

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2022-23)**

121

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIRST REPORT

[Delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), U.T. Chandigarh under the administrative control of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice)]

(Presented 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
(2022-23)

Shri Girish Chandra - **Chairperson**

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3. Dr. A. Chellakumar
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SECRETARIAT

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

INTRODUCTION

I, Chairperson of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2022-23), having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this 121st Report in respect of the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), U.T. Chandigarh under the administrative control of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice).

2. In terms of the recommendations of the First Report (5th Lok Sabha) of the Committee, presented to the House on 8th March, 1976 and the Second Report (5th Lok Sabha) of the Committee, presented to the House on 12th May, 1976 and the Second Report (6th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, presented to the House on 22nd December, 1977, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the all Statutory/Autonomous Institutes, Companies, Public Undertakings, Corporations, Joint Ventures, Societies, etc. are required to be laid on the Table of the House within nine months of the closure of accounting year i.e., by 31st December.

3. The scrutiny by the Committee revealed that the requisite documents of the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), U.T. Chandigarh for 2008-09 to 2020-21 were presented to Lok Sabha with continuous delays. The Committee considered the matter of delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), U.T. Chandigarh and took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice) at their sitting held on 28th March, 2022.

4. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 29.03.2023.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), U.T. Chandigarh and the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice), Government of India for furnishing the written replies and other material/information for being placed before the Committee.

6. 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.

7. The Observations/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**

Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

Report

Delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the (i) State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) and (ii) District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), U.T. Chandigarh under the administrative control of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice)

The State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) and the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), U.T. Chandigarh were established in the year 1998.

Chandigarh being one of the Union Territory of India, the State Legal Services Authority and the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), U.T. Chandigarh was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 which came into force w.e.f. 19th January 1998.

In order to achieve aims and objective of the Act and to settle the disputes between the parties amicably and expeditiously, Permanent Lok Adalat was established in the District Courts Complex, Chandigarh on 07.08.1998, which happened to be First Permanent Lok Adalat in the country.

Section 22 (B) of Chapter VI (A) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 provides for establishment of Permanent Lok Adalats in respect of Public Utility Services. In Union Territory of Chandigarh, Permanent Lok Adalat for Public Utility Services was established on 09.11.2003.

2. On being enquired about the Act, Rule or Regulation under which the Papers of these organizations are being laid on the table of the House, the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice), in their written reply submitted as under: -

“Section 18 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 under which the Papers of the DLSA and SLSA are being laid on the Table of the House is as below:

18. Accounts and audit.—(1) The Central Authority, State Authority, or the District Authority (hereinafter referred to in this section as ‘the Authority’), as the case may be, shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts including the income and expenditure account and the balance-sheet in such form and in such manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

(2) The accounts of the Authorities shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at such intervals as may be specified by him and any expenditure incurred in connection with such audit shall be payable by the Authority concerned to the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

(3) The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and any other person appointed by him in connection with the auditing of the accounts of an Authority under this Act shall have the same rights and privileges and authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India has in connection with the auditing of the Government accounts and, in particular, shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers and to inspect any of the offices of the Authorities under this Act.

(4) The accounts of the Authorities, as certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India or any other person appointed by him in this behalf together with the audit report thereon, shall be forwarded annually by the Authorities to the Central Government or the State Governments, as the case may be."

3. The Committee asked the Ministry to state the provision and time for laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the SLSA and DLSA on the Table of the House. The Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice), in its written reply has submitted as that: -

"Section 18 (5) & (6) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 provides:

(5) The Central Government shall cause the accounts and the audit report received by it under sub-section (4) to be laid, as soon as may be after they are received, before each House of Parliament.

(6) The State Government shall cause the accounts and the audit report received by it under sub-section (4) to be laid, as soon as may be after they are received, before the State Legislature."

