

State's revenue arrears at ₹14,904 crore: CAG

₹5,514.14 cr. has been outstanding for over 5 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has found that arrears of revenue as on March 31, 2018, on some principal heads of revenue in the State, amounted to ₹14,904.91 crore, of which ₹5,514.14 crore remains outstanding for more than five years.

The ₹5,514.14 crore pending in 11 departments included those of the Excise Department from 1952 onwards, the CAG said in its report that was tabled in the Assembly on Wednesday. Ineffective implementation of the systems for the realisation of arrears and pursuance by the department concerned for realising the arrears were the main reasons for the huge pendency.

The cases referred to the government for write off

(₹158.94 crore) were also not being pursued by the departments concerned. An analysis of the arrears of revenue that were under various stages of collection revealed that the arrears pending collection on March 31, 2018, included collection stayed by authorities at various stages on some principal heads of revenue.

An amount of ₹3,748.36 crore was pending under stay, which was 29.88% of the total arrears amount. The CAG asked the departments to take action to vacate the stay and realise the amount.

During the year, the CAG found that the Revenue and Disaster Management Department cleared 11,148 out of 13,015 arrears cases of building tax and 337 out of 1,449 cases of plantation tax. In the State Goods and Ser-

vices Tax Department, the clearance of arrears in assessments was 16,294 out of 29,032 cases.

The total revenue receipts of the government for the year 2017-18 amounted to ₹83,020.14 crore against ₹75,611.72 crore for the previous year. Of this, 69% was raised by the State through tax revenue (₹11,199.61 crore). The balance 31% was receipt from the Centre as State's share of divisible taxes (₹16,833.08 crore) and grants-in-aid (₹8,527.84 crore).

The test check by the CAG of the records of 445 units of Sales Tax, VAT, GST, State Excise, Motor Vehicles and other departmental offices for the year 2017-18 showed under-assessment, short levy and loss of revenue aggregating ₹1,583.49 crore in 2,281 cases.