. of Second class bricks as certified by the Executive Engineer as per approved rates. (Vide Annexure XI & XII at pages 123-125). This position has also been taken into consideration by the Audit. According to the part acceptance of the bricks against the Actual work order of 1,92,500 of First class bricks and 45,000 of Second class bricks the following monetary loss at the rate of Rs. 279.00 per thousand First class bricks and at the rate of Rs. 244.00 per thousand Second class bricks is calculated :

Marged in the total expenditure of Rs. 3.44 lakhs, the value of 1,92,500 Nos. of 1st class bricks @ Rs. 279 per % o (as per supply order)	Rs. 53,690.00
Less paid for 1,56,543 Nos. of 1st class bricks as per certificate of E.E.	Rs. 43,619.00
Shortage of 1st class bricks Difference 36,157 Nos.	Rs. 10,071.00
Similarly 2nd class bricks as per work order 45,000 Nos. @ Rs. 244 per %0	Rs. 10,980.00

Less paid for as per position certified by E. E. 35,750	Rs. 8,723.00
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Shortage of bricks 9,250 Nos. Difference	Rs. 2,257.00
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Therefore, it can be sorted out on the basis of Audit Note itself that there was shortage of 36,157 Nos. of Ist Class and 9250 Nos. of 2nd Class bricks valuing (Rs. 10,071.00 plus Rs. 2257.00) i.e. Rs. 12,328.00. Whether this sum of Rs. 12,328.00 was actually drawn/ paid to supplier for any subsequent supply for any purpose/ refunded to treasury, needed scrutiny. As the recent devastating fire havoc caused by air-borne flames of Jhum burning has gutted the cash book, bill/ contingent register/ pay cheque and all relevant documents of 4th A. P. Bn. the position could not be located. The reports of the D.I.G (T) also did not refute the position of bricks as shown above, but it could not point out the position of Rs. 12,328.00 as above, obviously as the records have all been gutted by fire in March/78.

The D.I.G (T) has confirmed the actual receipt of Ist class and 2nd class bricks with book value in the statement attached with his report and this tallies with the audit note and the observations made above. The D.I.G (T) did not get the relevant documents after the fire havoc and some of the original documents taken by the then D.I.G (T), Shri B.C. Sarma vide our letter No. A/XVI/56/73/18, dt. 21st September/74 were not returned and later on, the present D.I.G (T) also could not trace out the documents in his office. The D.I.G (T)'S statement prepared as to the items found in stock and distributed with book value has not been very accurate. Particularly, the present D.I.G (T) in his statement of materials vide Srl. 46, 47, 49 & 50 in respect of stating the book value, has mentioned that the rates of these items were not found in the I.G.P's office and hence presumed book-value was calculated by him. The I.G.P's office could not give the documents because the original work orders were sent to Shri B.C. Sarma in September/74 as stated above.

According to Shri B.C. Sarma, who was contacted on 31st May/78, he does not know whereabouts of these documents. He said that he might have left them in Der.

gaon D.I.G (T)'s office. D.I.G (T)'s office was recently requested to return the documents, but the documents could not be traced by them. Therefore, The D.I.G (T)'s present report of 31st May/78 speaks of the stock position generally without much discrepancy though he has not given the accurate account of the materials worth Rs. 3.44 lakhs. Thus it is clear that the D.I.G (T) has given an account of materials valued Rs. 3,33455.64 paise out of total amount of Rs. 3,43798.84 paise as per Audit Note. Thus there is a deficiency of materials worth Rs. 10,342.20 paise as per D.I.G (T)'s report though the deficiency (only in respect of bricks) should have been Rs. 12328.00. This difference of Rs. 1,975.80 p. between D.I.G (T)'s report and as per our assessment on the basis of Audit Note is attributed to "presumed rates" of 4 items taken into consideration by the D.I.G(T). Hence, there was practically no shortage or loss of materials at the time of purchase.

In the circumstances stated above, we may agree with the very audit note about the short supply of bricks as discussed above, in respect of only Rs. 12,328.00. Now, it is to be seen whether this amount was subsequently refunded by the commandant, 4th A. P. Battalion to the treasury. Our office records have no indication about the action taken by the Commandant, 4th A. P. Battalion in this regard and all relevant records of Sontila have been recently burnt by the devastating fire havoc. In view of this, the A. G., Assam, Shillong is being requested to let this office know from their records of drawal vouchers of 1970-71 of Jorhat Treasury as to whether the disputed amount of Rs. 12,328.00 was included in the main drawal of the amount of Rs. 3.44 lakhs for 4th A. P. Battalion construction materials and if so, whether the amount was refunded to treasury. Meanwhile, the Commandant, 4th A. P. Battalion is also being asked to report if any such amount is merged in the existing cash in hand of 4th A. P. Battalion.

Incidentally, the audit had stressed for recovery of Rs. 4,758.42 p. pertaining to supply of bricks supplied by M/S. Kaloo Ram & Sons, because the firm was not entitled to 10% increase for breakage in transshipment though this was certified by the Executive Engineer. The I. G. P.'s office, thereafter asked the Executive Engineer,

Haflong vide letter No.S-VI/1008/Vol I/96 dated, 17th December, 1972 for clarification as to how admissibility of 10% breakage was allowed by him while certifying acceptance of the bricks of 1st & 2nd Class. It appears no reply from Executive Engineer was received. The D.I.G (A), Shillong wrote to the Commandant, 4th A.P. Battalion vide letter No.S-VI/1008/Vol. I/77 dated 4th December/71 stating that the Contractor should be agreeable to supply, if required the balance quantity of utilisable bricks as per work order, otherwise, no action would be taken as regards the broken bricks which he will have to take back and balance amount of his security deposit after adjustment of 10% extra payments as above may stand forfeited.

In the draft para, though there is a question of loss of Rs.40,000 for shortage/ unserviceable building materials the Audit Note did not specifically mention any such concrete amount by working out the same. Presumably the Audit construed a loss of such an amount on the basis of the First Board of 4th A. P. Battalion officers who rejected the entire quantity of bricks saying them to be of sub-standard. Since such report of the Board based on the opinion of the Asstt. Engineer, was subsequently superseded by the certificate of the Executive Engineer and bills were paid accordingly, no such loss of Rs. 40,000/- as pointed out by the Audit can be located on the basis of available records. Even if the actual quantity of bricks certified by the Executive Engineer, both 1st class and 2nd class to the tune of Rs.43,619.00 +Rs. 8,723.00 were calculated and rejected, this amount would have been categorised as savings and not deterioration or loss. Finally the question perhaps does not arise now as payments for the 1st class bricks were made according to certificate of Executive Engineer."

