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HARYANA VIDHAN SABHA
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS
(1979-80)

U.W.36

Third Report

OF THE

Comptroller & Auditor General
of India

for the year 1974-75



Presented to the House on 27-4-80.

HARYANA VIDHAN SABHA, SECRETARIAT,
CHANDIGARH.

MARCH, 1980.

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COMPOSITION
OF
THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS
(1979-80)
CHAIRMAN

1. Shri Sumer Chand Bhatt
- MEMBERS*
2. Dr. Brij Mohan Gupta
3. Ch. Har Swarup Bura
4. Master Jogi Ram
- *5. Shri Lehri Singh Mehra
6. Shri Mange Ram Gupta
- *7. Shri Mool Chand Jain
- *8. Shri Mool Chand Mangla
9. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Raj Krishan, Secretary
 2. Shri Satvir Singh Ahlawat, Deputy Secretary.
-

*Elected on 26-9-1979 in place of :—

1. Shri Balwant Rai Tayal
2. Shri Devender Sharma
3. Kr. Ram Pal Singh

Who ceased to be members of the Committee on their appointment as ministers with effect from 28-6-79, 31-7-79 and 31-7-79 respectively.

Shri Mool Chand Jain M.L.A. has resigned on 16-2-80 on his appointment/recognition as Leader of Opposition.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings, having been authorised by the Committee in this behalf present this **THIRD REPORT** on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1974-75.

2. During oral evidence, the Committee examined the representatives of the departments/Corporations concerned. A brief record of the proceedings of each meeting of the Committee during the year 1979-80 has been kept in the Haryana Vidhan Sabha Secretariat.

3. The Committee place on record their appreciation of the valuable assistance given to them by the Accountant General, Haryana and his staff and are thankful to the Secretary to Government, Haryana Finance Department and his representatives and the representatives of various departments/corporations who appeared before them from time to time. The Committee are also thankful to the Secretary, Haryana Vidhan Sabha and his officers and staff for the whole hearted Co-operation and unstinted assistance given by them.

Chandigarh
The 27th March, 1980.

SUMER CHAND BHATT
Chairman

GENERAL

In pursuance of a motion adopted by the Haryana Vidhan Sabha, in its sitting held on the 28th February, 1978, the Committee on Public Undertakings was elected on 21.3.79 for the second time, *vide* Notification No. CPU—1/79/24, dated the 14th May, 1979, to examine the general working of twenty Public Undertakings, specified in Scheduled attached to the motion, and the following nine members were elected to serve on the Committee :—

CHAIRMAN

1. Shri Sumer Chand Bhatt

MEMBERS

2. Lala Balwant Rai Tayal
3. Dr. Brij Mohan Gupta
4. Shri Devender Sharma
5. Ch. Har Swarup Bura
6. Master Jogi Ram
7. Shri Mange Ram Gupta
8. Kr Ram Pal Singh
9. Smt. Sushma Swaraj

However, Lala Balwant Rai Tayal, Shri Devender Sharma and Kr Ram Pal Singh ceased to be members of the Committee w.e.f. 28-6-79, 31-7-79 and 31-7-79 respectively on their appointment as Ministers. Another member of the Committee, Shri Mool Chand Jain also ceased to be its member with effect from 16th February, 1980, on his appointment/recognition as Leader of Opposition. In the resultant vacancies three members were elected on 26-9-79 and the present Committee consists of the following :—

1. Shri Sumer Chand Bhatt	<i>Chairman</i>
2. Dr. Brij Mohan Gupta	<i>Member</i>
3. Ch. Har Swarup Bura	
4. Master Jogi Ram	"
5. Shri Lehri Singh Mehra	"
6. Shri Mange Ram Gupta	"
7. Shri Mool Chand Mangla	"
8. Smt. Sushma Swaraj.	"

The Committee scrutinised the material of the various Corporations. The Committee also made an on-the-spot study of the undertakings at their respective places in various districts. The recommendations/observations of the Committee which were orally examined are contained in the Report on succeeding pages.

REPORT

HARYANA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD

Paragraph 1.3(c) of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1974-75—Arrear in collection of Revenue.

1. The arrears in collection of revenue at the end of March, 1975 relating to the Department were :—

Nature of Revenue, and other Receipts	Amount (in crores of rupees)
--	------------------------------

Electricity Duty from the Haryana State Electricity Board.	1,11,11,11
---	------------

When asked to state the financial position (yearwise) in respect of the recovery of the duty from Haryana State Electricity Board it was intimated as under :—

The amount of outstanding Electricity duty shown in the para has been taken from the statement ending March, 1975. The position of A/Cs of consumers changes from month to month and virtually each subsequent statement supercedes the previous one as it incorporates the latest position. The position of outstanding amount thus differs every month because the consumers who make the payment of the dues is excluded from the next statement and the amount of the new defaulters is added therein. Thus it becomes difficult to pin-point as to how much amount has been recovered from the old consumers outstanding at the end of 3/75. It is also very difficult to obtain this particular information from the field offices due to the fact that in case it is called for, it will require month to month examination of A/C of all the consumers. The question of recovery of Electricity duty is linked with the recovery Board's energy charges. The number of consumers who are defaulters for more than 3 years at the end of 9/77 was 3803, whereas the total number of consumers who were defaulters for more than 3 years at the end of 3/75 were 4855. This indicates that we have recovered the outstanding dues from 1052 consumers including the defaulters who have been added in between the period from 3/75 to 9/77. Thus overall position has improved. However, the yearwise position of the Electricity duty dues remained outstanding at the end of each financial year against H.S.E.B. is as under :—

1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
49,52,874	62,96,902	84,50,745	1,11,26,428

The Committee are sorry to observe that the dues of electricity duty are on the increase progressively. The Committee recommend that immediate action be taken to clear up the dues and steps be also taken to ensure that defaults or delays in payment of electricity bills etc., do not occur in future. The Committee would be happy to be apprised of the progress made in this regard on a quarterly basis.

Paragraph 7.4 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1974-75—Capital and Borrowing.

2. The capital of the Board comprises loans obtained from the State Government and borrowings from other sources. The table below indicates the balance of loans outstanding at the end of 1974-75 :—

Source	Amount (In lacs of rupees)
State Government.	1,87,54.91
Public borrowings (by issue of bonds)	26,21.11
Life Insurance Corporation of India, Commercial banks and others.	43,44.00
Total	2,57,20.02

To a question by the Committee as to whether the above loans were being repaid regularly, as scheduled, and if not, how much of it was in arrears and why could it not be paid as and when they became due, the department in their written reply stated as under :—

"The re-payment of loans obtained from Institutional investors such as LIC., Public Borrowings, Banks and others is being made regularly on the scheduled dates and no arrears of these repayment exist. As regards re-payment of Government loans, it is brought out that from the date of formation of the H.S.E.B. from 2.5.67 to the year ending 1974-75, repayments of the order of Rs. 312.18 lakhs were due which could not be paid due to insufficiency of operating surplus. The year-wise details are as follows :—

Year	Amount in arrear (Rupees in lakhs)
1970-71	20.55
1971-72	30.37
1972-73	40.52
1973-74	90.52
1974-75	130.22
Total	312.18

The details on account of interest on total Government loans, which could not be paid are as follows :—

Year	Rupees in Lakhs.
1970-71	183.73
1971-72	420.25
1972-73	442.12
1973-74	600.74
1974-75	1051.81
Total	2698.65

(The reasons for non-payment of interest on Government loans were explained by the Board in a separate note).

