COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (2022-2023)

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

127

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH REPORT

[Action-taken by the Ministry of Science and Technology (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their Sixty-Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)]

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 03.04.2023)



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT NEW DELHI March,2023/ Chaitra, 1945 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (2022-2023)

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Shri Girish Chandra

Chairperson

MEMBERS

- 2. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
- 3. Dr. A. Chellakumar
- 4. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
- 5. Shri Choudhury Mohan Jatua
- 6. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
- 7. Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe
- 8. Shri Bharat Ram Margani
- 9. Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal
- 10. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
- 11. Shri T.N. Prathapan
- 12. Shri Sellaperumal Ramalingam
- 13. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
- 14. Shri Devendrappa Y
- 15. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav

SECRETARIAT

- 1. Shri Vinay Kumar Mohan Joint Secretary _ 2. Shri Naval K. Verma Director _ Additional Director _
- 3. Shri Uttam Chand Bhardwaj

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this One Hundred and Twenty Seventh Report on the action-taken by the Ministry of Science & Technology (Department of Scientific & Industrial Research) on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their Sixty-Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

2. The Sixty-Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 17.12.2021. The Ministry of Science & Technology (Department of Scientific & Industrial Research) furnished their replies on 22.09.2022 indicating the action taken on the observations/recommendations contained in the Sixty-Ninth Report. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 29.03.2023.

3. The Committee place on record their appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

4. The Observation/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters at the end of the Report.

New Delhi <u>29 March, 2023</u> Chaitra 8, 1945 (Saka) Girish Chandra Chairperson Committee on Papers Laid on the Table Lok Sabha

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (2022-2023), LOK SABHA

This Report of the Committee deals with the action-taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2022-2023) in its Sixty-Ninth Report (17th Lok Sabha) which dealt with the matter of the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), under the administrative control of the Ministry of Science & Technology (Department of Scientific & Industrial and which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 17.12.2021.

The Committee had made five Observations/Recommendations in its Sixty-Ninth 2. (17th action-taken Sabha). The replies Report Lok to all the five Observations/Recommendations were received from the Government on 22nd September, 2022. The reply showing the action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Sixty-Ninth Report (17th Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix-I.

The Committee in its Sixty-Ninth Report examined the reasons for delay in 3. laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), for the years 2012-13 to 2019-20 and are satisfied to note that the Ministry/CSIR assures that the recommendations of the Committee are being taken on highest priority and very seriously. The Committee appreciate the efforts of the Ministry/CSIR that they have obtained permission of the Society chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, to convene future Society meetings to chaired by the Vice-President of the Society, in case of nonavailability of the President of the Society to ensure timely laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts on the Table of the House. However, despite all these efforts made by the CSIR, the Committee observe that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of CSIR for 2020-2021 have not been laid before the Lok Sabha within the stipulated date of 31 December, 2021, by the Ministry. This raises a doubt over the effectiveness of the efforts, reportedly made by both the Ministry and the CSIR. The Committee, therefore, recommend to the Ministry of Science & Technology (Department of Scientific & Industrial Research) to lay the requisite documents of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-CSIR for the years 2020-21* and 2021-22* at the earliest and also to ensure that in future, the requisite documents of not only the CSIR, but all other organizations under its administrative control are laid before the Lok Sabha within the stipulated time <u>i.e.</u> by the 31^{st} December of respective financial year.

New Delhi <u>29 March, 2023</u> Chaitra 8, 1945 (Saka)

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Girish Chandra Chairperson Committee on Papers Laid on the Table Lok Sabha

*The requisite documents for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22 have been laid on 29.03.2023

(Recommendation Serial No.17)

The Committee note that the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) have not complied with the time frame stipulated in the recommendations of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table contained in Paras 1.16 and 3.5 of its First Report (5th Lok Sabha), Paras 4.16 and 4.18 of Second Reports of 5th Lok Sabha and Paras 1.12 and 2.6 to 3.8 of Second Report of 6th Lok Sabha presented to the House on 8.3.1976, 12.5.1976 and 22.12.1977 respectively regarding laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts on the Table of the House within nine months from the closure of the accounting year. The documents of the CSIR for the years 2012-13 to 2017-18 have been laid on the Table of the House with delays ranging from four year and nine months to one year and seven months. The Committee also note that in all the years mentioned above, the Council did not lay documents on time. The Committee note that the Council took more than four years' time for laying the documents on the Table of the House for the year 2014-15, which were required to be laid within nine months of the closure of the financial year.

Reply of the Government:

CSIR has accorded highest priority in matters related to the Parliament. Post reconstitution of the CSIR Society Members, the meeting of the CSIR Society was held on 14th February, 2020 and on 04th June, 2021, in which the pending Annual Reports have been approved and subsequently placed before the Parliament. CSIR had also obtained the permission of the Society chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to convene future Society meeting chaired by the Vice-President of the Society, in case of non-availability of the President of the Society in order to avoid delays.

This measure has been taken to avoid delays in future with laying of Reports and ensure timely laying of reports.

