

CHAPTER – VI

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL BODIES AND OTHERS

SECTION ‘A’ – REVIEWS

Education Department

6.1 Punjabi University

Highlights

Punjabi University, Patiala was established with the objective of advancement of Punjabi studies and development of Punjabi language as a medium of instructions and for promotion of higher education and research. In addition to the funds generated by the University, State Government provides maintenance grants and the University Grants Commission (UGC) provides funds for various research projects. University maintains a number of revolving fund accounts which are not included in the budget proposals and thus do not depict the true and fair financial position of the University. Neither any system of quality control was in existence nor the activities of the University and impact of implementation of various programmes had ever been evaluated. Some of the significant findings are given below.

There was an accumulated balance of unutilized funds of Rs. 5.54 crore as on March 2001. In addition, accumulated balances of revolving funds (Rs.14.68 crore) and funds for self-supporting correspondence courses (Rs.3.27 crore) were also lying unspent which were not depicted in the budget.

(Paragraphs 6.1.4.1, 6.1.4.2, and 6.1.4.3)

University has not prepared the required balance sheets since its inception. Temporary advances amounting to Rs. 5.50 crore remained unadjusted.

(Paragraphs 6.1.4.4 and 6.1.4.5)

The services of the teaching staff were under utilized (25 per cent) having financial implication of Rs.7.62 crore.

(Paragraph 6.1.5.1)

69 programmes produced were found to be unworthy of telecast resulting in wasteful expenditure of Rs.1.07 crore.

(Paragraph 6.1.5.2)

Out of grant amounting to Rs.81.15 lakh provided by UGC during March 1998 for implementation of 2 projects, Rs. 72.26 lakh remained unutilized.

(Paragraphs 6.1.6(i) and (ii))

6.1.1 Introduction

Punjabi University, Patiala was established in April, 1962 with the objectives of advancement of Punjabi studies and development of Punjabi language as a medium of instructions and for promotion of higher education and research. The University offers post graduate courses in Arts, Social sciences, Humanities, Religious studies, Business administration, Commerce, Computer Science and Law education, besides imparting coaching to SC/ST students as well as students from general category for IAS, PCS (Jud.) services, banking services competitive examinations. It also runs graduate and post graduate classes through correspondence and also undertakes various research projects for which funds are provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

6.1.2 Organisational set up

The Governor of the State is the Chancellor of the University. The Vice Chancellor is the Principal Executive and Academic Officer who is appointed for 3 years and exercises control over its affairs in accordance with the statutes and regulations. He is the ex-officio Chairman of the Senate, the

Syndicate, the Academic Council and the Finance Committee and controls over the affairs of the University. He is assisted by the Registrar in the administrative functions and Finance Officer in financial matters.

6.1.3 Audit coverage

The accounts of the University are audited under Section-14 of Comptroller and Auditor General (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Services) Act, 1971. The records of 31 departments/branches out of 102 department/branches for the period 1996-2001 were reviewed during January to March 2001. The results of review are embodied in the succeeding paragraphs.

6.1.4 Budgetary Procedure and Accounts Control

6.1.4.1 The University prepares its annual budget showing its anticipated income and expenditure and submits the demands to the State Government who provides funds in the shape of grants in aid. In addition, funds are also received against Schemes/Projects sponsored by the UGC. The position of funds/grants received and expenditure incurred there against during 1996-97 to 2000-2001 was as under:

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
	<i>(Rupees in crore)</i>				
Opening Balance	1.28	2.35	4.93	8.36	8.30
Receipt	32.62	36.33	45.93	47.63	47.43
Total	33.90	38.68	50.86	55.99	55.73
Expenditure	31.55	33.75	42.50	47.69	50.19
Closing Balance	2.35	4.93	8.36	8.30	5.54

There existed an accumulated balance of Rs. 5.54 crore out of maintenance grant as on March 2001

Thus at the end of March 2001, there was an accumulated unutilised balance of Rs.5.54 crore lying in the banks. On ascertaining the reasons for keeping heavy closing balances, the University stated (August 2001) that unspent balances are kept in hand to meet the unforeseen expenses as the funds from Government/UGC are received late.

