

Press Brief on State Finances Audit Report-2020-21

In accordance with Article 151 of the Constitution of India, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) submits his Audit Reports to the Governor of the State for being laid on the table of the Legislature. Accordingly, Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 2020-21 (State Finances)-Government of Rajasthan, has been laid on the table of the Legislature on 22 September 2022. As per procedure, the Report of the CAG stands referred to the Public Accounts Committee of the State Legislature.

Achievements of the State Government

- The outstanding guarantee to estimated receipts ratio (37.64 *per cent*) during 2020-21 was within the limit fixed under FRBM Act (60.00 *per cent*).

(Paragraph 2.7.2)

- The State Government accomplished 100 *per cent* reconciliation of expenditure and receipts with office of the Accountant General (A&E) through controlling officers during the last five years.

(Paragraph 4.9)

Audit findings are highlighted below:

Fiscal Position

- The fiscal position of the State is viewed in terms of three key fiscal parameters - Revenue Deficit/Surplus, Fiscal Deficit/Surplus and the ratio of Outstanding Debt to GSDP.
- Fiscal Deficit as a percentage of GSDP increased from 3.77 *per cent* in 2019-20 to 6.20 *per cent* in 2020-21, which was higher than the target of three *per cent* as prescribed under FRBM Act, 2005.
- As per FRBM Act, the State Government was to achieve Zero Revenue Deficit from the financial year 2011-12 and thereafter maintain it or attain revenue surplus. However, the Revenue Deficit of the State Government was ₹44,001 crore during the year 2020-21.
- During 2020-21, the fiscal liability (total outstanding debt) to GSDP ratio (42.37 *per cent*) was higher than the FRBM target (38.20 *per cent*).

(Paragraph 1.5)

Finances of the State

- Revenue Receipts decreased by ₹5,805.93 crore (4.14 *per cent*) over the previous year, however Revenue Expenditure increased by ₹1,824.31 crore (1.03 *per cent*) over the previous year leading to an increase in the Revenue Deficit.

(Paragraphs 2.3.2.1 and 2.4.2)

- Capital Outlay increased by ₹552.44 crore (3.75 *per cent*) over the previous year.

(Paragraph 2.4.3.1)

Budgetary Management

- Budgetary assumptions of the State Government were not realistic during 2020-21 and despite carrying out an elaborate pre-budget exercise to bring out efficiency and transparency in budget formulation and execution, budgetary estimates were off the mark to a considerable extent, and control over the execution and monitoring of budget was inadequate.
- Budgetary savings of ₹ 27,052 crore (10.08 *per cent*) occurred during the year and Supplementary Grants of ₹ 36,253.96 crore proved excessive. Further, during the period 2016-17 to 2019-20 the supplementary provisions continuously proved unnecessary. Despite flagging these issues every year over the last several years, the State Government has failed to take corrective measures in this regard.
- Explanations were not provided to the Accountant General (A&E) for variations in expenditure vis-à-vis allocations. Instances of persistent savings under grants were noticed during the year despite PAC recommendations in this regard.

(Paragraph 3.5.1)

Quality of Accounts & Financial Reporting Practices

- Un-transferred amount of cess/surcharge to the reserve fund/deposit fund indicates that revenue/fiscal deficit of the State Government is understated to the extent of non-transferred amount and represents the outstanding liability of the State Government.

(Paragraph 4.1)

- Non-submission of Utilisation Certificates and Detailed Contingent bills by departments for funds drawn for specific developmental programmes/projects and non-submission of accounts by State PSUs was in contravention of prescribed financial rules and directives pointing to inadequate internal controls and monitoring mechanism of the State Government.

(Paragraphs 4.4, 4.5 and 4.13)