

OVERVIEW

This Report contains the results of one Performance Audit each pertaining to the Department of Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Indian Council of Medical Research under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Performance Audit on Development of Telecommunications Technology by C-DOT and transfer thereof for manufacturing and commercialisation

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) was established in August 1984 with the key objective of building a centre for excellence in the area of telecom technology. Audit observed that the internal revenue generated by C-DOT declined by 78.5 *per cent* i.e. from Rs 33.11 crore in 2000-01 to Rs 7.12 crore in 2005-06. The sharp decline, particularly in generation of revenue by transfer of technology (TOT) and royalty, was 95.7 *per cent* and 96.1 *per cent* respectively. It was noticed that an amount of Rs. 37.66 crore due to be received by C-DOT on account of TOT and royalty from 12 industries was outstanding (December 2006). During the period of audit, it was observed that the attrition rate of manpower, particularly engineers, was significant thus adversely impacting completion of projects. The time overrun observed in completion in respect of 16 projects was ranging from six months to 70 months and cost overrun was between Rs. 0.85 crore to Rs. 22.48 crore in 11 projects. Although C-DOT developed technologies in 15 out of 23 projects, due to its inability to offer technology at competitive rates, TOT and commercialisation was done fully in only three projects. Thus in the absence of notable success of C-DOT in development, transfer and commercialisation of technology, the relevance of C-DOT in today's global competitive scenario needs to be reviewed by DOT.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

Performance Audit on National Institute of Malaria Research

Malaria is a serious public health problem all over the world. It is a vector borne disease caused by a kind of parasite and transmitted by mosquitoes. In 2005 alone, 13 lakh malaria cases and 646 deaths due to malaria were reported in the country.

The National Institute of Malaria Research (NIMR), Delhi, a constituent unit of Indian Council of Medical Research, is a premier institution for research on malaria. Audit observed that during the period 2001-06, NIMR did not conduct adequate mosquito fauna surveys in the malaria endemic areas to know the prevalence of different mosquito species and to develop cost effective strategies to control malaria. The major objectives of the malaria parasite bank which was established at a cost of Rs. 1.13 crore, were not achieved fully. Project analysis revealed several deficiencies like partial achievement of objectives, non-receipt of feedback information, lack of follow up action, midway closure, non-documentation and non-maintenance of project-wise budget in intramural projects. Audit also observed that the collaboration with state government authorities in the activities of controlling malaria was insufficient. Transfer and commercialisation of technology developed by NIMR was also inadequate. Besides, improper utilisation of scientific manpower, insufficient training and inadequate system of publication of research results were also noticed.

COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Performance Audit of Modernisation in select laboratories of CSIR

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi was established in 1942 to conduct research and development and for continuous improvement of indigenous technologies to substitute imported ones through its 39 constituent Laboratories/Institutes. To improve its infrastructure and enhance the generation of external cash flow (ECF), a modernisation plan for Rs. 250 crore was sanctioned by the government for the Ninth Plan period. Although CSIR incurred a total expenditure of Rs. 262.38 crore on modernisation of its laboratories, it earned a negative incremental ECF of Rs. 15.06 crore against the expected incremental ECF of Rs. 361.09 crore. There was a shortfall of 43 and 45 *per cent* in achievement of targets for

publication of research papers and filing of patents respectively. The equipment purchased by the laboratories/institutes of CSIR under modernisation programme were mismanaged. There were cases of non installation (four equipment valuing Rs. 0.57 crore in three laboratories), delay in installation for the period ranging between one year to more than three years (25 equipment costing Rs. 8.41 crore in eleven laboratories), non repair (eight equipment valuing Rs. 1.47 crore in five laboratories) and non utilisation/under utilisation (14 equipment costing Rs. 7.38 crore in eight laboratories). Further, there was no effective mechanism to monitor the implementation of the programme and achievement of the targets. Thus, CSIR failed to implement the modernisation programme efficiently.