6.1.4.2 Unspent balances of Revolving funds

The State Government sanctions the maintenance grant towards net expenditure on the salary of staff, contingencies and other activities after taking into account the unspent balance lying with the University. It was, however, observed that the University authorities while submitting the budget proposals to the State Government for claiming maintenance grant did not include the unspent balances of the previous years lying in the Revolving Funds. The University was maintaining 25 revolving fund accounts in the banks opened with the approval of the Syndicate for different purposes. Unspent accumulated balance of Rs.14.68 crore lying in the revolving funds

Non-depiction of unspent balances of revolving funds in Budget proposals resulted into excess release of grant

as on March 2000 were not taken into account while preparing the budget proposals resulting in excess release of grants. On the issue having been taken up with the University and the State Government, it was reported by the University (March 2001) that no excess grant was received. Reply was not tenable as the unspent balances were not depicted in the budget. Reply from the Government was awaited (August 2001).

6.1.4.3 Funds of the self-supporting courses

Non-depiction of unspent funds of the self supporting courses in the accounts resulted in claiming of excess grant of Rs. 3.27 crore

The University was running self-supporting correspondence courses such as M.Com, M.Ed, B.Ed, Diploma in Library Science, Diploma in Journalism and Gurmat Sangeet etc. The income derived and expenditure incurred there against was being kept in separate accounts. An unspent amount of Rs.3.27 crore was lying in these accounts as on March 2001. The University while working out the closing balances of the years 1996-97 to 2000-2001 had not depicted these unspent balances in the annual accounts of the University resulting in claiming excess grant to the extent of Rs.3.27 crore.

6.1.4.4 Non-preparation of balance sheet

Due to non-preparation of balance sheets true financial position was not depicted.

Under the Punjabi University Act 1961, the University was required to prepare the annual accounts consisting of receipt and payment accounts, balance sheet and to submit it to the Senate and State Government. The statements showing income and expenditure were prepared each year. However, mandatory balance sheets for which there was no relaxation, showing assets and liabilities were never prepared to depict the true financial position. It was stated (August 2001) that the preparation of balance sheet was not feasible due to non evaluation of assets at belated stage. The reply was not tenable as it was for the Syndicate to appoint some Committee for valuation of the assets and to adopt the value of each asset (on ground balances) and start action to prepare the balance sheet.

6.1.4.5 Non-adjustment of outstanding temporary advances

Non-adjustment of temporary advances for Rs.5.50 crore.

Temporary advances of Rs.5.50 crore paid to Building Fund (Rs.2.18 crore), Conduct of Examinations (Rs.1.26 crore) and other accounts (Rs.2.06 crore) were outstanding for adjustment as on 2000-2001. Non-adjustment of temporary advances outstanding since 1965-66 to relevant head of account according to expenditure incurred thereagainst would not depict the true picture of accounts of the University and would encourage non-rendering of accounts by the recipients. On the omission having been pointed out, it was stated (March 2001) that special efforts were being made to adjust the outstanding temporary advances.

6.1.5 Wasteful expenditure

6.1.5.1 Under utilization of the services of teaching staff

Non-adherence to conditions, the services of staff remained underutilized to the extent of 25 per cent.

The pay scales of the teaching staff of the Universities and colleges were revised by UGC with effect from January 1996 according to which it was mandatory for the University teaching staff to observe 180 actual teaching days. Test-check of the records revealed that teaching days observed during the last three years ranged between 125 to 147.

Thus due to non-adherence of the condition, services of the teaching staff remained under utilised to the extent of 25 per cent (on average) in a year and resulted in wasteful expenditure of Rs.7.62 crore during 1998-2001. In reply the University intimated (August 2001) that the matter for adoption of 180 teaching days has been taken up with the State Government.

6.1.5.2 Programmes produced found unworthy of telecast

Of 69 programmes none of the programme produced was found worthy telecasting resulting entire expenditure of Rs. 1.07 crore wasteful.

An Audio Visual Research Centre (AVRC) was established and equipments worth Rs. 38.44 lakh were installed in 1989 with the object of producing two audio visual programmes per month for UGC for countrywide class room project. Thus during the span of 11 years viz. upto December 2000 (on which an expenditure of Rs. 1.07 crore after excluding cost of equipment had been incurred) there was a schedule of producing 264 programmes against which only 69 programmes were produced resulting in short production of 195 programmes. Scrutiny further revealed that out of 69 programmes, 30 programmes (43 per cent) involving expenditure of Rs.46.52 lakh (proportionately) were rejected by the review committee of the UGC on the grounds that these lacked in terms of research, proper script, treatment and structure including production elements being of poor quality. Further, no programme was found worthy of telecast resulting in wasteful expenditure of Rs. 1.07 crore. On being pointed out it was reported (March 2001) that most of equipments purchased got outdated due to optimum use. This was contrary to the facts as there was a shortfall in production of 195 programmes.

