Status of pending C & AG Audit Paras

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Paras/PA reports on which ATNs have been submitted to PAC after vetting by Audit</th>
<th>Details of the Paras/PA report on which ATNs are pending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No. of ATNs not sent by the Ministry even for the first time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The Summary of important audit observations appearing in the most recent audit reports of the year ending January, 2015 are given below:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lack of domain information and non-preparation of action plan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Performance Audit of Global Estate Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was seen that even essential domain information i.e. owned, rental and leased number of Chancery buildings/Embassy residences/Staff residences etc. were not readily available with MEA. The absence of the information indicates a lack of a systematic approach towards reduction of rental liability as assured to the PAC. The MEA was also yet to develop an action plan for estate management despite an assurance given to the PAC.

Delay in acquisition of property

The Ministry had rendered assurance to the PAC that significant steps had been taken to streamline and speed-up the internal processes related to acquisition and construction of property. However, audit noted in seven cases (Geneva, Berne, Hamburg, Munich, Bishkek, Stockholm and Milan) deficiencies and delays in decision making persisted. Failure in purchase of land/acquisition of property resulted in rental outgo amounting to Rs. 7.83 crore during 2011-12.

Delays in construction activities

Audit noted delays in commencement of construction of properties in ten cases (Shanghai, Port of Spain, Port Louis, Dar-Es-Salaam, Kathmandu, Tashkent, Kyiv, Brasilia, Doha and Nicosia). The delays were attributable to delays in submission of drawings, failure to firm-up the type of properties required, non-finalisation of project designs, delays in obtaining approval from local authorities, frequent changes in project requirements and other procedural delays. Most of these delays were internal to the Ministry. The PAC during the examination of the previous audit report of property management had also urged the MEA to put in place specific time frames and monitoring mechanism to avoid delay in pre construction activities. The annual rental outgo in these cases, in 2011-12 was Rs. 16.36 crore.
Deficiencies in renovation/redevelopment activities

Renovation/Redevelopment work of owned buildings has been taken up by the Ministry at various stations. Audit of records maintained at Ministry/respective Missions revealed that at four stations viz., Sydney, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta there were irregularities and considerable delays in renovation/redevelopment work. This resulted in avoidable rental expenditure of Rs. 7.44 crore during 2011-12.

Delays in Construction activities in India

Lack of a systemic approach was also noted in domestic construction projects. Audit of records of five projects (RPO Jaipur, RPO Amritsar, RPO Mumbai, RPO Srinagar and FSI, Delhi) revealed that there were considerable delays in start of projects upto 22 years (RPO Jaipur). Construction at RPO Srinagar had not commenced though the land was purchased in December 2006. Avoidable rental outgo in respect of three RPO's (RPO Amritsar, RPO Mumbai and RPO Srinagar) during 2011-12 alone was Rs.3.98 crore.

2 Maintenance of bank account outside Government Accounts

Embassy of India, Buenos Aires, Argentina operated bank account and carried out transactions of Argentine Peso 41,17,118 (5.10 crore) without routing these through books of accounts of the Government.

(Paragraph 5.1)

3 Violation of rules in procurement of goods

Consulate General of India, Atlanta procured computer hardware/software, office equipment and furniture/fittings worth 1.61 crore in three separate purchases in violation of Rules and without following fair, transparent and reasonable procedure.

(Paragraph 5.2)

4 Fictitious payment vouchers/receipt challans in Monthly Accounts

The Consulate General of India, Houston, USA prepared fictitious payment vouchers of US$ 3,72,632 and receipt challans of US$ 3,62,172 and accounted these in its monthly accounts submitted to the Ministry. There were withdrawals of US$ 69,356 and deposits of US$ 39,266 without routing through the cash book. The accounts of the Consulate suffered from serious inaccuracies which was fraught with the risk of short accounting of receipts and unaccounted withdrawals.

(Paragraph 5.3)

5 Overpayment of foreign allowance to project management teams

The Missions in Moscow and Paris paid discretionary foreign allowance instead of foreign compensatory allowance to six officers of Indians Air Force posted in project management teams in Moscow and Paris. This resulted in overpayment of Rs.74.69 lakh to the officers during November 2009 to August 2013.

(Paragraph 5.4)

6 Short collection of fees for passport Miscellaneous Services

Non-revision of Passport Miscellaneous Services fees resulted in loss of revenue of Rs. 1.52 crore.

(Paragraph 5.5)

7 Undue financial benefit to the service provider

Irregular increase of service charges for surrender of passport services and levy of inadmissible administrative fee on such services resulted in undue financial benefit of Rs. 67.36 lakh to the service provider during September 2010 to March 2013.

(Paragraph 5.6)