

2.1 Scope of Audit

Audit of district Mandi involved a review of the significant socio-economic developmental programmes implemented in the district during the period 2006-11. The audit encompassed an appraisal of social sector programmes relating to health, education, water supply, Integrated Child Development services, Old Age Pension scheme and total sanitation campaign. In the economic sector, infrastructure development was reviewed through an assessment of the projects and schemes implemented for improvement of road connectivity in the District (PMGSY and other road sector schemes), provision of employment to the poor and vulnerable sections of society. The audit covered the developmental initiatives and the associated expenditure in the district and focused on the role and responsibilities of the District Administration in providing essential public services and improving the general standard of living of the people of the district and the extent of community participation in programme implementation and monitoring. The initiatives of the State Government in facilitating the processing of public requests for various utilities and services by electronic means through the single window 'Sugam' centres was also reviewed along with the status of provision of basic civic amenities by the municipal authorities.

Audit was based on a scrutiny of records in the State Planning Department, the office of the DC, DRDA, selected Blocks, GPs, Public Works, Education, I&PH, Health, Welfare Departments, Municipal Committee/ Nagar Panchayats and Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board (HPSEB).

2.2 Audit Objectives

The objectives of audit were to assess:

- the adequacy and effectiveness of the annual planning process for different programmes;
- the overall impact and effectiveness of the developmental programmes in terms of achievement of targeted outputs and outcomes and their economical and efficient execution;
- the adequacy and effectiveness of procedures for receipt, utilisation and accounting of funds;
- the adequacy and effectiveness of the processes for monitoring, reporting and evaluation; and
- verification of the reported expenditure on major development programmes (Central and State) with reference to detailed Statements of Expenditure and original vouchers at lower level in a hierarchical manner (State to district, district to block and block to GP).

2.3 Audit Criteria

The audit applied the following criteria in assessing the implementation of various developmental programmes/schemes:

- Annual Action Plans
- Guidelines of the concerned programmes/ schemes
- Prescribed monitoring mechanism

2.4 Audit Methodology

Discussions were held with the Deputy Commissioner (DC), and representatives of all other Departments in Mandi district, in an entry conference in May 2010.

Five¹ out of 10 Blocks were selected for detailed scrutiny on the basis of Simple Random Sampling Without Replacement (SRSWOR) method. Further, 20 *per cent* of the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in these Blocks and 20 *per cent* of villages in these GPs were also selected for extensive audit based on SRSWOR method.

Besides, the records of the DC, District Project Officer, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Chief Engineers of Public Works (PW) and Irrigation and Public Health (I&PH) Departments, District Health Mission, District Information Centre, District

Welfare Officer, Project Officer Integrated Child Development services, two Municipal Committees (Mandi and Sundernagar), three Nagar Panchayats (Jogindernagar, Rewalsar and Sarkaghat) and HPSEB were also scrutinised.

Audit findings were discussed with the Deputy Commissioner and the Departmental functionaries in the exit conference held on 4 October 2011 and their views have been incorporated in the Report at appropriate places.

2.5 Acknowledgement

The Office of the Accountant General (Audit) Himachal Pradesh, acknowledges the co-operation and assistance extended by DC and district heads of the concerned departments, the concerned BDOs and Gram Panchayat Pradhans during the course of Audit.

¹ Chauntra, Drang at Padhar, Gohar, Karsog and Sundernagar.