**<u>Observation of the Report tabled in Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of Standing Order 119 (4) and the steps taken in this regard</u>**

**Parliamentary Serial No: 114**
**Name of the Organization: Department of Government Information**

| **Deficiencies identified in the Financial and Performance Evaluation for 2017** | **Actions taken to rectify the Deficiencies / current situation** |
|---|---|
| 1. Every audit query submitted by the Auditor General had not been answered within a month | All the audit queries submitted by the Auditor General have now been answered by28.08.2019 |
| 2. Unsettled instances of internal audit queries within a month have been reported. | All the internal audit queries have now been answered by 10.01.2019. |
| 3. The board of Survey was not accomplished on the due date and the relevant reports had not been submitted to the Auditor General | These delays have been caused by the existence of 20 District Offices under the Department. The report of Board of Survey 2018 has been submitted on the due date. |
| 4. Recommendations for redundancies, deficiencies and other recommendations revealed by the Annual Board of Survey had not been implemented in time. | The Board of Survey has been completed and recommendations are being implemented presently. |
| 5. Bank reconciliations had not been prepared by the due date | All the Bank reconciliations pertaining to year 2019 has been prepared in time. |
| 6. Bonds had reached beyond the approved limits. | These obligations had to be made up due to the implementation of several publicity programs on timely issues assigned by the Government and supply of essential services, machinery and vehicle repairs. Therefore, obligations have been made in excess of the provisions. |
| 7. Debt balances have remained for more than a year | Two debt balances worth Rs. 181,955/- have been settled in 2018. Action has been taken to deduct two debts amounting to Rs. 66,232/- in accordance with the instructions of the Attorney General. Two debt balances worth Rs. 195,040/- has been referred to the Attorney General's Department for relevant legal proceedings. |
| 8. Actions has not been taken in terms of F.R.571 with respect to expired deposits in the General Deposit Account | Two balances worth Rs. 329,280/- have been released as of 07.05.2019. Arrangements are being made to release the remaining balance. |
| 9. Ad-hoc Sub-Imprest. issued in terms of F.R. 371 had not been settled within one month from completion of work | Depending on the nature of the tasks assigned to the department, some tasks, such as documentary films, may take some time, and there may be delays in settling Sub-Imprest until such work is completed. Further, the same officer has had to make more than one advances or pay another advance before settling the advance paid |

| | |
|---|---|
| | to him, due to practical and administrative reasons, such as having to start another or more work before completion of the previous work. In most cases, the balance is settled immediately after completion of the work. In the case of documentary films, it may take some time to complete the editing and release the final product. As a result, there will be some delay to file a bill and submit advance payment vouchers. Further, actions are being taken to prevent such situations by constantly checking the advance registers and informing the relevant officers to pay the unsettled advances. |
| 10. Ad-hoc Sub-Imprest had been issued exceeding the limit in F.R.371 | These interim orders have been issued in order to carry out the essential duties entrusted to the Department. Advances are being issued upon due approval since 2019. |