

General Administration Department

Directorate of Information Technology

4.4.3 Injudicious purchase of software

Improper planning led to extra procurement of 2000 lotus software costing Rs 60 lakh and obsolete software application package valuing Rs 31 lakh.

The Directorate of Information Technology (DIT), Mumbai was set up by Government (March 1998) for framing overall information strategy, its implementation and monitoring.

Scrutiny of records (August 2003) revealed that there was an injudicious purchase of software costing Rs 91 lakh as detailed below:

Government opted (March 1999) for Lotus Notes as messaging software required for the purpose of e-mail facility and similar applications. As per the initial planning, DIT purchased (March 1999) 3070 copies of communication software Lotus Notes at the rate of Rs 3000 costing Rs 92 lakh along with Lotus Smart Suite (cost Rs 78 lakh), a software used for generic PC application such as Word processing etc. The e-mail facility connecting 39 locations was set up in March 2000. Phase I of LAN for Mantralaya connecting 1206 input/output (IO) points was completed in March 2000 and Phase II connecting 664 IO points was completed in September 2001. Considering this development and initial planning, 3070 copies purchased in March 1999 were adequate. However, an additional purchase of 2000 copies of Lotus Notes costing Rs 60 lakh was made in November 1999 without verifying the utilisation of copies of Lotus Notes already purchased. Thus purchase of 2000 copies of Lotus Notes costing Rs 60 lakh (Rs 3000 each) was in excess of the requirement.

DIT and Joint Secretary to the Government stated (October 2003) that the Lotus communication package along with Lotus Smart Suite was preloaded in 3722 computers at the time of purchase of PCs and more licenses would be required for extending WAN/LAN to district and taluka level offices.

Reply was not tenable as the software was loaded in computers without verifying whether the preloaded PCs were put to use for e-mail purpose, having LAN/WAN connectivity, Modem and Telephone connectivity. Further, it was observed that Government was compelled to use obsolete technology to begin with the utilisation of the package as only 1800 e-mail IDs were created during the software's upgradation period of two years ie up to March 2001. Moreover, total number of IDs configured in user's PCs through Lotus Notes was 3723 only (June 2003) as against 5070 copies procured.

Relational Database Management System (RDBMS) such as IBM DB2 is used to develop database applications for computerisation of various functions of Departments. DIT purchased (March 1999) 3070 copies of IBM DB2, valuing Rs 31 lakh without any specific project plan for computerisation of any function. As against this only 275 copies of IBM DB2 was issued to Director of Land Records for computerisation of Land Records in March 2002 while the remaining 2795 copies DB2 valuing Rs 28 lakh were unutilised (June 2003). Further it was observed that as per purchase condition the upgradation of the software was only for two years ie up to March 2001, which expired prior to utilisation of the software.

DIT and Joint Secretary to the Government in its reply stated (October 2003) that DB2 was procured along with Lotus package to avail of the discount offered by the company. The package remained unutilised due to change in technology from Client/Server to Web/Browser based architecture and computerisation of other departments could not take off due to funds crunch.

The reply is not tenable as department failed in managing its Information Technology investments and short range planning for such functions.

Housing Department

4.4.4 Extra expenditure due to non-recovery of pro rata charges

~~Irregular payment of pro rata construction charges on behalf of Co-operative Housing Societies resulted in avoidable extra expenditure of Rs 91.51 lakh.~~

~~Under the Development Control Regulations for Greater Bombay 1991, the owner, who surrenders free of cost his land required for road widening or for construction of new roads proposed under the Development Plan (DP), is eligible to get 100 per cent Floor Space Index (FSI) in lieu of land so surrendered subject to certain conditions for its utilisation. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), while granting the additional FSI, recovers pro rata charges towards the cost of construction of the DP road from the owner.~~

~~Mumbai Housing and Area Development Board (Board), a unit of Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority, to which additional FSI of 19583 square metre (sq mt) was admissible on account of DP road potential at its Juhu - Vile Parle Development scheme, advertised (July 2000), sale of 19000 sq mt of FSI to the Housing Societies in the scheme at the prevailing zonal rate. According to the terms and conditions specified in the advertisement for sale of FSI, the purchaser was liable to pay pro rata charges to BMC on account of construction of DP road~~

~~Juhu Griha Swapna Co-operative Housing Society (Society) which responded to the advertisement was allotted 2289.20 sq mt of additional buildable area in May 2001 at a cost of Rs 76.40 lakh. The Society executed a legally valid undertaking to abide by the terms and conditions of allotment including~~