

Integrated Cooperative Development Project (ICDP) was commenced in the State of Haryana in 1992.

1. ICDP Phase-I: In the first phase, 17 Projects covering all districts of State of Haryana were initiated in 1992 and completed in 2013. Total amount released for these projects was Rs. 135.56 crore, out of which Rs. 132.19 crore were utilized and the balance amount of Rs. 3.37 crore was deposited in Government treasury.

2. ICDP Phase-II: The Projects were sanctioned in 7 districts namely Bhiwani in March 2011, Panchkula, Ambala, Sirsa, Hisar in March 2013, Fatehabad in June 2013 and Rewari in April 2017. They were completed respectively in March 2018, March 2018, December 2019, August 2020, September 2020, August 2020 and March 2022. The total amount released for these 7 projects was Rs. 131 crore, out of which Rs. 107 crore were utilized and the amount Rs. 19.50 crore was deposited in Govt. treasury.

3. The Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of the other 6 Districts i.e. Kaithal, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat and Gurugram were prepared by an empanelled Consultant Agency of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and the DPRs were submitted in July & August 2019. Project sanction letters were issued on 30 March 2021. These projects are operative till 31 March 2024. The amount released for these 6 projects was Rs. 61.65 crore, out of which Rs. 19.46 crore were utilized, Rs. 9 crore were deposited in Govt. treasury. An amount of Rs. 29 crore was transferred to Haryana Warehousing Corporation as deposit work for preparing of estimates, floating of tenders and execution of civil works. The balance amount of Rs. 4 crore approx. is lying in the accounts of field offices.

4. On the directions of Government dated 17th November 2022, the Anti Corruption Bureau, Haryana initiated an inquiry and registered 4 FIRs in the months of May and July, 2023. Government also issued instructions on 11th July, 2023 to freeze the bank accounts of ongoing projects running in 6 districts (Kaithal, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat and Gurugram) and directed that no funds of ICDP be utilized except for salary and office expenses. Further, no funds have been released during 2023-24.

5. The Anti Corruption Bureau further investigated and registered 9 FIRs in the months of January and February, 2024. As per these 13 FIRs, total alleged amount comes to Rs.8.80 crores.

6. Government has invoked Article 311(2b) and dismissed Sh. Sumit Aggrawal, Senior Auditor on 23rd October 2023 and Smt. Anu Koshish, Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies, Sh. Yogender Aggrawal, Deputy Chief Auditor and Sh. Ram Kumar, Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies on 21st February, 2024.

7. All other 9 officers named in the FIRs and arrested by Anti Corruption Bureau have been placed under suspension namely Sh. Krishan Chand Beniwal, ARCS on 4th February 2024, Sh. Jitender Kaushik, ARCS on 4th February 2024, Sh. Sanjay Hooda, General Manager Central Cooperative Bank on 5th February 2024, Sh. Balwinder Singh, Audit Officer on 6th February 2024, Sh. Rohit Gupta, DRCS on 7th February 2024, Sh. Vijay Singh, Manager Harco Bank on

7th February 2024, Sh. Sandeep Khatkar, ARCS on 13th February 2024, Smt. Sunita Dhaka, ARCS on 15th February 2024 and Sh. Narender Kumar, ARCS on 26th February 2024.

8. The investigation by the Anti Corruption Bureau have revealed that most of the ICDP works have been allotted to companies/firms owned by accused Stalinjeet Singh. It was revealed that he has been working with the Cooperation Department of Haryana for the last 20 years.

9. The officers/officials of Audit Wing who were found negligent in conducting the audit namely Sh. Sandeep Kumar Auditor, Sh. Vinod Kumar Auditor, Sh. Ishwar Singh Senior Auditor and Smt. Neelam Dhingra Senior Auditor have also been placed under suspension on 17th February 2024 and have been chargesheeted.

10. Sh. Naresh Goyal, MD Haryana State Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Bank (HSCARDB) was assigned additional charge of Nodal Officer, ICDP in July, 2017 and not in 2014. This charge of Nodal Officer has been assigned to another officer on 05.02.2024.

11. The audit of 14 ICDP Projects out of 17 Projects of Phase-I was completed by Audit Wing. Further, audit of 2 projects of Part-I of Phase-II has been completed and for the remaining 5 projects, interim reports have been released. The audit of six projects of Part-II of Phase-II is under active progress.

12. Government has also decided to go for forensic and third party financial audit of the all projects sanctioned since 2000 and in this regard, advertisement has been issued by Department, in leading newspapers for empanelment of independent auditing firms on 6th February 2024.

13. Cooperation Department has been consistently taking action against erring officers/officials and has suspended Sh. Anmol Ratan, Audit Officer on 4th October 2021, Sh. Yogender Aggrawal, Deputy Chief Auditor on 8th November 2021, Sh. Praveen Gupta, Audit Officer on 19th April 2022, Sh. Inder Singh, Deputy Superintendent on 15th December 2022, Sh. Jile Singh, Clerk on 15th December 2022 and Sh. Nawal Singh, Clerk on 15th December 2022 and were chargesheeted. Apart from them, Smt. Anu Koshish, ARCS, Sh. Bhupender Yadav Inspector, Sh. Nagender Kumar Inspector and Sh. Anil Kumar Inspector were also chargesheeted.

14. The main objective of Salary Earners' Thrift & Credit (SETC) Cooperative Societies and Non Agricultural Thrift & Credit (NATC) Cooperative Societies is to encourage thrift and saving habits amongst the members by accepting the deposits and to provide credit facilities to its members on convenient and easy terms. The basic difference between SETC and NATC societies is that only salaried employees can become members of SETC society whereas general public can become member of NATC society.

15. In Haryana there are 326 SETC and NATC working cooperative societies and in Hisar there are 133 societies. As per bye-laws of SETC and NATC societies, rate of interest for accepting deposits and advancing loans are decided by the Managing Committee and the General Body respectively. Though many societies are functioning well yet the Managing Committees of some Societies (20 approximately) misutilised the deposits or advanced loans without proper verification etc. It resulted into poor recovery of loans and ultimately, poor refund or non-refund of deposits to the depositors.

16. When the irregularities came to notice of the Department, the registration of new SETC and NATC cooperative societies was banned in the State in 2001.

17. In cases where Managing Committee members/employees of the Society misutilised the deposits, surcharge proceedings under Section 101 of the Haryana Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 ('the Act') are initiated against them. The recovery of funds of the society from the delinquents, is made by way of attachment and sale of their movable/immovable property, under Section 110 and 111 of the Act. The refund of deposits to the depositors is effected through sale of such attached properties.