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee cannot help deploring the perfunctory manner of purchase of materials for shifting the headquarters of the 4th Assam Police Battalion from Dergaon to Haflong before final selection and also taking possession of required area of land which is

the primary requisite for construction of headquarters. The Committee fails to understand why a subsequent certificate from the Executive Engineer became necessary to supercede the decision of the Board headed by Shri N.C. Bhattacharjee.

The Committee recommends that responsibility be fixed on the officer/officers who ordered to purchase the building materials before final selection of the site and the Committee also recommends that the loss suffered due to excess payment by up-grading the quality of bricks and loss of timber and other materials be realised from the officer/officers concerned.

CHAPTER II

SUMMARY OF

RECOMMENDATIONS, REMARKS, OBSERVATIONS MADE
BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT OF THE
COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
FOR THE YEARS 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73.,
APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS 1970-71,
1971-72 and 1972-73 AND FINANCES,
1970-71, 1971-72 & 1972-73

Serial No.	Reference	Recommendation
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(1)	(2)	(3)
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IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

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| 1 | Para 42 at page 47 of C.A.G. Report, 1970-71 | The Committee takes serious note of the unauthorised departure from the recommendations of the duly constituted Purchase Board resulting in extra expenditure of Rs.0.47 lakhs., If some subsequent developments had taken place, the matter should have again been put up to the Purchase Board for reconsideration, otherwise, sanction of the Government should have been obtained for this departure giving adequate justification. |
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The Committee recommends that responsibility should be fixed on the officers concerned who authorised this purchase at a higher cost by deviating from the recommendations of the purchase Board without proper authority and without recording any reason for the same.

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| 2 | Para 37 at page 45 of C.A.G. Report, 1970-71. | The Committee is not happy in the way the purchase was made. However, the Committee recommends that in future the Department should make purchase of materials at the rates approved by the Purchase Board. |
| 3 | Para 39 at pages 45-46 of C.A.G. Report, 1970-71 | The Committee feels that if the execution and timing of the work had been properly planned, damage during the monsoon could have been avoided. The matter needs detailed investigation and a report of the same may be submitted to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of this Report to the House. |

Sl. No.	Reference	Recommendation
(1)	(2)	(3)
4	Para 40 at page 46 of C.A.G. Report, 1970-71	The Committee recommends that appointment of staff in excess of the permissible limit should be made only after obtaining the orders of the competent authority.
5	Para 24 at page 49 of C.A.G. Report, 1971-72	The Committee recommends that responsibility should be fixed on the officer/officers for commencing the work before taking possession of the land and also for incurring expenditure after the stoppage of work.
6	Para 25 at page 49 of C.A.G. Report, 1971-72	The Committee would like to know whether this scheme has been finally abandoned. The Committee is not happy to note that this scheme involving huge expenditure was drawn up and executed without proper scrutiny. The Committee recommends that a detailed investigation should be made and responsibility fixed on the official/s at fault.
7	Para 25 (b) at page 49 of C.A.G. Report, 1971-72	As the normalcy is stated to have returned now, the Committee would like that the scheme may be completed.
8	Para 27 at page 51 of C.A.G. Report, 1971-72	The Committee recommends that an enquiry to be instituted against the officer/officers for excesses made. The result of the enquiry should be intimated to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of the Report to the House.
9	Para 18 at pages 36-37 of C.A.G. Report 1972-73	The Committee recommends that the Department should take every care to scrutinise the estimates before it is finally accepted so that the Government do not have to incur additional expenditure. In this particular case, it may be examined whether the officer concerned accepted the tender after proper scrutiny. The report in this regard may be furnished to the Committee.

Sl. No.	Reference	Recommendation
(1)	(2)	(3)
10	Para 19 at page 37 of C.A.G. Report, 1972-73	<p>The Committee recommends that responsibility should be fixed on the officer or officers for whose negligence or ignorance the department had to incur extra-expenditure of Rs.16.000/. The action taken should be submitted to the Committee within two months from the date of presentation of the Report to the House.</p>
11	Para 20 at page 37-38 of C.A.G. Report, 1972-73	<p>The work on the project was stopped on the basis of the Report of the Executive Engineer, Agriculture, Mikir Hills, in November, 1972 after incurring a huge expenditure, which appears to be an infructuous; the Committee therefore recommends that there should be an investigation into the matter. The result of the investigation should be reported to the Committee within two months from the date of presentation of this Report to the House.</p>
12	Para 53 at page 111 of C.A.G. Report, 1972-73	<p>The Committee feels that the estimates prepared were immatured and without assessing all the requirements of the scheme. As a result the Deptt. could not achieve the target command area inspite of revision of schemes which ended in huge expenditure.</p> <p>The Committee recommends that investigation should be made as to the reasons for which work on the cement concrete failed and the hume pipe acquiduct could not be completed. Responsibility should also be fixed on the officer/officers due to whose negligence the draw-backs pointed out /were not taken into account at the time of survey and preparation of estimates.</p>
13	Para 53 (b) at pages 111-112 of C.A.G. Report, 1972-73	<p>It appears that this scheme has been taken up without assessing realistically the likely demand from the cultivators. The utilisation of this scheme in 1975 has been only 33 % of the capacity, and in 1976, there appears to have been no demand from the cultivators. The Committee recommends that in future such like schemes should be taken up after carefully assessing the likely demand from the cultivators so that the huge expenditure on such like schemes does not go waste.</p>

Sl. Reference
No.