4. The State Legal Services Authority (SLSA), U.T. Chandigarh has received Grant-in-Aid from NALSA for Legal Activity and Grant-in-Aid received from the Chandigarh Administration for Administrative & Salary Expenses. The detail of Grant-in-Aid received from the NALSA as well as received from the Chandigarh Administration for last ten financial years are as under:-

S. No.	Financial year	Grant In Aid from NALSA	Grant In Aid from Chandigarh Administration	Total Grant -In-Aid
1	2011-2012	₹ 60,00,000	₹ 1,10,00,000	₹ 1,70,00,000
2	2012-2013	₹ 30,00,000	₹ 1,45,00,000	₹ 1,75,00,000
3	2013-2014	₹ 1,22,00,000	₹ 1,90,00,000	₹ 3,12,00,000
4	2014-2015	₹ 97,00,000	₹ 2,14,00,000	₹ 3,11,00,000
5	2015-2016	₹ 50,00,000	₹ 2,02,00,000	₹ 2,52,00,000
6	2016-2017	₹ 1,00,00,000	₹ 2,30,00,000	₹ 3,30,00,000
7	2017-2018	₹ 2,00,00,000	₹ 2,90,00,000	₹ 4,90,00,000
8	2018-2019	₹ 0	₹ 3,19,20,000	₹ 3,19,20,000
9	2019-2020	₹ 1,00,00,000	₹ 3,45,00,000	₹ 4,45,00,000
10	2020-2021	₹ 84,00,000	₹ 4,87,79,000	₹ 5,71,79,000

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), U.T. Chandigarh has received Grant-in-Aid from NALSA for Legal Activity from the year 2017-18 and Grant-in-Aid received from the Chandigarh Administration for Administrative Expenses. The detail of Grant-in-Aid received from the NALSA as well as received from the Chandigarh Administration from 2017-18 are as under:-

S. No.	Financial year	Grant In Aid from NALSA	Grant In Aid from Chandigarh Administration	Total Grant -In-Aid
1	2017-2018	₹1,60,000	₹0	₹1,60,000/-
2	2018-2019	₹1,40,000	₹4,20,000	₹5,60,000/-
3	2019-2020	₹26,15,157	₹17,41,814	₹43,56,971/-
4	2020-2021	₹27,68,280	₹25,20,000	₹52,88,280/-

5. In terms of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (5th Lok Sabha) contained in the First Report presented to the House on 08 March, 1976; the Second Report, presented to the House on 12 May, 1976; and also the Second Report (6th Lok Sabha), presented to the House on 22nd December, 1977, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Organisations/Corporations/PSUs are required to be laid on the Table within 9 months of the closure of the accounting year. To comply with the requirement, a proper time schedule should be laid down for compilation of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts and their auditing. The Committee felt that normally a period of three months would be sufficient for compilation of the Audited Accounts and their submission for Audit; the next six months might be given for auditing of accounts, printing of the Report and sending it to Government for laying. If for any reason, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Organisations/Corporations/PSUs could not be laid within the prescribed period of nine months, the Ministry concerned should lay a statement within 30 days of the expiry of the aforesaid period or as soon as the House assembles, whichever is later, explaining the reasons as to why the documents could not be laid.

6. The Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, Lok Sabha scrutinized the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the SLSA and DLSA that were laid before the Parliament (Lok Sabha) by the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice). The examination of these paper revealed that the documents of SLSA and DLSA for the years from 1998-99 to 2019-2020 were laid on 17.12.2021 with delays of more than 21 years to 11 months and the documents for the year 2020-2021 had been laid on 25.03.2022 with delays of more than 02 months. The statement showing the actual dates of laying of the Annual Reports/Audited Accounts of the SLSA and DLSA, UT of Chandigarh alongwith the extent of delay is placed at **Appendix-I**.

7. The chronological sequence, as submitted by the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice), in respect of the finalization of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the SLSA and DLSA for the years from 1998-1999 to 2020-2021, is given in **Appendix-II**.

8. The Committee desired to know the reasons for the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the SLSA and DLSA for the years from 1998-1999 to 2020-2021. The Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice) in their written reply submitted as under: -

"Ministry of Law & Justice had released recurring grant-in-aid to the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi during the financial year 1998-99 to 2019-20 for implementation of legal aid programmes through Legal Services Institutions setup across the country.

Office of the Principal Director of Audit (Central), Chandigarh had audited the accounts of SLSA and DLSA, U.T. Chandigarh for the year 1998-99 to 2019-20. In 2011, Audit reports for the period 1997-98 to 2007-08 were sent by NALSA to Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice for placing before both the Houses of Parliament. Vide S.O. 1521(E) dated 10th June, 2013, the Subject "Legal Aid to Poor" was transferred to Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice. In 2016, it was confirmed from Department of Legal Affairs that the audited accounts of SLSA and DLSA UT Chandigarh for the years 1997-98 to 2007-08 had not been laid before the Parliament as those did not seem to have been received in their Department. Laying of reports for the years 2008-09 onwards was held up because of non-laying of reports prior to year 2008-09. After protracted efforts, Annual Report and Audit Report on the Annual Accounts of the SLSA and DLSA, U.T. Chandigarh for the year 1998-99 to 2019-20 were obtained and made ready for laying before both Houses of Parliament. Thereafter, the said reports were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 17.12.2021.