Section 67 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 provides that the revenues of the Board after meeting its operation maintenance and management expenses, shall be distributed in the order of priorities laid down therein. Under this section, re-payment of the loans advanced by the State Government has been assigned the last priority viz., (x) (b). The occasion for re-payment of Government loans thus arises only when sufficient surplus is available after discharging the liabilities which carry priorities under the above Act.

It may further be clarified that Government loans inherited/advanced to HSEB are analogous to the equity capital of a corporate body and the occasion for payment of interest (like dividends) arises only when other liabilities/appropriations have been duly discharged. According to the mandatory order of priority the occasion for re-payment of Government loans thus arises only when priorities No. (I) to (IX), given preference in the Act over and above the re-payment of Government loans, are duly discharged.

During the year 1974-75, the Board had an operating surplus of Rs. 500.74 lacs which was appropriated as followed :—

	Lacs
(i) Interest on Institutional loans.	439.27
(ii) Write down of intangible assets	3.69
(iii) Contribution to General Reserve.	57.78
Total	500.74

From the above it would be seen that the operating surplus of the Board was not sufficient to meet with even the liability of interest of Government loans."

To another question, it was stated "There is little possibility of Board to discharge the liability of repayment of Govt. loans in the near future as the HSEB is still in developing stage."

The Committee are unable to accept the plea of the Board that Section 67 of the Electricity (Supply) Act assigns a lower priority for the re-payment of loans advanced by the State Government and that their re-payment (along with interest due thereon) could be postponed indefinitely. The Board seems to have adopted a complacent attitude and made no serious and tangible efforts to re-pay the State Government loans or to pay the interest thereon. The Board had in fact admitted that there was no possibility to discharge the liability of re-payment of Government loans in the near future. The Committee are constrained to observe that apart from the arrear of Rs. 312.18 lacs on account of principal, a large amount of Rs. 2698.65 lacs was also due from the Board on account of interest for the period upto 1974-75. With these heavy arrears, the financial position of the Board could not be considered as sound. The Committee feel that immediate and effective steps need to be devised by the Government to streamline the working of the Board in order to improve efficiency and to bring about financial discipline. The Committee also urge that vigorous steps should be taken by the Board to clear the arrears on account of overdue principal and interest in respect of Government loans.

The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this behalf within a period of six months.

Paragraph 7.5 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1974-75—Work Results.

3. The working results of the Board for the three years ending 31st March, 1975 are summarised below :—

	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
	(In lakhs of rupees)		
(i) Revenue receipts	24,74.57	28,84.39	31,17.83
(ii) Revenue expenditure	18,70.47	21,88.48	26,17.09
(iii) Net surplus	6,04.10	6,95.91	5,00.74
(iv) Appropriation towards general reserve, interest on bonds, etc.	4,13.49	4,87.40	5,00.74
(v) Balance available towards interest on loans from Government	1,90.61	2,08.51	—
(vi) Interest due on loans from Government :—			
(a) For the year	6,32.73	8,09.25	10,51.81
(b) Arrears for previous years	6,03.98	10,46.10	16,46.84
Total interest due	12,36.71	18,55.35	26,98.65
(vii) Arrears of interest on loans from Govt. shown in the accounts as contingent liability.	10,46.10	16,46.84	26,98.65

A synoptic statement showing the summarised results of working of the Board for 1974-75 is given in Appendix VII (i).

In reply to the questionnaire issued by the Committee the following reasons were advance by the H.S.E.B. in their written reply for not discharging the interest liability on the State Government loans:—

- “During the year 1974-75 the liability of interest on State Government loans was of the order of Rs. 1051.81 lakhs, which could not be provided in accounts as there was no surplus after discharging the liabilities which carry priority under Section 67 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. The reasons for not discharging the interest liability on State Government loans are as follows :—
- (i) The Rural Electrification Schemes are not paying in earlier years of their execution and were undertaken by the Board as a matter of socio-economic policy in the interest of Development of the State. The return derived from these schemes is so inadequate as what to speak of meeting the depreciation and interest charges it does not even cover the entire operating expenses. The accounts for the R.E. Schemes for the year 1974-75 show a percentage return of (—) 6.8 before meeting interest. Net deficit after adding interest on this account is of the order of Rs. 1130 lakhs. It would thus be seen that the non-payment of interest on the loans obtained from the State Government is mainly due to losses sustained under R.E. Schemes.
 - (ii) In case of H.S.E.B. interest charges accrued on capital include also the interest on loans obtained for the projects which are still under construction. The proportion of the construction capital to the total outlay is fairly large and at the close of the year 1974-75 it was Rs. 101 crores as against the total outlay of Rs. 230 crores. The interest charges on the loans at an average rate of interest of 6% on construction capital, works out to about of Rs. 6.06 crores which is quite a heavy charge on the revenues. To bring about uniformity, the Govt. of India is contemplating to adopt an amendment to the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 whereby, the interest charges on the project under construction will be debited to the capital account instead of to the Revenue Account as is being done at present in the Board.
 - (iii) The direct contribution of the State Govt. for financing capital outlay to H.S.E.B. is going down from year to year. The percentage of Govt. loans to total loans which stood at 96.4% in 1967-68 has come down to 72.4% in 1973-74 and 72% in 1974-75. The Board is thus forced to borrow funds from the open market like Banks and other Institutional Investors at higher rates of interest. The rate of interest charged by Bank was as high as 9% P.A. while in case of L.I.C. it had been increased to 10.25% P.A. H.S.E.B. is, thus, required to meet extra incidence of interest charges of about 3.5% to 4.25% including the insurance charges and other incidental charges.

The extra incidence on this account works out to about Rs. 40 lakhs during the year 1974-75.

- (iv) The Venkataraman Committee appointed by the Govt. of India had recommended that Electricity Duty should not exceed 1.5% of the capital base but in case of Haryana State the actual percentage of E.D to overage capital base during 1974-75 worked out to 3.2% which is higher by 100% as compared to the return prescribed by the said Committee. E.D thus forms a substantial portion of the total energy bills. Its impact is required to be restricted to reasonable level otherwise the scope of the Board to revise its own tariff upward to earn a reasonable return will be limited to a considerable extent."

During oral examination the representative of the Government informed the Committee that earlier long distance lines had been laid hurriedly in connection with Rural Electrification Scheme and that it was not a good method of transmission. It was further stated that since the work of laying of transmission lines was to be completed within a period of 6 to 8 months instead of 3 to 4 years which should normally have been taken, some defects were bound to be there due to haste. When asked to state how much loss the Board had suffered, the representative of the Govt. stated that was being examined & worked out. He further informed the Committee that the present system of transmission lines was being improved and that it would involve an expenditure of Rs. 5.75 crores in one district alone. The committee was also informed that an outlay of Rs. 45 crores would be required to overhaul and improve the entire transmission system of the state.

The Committee are constrained to observe that the scheme of Rural Electrification was undertaken in a most hasty manner and without proper study or planning, with the result that there had been a very high rate of line losses and fluctuation in the supply of power. This has necessitated and additional expenditure of Rs. 45-50 crores if the existing system of transmission is to be improved.

