

## CHAPTER IV: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

### Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

#### 4.1 Unfruitful expenditure on Lift Irrigation Project

**Defective execution of works resulted in non-accrual of intended benefits of spending of Rs 58.69 lakh on Lift Irrigation Project even after four years.**

In order to achieve target for fodder and fodder seed production by providing irrigation facilities at Central Cattle Breeding Farm, Dhamrod (District Surat) Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture sanctioned Rs 58.69 lakh during the period from 1992-93 to 1995-96 for Lift Irrigation Project (LIP) in view of recommendation of Expert Committee Report of August 1988. The civil works of the project was entrusted to Gujarat Water Resources Development Corporation (GWRDC), Gandhinagar as Deposit work and Rs 51.32 lakh were deposited by the Department with GWRDC between March 1993 and August 1993. The work was started in May 1994 and completed in August 1995 by GWRDC. On completion of civil works, the work relating to installation of pump, motor, electrification and other fittings was carried out during another two years and completed in October 1997 by GWRDC, Vadodara. The testing of the project was carried out only on completion of entire project in October 1997. During testing of phase-I in October 1997, leakage on account of bursting of pipelines due to technical defects and inferior workmanship was noticed. Though the broken pipes were replaced several times by the agency, the problem of leakage of water from the pipelines continued due to bursting of pipelines frequently. The work of rectification of the leakage by replacing the pipelines was reported to be in progress in December 1999. As such, the possession of the project could not be handed over by the executing agency (GWRDC) as reported in December 1999 by the Director of Cattle Breeding Farm, Dhamrod.

Thus, even after lapse of four years and incurring expenditure of Rs 58.69 lakh, the project could not be commissioned and the intended purpose of LIP to irrigate fodder and fodder seed farm situated in 200 Hectare of land could not be served.

Audit reported the matter to Ministry in May 2000; who have not replied as of February 2001.

## 4.2 Idle investment

**Sanction of construction of a disproportionate number of staff quarters than the posts sanctioned for the office of the Animal Quarantine and Certification Service Station, Mumbai has resulted in idle investment of Rs 53.53 lakh.**

Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying of the Ministry of Agriculture established an office of Animal Quarantine and Certification Service Station, Mumbai (AQ & CSS) in October 1981 in Mumbai and sanctioned only six posts till September 2000. Five of these six posts are of support staff i.e. Lower Division Clerk, Jeep Driver, Peon, Chowkidar, Truck Driver and only one post is of technical person i.e Quarantine Officer.

Yet, on the basis of staff strength of AQ & CSS projected in the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85), the Quarantine Officer proposed (July 1985) and the Ministry sanctioned (June 1986) construction of 14 residential quarters at an estimated cost of Rs 44.76 lakh. AQ & CSS paid Central Public Works Department (CPWD) a total sum of Rs 58.41 lakh between April 1988 to January 1995. CPWD handed over the quarters to AQ & CSS in January 1995. Only six staff members of AQ & CSS have occupied the staff quarters as of September 2000. The rest of eight staff quarters have remained always unoccupied.

The Quarantine Officer, Mumbai made a reference for decision regarding utilisation of vacant quarters to the department in December 1996. The department did not take any action to surrender excess capacity to the general pool of Central Government accommodation administered by the Estate Officer of Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment to prevent continued idling of Government property, whose pro-rata cost including interest works out to Rs 53.53 lakh.

The matter was also referred to the Directorate of Estates in January 2001 by Audit. The Directorate of Estates stated in March 2001 that as they were concerned not only with the administration of Government estate in Mumbai, but also for handling and maintaining Government estates all over the country, it would not be possible for them to approach each and every Central Government department to know whether any department was having surplus accommodation under their regular control. They have, however, stated that the Assistant Estate Manager, Mumbai has been requested to take up the matter with concerned department for transfer of surplus quarters. The reply of Directorate of Estate is self-contradictory. In as much as they have All-India responsibility of handling and maintaining Government estate, all over the country, they do have constructive responsibility to pro-actively ensure that public assets in Government estates are optimally utilised, regardless of this dispersal amongst various departments of the Government.

Thus, absence of proper mechanism and co-ordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Directorate of Estates did not only result in idling of Government property and loss of revenue in the form of licence fee but also

deprived many eligible Government employees from getting Government accommodation in Mumbai, where it is so dear.

Audit reported the matter to the Ministry in September 2000; who have not replied as of February 2001.

### **4.3 Unfruitful expenditure**

**Equipments and accessories purchased for Rs 14.55 lakh during January 1993 to June 1994 by the Regional Agmark Laboratory, Kanpur for determining contaminants in food, have remained idle since their purchase.**

Regional Agmark Laboratory (RAL), Kanpur purchased in January 1993 Microprocessor Controlled Gas Chromatograph Complete (CHEMITO) Gas Liquid Chromatograph (GLC) with other accessories valuing Rs 6.40 lakh to determine metallic as well as other contaminants in food, from M/s. Toshniwal Instruments Pvt. Ltd. RAL also purchased in June 1994 an Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) with other accessories valuing Rs 8.15 lakh. The equipments required a dust proof air-conditioned room for installation. The warranty period for the equipment was one year from the date of its installation, i.e. upto 26 May 1994. RAL initially installed the CHEMITO and AAS in May 1993 and November 1995 respectively in a non-dust proof large hall. It entrusted the construction of dust proof room to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) in March 1998, i.e. after five to four years of receipt of equipment. CPWD completed the construction in August 1999. The CHEMITO was shifted to the dust proof room in September 1999. The AAS remained in non-dust proof room till October 1999. RAL entrusted the work of electrification of dust-proof room to CPWD only in February 2000. CPWD completed electrification in May 2000. Total installation and electrification costs were Rs 0.30 lakh.

The negligence in not making advance preparation for installation of equipments resulted in idle expenditure for over six to seven years. Besides, the scientific objective of determining contaminants in food for which RAL required these equipments have remained unmet. The Laboratory has not estimated the opportunity cost lost on account of non-operation of the equipment. The Ministry needs to fix responsibility for this managerial laxity and negligence.

Audit reported the matter to the Ministry in November 2000; who have not replied as of February 2001.