Annual Report and Accounts of the SLSA and DLSA, UT of Chandigarh together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts for the financial year 2020-21 will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha in Budget Session, 2022."

9. On being asked by the committee whether the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice) and the SLSA and DLSA have identified the stages in which delays have occurred during all these years and if so, how did the Ministry propose to curtail the same, the Ministry in their written reply submitted as under: -

"There was no intentional delay in submission of reports of Annual Accounts of SLSA and DLSA, U.T. Chandigarh and requisite annual reports and audited accounts of SLSA and DLSA would be submitted on time in future."

10. The Committee enquired from the Ministry how the issue of auditing of the accounts and finally timely receipt of the final Audit Reports from the Audit Authorities was dealt with by the Ministry. The Ministry in their written reply submitted as under :-

"The State Legal Services Authority (SLSA), U.T. Chandigarh has deputed Chartered Accountant for Internal Audit on quarterly basis. Further, Chandigarh Administration has also sanctioned a post of Section Officer for auditing the accounts of the Authority. The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), U.T. Chandigarh has also deputed Chartered Accountant for auditing the accounts."

11. The Committee asked the Ministry regarding the status of digitization and computerization of the process of accounting, to facilitate speedy and timely compilation of accounts. The Ministry in their written reply has submitted that :-

"The SLSA and DLSA, U.T. Chandigarh are using 'TALLY' and PFMS software for digitization and computerizing of accounting for speedy and timely compilation of accounts."

12. The Committee further enquired from the Ministry whether the DLSA and SLSA has any internal auditing mechanism to ensure timely compilation of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts and also to minimize the audit queries at the time of auditing of C&AG. The Ministry in their written reply submitted as under :-

"The SLSA, U.T. Chandigarh has deputed Chartered Accountant for Internal Audit on quarterly basis. The DLSA, U.T. Chandigarh has also deputed Chartered Accountant for Internal Audit."

13. The Committee then asked the Ministry as to whether there is any mechanism in the Ministry to monitor the progress of work in this regard and to ensure timely laying of the documents of SLSA and DLSA. The Ministry in their written reply has submitted that:-

"The Activities of the Authorities are being put up in the Annual General Meetings to monitor the progress of the work and the Authorities are forwarding the Annual Accounts alongwith Audit Report to the National Legal Services Authority."

14. The Committee asked the Ministry to furnish a note on the remedial measures to be taken both by the Ministry and the SLSA and DLSA to ensure timely laying of the documents before Parliament within the prescribed period of nine months from the closure of the Accounting Year. The Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice), in their written reply, submitted as under:-

"There was no intentional delay in submission of reports of Annual Accounts of SLSA and DLSA, U.T. Chandigarh and requisite annual reports and audited accounts of SLSA and DLSA would be submitted on time in future."

15. Consequently, in the quest to examine the reasons of delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of SLSA and DLSA for 1998-99 to 2019-2020 in detail the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (Lok Sabha) requested the representatives of the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice and the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), U.T. Chandigarh to appear and tender oral evidence before the Committee on 28.03.2022.

16. During the oral evidence, the representative of Ministry made the following submission:-

"..... Earlier, under the Allocation of Business Rules, legal aid to poor was a subject which was handled by the Department of Legal Affairs and not by the Department of Justice. But in 2013, the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules was changed and legal aid to poor was brought under the Department of Justice. Till then, what was happening was, whatever was coming from NALSA – since it was one common account – we were under the impression that it has to go to the Parliament, and it was being laid from time to time, as was required. It was only in 2018, when we got to know from the hon. Committee that we were defaulting. Even in respect of the UT administration, it has to be moved separately. When we readied our Papers, we realized that we cannot submit it before the Parliament, till prior to 2013 Papers are available with us. It is, at that point of time, that we tried to find out where it was, and then we realized that all the papers were submitted with the Department of Legal Affairs. We got the Papers from the Department of Legal Affairs, and the whole thing was submitted after that.

Now, we have completed Chandigarh, till 2020. We have laid it in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th of March, and in the Lok Sabha on the 25th of March, for the year 2020-21. I do admit that there has been a very very long delay on the part of the Department of Justice”.