The Committee recommend that a through enquiry may be held into the circumstances which led to laying of defective lines and responsibility for the improper execution of the works be fixed and the Committee be informed, accordingly.

The Committee feel rather alarmed at the huge interest liability of Rs. 2698.65 lakhs on Government loans and suggest that the Board should devise effective ways and means to improve to discharge that responsibility in particular and to improve its financial position by cutting down overhead charges, bringing down the line losses and plugging the leakage of revenue, etc. etc., in general.



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APPENDIX

FINANCIAL RESULTS OF

Sr. No.	Name of the Corporation	Name of the Department	Year of incorporation	Period of Accounts	Total capital invested (A)	Profit(+)/ Loss(-)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(Figures in columns 6 to 10, 12 and 13)						
(i) Electricity Board						
1.	Haryana State Electricity Board	Irrigation and Power	1967	1974-75	2,64,70.25	(+)57.78 (D)

*Includes interest of Rs. 0.71 lakh on contributions by the consumers for service lines.

—VII

STATUTORY CORPORATIONS

Total interest charged to profit and loss account	Interest on long term loan	Total return on capital invested	Percentage of total return on capital invested	Capital employed (B)	Total return on capital employed	Percentage of total return on capital employed
8	9	10	11	12	13	14

are in lakhs of rupees)

4,39.27	4,22.39*	4,80.17	1.8	1,64,82.2	4,97.05	3
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Paragraph 7.6 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1974-75—Generation and Sales of Energy.

4. The table below indicates the installed capacity for generation of power, power generated, power available for sale, power sold and lost in transmission and distribution for the three year upto 1974-75.

	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
	(In Mkw/h)		
(i) Installed capacity :—			
(a) Internal combustion (Diesel)	36.73	36.73	36.73
(b) Thermal generating sets.	743.29	728.47	738.47
(c) Hydel	3,530.28	3,532.91	3,532.91
Total :	4,310.30	4,308.11	4,308.11

(ii) Power Generated :—

When asked by the Committee to state why there was a loss in transmission and distribution so much, it was intimated that the line losses during the year 1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-74, 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77 were 27.2%, 23.3%, 22.3%, 23.77%, 22.50% and 22.30%. The above data showed that there was a downward trend in the line losses. The main reasons for rise in line lossing during 1974-75 were severe power cut. The load on a feeder was drawn simultaneously, during the power cut period one power was released. This caused over-loading on the line and also few voltage. Since the losses on the lines were directly proportional to the square of the current, this caused more energy losses.

During evidence the representative of the Board, who was asked to state what positive steps were being taken to eliminate the line losses, stated that one such step was that in the case of large industries the SDO himself was taking the reading and personally doing the billing also.

The Committee regret to observe the heavy losses in transmission and distribution of energy from year to year. These losses account for almost one-fourth of the total power generated and if these could be avoided they would relieve the power shortage to a considerable extent. Besides causing hardship to the consumers, these also involve loss of revenue to the Board and consequently affect its budgetary position. The Committee urge that effective measures be devised to analyse and eliminate the line losses altogether. In cases of theft of energy, deterrent punishment be awarded to the culprits.

The committee would like that the steps taken by the Board in the matter be intimated to them as early as possible.

Paragraph 7.7 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1974-75—Arrears of Electricity Dues

5. Rupees 1,47.06 lakhs were due to the Board from 26,651 consumers at the close of March, 1975 (including Rs. 29.13 lakhs outstanding against 4,855 consumers for more than three years) power supply to 18,325 consumers had been disconnected by the Board for non-payment of dues of Rs 73.93 lakhs. No action had been taken in regard to 8,326 consumers, against whom dues aggregating Rs. 73.13 lakhs were outstanding.

In reply to questionnaire of the Committee the position of the amount due to the Board and action taken to recover the same, the Department in their written reply stated as under .—

The position of the outstanding dues is based on the statement of defaulting amount received from the field offices for the month ending 3/75. The position of the outstanding amount differs from month to month because the payments made during month are deducted in the next statement and the amount of the new defaults is added therein. Moreover, the defaulting amount if not paid by any consumers, is again enhanced with the levy of 2% surcharge. So considering that the number of defaulters is very large, it would be a very laborious exercise to collect the data about the amounts recovered on account of old defaults upto 3/75. However, the information with regard to defaulting amounts as on 30th Sept., 1977 is as under .—

3,803 consumers were defaulters for more than 3 years at the end of 9/77 and the amount outstanding against them was Rs. 55,50,302.19 P. where as the total number of the consumers who were defaulters for more than 3 years at the end of 3/75 was 4,855 against an amount of Rs 29.13 lakhs. In this way, the recovery has been got effected from 1,052 consumers including the defaulters who have been added between 3/75 to 9/77 also. The defaulting amount against the decreased number of consumers had enhanced from 29.13 lakhs to Rs. 55.60 lakhs due to the fact that the surcharge has been levied on the outstanding amounts @2% P.M. for the last 30 months from 3/75 to 9/77 and due to the addition of the new defaulters of heavy amounts

Action to recover the outstanding amount against old cases under Haryana Govt. Electrical Undertaking (Dues Recovery) Act, 1970 has been initiated and all such cases are being processed.

In response to another question by the committee for not disconnecting the meters of the consumers who were in default in the matter of payment, it was further stated by the deptt., in their written reply that certain consumers could not be disconnected due to the reasons mentioned below .—

(i) The consumers, in most of the cases of heavy amounts, had challenged the accuracy of their billed amount and the disconnections of their premises are pending for want of final decisions.

(ii) Certain consumers had gone to the courts for settlement of the outstanding dues and as such, their premises could not be disconnected.

(iii) In some cases, the consumers had requested for acceptance of their payments in instalments where the Board had accepted such requests their premises remained connected.

(iv) In other cases the amounts involved were petty and are within the security limits.

During oral examination it was submitted by the departmental representative that most of the defaulters were in the industrial sector. In response to another question as to whether any special officer had been deputed for effecting the recovery it was stated that they had different officers because the job of recovery was entrusted to each of the Executive Engineers of 39 divisions.

The Committee were also informed by the representative of the Board, that out of about 26,000 cases recovery had been made in 10,000 cases.

It was further observed from the details of arrears of Rs. 55.50 lakhs supplied by the deptt., that default in payment existed both in Industrial (Rs. 26.04 lakhs) and Agricultural (Rs. 22.36 lakhs) sectors.

The Committee do not find adequate justification, for these heavy arrears when the Board itself is borrowing money from other sources on interest.

The Committee recommend that concerted efforts be made to effect recovery in the remaining cases of default as expeditiously as possible. The Committee feel that the recovery work can be accelerated a great deal, if the powers to effect such recoveries, as arrears of land revenue, are vested, (like the Co-operative Department) in the officers of the Board itself. The Committee recommend that this suggestion may be examined by the Govt. and a report be submitted to the Committee.

Paragraph 7.8 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1974-75—Stores Accounts.

6. The value of stores held as on 31st March, 1975 amounted to Rs. 21.17.20 lakhs out of which stores worth Rs. 11.22 lakhs have been declared as obsolete and unserviceable. Further excesses and shortages amounting to Rs. 5.21 lakhs and Rs. 0.48 lakh respectively were awaiting adjustment at the end of March, 1975.

