



MP Lokayukta Probes Scam in State Board

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh secondary education board is under scanner of the **state Lokayukta organisation** in connection with allegations of **irregularities in purchase of computers amounting to nearly Rs 100 crore.**

Key Points

- A complaint has been filed with the Lokayukta organization, citing major discrepancies in the purchase of **computer desktops, photocopiers, and UPS.**
 - The cost of each computer desktop was reported to be Rs 1,39,350, resulting in a total expenditure of approximately Rs 96.70 crore.
 - The department procured hardware for 4,519 cooperative societies, encompassing five devices per pack – desktop, multi-function device (photocopy, scan, print), UPS, VPN, and biometric. The total expenditure for this purchase amounted to about Rs 55 crore.
- It asserts that there is an evident financial irregularity of around Rs 45 crore in the hardware purchase.
- It highlights the inflated rates of the secondary education board's desktops, which were Rs 82,000 more per unit compared to the cooperative department's purchase.

Lokayukta Organisation

- The Lokayukta is the **Indian Parliamentary Ombudsman**, executed into power, through and for, each of the State Governments of India.
- It is an **anti-corruption authority**. The objective of the Lokayukta system in a state is to investigate grievances, allegations against public servants.
- The origin of the Lokayukta can be drawn to the **Ombudsman in Scandinavian countries.**
- In India, **the Administrative Reforms Commission, (1966-70)**, had recommended the creation of the Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayukta in the states.
 - Maharashtra was first in this respect with its **Lokayukta body established in 1971.**