To ensure timely laying of the requisite documents of the SLSA and DLSA, it was also apprised to the Committee that –

“..... After this, we have in fact taken it up with NALSA to work out an internal SoP so that we do not falter further. They have already put it up before hon. Justice Lalit for his approval so that in future this never happens.”

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It was also apprised to the Committee that the requisite documents of other Union Territories i.e. (i) Andaman and Nicobar Islands; (ii) Dadra & Nagar Haveli; (iii) Daman and Diu; (iv) Jammu and Kashmir; (v) Ladakh; (vi) Lakshadweep are also being complied for laying on the Table of the House.

Observation/Recommendations

17. The Committee note that the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice) and the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), U.T. Chandigarh have not adhered to 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 the of the Second Report (5th Lok Sabha) and Paras 1.12 and 2.6 to 3.8 of Second Report (6th Lok Sabha) presented to the House on 08.03.1976, 12.05.1976 and 22.12.1977 respectively, regarding laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts on the Table of the House. The mandatory requirement of laying the papers within nine months from the closure of the accounting year has not been complied with. The requisite documents of the SLSA and DLSA for the years from 1998-99 to 2019-20 were laid with delays from more than 21 years to 11 months and for the year 2020-2021, laid on 25.03.2022 with delay of approximately 3 months.

18. While examining the reasons for delays in laying the documents of the SLSA and DLSA, the Committee note that SLSA and DLSA are getting Grants-in-Aid from NALSA and the collective details are laid alongwith the Annual Reports and the Audited Accounts of NALSA on the Table of the House regularly. Therefore, the Ministry were under the impression that there was no need to lay the requisite documents of the SLSA and DLSA separately. However, in 2018, the Committee apprised the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice)/NALSA that the Annual Reports and the Audited Accounts of all SLSA/DLSA are also required to be laid on the Table of the House separately. Thereafter, they started the laying the requisite documents of the SLSA and DLSA Chandigarh. During the process of laying of the requisite documents of the DLSA and SLSA, the Department of Justice found that the requisite documents of the SLSA and DLSA for the years 1997-98 to 2007-08 were sent to the Department of Legal Affairs for placing before both the House of Parliament. However, the Department of Legal Affairs had not laid these documents on the Table of the House. In 2013, when the subject legal aid to poor, was brought under the Department of Justice from legal Affairs, the Department of Justice thereafter collected the requisite documents of the SLSA and DLSA from the Department of Legal Affairs and also for subsequent years from the DLSA and the SLSA for laying these documents on the Table of the House. After protracted efforts of the Department of Justice, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the SLSA and DLSA, U.T. Chandigarh for the years 1998-99 to 2019-20 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 17.12.2021 and for the year 2020-21 on 25.03.2022. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Department of Justice in regard to laying of the requisite documents of the SLSA and DLSA. However, the Committee desire to know the reasons for not fulfilling the statutory requirement as

section (5) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 so far, which clearly states that the requisite documents of the SLSA and DLSA are to be laid on both House of the Parliament.

The Committee also recommend to ascertain the reasons from the Department of Legal Affairs for not laying the requisite documents of the SLSA and DLSA for the year 1997-98 as it appears from the replies furnished by the Ministry that the documents for the year 1997-98 have not been laid on the Table of the House. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to lay the documents of the SLSA and DLSA for the year 1997-98 at the earliest. The Committee would like to be informed the efforts made by the Ministry in this regard.

19. It was also apprised to the Committee that the requisite documents of other Union Territories i.e. (i) Andaman and Nicobar Islands; (ii) Dadra & Nagar Haveli; (iii) Daman and Diu; (iv) Jammu and Kashmir; (v) Ladakh; (vi) Lakshadweep are also being complied for laying on the Table of the House. The Committee hope that the requisite documents of these Union Territories will be laid at the earliest.

20. The Committee also impress upon the Ministry that if due to some unavoidable reasons, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the SLSA and DLSA 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 convenes, whichever is later, whichever is later.