When asked why were obsolete/unserviceable stores kept in stock and what action was taken to dispose them of early and how many such stores were still in stock, the department stated in their written reply that obsolete/unserviceable items of material as and when received in the stores from different field offices, had to be accepted and kept on stock till their disposal. But all such items were scrutinised on receipt in the stores. The items of material which could be used on the works were not disposed of/auctioned. These were issued to the works as and when required. The other items held in different stores were always put up for disposal in public auctions from time to time. In case bid received against any item was found to be less than the reserve price

fixed by Disposal Committee, the same was rejected and the item was kept on stock till next auction was held.

It was added that all the items of obsolete and unserviceable material available in different stores of H. S. E. B. at the end of 3/75 had almost been disposed of through various public auctions, held from time to time but for the three items i.e. Lead, Aluminium Scrap, Transformer Oil etc., worth Rs. 0.20 lakh (Approx.). These items, it was stated, were required by their Departmental workshops (e.g. Aluminium Scrap for the manufacture of P. G. Clamps, Lead Scrap for manufacture of Lead Seals, Transformer oil in the Transformer repair workshop etc.). The total quantity of above scraps had also since been issued to the General Workshop, Dhulkote for further utilization and as such all the obsolete and unserviceable stores mentioned in the para stood disposed of.

In reply to another question by the Committee regarding the manner of adjustment of stores found excess (Rs. 5.21 lakhs) and short (Rs. 0.48 lakh) the department in their written reply stated as under :—

All the excesses and shortages as and when pointed out by the Stock verifier, are adjusted immediately in the stock accounts. The surplus on receipt side and shortage on issue side placing the amount of short material in Misc. Advances pending investigation of the official responsible as the case may be. Some of the items of shortages are adjusted against surplus when found justified under the rules with the approval of the Competent Authority and the matter is pursued with the official responsible for the recovery of the balance shortages. After such adjustments the balance amount of surplus is transferred to revenue. The position of excesses and shortages i.e. 5.21 lakhs and 0.48 lakh respectively pertaining to this para is as under after necessary adjustments :—

	Surpluses	Shortages
Amount outstanding on 31.3.75	5.21 lakhs	0.48 lakh
Amount adjusted	4.27	—
Amount outstanding	Rs. 0.94	0.48 lakh

The Committee observe that the value of stores in stock is very heavy and it be examined that there were no instances of injudicious or excessive purchases leading to unnecessary blocking of funds. The Committee also feel that the method of keeping such stores, as are declared obsolete and unserviceable, in stock only creates confusion and may be done away with immediately. In cases where it is not possible to do so, due to certain special reasons, the accounts of such stores should be maintained in separate registers till their final disposal.

The Committee are also unhappy to note that excesses/shortages of stores had not been fully adjusted by the Board even after a period of 4-5 years. The Committee recommend that the remaining cases of excesses and shortages involving Rs. 1.42 lakhs be investigated without any further delay and a detailed report in the matter sent to them.

Paragraph 7.9 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1974-75—Loss of Revenue

7. Contract for sale and removal of ash and cinder from Steam Plant, Surajpur for 1972-73 was awarded to a contractor on 20th March, 1972, by auction at the rate of Rs. 21.50 per truck load of 375 cft. capacity.

The contract was continued on the same terms upto Jan., 74 as auction scheduled to be held on 28th March, 1973 for the next year, was cancelled on the ground of impending strike, even though the intending contractors were present at the site for participation in the auction.

Other contractors represented against the extension granted to the old contractor without holding auction, and offered to lift coal residue at higher rates. In the meantime, the Board decided to award the contract through open tenders. As a result of tenders opened on 21st January, 1974, contract for the period from 18th February, 1974 to 17th February, 1975 was awarded to another contractor at Rs. 231.31 per truck load on 350 cft. to 375 cft. capacity. The non-finalisation of the contract for 1973-74 well in time may be said to have caused a loss of additional income to the extent of Rs. 1.69 lakhs on removal of 804 trucks of ash during April, 1973 to January, 1974.

In the questionnaire of the Committee the representatives of the Board were asked why no action was taken when the other contractors had represented against the extension granted in the old rates, especially when they had offered to lift the cinder at a very much higher rate. In reply it was stated that some contractors had represented that there were number of such contractors in the area who could offer the highest bid upto Rs. 50/- per truck load but no specific offer from any particular contractor was received. It was added that mere writing by a party that they could offer the highest bid upto Rs. 50/- per truck load did not amount to any valid offer which could be legally accepted and that too without observance of the prescribed procedure and rules.

In their written reply the deptt. stated that :—

(1) The then A.R.E., Incharge, steam Plant, Surajpur had sought instructions from his Xen., 'OP' Divn., Ambala & S.E. 'OP' Circle, Chandigarh on telephone to cancel the proposed auction to be held on 28.3.73 due to threatened strike by the H S E B. employees for fear of sabotage from unknown persons if allowed to enter the Power House Premises.

(2) Some contractors had represented that there were number of such contractors in the area who could offer the highest bid up to Rs. 50/- per truck load but no specific offer from any particular contractor was received. Mere writings by a party that they could offer the highest bid upto Rs. 50/- per truck load does not amount to any valid offer which could be legally accepted that too without observance of the prescribed procedure and rules.

(3) The matter for the cancellation of the auction proposed to be held on 28.3.73 was brought to the notice of Xen (OP) Division, Ambala & S.E. 'OP' Circle, Chandigarh by A.R.E., Steam Plant, Surajpur on

28.3.73 and to C.E. (OP) by S.E. Chandigarh Circle on 9.10.73 and through so many references.

(4) The Controller of Stores referred vide his letter No. COS/Disposal-68 dated 30.3.73 to know the arrangements for the disposal of Ash at Surajpur. Since then the matter remained under correspondence between the C.O.S. C.E. (OP) S.E. (OP), Chandigarh and A. R.E. Surajpur. On 15.10.73, the COS vide his letter No. COS/Disposal/W-2 issued final instructions to S.E. (OP) Chandigarh to dispose of ash through disposal Committee by public auction and to appoint professional auctioneer. C.O.S. intimated names of the auctions to S.E. (OP) Chandigarh Circle on 23.11.73. However draft tender was forwarded by Xen., Pinjore on 8.11.73 which was issued by S.E. Chandigarh Circle on 21.11.73 after scrutiny. Finally the tenders were opened on 21.1.74. However, the Power plant remained closed due to strike from 2.4.73 to 8.5.73 and for urgent repairs from 8.6.73 to 3.10.73.

(5) From the explanations given by A.R.E. the then Incharge of Steam Plant, Surajpur and under the circumstances explained above, none is to be held responsible for the delay.

During oral examination, the departmental representative when asked about the auction taken on the two letters (dt. 15.4.73 and 12.6.73) received from the contractors for lifting the material at higher rates, stated that there was no firm bid from any specific contractor and as such no action thereon was taken nor the persons concerned were contracted to ascertain their intentions.