RECOMMENDATION

- | (1) | (2) | (3) |
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| 14 | Para 53 (c) at page 112 of C.A.G. Report 1972-73. | <p>The Committee is constrained to observe that the scheme was taken up without proper topographical survey and there was faulty planning as it had to be redesigned, modified and remodelled several times. There was considerable delay at various stages. The Department has admitted that the scheme had some basic deficiencies. The defective planning and the delays resulted in huge expenditure while the achievement as compared to the target was almost negligible. The Committee recommends that the matter should be thoroughly investigated by an agency within the department and appropriate action should be taken against officials responsible for defective planning, faulty designing and also for delays at various stages. The results of investigation should be reported to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of this Report to the House.</p> |
| 15 | Para 53 (d) at page 112 of C.A.G. Report, 1972-73 | <p>The Committee recommends that such like schemes should be taken up only after detailed and proper survey and all important factors like undulating character of the command area should have been thoroughly considered before executing the schemes.</p> |
| 16 | Para 62 at page 119 readwith Appendix V at page 236 of C. A. G. Report, 1972-73. | <p>The Committee recommends that the findings of the Enquiry Committee which was constituted by the Department and the action taken thereon should be intimated to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of this report to the House. The Committee further recommends that no work should be started without estimates, and in extremely urgent situation, immediate action should be taken to prepare the estimates and get the ex-post-facto approval from the competent authority.</p> |

FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT

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| 17 | Para 55 at pages 113-114 of C. A. G. Report, 1972-73. | <p>The Committee recommends that the findings of the enquiry instituted against the delinquent officer and the action taken thereon be intimated to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of this Report to the House.</p> |
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Sl. No.	Reference	Recommendation
(1)	(2)	(3)
18	Para 56 at pages 114-115 of C. A. G. Report, 1972-73.	The Committee recommends that steps should be taken to recover the overpayment of Rs.37,298.02 p. from the contractors concerned as far as possible, and the steps taken should be intimated to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of this Report to the House.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- 19 Para 2 at page 2 of C. A. G. Report, 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73
- The Committee is constrained to see that there is a huge gap between the revenue receipts and the expenditure. The Committee recommends that tangible steps should be taken to minimise the extent of borrowing and interest liability on borrowing. Steps should also be taken to realise the arrears of revenue.
- 20 Para 3 at pages 2-3 of C. A. G. Report, 1970-71.
- The Committee recommends that Finance Department should examine the reasons for less realisation of taxes and dues under the Agricultural Income-tax, Land Revenue, Sales Tax and other Taxes and Duties.
- The steps taken for early realisation of outstanding taxes and other dues should be intimated to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of this Report before the House.
- 21 Para 4 at page 3 of C.A.G. Report, 1970-71
- The Committee would like to know as to what are the specific measures taken by the Finance Department to realise the arrears of revenue in different Department of the Government.

The Committee may be apprised of the steps taken within three months from the date of presentation of this Report to the House.

Sl. No.	Reference	Recommendation
(1)	(2)	(3)
22	Para 4 at page 4 of C.A.G. Report, 1971-72 & Para 4 at page 5 of C.A.G. Report, 1972-73	<p>As regards the land revenue, the Committee appreciates the difficulties of the Flood affected ryots and recommends that effective steps be taken to realise the arrears from those who can afford to pay.</p> <p>The Committee further recommends that there should be investigation to ascertain the reasons for huge arrears of revenue other than land revenue. The report of the investigation and the steps taken should be intimated to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of this Report before the House.</p>
23	Para 6 at page 7 of C.A.G. Report 1970-71, para 6 at page 6 of CAG Report, 1971-72 & para 7 at page 8 of CAG Report 1972-73	The Committee recommends that steps should be taken by the Department to arrest the growth of public debt of such a magnitude and also to keep the incidence of ways and means advances and overdraft to the minimum.
24	Para 53 (b) at page 54 of C.A.G Report, 1970-71, & Para 36 (b) at page 56 of CAG Report, 1971-72.	The Committee recommends that the Govt. should take some special steps to get these pending cases finalised expeditiously. Steps taken in this regard may be intimated to the Committee within 3 months from the date of presentation of the Report to the House.
25	Para 8 at pages 10-12 of CAG Report, 1970-71, Para 8 at pages 11-15 of CAG Report, 1971-72 & Para 9 at pages 13-18 of CAG Report, 1972-73.	<p>The Committee is not happy over the huge amount of arrears overdue to be recovered against loans and advances specially from Assam State Electricity Board and the Municipal Boards.</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the Department should exercise stricter control over this matter and ensure that the instalments of principals and interests due to be paid should be recovered in due time. The Committee would like to know the amount of arrears which have been adjusted against the advances due to the Municipal Boards as proposed by the Department.</p>

Sl. Reference
No.

Recommendation

(1)

(2)

(3)

The Committee also recommends that an investigation should be made regarding the financial Soundness of the Assam State Electricity Board, and the reasons as to why the Board has failed to repay. The results of the investigation should be intimated to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of this Report to the House.

- 26 Para 9 at page 13 of C.A.G. Report, 1970-71, Para 9 at page 15 of C.A.G. Report, 1971-72 & Para 10 at pages 18-19 of C.A.G. Report, 1972-73.

The Committee recommends that all these outstanding cases should be cleared immediately and the Committee informed of the latest position within two months from the date of presentation of this Report to the House.

- 27 Para 11 at pages 14-15 of 1970-71, Para 11 at page 17 of 1971-72 and Para 12 at page 20 of C.A.G. Report, 1972-73.

The Committee would like to be apprised of the concrete steps taken to ensure proper financial returns for the money invested by the Government, and whether there has been any improvement in the financial returns during the last 2 years. The Committee may be informed of the results/latest position within three months from the date of presentation of this Report to the House.

- 28 Para 12 at page 15 of 1970-71, Para 12 at page 18 of C.A.G. Report, 1971-72 & Para 13 at pages 20-21 of C.A.G. Report, 1972-73.

The Committee reiterates its recommendations contained in its earlier reports and also recommends that Finance Deptt. should make investigations as to the important points noted by Audit in connection with the grants paid to various bodies and authorities in Chapter VII at pages 145-164 of the C.A.G.s Report, 1972-73

Action taken should be intimated to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of this Report to the House, and also recommends that the Finance Department should investigate the important points noted by the Audit in connection with the grants paid to the various Bodies and Authorities.

Sl. Reference

RECOMMENDATION

No.

(1)

(2)

(3)

PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DEPARTMENT

29 Para 20 at
pages 39-47
of C.A.G.
Report,
1971-72

The Committee may be informed of the latest position of the case filed against 6 departmental officials. The Committee would also like to know whether any other person have also been held responsible in this case as per preliminary report of the CBI/any other Departmental investigation, and what action is being taken against those persons.

As required under Government rules in addition to CBI enquiry, the department is also supposed to hold departmental/enquiry investigation. A copy of the Departmental investigation report may also be submitted to the Committee.

The Committee further recommends that this case should be vigorously pursued so that the case may be expeditiously disposed of as it has already been pending for a long time.

