

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

148

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

148th REPORT

[Action-taken by the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) on the Observations/Recommendations made by the Committee in their Sixty-sixth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.]

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 01.08.2023)



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
August 2023/ Sravana 1945 (Saka)**

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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

LOK SABHA

(2022-23)

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 Jamyang Tsering Namgyal
9. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
10. Shri T.N. Prathapan
11. Shri Sellaperumal Ramalingam
12. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
13. Shri Devendrappa Y
14. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav
15. Vacant ¹

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Vinay Kumar Mohan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Naval K. Verma - Director
3. Shri Rahul Singh - Deputy Secretary

(iii)

¹ Due to resignation of Shri Bharat Ram Margani w.e.f. 13.03.2023

INTRODUCTION

I, the 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 148th Report on the action-taken by the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) on the Observations /Recommendations made by the Committee in their Sixty-sixth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

2. The Sixty-sixth Report (17th Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 17.12.2021. The Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) furnished their replies on 23.02.2023 indicating the action taken on the observations/recommendations contained in the Sixty-sixth Report. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 24.07.2023.

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 Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters at the end of the Report.

New Delhi
24 July, 2023
Sravana 2, 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

Action-taken by the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their 66th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

This Report of the Committee deals with the action-taken by the Government on the Observations /Recommendations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2021-2022) in their 66th Report (17th Lok Sabha) which dealt with the matter of the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi under the administrative control of the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) and which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 17.12.2021.

2. The Committee had made four Observations/Recommendations in their 66th Report (17th Lok Sabha). The action-taken replies to all the four Observations/Recommendations of the said Report were received from the Government on 23rd February, 2023. Accordingly, the reply showing the action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Sixty-sixth Report (17th Lok Sabha) is given in **Appendix**.

3. **The Committee in their Sixty-sixth Report (17th Lok Sabha) had pointed out the failure of the Ministry to lay the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on the Table of the House within nine months from the closure of the financial years 2015-16 to 2019-20. The Committee had also noted that undue delay was due to delay in compilation of accounts and delay in CAG audit and, therefore, recommended that comprehensive and holistic efforts must be made by the Ministry to ensure timely laying of the documents in future.**

The Committee had also recommended that if the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the JNU are not be laid within the stipulated time, a statement explaining the reasons as to why the requisite documents could not be laid within the prescribed time period should be laid on the Table of the House within 30 days or as soon as the House convenes, whichever is later.

4. The Ministry in their Action Taken reply have stated that the main reason for delay for the year 2017-18 was late visit by Audit Party for auditing the Annual Accounts and for the year 2018-19 due to late receipt of Separate Audit Report (SAR) from O/o DGA and time taken in getting approval of the requisite documents from Court meeting due to students agitation in the University. Further, the Annual Accounts of the JNU for the Financial Year 2019-20 could not be laid in time because University was closed for more than three months due to impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

5. The Committee note that the Ministry is making efforts to lay the documents within the stipulated time. However, the Committee recommend to the Ministry/JNU to be more diligent in future in their efforts in pursuing the strict timelines in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts so that delays could be avoided in future. The Committee further recommend the Ministry and the University to strictly follow the schedule for preparation and submission of these documents, so that the requisite documents of JNU are laid before 31st December of respective financial years.

New Delhi
24 July, 2023
Sravana 2, 1945 (Saka)

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

APPENDIX
(vide paragraph 02 of the Report)

Reply Showing Action Taken by the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) on the Recommendations/Observations Contained in the Sixty-sixth Report of the Committee on Papers on the Table (Lok Sabha), Seventeenth Lok Sabha.

(Recommendation Serial No. 15)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) and the JNU, New Delhi, 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 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 08.03.1976, 12.05.1976 and 22.12.1977 respectively, regarding the 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 documents of the JNU, New Delhi for the years 2015-2016 to 2018-2019 were not laid within the stipulated time period. The Committee also note that the documents for the year 2019-20 have been laid on 09 August, 2021, with delay of more than 7 months.

Reply of the Government

The University has made its best efforts in preparation of Annual Accounts and submitted to the Ministry for laying on the table of parliament. Details of submission of accounts during the last five years are as under:

Annual Accounts

Sl. No.	Year	Date submission of Accounts Ministry	of to	Delay in submission	Reason of Delay
1.	2015-16	06.12.16		21 Days	The BoG of the University approved the Audited Annual Accounts for FY 2015-16 on 22.11.2016. Since Ministry insisted to

				submit the Audited Annual Accounts along with Annual Reports of the University for the year. The Annual Report was approved by the University court on 3 rd December, 2016 and thenceforth University submitted the Audited Accounts on 6 th December, 2016.
2.	2016-17	13.12.17	28 Days	The BoG of the University approved the Audited Annual Accounts for FY 2016-17 on 16 th November, 2017. Since Ministry insisted to submit the Audited Annual Accounts along with Annual Reports of the University for the year. The Annual Report was approved by the University Court on 8 th December, 2017 and thenceforth University submitted the Audited Accounts on 13 th December, 2017.
3.	2017-18	10.01.19	1 Months 25 Days	Time taken by the audit authorities after receiving of the annual accounts to furnishing the final audit report to the organization is 5 months & 15 days.
4.	2018-19	08.02.20	02 Months 23 Days	Time taken after receipt of final audit report till documents were got approved from the Competent Authority is 1

				Month 8 Days. The delay is attributed to Students agitation in the University.
5.	2019-20	29.06.21	7 Months (approx.)	Total time taken by the audit authorities after receiving of the annual accounts to furnishing the final audit report to the organization is 6 Months. The delay in submission may be attributed to Corona pandemic and time taken by the Audit authorities.