In reply to another question by the Committee, it was stated that the Ash and cinder was being disposed off through P. R. O. HSEB., and that it was being disposed off on annual contract basis and that the rates in the subsequent years per truck load had been as under :—

YEAR	RATE PER TRUCK LOAD	
18-2-74 to 17-2-75	Rs. 231.31	The contractor failed to lift full quantity of ash and about 200 truck loads of ash were left unlifted on 8-4-76 which were removed @ Rs. 125/- per truck load by next contractor.
9-4-75 to 8-4-76	Rs. 258.00	
27-4-76 to 31-3-77	Rs. 159.78	
1-4-77 to 31-3-78	Rs. 245.00	

The departmental representative when asked to state the reasons due to which 200 truck loads of ash were allowed to be lifted by the next contractor after 8-4-76 @ Rs. 125 per truck against the contract rate of Rs. 258 per truck, stated that the matter would be looked into and details would be supplied to the committee. The department could not supply the names of the contractors for the year 1975-76 and 1976-77.

The Committee do not find any justification in the plea of the Board that there was no offer of Rs. 50/- per truck. The arguments

regarding strike, tense situation and fear of Sabotage, appear to the Committee to be an after thought. The Committee regret to observe that no satisfactory explanation was given as to why the auction was postponed and ash allowed to be lifted by the old contractor at a nominal price without contracting the party who had sent the letter offering higher rates. It is strange that the Controller of Stores was not even aware of the arrangements for the disposal of ash at Surajpur and it took about 7 months to supply this information to the Controller.

It had come to the notice of the Board in April, 1973 and again in June, 1973 that the rate for the lifting of Ash had gone much higher, but no action was taken to float fresh tenders immediately which resulted in substantial loss of revenue to the Board.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that responsibility may be fixed and suitable action be taken against the defaulting officer(s).

Paragraph 9 2 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1974-75—Outstanding Inspection Reports:

8. Audit observations on financial irregularities and defects in initial accounts, noticed during local audit and not settled on the spot, are communicated to Heads of offices and to the next higher departmental authorities through audit inspection reports. The more important irregularities are reported to Heads of Departments and Government has prescribed that first replies to inspection reports should be sent within six weeks.

At the end of December, 1975, six thousand six hundred twenty nine inspection reports issued upto March, 1975 were not settled fully as shown below with figures for the earlier two years :—

	As at the end of August, 1973.	As at the end of December, 1974.	As at the end of December, 1975.
Number of In- spection reports.	4,734	6,389*	6,629*
Number of paragraphs	19,106	27,645*	29,930*

*Including those relating to Haryana State Electricity Board.

Of the reports outstanding at the end of December, 1975, 5,488 reports related to civil departments, 941 to commercial departments and 200 to revenue receipts. These included 314 inspection reports (101 civil, 203 commercial and 10 revenue receipts) for which the first replies had not been received.

In reply to questionnaire of the Committee it was stated that the A.G. Office had issued 222 paras as per detail enclosed, of the Audit and Inspection reports up to 1974-75, out of which 135 paragraphs were settled, only 87 paragraphs were outstanding upto 1974-75 in

respect of Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh. The audit had further included 16 paragraphs out of the above, in their critical review, and deleted the same from their inspection report.

It was also stated that some of the cases were either pending with the Courts or with the Police for further investigation and that in some cases information from other offices was awaited.

The Committee view with disfavour the delay in settlement of outstanding Inspection Reports/Paragraphs and recommend that sustained efforts be made to clear all such pending Reports/paragraphs. The action so taken by the Board may be intimated to the Committee within six months positively.

हरियाणा ब्रैवरिज लिमिटेड मुरथल

पैरा ग्राफ 7.14, कम्पट्रोलर एण्ड आडिटर जनरल आफ इण्डिया की वर्ष 1974-75 की रिपोर्ट में 'सप्लायर को वित्तीय सहायता' सम्बन्धी ।

9 इस पैरा ग्राफ के द्वारा एकाउन्टेन्ट जनरल ने ब्रैवरिज द्वारा एक कन-सलटैन्ट फर्म को जिसका नाम 'ई0 आई0 एल0' है को 0.69 लाख रुपए अधिक देने तथा उसे देने का कोई कारण न बताने के मामले पर एतराज उठाया है ।

सक्षिप्त में तथ्य इस प्रकार है कि फरवरी, 1972 में ई0 आई0 एल0 ने एक कलकत्ता की फर्म को 27 अलमोनियम के टैंकस 6 भिन्न भिन्न कैटेगिरीज़ के अपने न्यूनतम कुटेशन पर सप्लाई करने थे । यह सप्लाई दिसम्बर, 1972 तक पूरी करनी थी परन्तु दिए गए समय के अन्दर सप्लाई पूरी न होने की वजह से यह समय 31 मार्च, 1973 तक के लिए बढ़ा दिया गया । परन्तु मियाद बढ़ाने की कोई लिखित दरखास्त रिकार्ड पर मौजूद नहीं है ।

सप्लाई का समय समाप्त होने से कुछ ही दिनों पहले ही मियाद बढ़ाने की बात आई, उससे पहले कभी कोई जिक्र तक नहीं हुआ । कारण यह बताया कि डाइज न होना एक मद्रास की फर्म ने डाइज भेजने थे, जो समय पर न भेजे ।

हालांकि समय 31 मार्च, 1973 तक बढ़ा दिया गया । फिर भी सप्लाई अगस्त, 1974 तक हुई । एच0 बी0 एल0 के सप्लाई में इतनी देरी होने की वजह से कम्पनी को 0.69 लाख का अतिरिक्त आर्थिक भार उठाना पड़ा । जबकि कम्पनी का यह ऐग्रीमेंट था कि ई0 आई0 एल0 खुद अपनी जिम्मेदारी पर सप्लाई भेजेगी । एक टैंक का अधिक से अधिक 2475/- रुपए ट्रांसपोर्टेशन चाजिज होगा । और कुल मिला कर 0.67 लाख से अधिक नहीं होगा ।

परन्तु फाइनल पेमेन्ट के समय कम्पनी को 1.36 लाख देने पड़े । जिससे 0.69 लाख अधिक देने पड़े । सफाई में यह कहा गया है कि एक टैंक जो बहुत बड़ा साइज का था, जिसे रेल या ट्रक द्वारा नहीं लाया जा सकता था, उसका स्वभाव नाजुक होने की वजह से, क्योंकि तीन जगहों पर बदलना पड़ता था, ट्रैलर द्वारा लाया गया ।

सो ट्रांसपोर्टेशन चार्जिज बढ़ने की वजह से यह अधिक पेमेंट जो 0.69 लाख की है, करनी पड़ी।

इस बारे में कोई पत्र व्यवहार हुआ हो, ऐसा रिकार्ड से आभास नहीं होता और न ही कोई उचित कठिनाई नजर आती है।

एकाउन्टेन्ट जनरल के इस 7.14 पैरा ग्राफ पर एक आम चर्चा समिति द्वारा की गई और फिर समिति ने एक प्रश्नावली तैयार की जो लिखित जवाब के लिए विभाग निगम को भेजी गई विभाग से लिखित जवाब आने पर समिति पूर्ण रूप से सहमत तथा सन्तुष्ट न होने पर विभाग के प्रतिनिधियों को बुलाया और मुख्य तौर पर निम्न प्रश्नों पर सही जवाब जानना चाहा :

1. सप्लाई की मियाद बढ़वाने के लिए कोई लिखित दरखास्त आई, अगर हा तो, मियाद पूरी होने के कितने समय पहले ?
2. डाइज की सप्लाई एक दूसरी मद्रास की फर्म द्वारा समय पर न भेजने पर कम्पनी की क्या जिम्मेदारी थी ?
3. एक टैंक को ट्रेलर द्वारा लाया गया, क्या यह ई0 आई0 एल0 की ही जिम्मेदारी नहीं थी ?