30 Para 21 at
page 47 of
C.A.G. Report,
1971-72

The Committee feels that Government interest should always be safeguarded and no under benefit should be extended to any contractor.

31 Para 22 at
page 48 of
C.A.G. Report,
1971-72

The Committee feels that Administrative Department and Government should not simply pass strictures against the officers concerned but should take some positive action against them for waste of public funds caused through their wilful actions or contributory negligence. In order to tone up administrative integrity and efficiency, it is absolutely essential that officials found guilty of such acts are dealt with promptly and severely. The Department should see that such instances never occur in future.

Sl. No.	Reference	Recommendation
(1)	(2)	(3)
HOME (POLICE) DEPARTMENT		
32	Para 36 at page 71 of the Report of the C. A. G. of India for the year 1972-73	<p>The Committee is constrained to see that the matter which could be done easily within a short span of time is delayed in one plea or other and due to negligence on the part of the Department.</p>

The Committee recommends that the Department should investigate and ascertain whether anybody other than the Accountants have been found to be involved in this fraud and whether the senior officers who countersigned the bills are found to be responsible. The report of the investigation together with the action taken be intimated to the Committee within three months from the date of presentation of this Report before the House.

33	Para 37 at pages 71-72 of the Report of the C.A. G. of India for the year 1972-73	<p>The Committee regrets to note that inspite of the clear cut opinion given by the Quality Control Officer that the samples from the bulk supplies were inferior to the counter samples, the Department has taken the shelter the minus variation limit admissible and given the benefit to the supplier from (<i>vis</i> M/s Prag Industries of Gauhati) not only in respect of supply of inferior blankets but also allowed the firm to supply 31,000 pairs of ammunition boots even after the establishment of fact that the firm supplied inferior quality of blankets and also after the assurance given to the Committee that the firm will be blacklisted and stopped all business with it.</p>
----	---	---

The Committee therefore recommended that a non-officials high powered Committee should be constituted to go into the details of the matter as to whether the persons constituting the Prag Industries are getting contracts of the Home (Police) Department in the garb of various firms since a long time and cheating the Government by supplying various sub-standard materials to the Department and whether th

Sl. Reference
No.

RECOMMENDATION

(1) (2)

(3)

authority is also showing undue privilege to these firms. The Report of the non-official High powered Committee should be submitted within three months from the date of presentation of this Report.

The Committee further recommends that pending report of the Non-Official High powered Committee neither the payment nor any contract should be made with M/S Prag Industries and its allied.

34 Para 38 at pages
72-73 of the Report of the C.A. G. of India for the year 1972-73

The Committee cannot help deploring the perfunctory manner of purchase of materials for shifting the headquarters of the 4th Assam Police Battalion from Dergaon to Haflong before final selection and also taking possession of required area of land which is the primary requisite for construction of headquarters. The Committee fails to understand why a subsequent certificate from the Executive Engineer became necessary to supercede the decision of the Board headed by Shri Shri N. C. Bhattacharjee.

The Committee recommends that responsibility be fixed on the officer/officers who ordered to purchase the building materials before final selection of the site and the Committee also recommends that the loss suffered due to excess payment by up grading the quality of bricks and loss of timber and other materials be realised from the officer/officers concerned.

ANNEXURE—I

(Reference Para—5 at page—iii)

List of Officers who were examined by the Public Accounts Committee :—

Sl. No.	Designation of Officers	Date of examination
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Chairman, Flood Control Department ...	24th December, 1975
2.	Secretary to the Government of Assam, Irrigation Department ...	24th December, 1975 13th October, 1976 7th April, 1976 3rd May, 1976
3.	Secretary to the Government of Assam, Public Works (R&B) Department ...	8th and 10th May, 1976
4.	Financial Commissioner, Government of Assam, Finance Department ...	23rd July, 1976 24th July, 1976 25th August, 1976
5.	Jt. Secretary to the Government of Assam, Home (Police) Department ...	17th December, 1976
6.	Secretary to the Government of Assam, Home (Police) Department ...	21st December, 1976 19th May, 1978

Time devoted to each day's meeting

Date	Time of meeting	Total time
(1)	(2)	(3)
24th December, 1975	10:30 hrs to 13:00 hrs	2 hrs 30min
13th October, 1976	10:30 hrs to 13:00 hrs	2 hrs 30min
7th April, 1976	10:30 hrs to 13:00 hrs	2 hrs 30min
3rd May, 1976	10:30 hrs to 13:00 hrs	2 hrs 30min
8th May, 1976	10:30 hrs to 13:00 hrs	2 hrs 30min
10th May, 1976	10:30 hrs to 13:00 hrs	2 hrs 30min
23rd July, 1976	10:30 hrs to 13:00 hrs	2 hrs 30min
24th July, 1976	10:30 hrs to 13:00 hrs	2 hrs 30min
25th August, 1976	10:30 hrs to 13:30hrs	2 hrs 30min
17th December, 1976	10:30 hrs to 13:00 hrs	2 hrs 30min
21st December, 1976	10:30 hrs to 13:00 hrs	2 hrs 30min
19th May, 1978	10:30 hrs to 13:00 hrs	2 hrs 30min

30 hrs.

ANNEXURE-II

(Reference : Para 56 at page 38.....)

Serial No.	Name of Contractor	Item	Quantity record	Quantity issued for work	Quantity paid	Balance over or under paid	Rate	Amount over paid	Amount under paid
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1.	Shri P. Damani	Sutli	100 Kg.	...	40 Kg.	(-) 60Kg.	3/-+6%	..	180/-+10-80 =190-80 108-12
		Coir	208		174	(-) 34Kg.	3/-+6%		
		String G.B. Wire	80Kg.	..	75Kg.	(-) 5Kg.	5+50+6%		29-15
2.	Shri Bhudeswar Milli	Nahar Piles ECB	1125.82 RM	..	1109.52 RM	(-) 16.30 R/M	Rs.30 RM	..	489-00
				28,250	32,150	+3,900	0.40	1,560	
3.	Shri Chamm Lal Sarma	"	..	19,000	17,375	(-) 1,625*			
4.	Shri R. K. Goel	"	33,185	..	34,185	+1,000	65%	650	
5.	Shri Chandi Milli	"	..	32,980	33,355	+ 375	0.40	150	
6.	Shri Bhula Bora	"	..	8,500	7,075	(-) 1,425*	...	..
7.	Shri Padma Kalita	Sutli	1,030	..	1,080	+50	Rs.3	150	
8.	Shri Sekh Mukut	E.C.B.	..	1,000	5,000	+4,000	0.40	1,600	