The delay in the FY 2017-18 is due to late visit by Audit Party and delayed receipt of Separate Audit Reports from O/o DGA (Home, Education and Skill Development), However, in FY 2018-19 the Court meeting was delayed due to students' agitation in the University. In FY 2019-20 delay occurred during the financial year for 7 months. Further while the accounts of the year 2019-20 were finalized the University was closed for more than three months because of spread of corona pandemic. Accordingly, the account were finalized with a delay of three months and submitted to the Ministry in June, 2021.

(Ministry of Education (D/o Higher Education O.M. No. 16-10/2021 CU. II dated 23 February, 2023)

(Recommendation Serial No. 16)

While examining the reasons for delays in laying the documents of the JNU, New Delhi, the Committee were disappointed to note that an undue delay had occurred due to the delay in compilation of the accounts, delay in CAG audit and translation of the documents in Hindi which took a lot of time and could have been avoided. However, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic is understandable. Further, the Committee note that the Ministry and the JNU, New Delhi, had failed to finalize the Annual Accounts within the stipulated time. Further, the Committee also note and appreciate that the Institute has been using Tally software in accounts.

Reply of the Government

The University has always been putting its sincere efforts with the availability of limited resources for finalization of annual accounts within stipulated schedule. But due to the facts mentioned above there was minimal delay in submission of the audited Annual Accounts which was also attributed to the late receipt of the Audit Party/Separate Audit Report. On approval of the Audited Annual Accounts by the Court of the University the Audited Annual Accounts are submitted to the Ministry of Education for laying on Table of Parliament. However, due care will be taken in future to complete the process within the time schedule. The University has its own Rajbhasha Cell and there is no problem or delay in translation and printing of Hindi version of annual Accounts.

(Ministry of Education (D/o Higher Education O.M. No. 16-10/2021 CU. II dated 23 February, 2023)

(Recommendation Serial No. 17)

The Committee further note that the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) has not been able to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure laying the documents of the JNU, New Delhi, on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament within the stipulated time which is a matter of serious concern. The Committee recommend that comprehensive and holistic efforts must be made by the Ministry to ensure timely laying of the documents in future and the Committee should be informed of the compliance of these directions and also measures taken by the Ministry to avoid delays in future.

Reply of the Government

Finance Department and Internal Audit wing of the University coordinate with concern department/authorities to ensure timely-laying of the documents before Parliament.

(Ministry of Education (D/o Higher Education O.M. No. 16-10/2021 CU. II dated 23
February, 2023)

(Recommendation Serial No. 18)

The Committee also impress upon the Ministry that if due to unavoidable reasons, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the JNU, New Delhi, 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 time period should be laid on the Table of the House within 30 days or as soon as the House convenes, whichever is later.

Reply of the Government

The University was trying to finalize the Annual Accounts for FY 2020-21 within stipulated time period even after severe shortage of staff and shortfalls. But the preparation was affected by Curfew, due to CORONA pandemic, in NCT territory from 19th April, 2021 to; 7th June, 2021. Thereafter, only 50% staff below the rank of Group-A are allowed to attend office. This restriction was released only on 26th July, 2021. The lockdown/restriction has not affected the work only in Accounts Section but all other section from where Records/Information is required for finalization of Accounts.

Thereafter, the University has completed the annual Accounts on 16th August, 2021. The Accounts was submitted to DFA (HE&SD) on 6th September, 2021. The Audit of the Annual Accounts of the University for the Financial Year 2020-21 was completed by the DFA (HE&SD) Audit team on 6th October, 2021. The University has received the draft SAR on 20th December, 2021 and replies thereon were forwarded by the University on 03.01.2022.

The Final SAR was received from the DFA (HE&SD) only on 8th February, 2022. The Executive Council of the University approved the Audited Annual Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru University for the FY 2020-21 along with Separate Audit Report and the replies of the University in its meeting held on 5th May, 2022. The University submitted the Audited Annual Accounts to Ministry on 20th may, 2022 for laying on the Table of Parliament.

(Ministry of Education (D/o Higher Education O.M. No. 16-10/2021 CU. II dated 23 February, 2023)

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

The Committee sat on Monday, 24th July, 2023 from 15:00 hours to 16:00 hours in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Girish Chandra

- ***Chairperson***

Members

(Lok Sabha)

2. Dr. A. Chellakumar
3. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
4. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
5. Shri Sellaperumal Ramalingam
6. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
7. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav

Secretariat

1. Shri Vinay Kumar Mohan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Naval K. Verma - Director
3. Shri Rahul Singh - Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the sitting and apprised them of the agenda regarding consideration and adoption of one Memorandum, 3 original and 4 Action-taken draft Reports and oral evidence of the representatives of the (i) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (D/o Social Justice & Empowerment) and National Commission for Backward Classes, New Delhi and the (ii) Ministry of AYUSH and National Commission for Indian System of Medicine, New Delhi.

3. X X X X ;

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

i. Action-taken by the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) on the Observations/Recommendations made by the Committee in their Sixty-sixth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

ii. X X X X ;

iii. X X X X ;

iv. X X X X ;

v. X X X X ;

vi. X X X X ;

vii. X X X X ;

5. The Chairperson briefed the members about the recommendation made in the Reports of the Committee.

6. The three draft Reports and four Action taken Reports were considered and adopted unanimously by the Committee. The Chairperson was authorized by the Committee to finalize and present these Reports to the Lok Sabha.

7-9. X X X X ; .

The Meeting then adjourned.

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