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

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

Appendix- I

Vide Para 6 of the Report

Statement showing dates of laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the (i) State Legal Services Authority and (ii) District Legal Services Authority, U.T. Chandigarh

Years	Due date	Date of laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts	Extent of delay
1998-1999	31.12.1999	17.12.2021	21 Years 11 Months 17 Days
1999-2000	31.12.2000	17.12.2021	20 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2000-2001	31.12.2001	17.12.2021	19 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2001-2002	31.12.2002	17.12.2021	18 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2002-2003	31.12.2003	17.12.2021	17 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2003-2004	31.12.2004	17.12.2021	16 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2004-2005	31.12.2005	17.12.2021	15 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2005-2006	31.12.2006	17.12.2021	14 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2006-2007	31.12.2007	17.12.2021	13 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2007-2008	31.12.2008	17.12.2021	12 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2008-2009	31.12.2009	17.12.2021	11 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2009-2010	31.12.2010	17.12.2021	10 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2010-2011	31.12.2011	17.12.2021	09 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2011-2012	31.12.2012	17.12.2021	08 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2012-2013	31.12.2013	17.12.2021	07 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2013-2014	31.12.2014	17.12.2021	06 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2014-2015	31.12.2015	17.12.2021	05 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2015-2016	31.12.2016	17.12.2021	04 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2016-2017	31.12.2017	17.12.2021	03 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2017-2018	31.12.2018	17.12.2021	02 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2018-2019	31.12.2019	17.12.2021	01 Years 11 Months 17 Days
2019-2020	31.12.2020	17.12.2021	11 Months 17 Days
2020-2021	31.12.2021	25.03.2022	02 Months 25 Days

	Time taken after the receipt of the final audit report	51 Days	638 Days	638 Days	638 Days	638 Days	638 Days	638 Days	638 Days	638 Days	638 Days	638 Days
12(xii)	The date on which documents were got approved from the Competent Authority	23-08-1999	25-05-2010	25-05-2010	25-05-2010	25-05-2010	25-05-2010	25-05-2010	25-05-2010	25-05-2010	25-05-2010	25-05-2010
	Time taken after finalization of Annual Report	95 Days	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available
	Time taken after receipt of Final Audit Report	95 Days	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available
12(xiii)	The date on which documents were taken up for translation & Printing	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020
	The time taken for completing the task at each stage	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days
12(xiv)	The date for sending the documents to the Ministry for being laid in House after the completion the task at each stage.	21-10-2020	21-10-2020	21-10-2020	21-10-2020	21-10-2020	21-10-2020	21-10-2020	21-10-2020	21-10-2020	21-10-2020	21-10-2020
	Time taken by the organizations in sending the documents of the Ministry	In 2011, Audit reports for the period 1997-98 to 2007-08 were sent by NALSA to Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice for placing before both the Houses of Parliament. Vide S.O. 1521(E) dated 10th June, 2013, the Subject "Legal Aid to Poor" was transferred to Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice. In 2016, it was confirmed from Department of Legal Affairs that the audited accounts of SLSA AND DLSA UT Chandigarh for the years 1997-98 to 2007-08 had not been laid before the Parliament as those did not seem to have been received in their Department. Laying of reports for the year 2008-09 onwards was held up because of non-laying of reports prior to year 2008-09. After protracted efforts, Annual Report and Audit Report on the Annual Accounts of the SLSA AND DLSA, U.T. Chandigarh for the year 1998-99 to 2019-20 were obtained and made ready for laying before both Houses of Parliament. Thereafter, the said reports were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 17.12.2021.										
12(xv)	The date of laying the documents to the House.											
	Time taken after receipt of the documents from the Organisation											

Sub-Question	Points	Year Wise details for the years from 1998-1999 to 2020-2021												Remarks
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-2020	2020-21	
12(i)	Date of approach to the audit authorities	No Record Available	30-07-2011	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	25-09-2015	13-12-016	11-07-2017	07-09-2018	14-06-2019	20-11-2020	12-08-2021	Balance sheet sent to Audit Authorities
	Time taken after the closure of accounting year	No Record Available	58 Days	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	178 Days	257 Days	102 Days	160 Days	75 Days	234 Days	134 Days	
12(ii)	Date of appointment of statutory auditors	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	31.01.2018	31.01.2018	25.10.2018	22.07.2019	08.03.2021	28.9.2021	First day of Audit
	Time taken after the approaching the audit authorities for appointment of auditors	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	414 Days	204 Days	48 Days	38 Days	108 Days	47 days	
12(iii)	Date of compilation of annual accounts	26-07-2010	26-09-2011	25-06-2012	28-09-2013	01-11-2014	10-09-2015	13.07.2016	17.06.2017	18.07.2018	22.05.2019	04.11.2020	12.07.2021	Finalization of Balance sheet
	Time taken after the closure of accounting year	118 days	179 Days	86 days	181 Days	215 Days	163 Days	104 Days	78 Days	109 Days	52 Days	218 Days	103 Days	
12(iv)	Date of submission of annual accounts to auditors	No Record Available	30-07-2011	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	25-09-2015	13.12.2016	11.07.2017	07.09.2018	14.06.2019	20.11.2020	12.08.2021	Submission of Balance sheet