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
9.	Shri Manik Bora	"	...	1,423	1,596	+173	"	69.20	
10.	Shri Pani Ram Dehingia	"	...	800	2,406	+1,606	"	642.40	
11.	Shri Abdur Rashid	"	..	3,500	2,439	(-)1,061*			650
12.	Shri Numal Kolita	Dalu Bamboo ECB	1,300	...	...	(- )1,300	50%	..	
13.	Shri Thanuram Kalita	"	...	3,500	3,000	(-)500*			
14.	Shri Uma Kanta Bailung	Sutli C.S.	235 544	...	185 348	(-)50Kg. (-)196	3 "		150 588
15.	Shri J. K. Newatia	ECB	...	46,200	50,790	+4,590	0.40	1,836	
16.	Md. Tailullah	Sutli C.S. J.W. post E.C.B.	30Kg. 34Kg. 319 ..	.. .. 65 R/M 700	.. .. 200	(-)30Kg. (-)819.65 (-)500*	3		90 102
17.	Shri Bhogen Kr. Milli	"	...	4,600	4,466	(-)134*			
18.	Shri Bhuban Ch. Yein	"	...	6,450	6,986	+536	0.40	214.40	
19.	Shri Damodar Taye	"	...	4,500	4,400	(-)100*			
20.	Shri Kanai Das	"	..	2,650	2,259	(-)391*			
21.	Shri Manik Gogoi	"	..	3,000	1,917	(-)1083*			

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
22.	Shri Durgadhar Hatibaru	"	"	9,350	9,850	(+)500	0.40	200	
23.	Shri Khaniram Milli	"	"	8,800	8,400	(-)400*			
24.	Shri Narayan Pangang	"	"	8,100	9,873	+1773	0.40	709.20	
25.	Shri Mahabir Pangang	"	"	8,100	7,677	(-)423*	0.40		
26.	Shri Tankeswar Milli	"	"	17,470	17,245	(-)225*			
27.	Shri Maniram Milli	"	"	4,500	3,871	(-)629*			
28.	Shri Manik Lachan	"	"	6,800	6,400	(-)400*			
29.	Shri Girish Bora	"	"	3,600	3,400	(-)200*			
30.	Shri Bhudheswar Dehingia	"	"	13,250	8,148	(-)5102*			
31.	Shri Bhogen Guala	"	"	2,500	1,981	(-)519*			
32.	Shri Kamal Ch. Das	"	"	5,550	7,740	+ 2,190	0.40	876	
33.	Shri Bahulal Milli	"	"	500	300	(-)200*			
34.	Shri Chaniram Pangang	"	"	5,400	4,906	(-)494*			
35.	Shri Gangaram Yein	"	"	2,500	2,365	(-)135*			
36.	Shri Sarneswaram Dutta	"	"	1,500	1,485	(-) 15*			
37.	Shri Nandeswar Das	"	"	12,000	9,755	(-)2245*			
38.	Shri Bhulai Puria	"	"	...	13,900	+13900	0.40	5,560	

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
39.	Shri Puneswar Panging	"	..	1,000	980	(-) 20*			
40.	Shri Kuledra Das	"	..	400	330	(-) 70*			
41.	Shri Ghana Chetia	Bhaluka Bamboo ECB	..	60		(-) 60*			
		Bhaluka	..	500		(-) 500*			
		Bamboo	..	60		(-) 60*			
		Sutli	..	1Kg.		(-) 1Kg.			

*Empty Bags not returned by the Contractors--18,403 @ Rs.1.30** Rs. 23,923.90 P. (1) 14,805.20 (3) 2,397.08

Bhaluka Bamboo Sutli	Do	120 @ Rs.8.00	Rs. 960.00 ,,
Sutli	Do	1Kg. @ Rs.6.00	Rs. 6.00 ,,
		(2)	Rs.24,889.90 P.

**Recovery rate for the materials not returned at double the usual rate

Total amount recoverable--(1) Rs.14,805.20 P.
(2) Rs.24,889.90 ,,

Rs.39,695.10 P.
Less under payment-- (3) Rs. 2,397.07 P.
Rs.37,298.03 P.

Sd./- B. S. DUTTA,
Finance and Accounts Officer,
P.W.D. (R&B) Department
Assam, Shillong (Sealed)

ANNEXURE—III

(Ref: Paras 6 and 7 at page 50)

			Total Debt in crores as on 31st March 1976. (Budget Esti- mates)	Population (in crores)	Per Capital Debt as on 31st March 1976
					Rs.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	...	1035	4.7	220
2.	Assam	...	528	1.7	310
3.	Bihar	...	1094	6.1	179
4.	Gujarat	...	631	3.0	210
5.	Haryana	...	350	1.1	318
6.	Karnataka	...	695	3.2	217
7.	Kerala	...	627	2.3	272
8.	Madhya Pradesh	...	756	4.6	164
9.	Maharashtra	...	1326	5.5	241
10.	Orissa	...	759	2.4	316
11.	Punjab	...	391	1.5	260
12.	Rajasthan	...	998	2.8	356
13.	Tamil Nadu	...	792	4.5	176
14.	Uttar Pradesh	...	1667	9.5	175
15.	West Bengal	...	1219	4.9	248

ANNEXURE—IV

(Ref : Paras 9 and to at page 60.....)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM FINANCE DEPARTMENT
BUDGET BRANCH

No.BB. 34/76/22 Dated Dispur, the 7th July, 1976.

To

All Heads of Departments.

Subject :—Verification of departmental figure of expenditure booked in the A.G's Office for the year 1975-76.

Sir,

In enclosing herewith a copy of D.O. letter No.TM/6-9/74-75 351 dated 5th July 1976 and CAL/Veri/74-75/956, dated 6th July 1976 from the Accountant General, Assam addressed to the Financial Commissioner and Secretary, Finance Department, I am directed to say that the Accounts for the year 1975-76 is going to be finally closed very shortly.

You are therefore once again requested to send your representatives for verification of the departmental figures booked in Accountant General's Office, if not already done without any further delay. In this connection your attention is invited to this Departments Circular letter No.BB.34/76/2 dated 27th March 1976 (copy enclosed for ready reference)

You are requested to see that all verifications of accounts with which you are concerned is completed by 15th July 1976 without fail.