6.1.5.3 Non-installation of scientific equipments worth Rs.12.06 lakh

Non-installation of scientific equipments valuing Rs.12.06 lakh deprived of intended benefits

Biotechnology Department purchased equipment worth Rs.12.06 lakh** during March 1991 to May 1997 for carrying out day-to-day experiments. It had, however, been noticed that these equipments were not installed (August 2001) thus defeating the very purpose of their purchase. On ascertaining the reasons for non-installation, it was reported that these could not be installed due to non-availability of proper and adequate space in the department. The reply was not tenable as it was for the University to plan the space before going in for purchase of these equipments.

** Anaerobic Hood Rs.1.18 lakh; Baby Boiler Rs.0.86 lakh; Incubator Rs.4.61 lakh; Deep Freezer Rs.3.00 lakh; Auto Claves Rs.1.27 lakh; and Laminar Flow Bench Rs.1.14 lakh.

6.1.5.4 Incomplete/Abandoned projects

**Incomplete/
abandoned
Projects resulted
in wasteful
expenditure of
Rs.7.29 lakh**

(i) UGC provided financial assistance of Rs.4.73 lakh for “Development of continuous system for the removal of heavy metals from the Industrial affluent” scheduled for completion by November 2000. After incurring an expenditure of Rs.4.25 lakh upto March 2000, the project was still lying incomplete as the Principal Investigator had left India in May 2000 without submitting the results of the research resulting in wasteful expenditure.

(ii) UGC provided Rs.3.38 lakh (October 1993) for undertaking a research project “Isolation immobilization and application of Bacterial lactins” by the Head of Department of Biotechnology scheduled for completion by September 1998 but the project was still lying abandoned/incomplete even after incurring expenditure of Rs.3.04 lakhs as of March 2000. This resulted in wasteful expenditure of Rs.3.04 lakh. On enquiring the reasons for incompleteness, it was intimated that the project was abandoned as the Head of Department left the University in May 2000 for abroad.

6.1.6 Non-utilization of UGC grants

**Non-utilisation of
UGC grants, of
Rs.72.26 lakh
defeated the
very purpose of
grants.**

Grants received from the UGC were to be utilised in the same financial year but in any case not later than six months from the date of receipt of demand draft from the UGC. Further, the grants were to be spent for the purpose for which these were sanctioned.

(i) Out of allotment of Rs.45 lakh for strengthening of the Infrastructure of the Department of Physics, Rs.37 lakh was released in March 1998. The funds were to be utilised within six months. It was, however, seen that only Rs.6.69 lakh were spent upto 31st March 2000 leaving an unspent balance of Rs.30.31 lakh (82 per cent).

(ii) Further for implementing the special assistance programme in the department of Physics, financial assistance of Rs.56.75 lakh was approved, of which Rs.44.15 lakh were released in March 1998 with the condition that in case the University failed to implement the approved scheme within six months, the approval would be considered as lapsed. The University spent only Rs.2.20 lakh during 1998-2000 resulting in non-utilization of grant to the extent of Rs.41.95 lakh (95 per cent).

On ascertaining the reasons for non-utilization, it was stated (August 2001) that the equipments could not be purchased due to revision of rates of foreign currency and that fresh quotations have been called for and steps for getting the priorities changed from UGC were being taken. The reasons were not cogent as the approvals had lapsed after the expiry of six months period resulting in non-utilisation of grants of Rs.72.26 lakh.

6.1.7 Recurring loss on the supply of power in University campus

Single point electricity connection for the entire University campus (operative from November 1998) was sanctioned by the Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB) and according to tariff rates, the first 300 units were charged at concessional rates. It was noticed in audit that the University is issuing bimonthly bills for power consumption to the staff residing in the University campus and allowing concessional rate on every first 300 units to every connection resulting in incurring of loss. Between November 1998 to December 2000, the University had suffered a loss of Rs.10.63 lakh on this account.