	Time taken after closure of respective accounting year	No Record Available	58 Days	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	178 Days	257 Days	102 Days	160 Days	75 Days	234 Days	134 Days	
12 (v)	The date and duration for auditing the annual accounts by statutory auditors	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	03.11.2015 to 09.11.2015	31.01.2018 to 06.02.2018 or 27.02.2018 to 06.03.2018	31.01.2018 to 06.02.2018 or 27.02.2018 to 06.03.2018	25.10.2018 to 01.11.2018	22.07.2019 to 29.07.2019	08.03.2021 to 11.03.2021	28.09.2021 to 08.10.2021	Period of Auditing
12 (vi)	The date of queries raised by auditors during auditing/after completion of the annual accounts	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	20.03.2018	20.03.2018	26.11.2018	06.08.2019	22.04.2021	26.11.2021	Draft Audit Comments sent by Audit Authorities
	Time taken by auditors in raising the queries during auditing/after completion of the annual accounts audit authorities	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	14 days	14 Days	25 Days	8 Days	42 Days	49 Days	
12 (vii)	The date on which the replies to the audit queries were furnished to the Auditors	25-08-2010	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	25.04.2018	25.04.2018	22.01.2019	08.01.2020	29.04.2021	03.12.2021	Audit Report sent by Audit Authorities

	The time taken to resolve the queries	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	36 Days	36 days	57 Days	155 Days	248 Days	7 days	
12 (viii)	The date on draft Audit Report was issued by Audit Authorities	No Record Available	No Record Available	31-08-2012	No Record Available	12-09-2014	18-11-2015	20.03.2018	20.03.2018	26.11.2018	06.08.2019	24.08.2020	26.11.2021	Date of Draft Audit Report
	Time taken after auditing of the annual accounts	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	9 Days	14 days	14 Days	25 Days	8 Days	30 Days	49 Days	
12 (ix)	The date on which the final audit report received by the Institute	02-03-2012	07-04-2012	14-10-2013	08-01-2014	15-01-2015	14-01-2016	11.05.2018	11.05.2018	25.04.2019	11.03.2020	08.06.2021	31.12.2021	Date of issue of SAR
	Time taken after issue of draft report	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	52 days	52 Days	150 days	218 Days	288 Days	35 Days	
12 (x)	Total time taken by the audit authorities after receiving of the annual accounts to furnishing the final audit report to the Institute	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	66 Days	66 Days	175 Days	226 Days	319 Days	84 Days	Dates after conduct of Audit
12 (xi)	Date of finalizing of the annual report	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	11.05.2018	11.05.2018	25.04.2019	11.03.2020	08.06.2021	31.12.2021	Date of issue of SAR

	Time taken after the closure of the financial year, and also	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	52 days	52 Days	150 days	218 Days	288 Days	35 Days	
	Time taken after the receipt of the final audit report	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	52 days	52 Days	150 days	218 Days	288 Days	35 Days	
12 (xii)	The date on which documents were got approved from the Competent Authority	25-05-2010	25-05-2010	24-08-2012	10-10-2013	21-12-2015	21-12-2015	09.01.2019	09.01.2019	09.01.2019	04.06.2019	28.01.2021	04.08.2021	Date of AGM
	Time taken after finalization of Annual Report	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	
	Time taken after receipt of Final Audit Report	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	No Record Available	
12 (xiii)	The date on which documents were taken up for translation & Printing	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	31.07.2020	15.06.2021	06.01.2022	Date of providing documents for translation
	The time taken for completing the task at each stage	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	80 Days	25 Days	35 Days	Time taken for translation and printing