पहले प्रश्न के जवाब में विभाग के प्रतिनिधियों ने कहा कि कोई लिखित दरखास्त नहीं आई थी। मियाद समाप्त होने के कुछ दिनों पहले ही मियाद बढ़वाने की बात उठी और उसे बढ़ा दिया गया।

दूसरे प्रश्न का जवाब देने में विभागीय प्रतिनिधियों ने रिकार्ड साइलेन्ट होने की वजह से उचित जवाब देने में असमर्थता जाहीर की।

तीसरे प्रश्न के उत्तर में उन्होंने कहा क्योंकि टैंक नाजुक स्वभाव, बड़े साइज का था, रेल द्वारा लाने में तीन जगहों बदलना पड़ता था, इस लिए रोड द्वारा ट्रेलर पर लाया जाना ही उचित तथा संभव था। जिम्मेदारी पर कुछ नहीं कहा गया।

कुल मिला कर विभागीय प्रतिनिधियों ने समिति को बताया, क्योंकि बोर्ड ऑफ़ डायरेक्टरज को वेव (waive) करने के अधिकार थे, उसने वेव कर दिया और 50,000/- रुपये रोक लिए।

बाद में समिति को यह तथ्य भी बताया गया कि फर्म ने 50,000/- रुपये को पाने के लिए हाई कोर्ट में एक केस कम्पनी के खिलाफ दायर किया हुआ है।

समिति के सामने प्लेन्ट तथा रिटन स्टेटमेंट की प्रतियां यानी फ्लीडिंग्स की नकले नहीं आई तो केस फाइट करने की कम्पनी की पोजीशन के बारे में कुछ कहा नहीं जा सकता।

परन्तु समिति यह गम्भीरता से महसूस करती है कि जैसा उपरोक्त तथ्यों से मालूम हुआ है, पत्र व्यवहार पूर्ण न होने से और जो कुछ हैं वे साइलेन्ट होने से, ऐसा लगता है कि सम्बन्धित अधिकारियों ने अपने ऊपर पड़ी जिम्मेदारी को पूरी तरह ठीक-न निभाया। चल रहे केस के बारे भी समिति का विचार उसे कन्टेस्ट न करने का है, क्योंकि जैसा समिति ने अपनी फाइलिंग दी है, केस में कम्पनी के हक में कोई खास बात नहीं दिखाई देती। 50,000/- रुपए के केस को लड़ने में सिवाये इसके कि यह रकम 60,000/- बन जाये, यानी 10,000/- रुपए पैरवी में लग जायेंगे और कुछ नहीं।

अन्त में समिति इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुँची है कि डीलिंग और ड्यूटीज साफ न हैं और न ही ऐसा दिखाई दे रहा है कि डीलिंग और ड्यूटीज को ठीक ढंग से किया गया हो। उचित कार्यवाही के लिए समिति सरकार से सिफारिश करती है।

हरियाणा एग्री ईण्डस्ट्रीज कोरपोरेशन लिमिटेड

पैरा ग्राफ 7.15,—कम्पट्रोलर एण्ड आडिटर जनरल आफ इण्डिया की वर्ष 1974-75 की रिपोर्ट में खरीदी गई 'खल' के मामले सम्बन्धी।

10. आडिटर जनरल की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार अप्रैल, 1972 में इस निगम ने 1 अप्रैल, 1972 से 31 दिसम्बर, 1972 तक की अवधि के लिए 6 हजार क्विंटल खल की जरूरत का अनुमान लगाया था। उस वक्त निगम के पास 1730 क्विंटल खल स्टॉक में मौजूद थी। निगम ने 2470 क्विंटल बाद में खरीदने के लिए छोड़ कर केवल 1800 क्विंटल का आर्डर मार्च, 1972 में दिया था।

आडिटर जनरल की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार एक यह तथ्य भी सामने आया कि दिल्ली की एक फर्म ने 30 मार्च, 1972 को 49.80 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल की दर से चार हजार (4000) क्विंटल खल निगम को सप्लाई करने की ऑफर दी थी जो निगम ने दो कारणों से स्वीकार नहीं की।

(1) इस वक्त खल की कोई जरूरत नहीं है।

(2) ऑफर देने वाला एक बिचोलिया है, इसलिए खल की क्वालिटी पर भरोसा नहीं किया जा सकता।

किन्तु इसके विपरीत निगम ने 1850 क्विंटल खल मई, 1972 से नवम्बर, 1972 तक की अवधि के दौरान 59.43 रुपए तथा 90.97 रुपए जैसे ऊँचे दामों पर खरीद की, जिस कारण निगम को 53 हजार रुपए का नुकसान उठाना पड़ा।

आडिटर जनरल ने यह भी स्पष्ट किया है कि निगम के प्रबंधकों की तरफ से यह बताया गया है कि 2470 क्विंटल खल की बकाया जरूरत के विरुद्ध 850 क्विंटल खल अगस्त, 1972 तक खरीद ली गयी थी और उम्मीद थी कि वह खल दिसम्बर, 1972 तक की जरूरत को पूरा कर लेगी, लेकिन एक हजार क्विंटल की अचानक जरूरत पड़ जाने पर नवम्बर, 1972 में ऊँचे दामों पर खरीद करनी पड़ी।

ऑडिटर जनरल के इस पैराग्राफ पर ग्राम चर्चा के बाद समिति ने एक प्रश्नावली तैयार की जो लिखित जवाब के लिए निगम और सरकार को भेजी गयी। लिखित जवाब प्राप्त होने पर समिति पूर्ण रूप से सन्तुष्ट नहीं हो सकी। इसलिए निगम के प्रतिनिधि तथा सरकार के कृषि विभाग के प्रतिनिधि को तलब करने की जरूरत महसूस की गई। 2 जनवरी, 1979 तथा 9 जनवरी, 1979 को हुई समिति की बैठक में इन प्रतिनिधियों को तलब किया गया। सरकार की तरफ से कृषि विभाग के सचिव श्री एल 0 ए 0 कटारिया और निगम की तरफ से श्री ए 0 के 0 सिन्हा समिति के समक्ष उपस्थित हुए। समिति ने मुख्य तौर पर 3 प्रश्नों का उत्तर इन प्रतिनिधियों से जानना चाहा।

1. क्या इस 53 हजार रुपए के घाटे का कारण खल की कुल जरूरत के सही अनुमान का न लगाया जाना है, जैसा कि ऑडिटर जनरल ने अपनी रिपोर्ट के पैरा 4 में ब्यान किया है कि एक हजार टन खल की अचानक जरूरत पड़ जाने के कारण निगम को ऊंचे दामों पर खल खरीदनी पड़ी?
2. यदि ऐसा नहीं और कुल मांग का सही अनुमान पहले से ही लगाया जा चुका था तो अप्रैल, मई मास में जब बाजार में भाव मन्दा चल रहा था तो पूरे वर्ष की जरूरत की खल क्यों नहीं खरीद ली गयी?
3. क्या दिल्ली वाली फर्म के आफर को जानबूझ कर किसी दुर्भावना से रद्द किया गया और क्या इसके पीछे किसी खास फर्म को फायदा पहुंचाने की निगम के प्रतिनिधियों की नीयत थी?