On being pointed out in audit it was replied that this was the policy of the PSEB to provide single point domestic connection and that higher rates could not be charged from the campus consumers. Reply was not tenable as the University should not have to bear the recurring loss on account of consumption by campus consumers.

6.1.8 Local purchases

As per rules, supplies not exceeding Rs.50 thousand shall be obtained at lowest rates of quotations after calling for competitive rates.

During the period during 1997-98 to 2000-2001, an expenditure of Rs.3.36 crore was incurred on local purchases. Year-wise details were as under:

(Rupees in crore)

Year	Amount
1997-98	0.65
1998-99	0.71
1999-2000	1.06
2000-2001	0.94
Total	3.36

It was noticed that for the above purchases quotations were never called for rather the purchases were being made in piece meal by splitting up the purchase orders to keep it below Rs.50,000. Further, it was also seen that most of the purchases say above Rs.49,000 were made on every occasion from particular specified shops. On being pointed out in audit the Executive Engineer admitted the facts and ensured compliance in future.

6.1.9 Monitoring and evaluation

Though the University was functioning since 1962, there was no system of monitoring and evaluation of activities of the University to judge the impact of implementation of the various programmes. As such no evaluation had ever been conducted either by the State Government or by any outside agency.

Splitting of purchase orders had resulted into irregular expenditure of Rs. 3.36 crore.

The material was developed into review for consideration of Government and the same was demi-officially forwarded to the Secretary to the Government for reply within 6 weeks. The matter was followed up with reminder to the Secretary on 5th July 2001. However, inspite of such efforts, no reply was received from the Secretary (November 2001).

SECTION 'B'-AUDIT PARAGRAPHS

Agriculture Department

6.2 Loss due to unjustified investment of GPF/CPF money

Punjab Agricultural University investment of Rs. 4 crore in PUNWIRE in violation of Government instructions resulting in loss of the entire investment and interest of Rs. 2.11 crore.

As per provisions of GPF/CPF Act, 1925 and statute and regulation framed under rule 31 (e) of the Haryana & Punjab Agriculture University Act, 1970, the Board of Management is competent to constitute, regulate the funds of the employees or the investment thereof for their benefits. The State Government further directed (March 1996) that investment of the surplus funds may either be made in fixed deposits, certificate of deposits in commercial banks or as a loan to other public sector enterprises of the State Government.

It was however, noticed (January 2001) that in disregard to the instructions the Investment Committee of Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) Ludhiana decided (May, July and November 1998) with the approval of Vice-Chancellor to invest Rs.4 crore ((Rs. 1.40 crore (GPF), Rs. 1.50 crore (CPF) and Rs. 1.10 crore (Pension Fund)) in fixed deposits for three years with PUNWIRE @ 15 per cent of interest compounded monthly.

On pointing out the unjustified investment (January 2001) the University stated that the investments in PUNWIRE were made after considering the profits of the company for the years 1992-93 to 1996-97, the projected profit profiles of the company from 1997-98 to 1999-2000; and to earn highest rate of interest. It was further stated that a notice has been sent to Sh. M.S Bawa liquidator of M/s Punjab Wireless System Limited Sector-26 Chandigarh during September 2000 alongwith a legal notice dated November 2000 through the Advocate of Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court Chandigarh, for the recovery of Rs. 4 crore alongwith interest of Rs. 2.11 crore upto the date of maturity (November 2001).

The reply of the University was not tenable as investment in the PUNWIRE was not in consonance with the instructions of the Government as it ceased to be a Public Sector Undertaking of the State Government since 1993. Moreover, the sales of the company recorded a steep fall and it incurred heavy losses and ran into financial crisis due to heavy debt in consequence thereof the company was put under liquidation (August 2000) after the appointment of liquidator (July 2000).

Thus, the investment made by the University in a company (ceased to be Public Sector Undertaking since 1993) was contrary to the instructions of the Government resulting remote chances of recovery of Rs. 6.11 crore (Principal amount Rs. 4 crore and interest Rs. 2.11 crore). The PAU thus in trying to get the highest return put the GPF/CPF money of the employees at great risk.

