

Chapter X Ministry of Information and Communications

The Royal Audit Authority during the year had issued 6 inspection reports of agencies under the Ministry of Information & Communications. The following officials headed the Ministry and departments under it during the year 2004:

Sl.No.	Name of official	Designation
1.	Lyonpo Leki Dorji	Minister
2.	Dasho Tashi Phuntsog	Secretary
3.	Nima Wangdi	Director, Road Safety & Transport Authority
4.	Thinley Dorji	Director, Bhutan Communication Authority
5.	Phala Dorji	Director, Department of Civil Aviation.
6.	Ugyen Nima	Deputy Secretary, Administration & Finance Division.

The following table exhibits the summary of the findings in a consolidated form:

Table 1.29 showing the summary of observations by category code and the amount involved.

Sl.No.	Observations in brief	Amount (Nu. Million)	%	Category code
1.	Outstanding advances	0.894	96.44	1
2.	Outstanding revenue	0.033	3.56	2
3.	Non adherence to rules and regulations	0.000	0.00	16
4.	Failure of emission test for new vehicles	0.000	0.00	16
	Total	0.927	100.00	

Major findings:

1. Outstanding advances – Nu. 0.894 million

Some of the agencies under the Ministry of Information & Communications had not adjusted the advances against its officials and suppliers as shown in the table below:

Table 1.30 showing agencies which had not adjusted the advances.

Sl. No.	Agency	Amount (Nu. Million)
1.	Road Safety & Transport Authority, HQ	0.020
2.	Ministry of Communications	0.755
3.	Department of Civil Aviation	0.119
	Total	0.894

Auditee's response: *RSTA, Headquarter submitted that the advances are in the process of being adjusted while some are being processed for written off.*

The Ministry submitted that efforts are being made to settle the outstanding advances.

The Department submitted that the outstanding advances would be adjusted from the salary of the individual.

Who is accountable?: *The outstanding advance should be adjusted or deposited into the Audit Recoveries Account with commercial interest of 16% p.a. The accountability is fixed on Ugyen Nima, Dy. Secretary and Namgay Wangmo, Accountant, RSTA, HQ, Pem Tshewang, Dy. Secretary MoWHS & Phala Dorji, Director and Kuenzang Lhendup, Accountant, Department of Civil Aviation.*

2. Non-compliance to Emission Test

2A. Non-adherence to Rules & Regulations

It was found out that many of the vehicles had not undergone emission tests as per the Section 45 of Chapter I of the Road Safety & Transport Regulations 1999 where it states that “a motor

vehicle must undergo a test of emission once every year and the driver or the owner must produce it on demand by an authorized person or a police officer”. The year wise registration of vehicles undergone emission test and the balance of vehicle yet to undergo emission tests are detailed below:

Sl. No.	Year	No. of registered vehicle	No. of vehicles undergone test	No. of vehicles yet to undergo test	% of vehicles undergone test
1.	2002	14360	7429	6931	51.73%
2.	2003	14643	9509	5134	64.93%
3.	2004	-	5429	-	-

Note: Sl. No. 2 includes 321 earthmovers and 388 VIP vehicles

It shows that almost half the vehicle population had not undergone emission tests. Therefore expenditure made on account of purchase of stickers etc. were unfruitful besides failing to achieve the very objective of controlling vehicle emissions.

Auditee's response: *RSTA had informed that it has started conducting emission tests for all vehicles that emits smokes including earthmovers and assured that all vehicles will henceforth undergo emission tests.*

Who is accountable?: *The accountability to ensure emission testing of all vehicles is fixed on the Director, RSTA.*

2B. Failure of emission test for new vehicles

Emission tests were conducted with the aim to import better quality of vehicles. However, it was noted that new vehicles of different make of 2003 and 2004 model had failed the emission test. It was not understood whether the new model vehicles had manufacturing defects or the testing equipment were defective. It was noted that almost all vehicles of old model had passed the emission test. As such no concrete opinion could be formed on such huge variation in the result, which needs to be justified by RSTA.

Auditee's response: *RSTA submitted that auto emission is a new concept in Bhutan, which requires trained and experienced manpower to do proper analysis of the result and RSTA staffs had undergone a very short training course for one week on the “operation of the equipment”. RSTA was of the opinion that in reality it is always not the case that new vehicles would have better test results, as test results would also depend on the condition of the vehicle, temperature of the engine, altitude tuning, fuel quality, condition of oil filters, air filter elements at the time of testing. RSTA has assured to monitor and create awareness among the owners of new vehicles.*

Who is accountable?: *It may be pointed out it is a futile exercise to subject vehicles to emission tests if quality import is not ensured at the entry of new vehicles into the Kingdom as in some nations. Director is held accountable to effectively monitor the problems and create awareness among people to take remedial measures.*

3. Outstanding revenue – Nu. 0.033 million

The Road Safety and Transport Authority, Samdrupjongkhar had an outstanding amount of Nu. 0.033 million accrued on account of motor vehicle renewal/ registration fees, remained uncollected from the owners and custodians of vehicles.

Auditee's response: *The management submitted that the outstanding amount pertained to the vehicle owners who have not reported to the Regional Office at*

Samdrupjongkhar and that they would have updated and renewed their documents in other Regional and Base offices. It further stated that they have asked all the regional offices to send the confirmations so as to update the records.

**Who is
accountable?:**

Proper confirmation system should be put in place to ascertain the details of vehicle renewal fees collected by other regional offices of RSTA. Till proper reconciliation is carried out and overdue amounts collected with penalty Norbu Jamtsho, Sr. MVI and Thinlay Namgay, RTO are held accountable.