SUBJECT - AUDITING & ASSURANCE

LECTURE- 1

{NATURE, OBJECTIVE, AND SCOPE OF AUDIT }

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DEFINITION OF AUDITING

The term auditing has been defined by different authorities.

1. Spicer and Pegler: "Auditing is such an examination of books of accounts and vouchers of business, as will enable the auditors to satisfy himself that the balance sheet is properly drawn up, so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the business and that the profit and loss account gives true and fair view of the profit/loss for the financial period, according to the best of information and explanation given to him and as shown by the books; and if not, in what respect he is not satisfied."

2. Prof. L.R.Dicksee. "auditing is an examination of accounting records undertaken with a view to establish whether they correctly and completely reflect the transactions to which they relate.

3 The book "an introduction to India Government accounts and audit" "issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, defines audit “an instrument of financial control. It acts as a safeguard on behalf of the proprietor (whether an individual or group of persons) against extravagance, carelessness or fraud on the part of the proprietor's agents or servants in the realization and utilisation of the money or other assets and it ensures on the proprietor's behalf that the accounts maintained truly represent facts and that the expenditure has been incurred with due regularity and propriety. The agency employed for this purpose is called an auditor."

FEATURES OF AUDIT

1. Audit is a systematic and scientific examination of the books of accounts of a business;

2. Audit is undertaken by an independent person or body of persons who are duly qualified for the job.

3. Audit is a verification of the results shown by the profit and loss account and the state of affairs as shown by the balance sheet.

4. Audit is a critical review of the system of accounting and internal control.

5, Audit is done with the help of vouchers, documents, information and explanations received from the authorities.

6 . The auditor has to satisfy himself with the authenticity of the financial statements and report that they exhibit a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the concern.

7, The auditor has to inspect, compare, check, review, scrutinize the Vouchers supporting the transactions and examine correspondence, minute books of share holders, directors, Memorandum of Association and Articles of association etc., in order to establish correctness of the books of accounts.

OBJECTIVES OF AUDITING

There are two main objectives of auditing. The primary objective and the secondary or incidental objective.

A . Primary objective – as per Section 227 of the Companies Act 1956, the primary duty (objective) of the auditor is to report to the owners whether the balance sheet gives a true and fair view of the Company's state of affairs and the profit and loss A/c gives a correct figure of profit of loss for the financial year.

B. Secondary objective – it is also called the incidental objective as it is incidental to the satisfaction of the main objective. The incidental objective of auditing are:

i. Detection and prevention of Frauds, and

ii. Detection and prevention of Errors.

Detection of material frauds and errors as an incidental objective of independent financial auditing flows from the main objective of determining whether or not the financial statements give a true and fair view. As the Statement on auditing Practices issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India states, an auditor should bear in mind the possibility of the existence of frauds or errors in the accounts under audit since they may cause the financial position to be mis-stated. Fraud refers to intentional misrepresentation of financial information with the intention to deceive. Frauds can take place in the form of manipulation of accounts, misappropriation of cash and misappropriation of goods. It is of great importance for the auditor to detect any frauds, and prevent their recurrence. Errors refer to unintentional mistake in the financial information arising on account of ignorance of accounting principles i.e. principle errors, or error arising out of negligence of accounting staff i.e. Clerical errors.