The above matter was referred to the Comptroller, PAU Ludhiana (March 2001) who intimated (June 2001) that fresh claim with the permanent Liquidator had been lodged (May 2001). The matter was developed into a draft audit paragraph for consideration of the Government and same was forwarded to the Secretary, Agricultural Department (March 2001) for reply within six weeks. Reply is still awaited (November 2001).

Industries Department

6.3 Loss due to Injudicious Investment

Injudicious investment of Rs.1.65 crore in PUNWIRE in disregard to Government instructions results in loss of investment Rs.97 lakh alongwith interest and penal interest of Rs.52.53 lakh.

State Government allowed (March 1996) investment of surplus funds by Public Sector Undertakings, Boards, Corporations and Government Departments either in fixed deposits, certificates of deposits or as a loan to other public sector enterprises of the State Government. The Governing Council of Research and Development Centre for Bicycle and Sewing Machines, Ludhiana (Centre) desired (August 1997) to invest their funds at a maximum rate of interest. The Director-cum-Chairman of the Centre on recommendation of the Governing Council decided (October 1997) to invest the funds with Punjab Wireless Systems Ltd. (PUNWIRE) in view of the good health of the company having Punjab Government share of 42 per cent and higher rate of interest. Despite the fact that PUNWIRE had ceased to be a Public Sector Enterprise from December 1993, the Centre invested Rs.1.65 crore (Rs.1.15 crore : November 1997 and Rs.0.50 crore : January 1998) for a period of six months at the rate of 16.5 percent per annum after execution of agreements/pronote*. The agreement provided that in the event of non payment of loan and interest, penal interest at the rate of 2 per cent per annum would be liable on the defaulted amount for the defaulted period.

Against the above investment of Rs.1.65 crore, the PUNWIRE re-paid Rs.85.03 lakh (Principal amount Rs.68 lakh and interest Rs.17.03 lakh due up to April 1999). Thereafter the PUNWIRE defaulted in repayment of balance

* Pronote denotes promissory note for repayment of loan along with interest on demand.

amount of Rs.97 lakh (principal) along with interest and penal interest. PUNWIRE has now gone into liquidation and M/s Punjab Wireless system Ltd. was appointed (July 2000) as liquidator. The Centre took up (August 2000) the matter with the liquidator for the recovery of the outstanding amount, but no reply has been received. As on June 2001, Rs.1.51 crore (principal Rs.97 lakh; interest Rs.46.08 lakh and penal interest Rs.6.45 lakh) were still outstanding.

The above matter was referred to the Director of Industries Punjab in March 2001. No response has been received so far (August 2001). The Research and Development Centre, however, intimated (June 2001) that efforts were on to recover the due amount by pursuing the case with the official liquidator but nothing fruitful had been achieved till date.

The material was developed into a draft audit paragraph was forwarded to the Secretary to the Government for reply within 6 weeks. The matter was followed up with reminders to the Secretary on (August 2001). Reply is still awaited (November 2001).

Technical Education and Industrial Training Department

6.4 Excess payment of Interest

Excess payment of Interest Rs. 50.85 lakh on solatium of enhanced compensation.

Section 23 (2) of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 stipulates that in addition to the market value of the land as provided, the court shall in every case award thirty percent as solatium on such market value in consideration of the compulsory nature of the acquisition. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in a Civil Appeal No. 2872 of 1996 (arising out of SLP (c) No. 15864 of 1993) decided in January 1996 that Section 28 does not comprehend payment of interest on solatium when it expressly mentions payment of interest on compensation under Section 28 referable to Section 23(I) of the Act. [JT 1996 (2) SC 240].

Test check of the records of Shaheed Bhagat Singh College of Engineering and Technology, Ferozpur (January 2001) revealed that notification under Section 4 and 6 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 was made by the Sub Divisional Officer-cum-Land Acquisition Officer, Ferozpur during December 1993 for acquiring 786 Kanal 2 Marla land in District Ferozpur. The LAO announced the award of compensation at the rate of Rs.1,20,000 per acre for land within one acre on GT Road and Rs.1,00,000 per acre for land beyond one acre from GT Road during June, 1995. Aggrieved with the low rate of compensation the parties went in appeal to the Additional District

Judge Ferozepur in August, 1995. The case was decided by the Additional District Judge, Ferozepur during September, 1998 and the compensation was enhanced to Rs.3,50,000 per killa* for land adjoining to the main road and Rs.3,30,000 per killa for land at the back side beyond one killa from the main road. The Judge decided that the claimants were also entitled to solatium at the rate of 30 percent on the enhanced compensation with interest at the rate of 15 percent per annum on the enhanced compensation only from the date of notification under Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act till the date of realization.