Yours faithfully

Sd./-B. N. Kakati,
Under-Secretary to the Government
of Assam,
Finance (Budget) Department.

Memo. No. BB.34/76/22---A Dated Dispur, the 8th July, 1976.

Copy :—

1. All Administrative Departments for information. They are also requested to impress upon all Controlling Officers under their administrative control to verify the Departmental figures as booked in A. G's Office without any further delay.
2. The Accountant General, Assam, Meghalaya, etc., Shillong—1 for information. The list of Heads of Departments controlling expenditure under various Major Heads is being sent to you separately as desired.

By Order etc.,

Sd./B.N. Kakati,
Under-Secretary to the Govt. of
Assam, Finance (Budget)
Department.

ANNEXURE V

(Ref:—Paras 12 and 13 at page 63.. ..)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

FINANCE (A. P. F.) DEPARTMENT AUDIT
BRANCH

No, FM. 123/76/2 Dated Dispur, the 13th August, 1976

From: Shri R. K. Barua, A. C. S.,
Deputy Secretary to the Government Assam, Dis-
pur, Gauhati—6.To Secretaries to All Administrative Departments
and All Heads of DepartmentsSub—Submission of Utilisation Certificates.
Sir,

I am directed to say that it has been found from the successive reports of Comptroller and Auditor General that the position in respect of submission of outstanding Utilisation Certificates has not shown any marked improvement. One of the reasons for this non-to happy position may be that grants are sanctioned the various authorities without ensuring that the outstanding Utilisation Certificates in respect of earlier grants have been duly furnished. It needs no emphasise that unless the outstanding utilisation certificates in respect of the earlier grants are furnished, subsequent grants should not as a matter of principle be sanctioned. You are therefore requested kindly to furnish this Department with information as to whether this principle is being strictly followed in your Department. If so, the circumstances whereunder a huge number of Utilisation Certificates could remain outstanding as shown in C. A. G.'s Report for the year 1972-73 (c. f. para 13 read with Appendix I) may also please be indicated.

The information is required for appraisal of the Public Accounts Committee and as such it may be made available to this Department by 30th August positively.

Yours faithfully,

R. K. Barua,
16.8.76Deputy Secretary to the
Government of Assam, Finance
(A. P. F.) Department.

Annexure VI

(Ref : Para 12 and 13 at page 63...)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

FINANCE (A. P. F.) DEPARTMENT : AUDIT BRANCH

Dated Dispur, the 12th August, 1976.

No. FM. 123/76/1

Form :— Shri R. K. Baruah, A. C. S.
Deputy Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Dispur, Gauhati—6.

To

Secretaries to all Administrative Departments
and all Heads of Departments.

Sub :—Submission of outstanding Utilisation Certificates.

Sir;

I am directed to invite your attention to Para 13 read with Appendix I of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General for the the year 1972-73 and to say that a huge number of Utilisation Certificates in respect of grant-in-aid has been shown outstanding against the various Departments. It is regretted that inspite of repeated insistence out on furnishing such Utilisation Certificates to the Accountant General, Assam, the position has not shown any improvement.

The matter has also attracted the attention of the Public Accounts Committee, who has taken a serious view of this unhappy position. It is therefore requested that an all-out-effort should be made to ensure that all outstanding utilisation certificates are submitted to the Accountant General by the authorities concerned under your Department within three months from the date of issue of this letter, under intimation to this Department.

Receipt of the communication may please be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- R. K. BARUAH
12th August, 1976
Deputy Secretary to the
Government of Assam.

Memo. No. FM. 123/76/1-A. Dated Dispur, 12th August, 1976.

Copy forwarded to :—

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| (1) The Accountant General, Assam etc.,
Shillong. | for information
 and necessary |
| (2) The Exminer, Local Accounts, Gauhati | \| action. |

By order etc.,
Sd/- R. K. BARUAH
12th August, 1976
Deputy Secretary to the Government
of Assam, Finance (A.P.F.)
Department.

Annexure VII

(Ref: Paras 12 and 13 at page 63)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
FINANCE DEPARTMENT : ESTABLISHMENT BRANCH

O. M. No. FEG. 89/71/Pt/136, Dated Dispur, the 1st October, 1975.

Subject :—The Annual Report on the working of the Local Audit Department.

While examining the Annual Report of the local Audit Department for the year 1970-71 the Cabinet has recently noted that some of the defects pointed out by the Examiner of Local Accounts in his Annual Reports on the working of the Local Audit Department in respect of various Local Bodies such as Municipal Boards, Town Committees, Panchayats, School Boards, Aided Educational Institutions etc. are quite serious and suggested for introduction of a system to review the implementation of the recommendation and observation made at regular intervals; so that systematic removal of these defects were possible. Fraud, loss of revenue, misuse of money, inadequate accounting, laxity in realisation of arrear taxes etc. are the main objections against these Bodies along with number of financial irregularities. These were pinpointed in the Audit Reports every year which shows that the same irregularities are being repeated. It has thus led to a conclusion that the reports have failed to produce any perceptible effect far less to bring any improvement in the accounting or executing system of the Local Bodies. There is therefore the imperative necessity of pursuing follow-up action so that not only irregularities are remedied but there is no recurrence too.

Keeping this in view it has been decided to have periodical review of the action taken by concerned Departments on removing objections and implementing recommendation of Audit and for that following measures are to be taken in this regard :—

(1) Each concerned Department will prepare quarterly report on actions taken by them as well as by concerned

Local Bodies under their control on the objections etc. as incorporated in the Annual Audit Reports from the year 1968-69 and onwards and send to Finance (E) Department within the 1st week of the following month.

(2) After studying the aforesaid reports from the Departments a meeting of Secretary, Finance and Secretaries of concerned Departments or nominees may be held in the second week of the month where further steps in any and wherever called for can be planned in course of assessing the results of the preceding quarter. Departments may thereafter follow these steps in the running quarter.

(3) Besides the above two measures in respect of Municipal Bodies, the progress and measures taken by the Bodies may be discussed in the Chairmans' Conferences whenever so held. Conferences may also be called for this purpose alone when so considered necessary. About aided educational Institutions similar discussions may be initiated by the Director of Public Instructions. About Panchayats etc. like Municipal Bodies discussion should be held in Conferences of Mahkuma Parishads.

