

PREFACE

The first edition of the List of Major and Minor Heads of Account of Central and Provincial Receipts and Disbursements was issued by the Auditor General of India in April, 1938. It was revised in April, 1962 & April, 1974 and issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India with the approval of the President, in exercise of the powers vested in him under Article 150 of the Constitution of India. Classification of transactions in Government Accounts on a function-cum-programme basis was introduced from 1st April, 1974. This functional classification had been evolved with the twin objectives of reflecting Government transactions in terms of functions, programmes and schemes and securing correspondence between accounting classification and Plan Heads of development.

With the divergence between Plan programmes and accounting classification having increased over the years and a need was felt to bring about a closer correlation between Plan Schemes and Account Heads. Accordingly, the Government of India constituted a Committee consisting of representatives of the Controller General of Accounts, the Budget Division, the Planning Commission and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India to review the existing accounting classification and rationalise the Heads of Accounts wherever required. The recommendations of the Committee were examined and accepted by Government on the advice of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and it was decided to give effect to the new accounting classification from 1st April, 1987. Accordingly, a revised edition was issued by the Controller General of Accounts, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, on the advice of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, in terms of Article 150 of the Constitution of India. In the new dispensation based on the recommendations of the empowered committee, the Code Numbers allotted to Major Heads have been changed from three digits to four digits to provide room for accommodating new functions, Also certain new sub-sectors have been introduced and a few Major Heads have been raised to the level of sub-sectors and Minor Heads to the level of Major Heads, because of their importance. Plan programmes have been provided at the Minor Head level, wherever possible, so that expenditure on Plan programmes can be extracted from the accounts directly. as and when they are evolved. All Heads of Accounts upto Minor Head level have been given numeric codes to facilitate the computer-based Financial Information System. This compilation was undertaken to provide a handy and easy to use handbook of the List of Major & Minor heads of accounts to various levels of practitioners of Public Finance involved in Financial Governance in various offices of Government of India as well as the State Government offices for better understanding and end use. It is also importantly designed to cater to the needs of the examinees of various examinations as a reference book.

The publication was motivated by support and guidance of Shri Hoveyda Abbas, IA&AS Accountant General, Audit, J&K. I am thankful to Shri R.K. Pandita, IA&AS & Shri A.M. Rather, IA&AS Dy Accountants General (Accounts & Entitlement) Indian Audit & Accounts Department who primarily oversee drawing of annual accounts of the Government of J&K and hence conversant with the subject. I am grateful to my guide Shri A.K. Dewani, former Director Budget, Ministry of Finance GOJ&K, who guided me through this project and also allowed me access to his authentic work done in this subject over the years. The publishers have shown a great trust in me and I am thankful to them. I dedicate this book to my grand children Amber aged 6 months and Shivansh aged 3 years who had joined me for holidaying but were disappointed as I could not join them due to my engagement on the project.

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