पहले प्रश्न के जवाब में समिति के समक्ष उपस्थित प्रतिनिधियों ने बार-बार इस बात को दोहराया कि यह एक हजार क्विंटल की मांग की जरूरत अचानक पैदा नहीं हुई बल्कि यह जरूरत तो पहले से ही मौजूद थी। हालांकि ऑडिटर जनरल ने इस बात पर बल दिया कि निगम के प्रबन्धकों ने ही उन्हें यह बताया है कि एक हजार क्विंटल खल की मांग अचानक पैदा हुई और इसी कारण उन्हें ऊंचे दामों पर खल खरीदनी पड़ी तो भी निगम के प्रबन्धक निदेशक तथा सरकार के कृषि विभाग के सचिव ने ब्राकायदा आकड़े दे कर यह बात स्पष्ट कर दी कि अचानक जरूरत का कहीं कोई प्रश्न पैदा नहीं होता, क्योंकि 6 हजार क्विंटल की मांग का कुल अनुमान लगाया गया था और नवम्बर, दिसम्बर में खरीद की हुई एक हजार क्विंटल खल उस कुल अनुमान यानी छह हजार क्विंटल का हिस्सा है। निगम के प्रतिनिधियों ने यह माना कि यह 'अचानक' (शब्द) नीचे के स्तर के किसी अधिकारी ने गलती से लिख दिया होगा। लेकिन तथ्य यह है कि एक हजार की मांग अचानक नहीं आई बल्कि पहले से ही इस निगम को अहसास था।

पहले प्रश्न के उत्तर में से दूसरा प्रश्न यह उभरता है कि यदि इस एक हजार क्विंटल की मांग का निगम को पहले से अहसास तो था अप्रैल, मई के महीने

में जब बाजार मन्दा चल रहा था तो निगम ने अपनी पूरी जरूरत की खल क्यों नहीं खरीदी । इस सवाल के जवाब में निगम के प्रतिनिधियों ने 3 कारण मुख्य तौर पर बताये :-

1. "खल एक ऐसी वस्तु है जिसकी तीन महीने बाद क्वालिटी हल्की होनी शुरू हो जाती है ।
2. एक साथ इतनी ज्यादा मात्रा में खल खरीदने से पैसा ब्लाक हो जाता है ।
3. और इसको रखने के लिए भी जगह का इन्तजाम करना पड़ता है ।"

"इसलिए बेहतर यही होता है कि इसे टुकड़ों में खरीदा जाए । हालांकि इसमें भी कुछ दिक्कत है और वह यह कि कभी बाजार मन्दा हो सकता है और कभी तेज भी हो सकता है । इसमें हमारी बदकिस्मति यह रही कि दाम बढ़ गए । अगर कम हो जाते तो हमें फायदा होता ।"

समिति द्वारा यह पूछे जाने पर कि 3 महीने में क्वालिटी किस तरह हल्की हो जाती है । निगम के प्रतिनिधियों ने विस्तार से यह बताया कि खल में 3 कम्पोजेंट्स होती है जिनकी 3 महीने के बाद इस प्रकार की डिग्रेडेशन हो जाती है ।

1. 'प्रोटीन' 45% से 40%
2. 'आयल' 7% से 5%
3. 'फाइबर' 9%—10% से 15% तक ।

समिति ने इस उत्तर को काफी सन्तोषजनक माना चू कि यह निगम खल की खरीद पशुओं का चारा बनाने के लिए करता है इसलिए यदि हल्की किस्म की खल का इस्तेमाल किया जाये तो बने हुए चारे की क्वालिटी भी खराब और हल्की होगी । इसलिए अच्छे खल की क्वालिटी का इस्तेमाल करना बहुत जरूरी है और एक मुश्त खल खरीद कर रख छोड़ने पर खल की क्वालिटी हल्की हो जाती है इसलिए निगम के लिए एक मुश्त 6 हजार क्विंटल खल खरीदना मुनासिब नहीं था ।

तीसरा प्रश्न जो समिति के सामने था वह यह कि 29-30 मार्च, 1972 को निगम की खरीद कमेटी अम्बाला, नाभा और धुरी को मण्डियों में गयी और 1800 क्विंटल खल का आर्डर विभिन्न मिलों को दे कर आयी । जबकि देहली की एक फर्म ने 30 मार्च को अपनी आफर निगम के कार्यालय में भेजी थी । उस आफर को यह कह कर कि खल की जरूरत नहीं है क्यों रद्द कर दिया गया ? इसके उत्तर में निगम के प्रतिनिधियों ने बताया कि देहली वाली फर्म की आफर एक तो अपने आप कार्यालय

में आयी थी जबकि निगम ने न तो किसी तरह का कोई विज्ञापन दिया था और न टेंडर मांगे थे। आमतौर पर ऐसी आफर पर ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता और न ही दिया जाना चाहिए और दूसरे यह फर्म खुद खल का उत्पादन नहीं करती केवल एक विचोलियों का काम करती है जिसकी क्वालिटी पर भरोसा नहीं किया जा सकता। निगम के प्रतिनिधियों ने यह भी कहा कि यह आफर जो इस देहली वाली फर्म ने खुद भेजी थी यदि निगम इस पर ध्यान देकर इससे खरीद कर लेता तो और बाद में कीमतें कम हो जाती तो हम पर यह भी आरोप लग सकता था कि उन्होंने जानबूझ कर इस फर्म के साथ रियायत की है। समिति को इस दलील में काफी वजन महसूस हुआ और इसके साथ ही प्रश्नोत्तर के दौरान यह भी जानकारी आयी कि खरीद कमेटी ने जिन फर्मों को खल के आर्डर दिये थे उन में से एक आर्डर का दाम दिल्ली वाली फर्म से 2/- रुपए कम और दूसरा केवल 10 पैसे ज्यादा था। इसलिए खरीदकमेटी पर किसी तरह की बदनियती का आरोप नहीं लगाया जा सकता और न ही यह आरोप लगाया जा सकता है कि खरीद कमेटी किसी खास फर्म से माल खरीदने में दिलचस्पी रखती थी और दिल्ली की फर्म से कोई दुर्भावना रखती थी। इसलिए दिल्ली की फर्म के आफर को रद्द करने का मसला कोई अहम मसला नहीं है बल्कि यदि यो कहा जाये कि एक विचोलिया फर्म द्वारा खुद-ब-खुद भेजी गई आफर पर ध्यान न देकर निगम ने बुद्धिमत्ता ही दिखाई है तो यह गलत नहीं होगा।

इन सभी तथ्यों को ध्यान में रखते हुए समिति द्वारा इस पैरा ग्राफ पर आगे कोई जांच पड़ताल करने की जरूरत महसूस नहीं की गई।

HARYANA STATE MINOR IRRIGATION (TUBEWELLS) CORPORATION

Paragraph 7.16 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1974-75—Infructuous Expenditure.

11. A contract of installation of tubewells in Bihar State, undertaken by the Company was completed in August, 1973. Even after completion of the work, some of the staff was retained at Patna upto March, 1974. Expenditure on the establishment retained at Patna from September, 1973 to March, 1974 was Rs. 4.33 lakhs. The company had stated in May, 1975 that the staff was retained for major overhauling and repairs of machinery, settlement of outstanding payment with the Govt. of Bihar and negotiations for installation of tubewells during 1973-74 in that State. In the absence of any firm commitment from Bihar Govt regarding payment, no further work was undertaken by the Company in Bihar.

