

CAG raps five Haryana cos.

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The comptroller and auditor-general of India (CAG) has strongly indicted five companies of the Haryana government for long delays in the finalisation of their accounts.

In his report for the year 1993-94, CAG reveals that the accounts of five companies were chronically in arrears for periods ranging between four and eight years. These companies are: Haryana State Minor Irrigation and Tubewells Corporation (HSMITC), Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam (HHKN), Haryana Backward Classes Kalyan Nigam (HBCKN), Haryana Women Development Corporation (HWDC) and Haryana Roadways Engineering Corporation (HREC).

The HHKN and the HSMITC, whose accounts were in arrears for eight and five years, respectively, at the end of March 1990, failed to clear the arrears and could finalise only one year's accounts each year upto March 1994. The accounts of the HWDC, the HBCKN and the HREC, were in arrears for two, three and two years, respectively, as on March 31 1990. The arrears increased to four, five and four years at the end of March 1994.

In the absence of finalised accounts, CAG points out, the government's investment of Rs.19,577.12 lakh by way of share capital in these companies has remained outside public scrutiny.

The report reveals that on the basis of the lists of defaulting companies furnished by the accountant-general of chief secretary and the Bureau of Public Enterprises every six months from April 1984 onwards, directions were issued by the government from May 1984 for expediting the finalisation of accounts. But the matter was not followed up. In December 1986, Haryana's commissioner and secretary, social welfare department, informed the accountant-general that the accounts of HHKN for 1981-82 would be finalised during 1986-87 and the targets were fixed so as to complete the finalisation of accounts for 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 during the year 1987-88 and for the years from 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 during 1988-89.

However, no follow-up action was taken to adhere to these targets and till June 1994, accounts only upto the year 1985-86 were finalised.

The report says what is more disturbing is that before fixing time-bound programmes for the finalisation of accounts, no study was undertaken to ascertain the reasons for these companies' failure to finalise their accounts. The target dates were fixed presumably on the basis of assurances from the managements and not on the basis of some realistic assessment of reasons for delay or the managements' ability to achieve the targets, the report adds.