

**Mahamaheem's Speech on 150th Year
Celebration of The Indian Audit And Accounts
of Department on 16-11-2010 at Allahabad**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very happy to be here for the inauguration of 150th year celebrations of the institution of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

The architects of our Constitution visualized the CAG as an important institution in our democratic set up. As an impartial and independent evaluator of the financial system of the Government, its role was to infuse accountability in the governance framework.

The institution of the CAG has had a distinguished history in India. Its role since independence in ensuring transparency, accountability and probity, which are keystones of people centric governance, have been widely recognized and appreciated.

Public Audit in India has played a key role in improving the accountability of the executive and in strengthening our democratic system of Government. By focussing on specific instances of waste and mismanagement as well as on Government programmes that fail to deliver the desired results, Public Audit contributes to the improvement of public policy and delivery of public services.

The CAG has been playing a very significant role and is the Audit for UN agencies like World Health Organization and Food & Agriculture Organization.

It is indeed heartening that such an old institution is making efforts to change with times so as to become an active contributor to the cause of good governance in the country. The shift in emphasis of the CAG from a purely rule and transaction based audit to performance audit is noteworthy. The performance audit of various schemes of the Government of India as well as of our state has provided valuable pointers to the government to further improve the impact of our development

schemes. I would like the institution of CAG to further focus its attention on the impact the social sector schemes have had on the common man and not just assess the physical and financial implementation of the schemes. The aim of the audit should be to add value through constructive recommendations for improving performance and accountability.

By effective and timely audit of the PANCHAYTI RAJ institutions the CAG can greatly contribute to make the grassroot governance more effective. The CAG can support these bodies in financial accountability by working out a simple framework for audit purposes. Sometimes, it happens that due to

lack of full comprehension of issues and financial properties, the representatives are simply made to put their thumb impressions on documents and, later they find themselves in difficult situations. The CAG should look at how these representatives can be acquainted with proper accounting procedure, by sensitizing local audit teams to contribute to capacity building.

I know that the tasks of your department are increasingly getting more difficult due to the complexities of the accountability structure. You have to ensure that the methods and techniques you devise

to enforce accountability compare with the best in the world.

‘Integrity’ and ‘Independence’ are the core values that have helped the CAG gain all-round credibility. The global community also reposes confidence in you in bids for international audit. You have benchmarked yourself with the best and I compliment all those working in the system, who have made it possible.

On this historic occasion, I greet all of you and convey through you my greetings to all the officers and employees of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department. I am very happy to see that the

department has used this momentous occasion to further improve its responsiveness by providing facilities like single window clearance mechanism and the web based GPF account information. This would be of immense benefit to all its users.

With these words, I inaugurate the 150th year celebrations and wish the department well in all its efforts to achieve greater heights of efficiency and performance.

Thank You - Namaskar