Measures contemplated above may ensure from the quarter October-December 1975.

Sd/ H. K. MAJUMDAR
1-10-75

Officer-on-Special Duty to the Government
of Assam, Finance (E) Department.

Memo. No. FEG-89/71Pt/136—A. Dated Dispur, the 1st October 1975

Copy forwarded to—

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1, The Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Education Department. | (They are requested to issue necessary inspections to concerned Bodies Under the control immediately and follow-up action as envisaged. |
| 2. The Secretary to the Government of Assam,
P. & C. D. Department. | |
| 3. The Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Municipal Administration Department. | |
| 4. The Secretary to the Government of Assam,
T. A. D. | |

5. The Director of Public Instructions, Assam, Dispur, Gauhati-5
6. Director of Panchayat, Assam, Gauhati-8
7. The Director of Municipal Administration, Assam, Ambari, Lamb Road, Gauhati-1
8. The Examiner, Local Accounts, Assam, Kharghuli, Gauhati-4. He is requested to submit his annual report timely and preferably on the following year itself.

By order etc.

Sd/

Officer-on Special Duty to the Government
of Assam, Finance (E) Department.

ANNEXURE VIII

(Ref : Para 12 and 13 at page 63)

D. O. No. FEG. 89/71/pt/154
Dated the 19th May, 1976.

From:==

Shri N. N. Mookerjee, I. A. S.;
Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Finance Department.

Dear Shri

Kindly refer to this Department O. M. No. FEG.89/71/pt/136, dated 1st October, 1975 and subsequent reminders (No. FEG. 89/71/Pt/140, dated 20th November, 1975 No. FEG.89/71/Pt/145, dated 15th May, 1975 and No. FEG. 89/71/Pt/153, dated 7th June, 1976) regarding follow-up action to be taken on the Annual Report of the Local Audit Department. The reports were considered by the Cabinet and the Cabinet was of the view that all concerned should take prompt steps to rectify the defects pointed out in the reports.

I would therefore like to bring the matter to your personal notice with request to let me know the extent to which the above Cabinet decision has been implemented.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/ N. N. MOOKERJEE

To

Shri A. K. Saikia; I. A. S.
Secretary, T. A. and W. B. C. Department.Shri M. P. Bezborua, I. A. S.,
Secretary, Education.Shri A. K. Choudhury, I. A. S.,
Secretary, Municipal Administration Department.Shri A. K. Choudhury, I. A. S.;
Secretary, P. and C. D. Department.

ANNEXURE IX

(Ref. Para 38 at page 80)

Copy of "Memo No. G/IV-21/26, dated the 31st May 1978 from the Deputy Inspector General of Police (T), Assam, Dergaon, Camp Gauhati to the Inspector General of Police, Assam, Gauhati.

Subject :—Transfer of Building materials purchased for construction of 4th A. P. Bn. H. Q. at Sontilla to N. C. Hills.

Reference :—This office Memo No. G/1167 dated 3rd April 1978 and your Memo. No. S-VI/856116, dated 23rd December 1976.

In modification of my memo cited above, I am to state that as certain rates of the buildings materials were not available, so there were some discrepancies in the estimated value of building materials. Now as the correct rates are available from the I. G. of Police officer, except 4 items. I now submit herewith a modified statement against each item. Of these materials estimated at Rs.1,39,97.00 were issued to S. P., N. C. Hills. Materials estimated at Rs.20,013.06 were utilised by the Commandant, 4th A. P. Bn. for construction. Materials worth Rs.11,700.00 are lying at Dergaon. The value of materials gutted in fire was Rs.87,107.66 and the value of the materials namely bricks, Gravel and Sand which are not affected by fire was Rs.74,644.81 of these three items the following materials were found at site.

Sand 259.00 M³ against (409.58 M³)

Gravel 122.78 M³ against (162.21 M³)

Bricks 469,90 Nos. against (70-593 Nos. 1st Class)
1,38,906 Bricks bats against (35,000 2nd
Class and 1st Class).

Some sand was utilised during the fire fighting. Some sand was washed by rain. Some bricks broke to pieces due to long storage. Some gravels also got mixed up with earth.

ANNEXURE X

(Ref : Para 38 at page 89)

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT, 4TH A. P. BATTALION, DERGAON ASSAM

ORDER

Dated Dergaon, the 10th May 1971

The following Board is constituted for the receipt of Building materials at Sontilla, Haflong after proper verification and check. All the materials should be taken into register, itemwise with quantity and specification. All entries in register should be certified.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| (1) Shri N. C. Bhattacharjee, A. P. S. Second-in-Command, 4th A. P. Battalion, Adv. Hqrs, Haflong. | President |
| (2) Shri B. K. Bora, APS., Asstt. Commandant, I/C 'A' Wing, Camp-Laisong. | Member |
| (3) Shri G. S. Thapa, Sub-Major, 4th A. P. Battalion, Camp-Sontilla. | Member |
| (4) Shri C. K. Ahom, QMI, 4th A. P. Battalion, Dergaon. | Member |
| (5) One Overseer if posted by the Inspector General of Police, Assam's office otherwise co-opted from the P. W. D., Haflong. | Member |

Commandant,
4th Assam Police Battalion,
Dergaon.

Memo. No. C. 26/70-71/4650-54, dated Dergaon, the 11th March 1971.

Copy to :—

- (1) Shri N. C. Bhattacharjee, APS, Second-in-Command, 4th A. P. Bn. Adv. Hqs. Haflong.
- (2) Shri B. K. Bora, APS, Asstt. Comdt. I/C. 'A' Wing, Laisong.
- (3) Shri G. S. Thapa, Sub-Major, 4th A. P. Bn., Camp-Sontilla.
- (4) Shri C. K. Ahom, QMI, 4th A. P. Battalion, Dergaon.

Commandant,
4th Assam Police Battalion,
Dergaon.

Copy of Singal No. Q/7 (A)/0036-37, dated 27th March 1971 from 2 I/C Adv. HQ. 4th Haflong to D. I. G. (A) Shillong.

