

Overview

OVERVIEW

This Report contains seven paragraphs including three Subject Specific Compliance Audit viz. (i) “Processing of Refund claims under GST in Assam” (ii) “Transitional Credits under GST” and (iii) “Forest Department covering Afforestation, Social forestry, Wildlife and Bio-diversity”. Some of the major findings are mentioned below:

I. GENERAL

- Total Receipts of the State for the year 2019-20 were ₹ 64,495.08 crore against ₹ 63,479.16 crore in the previous year. Of this, 34 *per cent* was raised by the State Government through tax revenue (₹ 16,528.69 crore) and non-tax revenue (₹ 5,539.34 crore). The remaining 66 *per cent* was received from the Government of India in the form of State’s share of net proceeds of divisible Union taxes (₹ 21,721.44 crore) and Grants-in-Aid (₹ 20,705.61 crore).

(Paragraph 1.1)

- Arrears in assessments in respect of various taxation Acts (Assam Value Added Tax, Central Sales Tax, *etc.*) increased over the previous year and 75,335 cases are pending for assessment at the end of 31 March 2020.

(Paragraph 1.3)

- At the end of June 2020, 5,643 audit observations pertaining to 1,139 Inspection Reports involving ₹ 3,332.57 crore could not be settled due to non-receipt of replies/ proper replies from the Departments concerned.

(Paragraph 1.6)

- During the year 2019-20, 819 paragraphs were discussed in the Audit Committee Meetings and 422 paragraphs (51.53 *per cent*) were settled on the basis of replies furnished by Departments.

(Paragraph 1.6.2)

II. FINANCE (TAXATION) DEPARTMENT

Subject Specific Compliance Audit on “Processing of Refund claims under GST in Assam”

- There was delay in issue of acknowledgement against 32 refund applications in pre-automation period and 21 applications in post-automation period.

(Paragraph 2.4.6.1)

- In 15 cases in pre-automation and 12 cases in post-automation period, there was delay in sanction of refund cases.

(Paragraph 2.4.6.2)

- Consideration of incorrect amount of adjusted turnover and ITC resulted in excess grant of refund of ₹ 12.41 lakh.

(Paragraph 2.4.6.3-III)

- In spite of liability to pay tax on telecommunication license fees and spectrum usage charges under GST law, State Taxation Authority (STA) irregularly allowed refund of ₹ 53.34 lakh against tax paid on license fees and spectrum usage charges.

(Paragraph 2.4.6.5-I)

- The STA sanctioned refund of ₹ 30.28 lakh without debiting in Electronic Credit Ledger.

(Paragraph 2.4.6.5-II)

- In 24 cases, sanctioned amount of SGST component involving ₹ 25.89 lakh was not credited to the claimant accounts.

(Paragraph 2.4.6.6-I)

Subject Specific Compliance Audit on “Transitional Credits under GST”

- 47 taxpayers had carried forward balance ITC of VAT regime against actual balance of ITC, which resulted in excess availment of transitional credits of ₹ 5.48 crore.

(Paragraph 2.5.9.1(I))

- 36 taxpayers availed transitional credit of ₹ 5.42 crore without submitting statutory forms under the existing law.

(Paragraph 2.5.9.1(II))

- Eight taxpayers availed transitional credits of ₹ 2.74 crore without filing legacy returns.

(Paragraph 2.5.9.1 (IV))

- Three taxpayers claimed transitional credits of ₹ 3.31 crore incorrectly.

(Paragraph 2.5.9.1 (VI))

- Two taxpayers availed excess transitional credits of ₹ 23.65 lakh in Electronic Credit Ledger against their claim.

(Paragraph 2.5.9.2)

III. EXCISE DEPARTMENT

- Superintendents of Excise failed to realise establishment charges amounting to ₹ 89.57 lakh from six Wholesale Warehouses.

(Paragraph 3.3)

- Superintendents of Excise failed to realise ₹ 8.41 crore being Ad-valorem levy and VAT involved in the transitional stock of liquor/ spirit from two Wholesale Warehouses.

(Paragraph 3.4)

IV. TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

- District Transport Officers did not initiate action to cancel the registration/ permit of vehicles whose fitness certificate has expired which resulted in forgoing of revenue of ₹ 1.19 crore besides fine of ₹ 22.58 crore was also leviable.

(Paragraph 4.3)

V. ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT

- The Department did not take initiative to change the status of land as forest land in the records of Revenue Department which led to allotment of forest land for other purposes by the Revenue Department.

(Paragraph 5.3.2.1(II))

- In 2019-20, Department could utilise 25 per cent of available stocks of seedlings while the remaining 75 per cent seedlings remained in stock.

(Paragraph 5.3.2.3)

- Selection of plantation site by the Golaghat SF Division despite prior information about encroachment from Deputy Commissioner, Majuli led to a wasteful expenditure of ₹ 36.89 lakh.

(Paragraph 5.3.3.2)

- The lesser allocation of funds had compelled the wildlife managers to scale down the activities envisaged in the original Annual Plan of Operations.

(Paragraph 5.3.4.2)

- An area of 10.98 sq. km of notified Forest land in Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary was not handed over by the Revenue Department to the Forest Department, which resulted in crunching of space for free movements of the animals.

(Paragraph 5.3.4.3)

- Even after six years of the National Green Tribunal's instruction, GoA failed to operationalise automated animal sensors in any of the animal corridors after an expenditure of ₹ 6.12 crore.

(Paragraph 5.3.4.4)

- Out of 94 plantations sites in three divisions, 51 sites (54.25 per cent) had survival percentage of seedlings of less than or equal to 30 per cent, which is considered as poor plantation.

(Paragraph 5.3.5.2)

VI. REVENUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

- The Sub-Registrar, Kamrup (Sadar) while registering the sale deeds, considered Zonal value of Agricultural land instead of Non-Agricultural land, which resulted in short levy of Stamp Duty and Registration fee of ₹ 18.51 lakh.

(Paragraph 6.3)