Scrutiny of the statement of compensation payable to the land owners prepared by the S.D.M. Ferozepur and sent to the Director, Technical Education and Industrial Training Department, Chandigarh during February 1999 revealed that the enhanced compensation of Rs. 2.26 crore included the 30 per cent Solatium amounting to Rs. 67.80 lakh. It was observed that interest of Rs.50.85 lakh @ 15 percent per annum from February 1994 to February 1999 was also paid on the Solatium amounting to Rs.67.80 lakh. This had resulted in over payment of interest amounting to Rs.50.85 lakh (15 percent per annum on Rs.67.80 lakh for 5 years).

On being pointed out in audit (January 2001), SDO cum LAO Ferozepur however, intimated (April 2001) that recovery of Rs.1.24 lakh had been made and action for recovery of balance amount was going on.

The above matter was referred to Principal Shaheed Bhagat Singh College of Engineering and Technology Ferozepur in February 2001. No response was received from him. The matter was developed into a draft audit paragraph for consideration of Government and the same was forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Punjab Technical Education and Industrial Training department for reply within 6 weeks. No reply has been received so far (November 2001).

6.5 Financial assistance to local bodies and others

Autonomous bodies and authorities are set up generally to discharge non-commercial functions of public utility services. These bodies/authorities receive substantial financial assistance from the State government. The Government also provides substantial financial assistance to other institutions such as those registered under the State Co-operative Societies Act, Companies Act, 1956 etc. to implement certain programmes of the State Government.

During 2000-2001, financial assistance of Rs. 357.39 crore (3.05 per cent of the total revenue expenditure of Rs. 11712.83 crore) was paid to the various autonomous bodies and other institutions as detailed below:

* Killa is equal to 8 Kanals and is commonly known in Punjab for measurement of land.

Sr. No.	Name of Institution	Amount of assistance paid (Rupees in crore)
1.	Universities and Educational Institutions	241.72
2.	Other Institutions	95.38
3.	Panchayati Raj institutions	16.31
4.	Municipalities	3.98
	Total	357.39

6.5.1 Delay in furnishing utilisation Certificates

The financial rules require that where grants are given for specific purposes, certificates of utilisation should be obtained by the department from the grantees and after verification, these should be forwarded to the Accountant General within one year from the date of sanction of grants unless specified otherwise.

Of the 867 utilisation certificates due in respect of grants aggregating to Rs.141.15 crore, paid during the period ending 31 March 2000, only 53 utilisation certificates for Rs. 35.37 crore were furnished by various departments and 814 utilisation certificates for an aggregate amount of Rs. 105.78 crore were in arrears as of May 2001. The department-wise break up of outstanding utilisation certificates was as under:

Sr. No.	Department/Bodies	Outstanding for more than 5 years		Outstanding for less than 5 years		Total	
		No. of certificates	Amount (Rupees in crore)	No. of certificates	Amount (Rupees in crore)	No. of certificates	Amount (Rupees in crore)
1.	Health and Family Welfare	221	3.46	28	69.47	249	72.93
2.	Animal Husbandry	197	3.24	-	-	197	3.24
3.	Rural Development	180	9.28	-	-	180	9.28
4.	Public Works Department (PH. Branch)	57	4.01	-	-	57	4.01
5.	Agriculture	70	13.36	-	-	70	13.36
6.	Social Welfare	58	2.90	-	-	58	2.90
7.	General Administration	3	0.06	-	-	3	0.06
	Total	786	36.31	28	69.47	814	105.78

The above table shows that the Departmental Heads took little interest in ensuring that the Grant in Aid given by them are properly utilised as they did not obtain the utilisation certificates for more than 5 years. It is essential that Government take urgent steps to get the utilisation certificates and investigate the reasons for delay.

6.5.2 Delay in submission of accounts

The audit of accounts of Punjab Scheduled Caste land Development and Finance Corporation, Chandigarh and Punjab Khadi and Village Industries Board, Chandigarh for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were not audited due to non-receipt of Annual Accounts from these Corporations.