AS PER WORK ORDER VIDE NO. S-VI/1008/VOL. II/7 DATED 24TH FEBRUARY 1971 CONTRACTOR M/S. KALOORAM AND SONS HAFLONG IS TO SUPPLY 192500 NOS. OF BRICKS FIRST CLASS AND 45000 NOS. OF BRICKS 2ND CLASS QUALITY (.) ON EXAMINATION OF BRICKS AT SITE BY A BOARD INCLUDING MEMBER ENGINEER PWD BFC BRICKS BROUGHT AT SITE BY CONTRACTOR HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE OF 2ND CLASS QUALITY ONLY (.) REQUEST INSTRUCT IF TOTAL NOS. OF BRICKS FOR 1ST CLASS IN WORK ORDER CAN BE ACCEPTED AS SECOND CLASS QUALITY AS FIRST CLASS QUALITY NOT SUPPLIED BY CONTRACTOR (.) IF SO ENTIRE QUALITY OF BRICKS BOTH QTY. SHOWN IN FIRST CLASS AND SECOND CLASS QUALITY ONLY AND PAYMENT RECOMMENDED WITH RATE FOR SECOND CLASS QUALITY (.) REQUEST COMMUNICATE ORDERS TODAY (.)

Copy of Memo. No. C. 26/70-71/ 14134 dated Dergaon, the 30th June 1971 from the Commandant, 4th A. P. Bn., Dergaon to the A. I. G. (A), Assam, Shillong.

Sub :—Supply of bricks by M/S Kalooram and Sons.

Ref :—Your letter No. S-VI/1008/Vol. 1/42 dated, 4th June 1971.

With reference to the above, I am to mention that the supply of bricks was completed by the contractor M/S Kalooram and Sons by 25th March 1971. The board consisting of Sri N. C. Bhattacharjee, Second-in-Command, one Assistant Engineer from Executive Engineer, Haflong and Subedar Major of this unit examined all the building materials on 29th June 1971. The Board found the bricks unacceptable as they were not of required specification and quality as laid down in the work order.

The Board reported that there was no first class brick and that half of the bricks were broken. As such the board rejected the entire supply and refused to give necessary certificate on the bills. A copy of the letter from the Board is attached herewith.

During my personal visit it was found that about half of the bricks are broken and useless. The rest of bricks were also found to be of inferior quality. A copy of report of the Committee is enclosed herewith.

ANNEXURE—XI

(Ref : Para 38 at page 89...)

Copy of Memo. No. Q/7 (A)/8554, dated Haflong, the 10 July/71 from the Second-in-Command, 4th A. P. Bn. Haflong to the Asstt. I. G. of Police (A), Assam, Shillong.

Subject :—Supply of bricks by M/S Kalooram and Sons, Haflong.

Ref:—Your letter No. S/VI/1008/Vol. I/42—A, dated Shillong, the 4th June, 1971.

As desired, the report of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Haflong Division pertaining to bricks supplied by M/S Kalooram and Sons, Haflong at site of headquarters 4th A. P. Bn. Sontilla is sent herewith for favour of your necessary action.

In this connection, I am to add that the Executive Engineer, after physical verification of bricks at site, found bricks at site as follows. Stores in Sl. No. 1 & 2 have been duly received and entered into stock register. Stores Sl. No. 3 are at site pending further instructions.

1. 1st class bricks as per A.P. W. D. specification including admissible 10% of bricks bats ... 156343 Nos.
2. 2nd class bricks as per A.P.W.D. specification including admissible 10% of bricks bats ... 35750 „
3. Bricks bats at site but utilisable in works .. 56074 „

Encl :—Letter No. 6165 dated 3rd July, 1971 alongwith a certificate in bill from (in original) from executive Engineer, P.W.D. Haflong.

Copy to the (1) The Commdt. 4th A.P.Bn. Dergaon along-with a copy of letter No. 6165 dated 3rd July, 1971 and a copy of certificate in bill from the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Haflong for information and necessary action.

ANNEXURE—XII

(Ref : Para 38 at page 89...)

Copy of Memo. No. S—VI/1008/Vol. I/61, dated, 15th July, 1971 from the D. I. G. (A) Assam, Shillong to the Second-In-Command, 4th A.P.Bn. A.H. Q. Haflong.

Sub:—Supply of bricks by M/S Kalooram and Sons, Haflong.

Ref:—Your letter No. Q/7 (a)/8554, dated 10 July, 1971.

With reference to Your letter cited above, I am directed to state that the bill for supply of bricks by M/S Kalooram and Sons, Haflong may be obtained from the contractor if not already received and the same may be forwarded to the Commdt. 4th A.P.Bn. Dergaon for consideration of payment duly certificated by you about the receipt of materials as certified by the Executive Engineer P. W. D. Haflong Division that is,

(a) 1st class bricks ... 1,56,343 Nos.

(b) 2nd class bricks ... 35,750 Nos

Payment of the bricks may be made as per approved rates for 1st class and 2nd class communicated to you vide this office work order No. S—VI/1008/Vol. I/7, dated 24th February, 1971.

As regards brick bats at site supplied by the contractors it appears that the rate of payment is required to be fixed by the Executive Engineer Haflong Division. As the bricks bats can be utilised in works it has been decided to receive the brick bats (pieces). You may take delivery of the brick bats from the contractor and the quantity may be entered into the stock register and Executive engineer Haflong is being requested to prepare and analysis of rates for supply of brick bats and to forward the same to this office for further necessary action. You are requested to meet the Executive Engineer Haflong Division and to obtain the rate of brick bats in due course.

As undue delay has occurred in settlement of the case, the bill of the contractor for payment for supply of 1st and 2nd class bricks for the quantity as certified by the Executive Engineer Haflong and as indicated above may be forwarded to C.O. 4th A.P.Bn. by special messenger, Commdt. 4th A.P.Bn. has also been requested to take prompt action for payment of the bill through you on receipt of the documents.

Action taken may be reported immediately.

Copy forwarded to Commdt. 4th A.P.Bn. Dergaon for information and necessary action. Regarding payment of bill of the contractor M/S Kalooram and Sons, Haflong, a separate communication issued to you vide this office letter No. S—VI/1008/Vol. I/61, dated July, 1971 may be referred to and the instruction issued therein may please be acted upon without delay.

Copy to M/S Kalooram and Sons, Haflong for information and necessary action.

ANNEXURE—XIII

COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
COMMITTEE 1975-76

CHAIRMAN—

Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi

MEMBERS—

Shri Ramesh Mohan Kouli

Shri Subhankar Singha

Shri Chandra Bahadur Chetri

Shri Pushpadhar Chaliha

Shri Manabendra Nath Sarma

Shri Rajendra Nath Phookan

Shri Hashimuddin Ahmed

Shri Ambarish Lahari