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**18.1 Overpayment of pensions – Rs 92 million**

Overpayments of pensions, which stood at some Rs 88.6 million as at 30 June 2016, were some Rs 91.9 million as at 30 June 2017. During 2016-17, new cases of overpayments were to the order of some Rs 41.1 million. Out of that amount, Rs 17.6 million and
Rs 16.4 million related to cases of Departures of beneficiaries overseas and to Deaths respectively. Overpayments in respect of these cases were as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Details**  | **Opening balance as at 01 July 2016****(Rs)** | **New cases****(Rs)** | **Total****(Rs)** | **Refund during the year****(Rs)** | **Percentage recovered** |
| Death  | 15,244,348 | 16,396,036 | 31,640,384 | 13,080,950 | 41 |
| Departure  | 38,085,445 | 17,584,177 | 55,669,622 | 13,757,774 | 25 |

Overpayment in above two cases continued to be on the increase each year due to recovery being only 41 per cent in respect of Death cases and 25 per cent regarding Departure cases.

It was reported at paragraph 19.2 of the Audit Report for the 18-month period 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2016 that amendments were brought to the Acts of two Public Bodies for the sharing of information in May 2015, and that, the information was not yet made available to the Ministry despite the amendments to legislations.

Travel data supplied by the Passport and Immigration Office (PIO) regarding Departure cases had to be sorted out and matched manually by the Ministry. In the absence of electronic matching of data of both PIO and of the Ministry, the tracking of beneficiaries’ movements overseas, avoiding and recoupment of overpayments had proved to be administratively difficult for the Ministry.

According to Ministry’s records, it was understood that the PIO was to have a new server operational by March 2017 for the purpose of electronic matching of data.

As of November 2017, the outcome was still unknown. Matching of data therefore continued to be done manually. Control over overpayments relating to departure would therefore continue to be difficult.

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