In order to accommodate the staff on return from Bihar, a new Circle with a division was opened in April/May, 1974 for drilling tubewells along Hansi Branch. This circle was closed down with effect from 31st October, 1974 to form Sirsa Lining Circle for lining of water courses in Sirsa Division. During the period from April, 1974 to October, 1974, Rs. 1.82 lakhs were incurred on regular and

work-charged establishment while the expenditure on works during this period was Rs. 5,010. The matter was brought to the notice of the Govt. in October, 1975, reply is awaited (March, 1976).

The Committee held three meetings for oral examination of the Departmental representatives on the basis of a written explanation given by the HSMITC in reply to Committee's questionnaire on the subject, given earlier. During the course of recording the oral evidence Sh. G.V. Goswami, Secretary and Smt. Meenakshi Anand Chaudhry, Joint Secretary, respectively of the Department of Irrigation & Power, Haryana appeared on behalf of the Government while HSMITC was represented by its Managing Director Shri D.V. Gupta, its General Manager, Shri R.N. Pandit and Mr. B.S. Nat, General Manager (Lining) The Accountant General, Shri A.G. Narayanswami was also present at the time of the first hearing and, in subsequent meetings, the Senior Deputy A.G., Mr. B.P. Mathur deputised for him.

The Committee examined at length the departmental representatives on the point whether it was at all necessary for the Corporation to detain their staff in Bihar, during the period from August, 1973 to April, 1974, when its work was virtually at a stand still. In the stand that the Corporation had taken on different occasions, there was a certain element of obvious contradiction.

With regard to the stage of work in hand at that point of time on the basis of which the retention of the staff and equipment was sought to be justified, the Corporation had stated in 1975 :—

“Work of the installation of 300 tubewells in Bihar State was taken by the Corporation in 11/72 and the work was finished in the month of 1/73, except removal of some defect in a few cases.”

Later on, however, in its reply to Committee's question, the departmental position was thus explained.

“It is not correct to understand that the work of drilling of 300 tubewells in Bihar State was completed in July, 1973, because the work of drilling and development etc. continued later on. There was an interruption in work during the rainy Season from July to October. The work was resumed in November and the balance work on the tubewells was completed. The staff repatriated back to the State in April, 1974.”

This apparent shift, in the ground on which the whole case was built up by the Departmental representatives, could not be explained by the Corporation representatives, to the satisfaction of the Committee during the course of their oral examination and the feeble attempt made to this effect by them, failed to carry much conviction with the Committee.

The second point on which the Committee examined the departmental representative was to determine whether it was only the letter of intent issued by the Bihar Government in July, 1973, and giving out an assurance that the Government wanted the Haryana State Minor Irrigation Tubewells Corporation to take up another assignment of

digging 500 tubewells in their State, which served as the basis for the Corporation to keep their staff posted there from August, 1973 to April, 1974 or something more than that. In Corporation's reply to Committee's question this letter of intent issued in July, 1973, was also shown as an allotment letter for this additional work, issued in December, 1973, after the Bihar Government had formally invited the tenders and HSMITC entered the fray. The mistake was ultimately admitted by the Corporation representatives.

With the production of a conclusive evidence to this effect, the Committee, however, felt convinced that the Corporation had a reasonable and valid ground to be hopeful of getting this contract and if, despite this it still failed to get it, because of a certain change in the attitude of the Bihar Government at last stage, it was clearly beyond the Corporation's own power/control. When the Corporation was so actively engaged in its efforts to secure the contract and was so serious about its new assignment, it could certainly not entertain the idea of sending back the huge equipment and machinery at that time.

As for its personnel, which consisted 79 persons—36 as regulars and another 43 as work charged posted there, the Committee felt unhappy why given a certain degree of vigilance and farsight on the part of the Corporation, so normally and naturally expected of a commercial agency of this standing, a substantial portion of the staff could not be withdrawn from that place at almost a nominal cost and employed far more usefully by the Corporation in their home State during the period when it already had various works in hand. A skeleton staff kept there could have very easily carried on the negotiations with the Bihar Government on Corporation's behalf, without making much difference to the eventual fate of venture, it had set its eyes on.

The Committee fervently hoped that in its future dealings of this sort, the Corporation would stand benefited from its Bihar experience so that at any given time, the maximum possible use could be made of its expertise and machinery. With this note of caution and confidence, the Committee decided not to pursue the point any further.

ANNEXURE

MOTION REGARDING CONSTITUTION OF A COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS.

- “1. (a) That a Committee of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha to be called the “Committee on Public Undertakings” for the examination of the working of public undertakings be constituted consisting of nine members who shall be elected by the House every year from amongst its members according to the principle of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.
- (b) That a Minister shall not be eligible for election as a member of the Committee and that if a Member, after his election to the Committee, is appointed as Minister, he shall cease to be member thereof from the date of such appointment.
2. That the functions of the Committee shall be :—
 - (a) to examine the reports and accounts of the public undertakings specified in the as below Schedule and any such other public undertakings as may be referred to the Committee by the Speaker for examination ;
 - (b) to examine the reports, if any, of the Comptroller and Auditor-General on the public undertakings;
 - (c) to examine in context of the autonomy and efficiency of the Public Undertakings whether the affairs of the Public Undertakings are being managed in accordance with sound business principles and prudent commercial practices ; and
 - (d) to exercise such other functions vested in the Committee on Public Accounts and the Committee on Estimates in relation to the Public Undertakings mentioned above as are not covered by clauses (a), (b) and (c) above and as may be allotted to the Committee by the Speaker from time to time.

Provided that the Committee shall not examine and investigate any of the following, namely :—

- (i) matters of major Government policy as distinct from business or commercial functions of public undertakings ;
- (ii) matters of day-to-day administration ;
- (iii) matters for the consideration of which machinery is established by any special statute under which a particular public undertaking is established.
- (3) that the term of the office of the members of the Committee shall not exceed one year.

- (4) that the quorum of a sitting of the Committee shall be four.
5. That in all other respects the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Assembly relating to the Committee shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make.

SCHEDULE (SEE PAGE 13)

List of Public undertakings

1. Haryana Financial Corporation, Chandigarh.
2. Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation, Chandigarh.
3. Haryana State Small Industries & Export Corporation, Chandigarh.
4. Haryana State Handloom & Handicrafts Corporation Chandigarh.
5. Haryana Agro Industries Corporation, Chandigarh.
6. Haryana Warehousing Corporation, Chandigarh.
7. Haryana Land Reclamation & Development Corporation, Chandigarh.
8. Haryana Seed Development Corporation, Chandigarh.
9. Haryana Dairy Development Corporation, Chandigarh.
10. Haryana Minor Irrigation (Tubewells) Corporation, Chandigarh.
11. Haryana Tourism Corporation, Chandigarh.
12. Haryana Harijan Kalyan, Nigam.
13. Haryana Tanneries Ltd., Jind.
14. Haryana Breweries Ltd., Murthal.
15. Haryana Matches Ltd., Yamunanagar.
16. Haryana Minerals Ltd., Narnaul.
17. Haryana State Electricity Board, Chandigarh.
18. Haryana Agricultural Marketing Board, Chandigarh.
19. Haryana Housing Board, Chandigarh.
20. Kurukshetra Development Board.