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## **CMDA ducks audit to hide mismatches?**

Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority is apparently turning a blind eye towards its annual auditing and has not submitted files despite several reminders. The audit department has, however, brought out several irregularities in the functioning of the nodal planning agency.

The audit report, which was tabled in the assembly on Monday, highlights irregularities in filling up of posts, non-collection of infrastructure and amenities charges, development fee and premium charges besides non-submission of suit register for audit.

The report states that 786 audit objections involving `694.68 crore is pending settlement at the close of audit as on March 2011.

The report also states that despite several reminders to the finance and the accounts department, they did not produce it for verification.

As per the report, deposits and advances of `111.62 crore and `108.92 crore were pending, respectively at the end of 2011-12.

This was one of the reasons resulting in the government demanding an action taken report and status report on the pending audit paras with explanatory notes and inspection report to be filed within this week.

The report also highlights that CMDA has filled several temporary posts without any approval from the government. Even the age limit and qualifications were ignored in the appointment of assistant engineers and planning assistant Grade I in CMDA.

As per the CMDA service regulations, the age limit for appointment of assistant engineer is below 30 years but there were candidates above 30 and some did not have required qualifications.

The report also highlights that CMDA officials were sanctioned long-term loans and advances but the recovery never finds a mention in the service register.