CSIR assures the Committee that the comments and suggestions are being taken on highest priority and very seriously.

(Recommendation Serial No18)

While examining the reasons for delays in laying of the documents of the CSIR, the Committee note that an undue delay had occurred because the society did not meet for the four consecutive years i.e. 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18-19. The Committee observe that finally the Society met on 14th February, 2020 and thereafter the documents of these years were laid on 22nd September, 2020 on the Table of the House. The Committee view it seriously and ask the Ministry to devise a new mechanism that would improve the functioning of the approval of these documents of the CSIR.

Reply of the Government:

It is submitted to the Hon'ble Committee that CSIR has taken a dispensation from Society, in its meeting held on 14.02.2020, to convene Society meeting, in future, to be chaired by Hon'ble Vice-President to approve Annual Report and Annual Accounts to enable CSIR to place these on the Table of the Parliament.

The recommendations of the Hon'ble Committee have been taken on highest priority.

(Recommendation Serial No19)

The Committee further note that the Reports have been delayed by 31 months, 19 months, 57 months, 45 months, 33 months and 21 months. The Committee express its regret that such an esteemed Institute which is chaired by the Prime Minister of India, submitted its reports to the Parliament with such long delays.

Reply of the Government:

CSIR has noted the observations of Hon'ble Committee on delayed submissions of Annual Reports and Annual Accounts.

During the mentioned years, the delays happened due to unavoidable circumstances. CSIR has taken up the issue very seriously and has obtained the permission of the Society chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, to convene future Society meetings chaired by the Vice-President of the Society to ensure timely laying of the Annual Reports and Annual Accounts before the Table of both the Houses of the Parliament and comply with the timeline.

(Recommendation Serial No20)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Science and Technology had apparently not been able to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure laying of documents of the CSIR on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament. The Committee recommend that the Ministry must make all-out efforts to ensure that henceforth documents of the CSIR from 2018-19 onwards are laid within stipulated time.

Reply of the Government:

It is submitted to the Hon'ble Committee that CSIR has taken dispensation from Society, in its meeting held on 14.02.2020 to convene Society meeting, in future, to be chaired by Hon'ble Vice-President to approve Annual Report and Annual Accounts to enable CSIR to place these on the table of the Parliament. The recommendations of the Hon'ble Committee have been taken on highest priority.

The Annual Report and the Annual Accounts of 2018-19 and 2019-20 was placed in Rajya Sabha on 9th December, 2021. The Annual Report and the Annual Accounts for the 2018-19 was placed in the Lok Sabha on 1st December, 2021 and for 2019-20 on 15th December, 2021.

(Recommendation Serial No21)

The Committee observe that for laying the document of the Institute on time, someone should be made accountable and Society should meet every year. The Committee direct the Council that efforts should be made to present the Reports in time before Parliament and hope that the two pending Reports for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 would be presented to the House at the earliest.

Reply of the Government:

Post re-constitution of the CSIR Society, the CSIR Society meeting were held on 14th February, 2020 and 4th June, 2021, in which the Annual Report/Annual Accounts for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 had been approved and subsequently placed before the Parliament. The Annual Report and Annual Accounts for 2018-19 and 2019-20 was placed in Rajya Sabha on 9th December, 2021 and the Annual Report and Annual Account for 2018-19 was placed in Lok Sabha on 1st December, 2021 and for 2019-20 on 15th December, 2021.

The Competent Authority has nominated Head, Science Communication and Dissemination Directorate (SCDD), CSIR and Financial Adviser, CSIR as responsible Officers fortimely preparation and submission of Annual Reports and Annual Accounts respectively.

Appendix-II

The Extracts of the Minutes of the fourth sitting of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2022-2023) held on 29.03.2023.

Committee On Papers Laid On The Table (2022-23)

The Committee sat on Thursday, 29th March, 2023 from 15:00 hours to 16:00 hours in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Girish Chandra

Chairperson

Members (Lok Sabha)

- 2. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
- 3. Shri Choudhury Mohan Jatua
- 4. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
- 5. Shri T.N. Prathapan

Secretariat

1.	Shri Vinay Kumar Mohan	-	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Naval K. Verma	-	Director
3.	Shri Uttam Chand Bharadwaj	-	Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the sitting and apprised them of the agenda.

4. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following six draft Reports and six Action taken Reports for consideration and adoption:-

1.	X	X	X	X	x;
2.	X	X	X	X	x;
3.	X	X	X	X	x;
4.	x	X	x	X	x;

5.	Х	X	Х	X	x;
6.	х	X	X	X	x;
7.	X	X	X	X	x.
8.	X	X	X	X	x;
9.	х	X	X	X	x;

10. Action-taken by the Ministry of Science and Technology (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their 69th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
11. x x x x x x x

12. x x x x x

The above mentioned six Reports and six Action Taken Reports were unanimously adopted by the Committee and the Chairperson was authorized by the Committee to finalize and present Reports to the Lok Sabha.

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(A Copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting is kept.)

The Committee then adjourned.