12 (xiv)	The date for sending the documents to the Ministry for being laid in House after the completion the task at each stage.	21-10-2020	21-10-2020	21-10-2020	21-10-2020	21-10-2020	21-10-2020	21.10.2020	21.10.2020	21.10.2020	21.10.2020	12.07.2021	10.02.2022	Documents submitted to SLSA
	Time taken by the organizations in sending the documents of the Ministry	In 2011, Audit reports for the period 1997-98 to 2007-08 were sent by NALSA to Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice for placing before both the Houses of Parliament. Vide S.O. 1521(E) dated 10th June, 2013, the Subject "Legal Aid to Poor" was transferred to Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice. In 2016, it was confirmed from Department of Legal Affairs that the audited accounts of SLSA AND DLSA UT Chandigarh for the years 1997-98 to 2007-08 had not been laid before the Parliament as those did not seem to have been received in their Department. Laying of reports for the year 2008-09 onwards was held up because of non-laying of reports prior to year 2008-09. After protracted efforts, Annual Report and Audit Report on the Annual Accounts of the SLSA AND DLSA, U.T. Chandigarh for the year 1998-99 to 2019-20 were obtained and made ready for laying before both Houses of Parliament. Thereafter, the said reports were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 17.12.2021.												
12 (xv)	The date of laying the documents to the House. Time taken after receipt of the documents from the Organisation													

**THE EXTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE NINTH SITTING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (2021-2022)**

The Committee sat on Monday, 28th March, 2022 from 15:00 hours to 16:25 hours in Committee Room "C", Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Ritesh Pandey - **Chairperson**

Members

2. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Barq
3. Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal
4. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
5. Shri T.N. Prathapan
6. Shri Satagiri Sankar Ulaka

Secretariat

1. Smt. Suman Arora - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Sundar Prasad Das - Director
3. Shri Uttam Chand Bharadwaj - Additional Director

Witnesses

***Ministry of Law and Justice
(Department of Justice)***

1. Shri Barun Mitra - Secretary
2. Shri Niraj Kumar Gayagi - Joint Secretary
3. Shri Shailesh Shrivastava - Director
4. Shri Puneet Sehgal - Director

National Legal Services Authority(NALSA), New Delhi

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Jain - Member Secretary
2. Mrs. Aditi Singh - OSD

State Legal Services Authority (SLSA), U.T. Chandigarh

1. Shri Surender Kumar - Addl. District and Session Judge cum Member Secretary

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), U.T. Chandigarh

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Mann - CJM-cum-Secretary

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

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up the matter of delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Legal Services Authority(NALSA), New Delhi; State Legal Services Authority(SLSA) and District Legal Services Authority(DLSA), Chandigarh under the administrative control of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice) for the years from 1998-1999 upto 2020-2021.

The witnesses of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice), the NALSA, the SLSA and the DLSA were called in.

4. The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice), the NALSA, the SLSA and the DLSA to the sitting of the Committee and informed them about the agenda of the sitting. The Chairperson also informed the witnesses about the provisions of Direction 58 of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, regarding the confidentiality of the proceedings.

5. The representatives of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice), at first, made power point presentation about the genesis and functions of the SLSA/DLSA. Thereafter, the Committee desired to know the specific reasons for repeated and inordinate delays in laying the documents of SLSA and DLSA since the year 1998-1999. The representative of the Ministry, apologised for inordinate delays in laying the documents of the SLSA and DLSA and submitted that they were under the impression that SLSA and DLSA are getting Grants-in-Aid from NALSA and the Annual Reports and the Audited Accounts of NALSA are being laid on the Table of the House regularly. Therefore there was no need to lay the requisite documents of the SLSA/DLSA separately.

6. However, in 2018, the Committee had apprised the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice)/NALSA that the Annual Reports and the Audited Accounts of all SLSA/DLSA are also required to be laid on the Table of the House. Thereafter they had prepared the Papers of SLSA and DLSA for laying on the Table of the House. The representatives of the Ministry assured the Committee that the requisite documents of the SLSA and DLSA would be laid within the stipulated time in future.

7. Thereafter, the Chairperson suggested to the representatives of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice)/SLSA/DLSA to prepare a software wherein an updated position regarding laying of the documents of their all organisations under their administrative control could be made available by them and an automatic reminder might be sent by the Ministry in case of delay.

8. The Chairperson finally thanked the representatives of the Ministry of Law and Justice(Department of Justice), the NALSA, the SLSA and the DLSA for the free and frank views in connection with the examination of the subject and expected that in future, the Reports of the SLSA and the DLSA would be laid within stipulated time.

The witnesses then withdrew.

Copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting has been kept on record.

The Committee then adjourned.

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. Delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the State Legal Services Authority and District Legal Services Authority, U.T. Chandigarh;
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.	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.

xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx

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

The Committee then adjourned.
