

PART-II - (AUDIT FINDINGS)

PART-II-(A) – (Significant Audit Findings)- Nil

PART-II-(B) -(Other incidental Audit Findings) – Gist of observation are as follows-

Para No.	Reference No.	Gist of Objection
01/IIB	OBS-1829602	Non filling up of vacant posts in the O/o the Economics and Statistics Department, Puducherry affecting the core functioning of the Department and delay in dissemination or availability of the statistical data across various sectors effectively
02/IIB	OBS-1833192	Continuation of filling up of temporary post over the years without approval of competent authority resulting in non-follow-up operational guidelines of Agricultural Census 2021-22
03/IIB	OBS-1834417	Unutilized fund amounting to Rs202.58 lakh regarding Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) Sub-scheme

**GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS
PUDUCHERRY**

REPLY TO THE AUDIT OBSERVATION OBS-1829602

1. It is observed by the Audit that this Directorate is lacking operational efficiency due to non-filling of the following posts.

Sl.No.	Name of the Post	% of vacant post
1	Director	100%
2	Joint Director	100%
3	Deputy Director	25%
4	Statistical Officer	33%
5	Statistical Inspector	100%
6	Field Supervisor	16.66%
7	UDC	60%
8	Stenographer	100%
9	Driver	50%
10	MTS (General)	33.33%
11	MTS (Housekeeping)	100%
12	MTS (Security)	100%

2. As far as the posts of UDC, Stenographer, Driver, MTS (General/House Keeping/Security) are concerned, the Department of Personnel and Administration Reforms, Puducherry is the Cadre Controlling Authority. It manages the personnel in the cadre, including recruitment, transfer, training and career progression. However, this Directorate is in consistent persuasion with the DP&AR, the Cadre Controlling Authority to fill up the vacancies in the ministerial cadre as mentioned above, as and when arises by means of transfer, promotion, superannuation, etc.

3. It is to state that the Directorate proposed to fill the posts of MTS (Security) and MTS (Housekeeping) on contract basis. For other posts coming under the cadre control of DP&AR, this Directorate will request to fill up the post expeditiously.

3. As far as the posts of Director, Joint Director, Statistical Officer, Statistical Inspector, Field Supervisor are concerned, this Directorate is the Cadre Controlling Authority. This Directorate is undertaking various corrective measures to strengthen the cadre, as follows.

(a) Amendment of Recruitment Rules: Proposal was sent to the Government for amendment of RR's in r/o the above said cadre posts so as to follow a rational recruitment policy by eliminating the gaps in the existing RR's by taking into account the following aspects.

- (i) Maintenance needs of the cadre.
- (ii) Growth needs of the cadre.
- (iii) Quality of recruits.
- (iv) Promotional prospect of recruits.

(b) Promotion: Proposal has been submitted to the UPSC for filling up of one Joint Director (Group 'A' post), through promotion, on 06.02.2025. The vacancies occurring under promotion quota will be filled expeditiously as and when eligible officials are available in the feeder cadre.

(c) Direct Recruitment: Fresh candidates are being recruited by conducting competitive examination in order to strengthen the cadre. The Field Supervisor is the lowest post as far as this Directorate is concerned. On getting approval from the Government, direct recruitment was conducted for 27 posts of Field Supervisors in the year 2023 and 20 posts were filled up. Direct Recruitment to the posts of the Statistical Inspector is likely to be conducted in the current year, as the proposal is presently with the Government for approval. The remaining vacancies for Field Supervisor and Statistical Inspector will be filled in due course, with approval of the competent authority.

4. This Directorate, being the Cadre Controlling Authority is undertaking all possible measures to fill up the vacancies so as to strengthen the Cadre. Therefore the observation may please be dropped.



(RATNAGHOSH KISHOR CHAURE)
DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS
PUDUCHERRY

Reply to Audit Observations (OBS-1833192):

Date: 11.02.2025

The Audit party has the observation that there is no State Agriculture Census Unit and the Directorate of Economics and Statistics was continuing 4 temporary posts with approval from the Finance Department, Government of Puducherry for which expenditure was incurred under 3454-02-800-01 head (Census Surveys and Statistics-Survey and Statistics-Other Expenditure-Agriculture Census).

Further, it has observation that the diversion of funds from Agriculture Census 2021-22 for continuation of these posts without prior approval of DA&FW was not in order with operational guidelines of Agriculture Census 2021-22.

In this regard, it is informed that the continuation order for sanctioned posts dated 12th April, 2023 vide Lr. No.27016/6/2023-ACU (126072) of the Deputy Director (AC) has been issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India and the copy of same is enclosed.

Eventhough the order for the constitution of State Agriculture Census Unit was not issued earlier, the sanctioned posts were tasked by respective officials of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics who were actively working on Agriculture Census 2021-22 and successfully completed Phase-I and Phase-II. It is also informed that State Agriculture Census Unit is now constituted vide Oder dated 11-02-2025 No.3561/DES/AC/2021-22. (Copy enclosed)

Since, the continuation order for the sanctioned posts was issued by the Government of India and State Agriculture Census Unit is now constituted, there is no diversion of funds. Therefore, this observations may be dropped.


RATNAGOSH KISHOR CHAURE
DIRECTOR