

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

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

128

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY EIGHTH REPORT

[Action-taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their Seventy-Fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Nalanda University, Bihar under the administrative control of Ministry of External Affairs]

(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)

Shri Girish Chandra

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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
3. Shri Uttam Chand Bhardwaj - Additional Director

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 eighth Report on the action-taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their Seventy-Fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Nalanda University, Bihar under the administrative control of Ministry of External Affairs.

2. The Seventy-Fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 16.3.2022. The Ministry of External Affairs furnished their replies on 19.10.2022 indicating the action taken on the observations/recommendations contained in the Seventy-Fifth 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
29 March, 2023
Chaitra 8, 1945 (Saka)

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

REPORT

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 Seventy-Fifth Report (17th Lok Sabha) which was presented to Lok Sabha on 16.3.2022. The Seventy-Fifth Report (17th Lok Sabha) dealt with the matter of the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Nalanda University, Bihar under the administrative control of Ministry of External Affairs for the years 2015-16 to 2019-20.

2. The Committee had made five Observations/Recommendations in its Seventy-Fifth Report (17th Lok Sabha). The action-taken replies to all the five Observations/Recommendations were received from the Government on 20 October, 2022. The reply showing the action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Seventy-Fifth Report (17th Lok Sabha) is given in **Appendix-I**.

3. **The Committee in its Seventy-Fifth Report examined the reasons for delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Nalanda University, Bihar for the years 2015-16 to 2019-20. The Government has assured that it has duly noted the views of the Hon'ble Committee and will make effort for timely laying of the reports. However, the Committee directs the Ministry of External Affairs to strictly monitor and intervene in the matter pertaining to constitution of new Governing Board, which has not be reconstituted since November, 2019 and had been the major reason for delay in laying of documents of Nalanda University. As new Governing Board has still not been re-constituted, the Committee fail to understand how the Ministry of External Affairs laid the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2020-21 on the Table of Lok Sabha on 5 August, 2022.**

4. The Committee note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Nalanda University for the years 2019-20 and 2020-2021 have not been laid within the stipulated date i.e on 31st December, of respective years. The Committee, therefore, recommend to the Ministry of External Affairs to ensure that the pending requisite documents of the Nalanda University, Bihar are laid without any further delay. The Committee also recommend that, in future, documents of not only Nalanda University, Bihar but the requisite documents of all other organizations under its administrative control are also laid before the Lok Sabha within the stipulated time i.e. by the 31st December of respective financial year.

New Delhi
29 March, 2023
Chaitra 8, 1945 (Saka)

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

**STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS
CONTAINED IN THE SEVENTY-FIFTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON
THE TABLE OF (LOK SABHA), SEVENTHEENTH LOK SABHA**

The Committee note that the Ministry of External Affairs and Nalanda University have not adhered to the provisions of Rule 212 (3) of the General Financial Rules of the Government of India, 2005, for laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Nalanda University on the Table of the House within nine months of the closure of the accounting year. The Committee are highly disappointed to note that the Ministry of External Affairs has not adhered to the stipulated time frame in laying of these documents of the Nalanda University for years 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-2019, which were laid on the Table of the House with delays ranging from 06 months to 20 months. The Committee also note that the documents for the year 2019-20, which were required to be laid on the Table of the House by 31st December, 2020, are yet to be laid

(Recommendation 15)

Reply:

As per Section 31 and 32 of Nalanda University Act, 2010, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Nalanda University (NU) have to be laid before both the Houses of the Parliament. As per 212 (3) of the General Financial Rules of the Government of India, 2005, these reports have to be laid within nine months of the closure of the accounting year.

The Ministry submits that the said Reports for FY 2019-20, have been laid before Parliament on the dates - 17/12/2021 (Lok Sabha) and 16/12/2021 (Rajya Sabha). For FY 2020-21, the Reports have been laid before Parliament on the dates - 05/08/2022 (Lok Sabha) and 04/08/2022 (Rajya Sabha).

Ministry has taken note of the views of the Hon'ble Committee and will make efforts for timely laying of the reports.

[File No. AA/Parl/125/87/2022 dated 17/10/2022]

While examining the reasons for delays of 6 months to 20 months in laying the documents of the Nalanda University, the Committee are dismayed to note that undue delay had occurred at the initial stage of the closure of the annual accounts of the University. A delay ranging from 10 to 21 months has occurred in finalization of annual accounts after closure of the accounting years. The delay has been further compounded due to non- convening of the meeting of the Governing Board at regular intervals and lack of coordination among the participating countries, which could have been avoided by putting SOPs in place. The Committee expressed its serious concern over these delays.

(Recommendation 16)

Reply:

The Ministry accords highest priority to the statutory requirement of laying of reports before the House within the prescribed time limit. However, there were extraneous circumstances for the delay in submission of the report between the years 2015-21. There were procedural difficulties such as scheduling constraints of statutory bodies like the Finance Committee and the Governing Board which approved the Annual Report and the Audited Accounts. This was compounded further by the time involved in auditing of accounts by the C&AG and compilation of the final audit report.

During the initial years of its establishment, the internal working of Nalanda University was not consolidated enough due to various factors and the cumulative effect of the slow progress at each stage contributed to the delay in laying of the reports before the Parliament.

For the years, 2019-21, the delays were also effected by the lack of Governing Board. The term of the previous Governing Board ended in November 2019 and since then, has not been reconstituted. The primary constraint in constitution of the Governing Board is due to the statutory provision of financial contribution by foreign members, which is tied to its membership. This has also affected in consolidating the institutional structures of the University. The Ministry is comprehensively examining these institutional issues of Nalanda University for timely resolution.

Ministry has taken note of the views of the Hon'ble Committee and will make efforts for timely laying of the reports.

[File No. AA/Parl/125/87/2022 dated 17/10/2022]

Further, the Ministry of External Affairs, has apparently not been able to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure laying of documents of the Nalanda University on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament within the stipulated time. The Ministry must make all out efforts to ensure that henceforth these documents are laid within the stipulated time. The Committee should be apprised of the compliance of these directions and also measures taken by the Ministry to avoid delays in future.

(Recommendation 17)

Reply:

The Ministry, through its representation in the Governing Board and Finance Committee has oversight mechanism over compilation of annual reports and audited accounts. It takes notes of the recommendations of the Committee and shall advise the University to adhere to the statutory provisions in submitting the reports.

Ministry has taken note of the views of the Hon'ble Committee and will make efforts for timely laying of the reports.

[File No. AA/Parl/125/87/2022 dated 17/10/2022]

The Committee also impress upon the Ministry that if due to some unavoidable reasons, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Nalanda University could not be laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated time, a statement explaining the reasons as to why the requisite documents could not be laid within the prescribed period, should be laid on the Table of the House within 30 days or as soon as the House meets, whichever is later.

(Recommendation 18)

Reply:

The Ministry duly takes note of this recommendation, and will adhere to the stipulation of submitting a statement explaining reasons of delay if the reports are not laid within the prescribed period.

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. x x x x x;
6. x x x x x;
7. x x x x x.
8. x x x x x;
9. x x x x x;
10. x x x x x

11. Action-taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their 75th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Nalanda University, Bihar under the administrative control of Ministry of External Affairs; and

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.
