

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Report contains the results of performance audit of the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Dental Council of India as well as the academic activities of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata.

**MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

**Bureau of Indian Standards**

Considering the important role of standardisation for achieving competitive efficiency and quality production, the Government of India set up the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) in 1947 as a registered society. Later on, to bring the formulation of standards and other related work under legislation, the Government decided to restructure ISI and invest it with statutory authority for Indian Standards (ISs) by passing the Bureau of Indian Standards Act in November 1986. As a result, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) came into being on 1 April 1987, after taking over the staff, assets, liabilities and functions of the erstwhile ISI.

BIS had formulated a total of 18222 standards, out of which 1627 were formulated during the audit period. Audit test-checked 214 standards and noticed delays in formulation of standards from one month to 18 years in 137 cases. Printing of standards also took considerable time against the prescribed norms with delays ranging from four to 55 months in 153 cases. There was poor adoption of standards under the product certification scheme. Significant delays in grant of licences, ranging between 121 days and more than two years, were noticed. BIS was unable to perform its monitoring and inspection roles adequately. Shortfalls in collection of factory samples ranging from 52 to 68 *per cent* and market samples ranging from 26 to 72 *per cent* as well as infrequent surveillance visits ranging from 39 to 62 *per cent* were observed. Testing facilities in the laboratories were not adequate. There were shortfalls in testing of samples (17 *per cent*), persistent accumulation of samples and non-availability of testing facilities in respect of certain products in BIS and outside laboratories.

Awareness of standardisation and certification activities among consumers is vital for the success of these activities. Achievements against the targets fixed for programmes of 'consumer awareness', 'industry awareness' and 'educational

utilization of standards' were 51 *per cent*, 43 *per cent* and 34 *per cent* respectively. Consumers were exposed to the risk of buying impure gold jewellery due to inadequate coverage of Indian jewellers and goldsmiths under BIS's voluntary hallmarking scheme as the hallmarking of gold jewellery was not made mandatory. Shortage of manpower continued to persist, although the activities of BIS were predominantly manpower-based.

*(Chapter I)*

## MINISTRY OF CULTURE

### **Academic Activities of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata**

The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (Institute), Kolkata was set up in January 1993 as a Society under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961 at the joint initiative of the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal, to act as a centre for research and learning, focusing on various issues related to developments in Asia with special emphasis on their links with India, on secularism and universal brotherhood and on the life and works of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. The Ministry of Culture provided separate grants to the Institute, for conducting research activities relating to the North-East Region. The Institute was also maintaining a museum at the residence of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad since 2006.

A performance audit of the academic activities of the Institute disclosed that the Institute had not framed any policy specifying the criteria for selection of research topics keeping in view of its objectives. Resultantly, many of the selected research topics were unrelated to the objectives of the Institute. The process of selection of Fellows was not documented and lacked transparency. The Institute had an inadequate monitoring and review system to ensure timely completion of research projects, as a result of which, out of 58 completed projects, only 19 projects (33 *per cent*) were completed within the scheduled time and the rest of the projects were delayed for periods upto over seven years. The publication of research project reports was also inordinately delayed. Only 23 out of 58 completed project reports had been published till July 2011. The Institute had not ensured optimal utilization of information technology for its library and also had not made the library accessible to the public, which was against the stated objective of the Institute of making papers and library sources available to them. However, following the audit

observation, the Institute opened (2012) the library to the public. The Institute failed to make any addition to the museum's original collection of 22 objects relating to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

*(Chapter II)*

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**Dental Council of India**

The Dental Council of India (Council), a statutory body, was constituted on 12 April 1949, under an Act of Parliament, viz. the Dentists Act, 1948, to regulate dental education, dental profession and dental ethics in the country. The Council is a recommendatory body to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Ministry) and acts as its technical arm for regulation of dental education, dental profession and dental ethics.

The performance audit of the Council covering the period from 2006-2011 revealed that there was a concentration of dental colleges in five States and there was only one college in the North-East, indicating skewed distribution of dental colleges across the country, which both the Council and the Ministry failed to prevent. Audit also found non-adherence to the prescribed standards for (i) establishment of new dental colleges; (ii) increasing the number of seats in existing dental colleges and (iii) renewal of permissions for yearly admissions. There were several instances of substantial variations between the reports following inspections of dental colleges by the Council and those of Special Inspection Teams (SITs) constituted by the Ministry, the latter failing to analyze the reasons for such wide variations. There were instances where negative recommendations of the Council were ignored on the basis of unverified compliance reports received from the colleges. Delays of three to five years by the Ministry were noticed in cases of derecognition of colleges on the recommendation of the Council. The Council did not adhere to its own norms of periodical inspections of recognized dental colleges once in a block of five years. The Ministry allowed the dental colleges to function despite shortages of faculty and deficient infrastructure. The database of faculty members also exposed the possibility of the same people working in multiple colleges. The Council had no complaint redressal mechanism. The Council was not maintaining the Indian Dentists Register, in violation of the requirement prescribed in the Dentists Act. Inspection fees amounting to ₹ 7.07 crore were outstanding against various dental colleges.

*(Chapter III)*