

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

136

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

136th REPORT

[Action-taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in the Fiftieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Bengaluru]

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 25.07.2023)



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

July, 2023/Shraavana,1945(Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(2022-23)

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

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 136th Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee in the Fiftieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Bengaluru.

2. The Fiftieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 13.12.2021. The Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence Research and Development) furnished their replies on 05.01.2022 indicating action taken on the observations/ recommendations contained in the Fiftieth Report. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 05 April, 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
05, April, 2023
Chaitra 15, 1945 (Saka)

Girish Chandra
Chairperson
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

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 in their Fiftieth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Bengaluru, which was presented to Lok Sabha on 13.12.2021.

2. The Action-taken Notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the recommendations/observations contained in the aforesaid report. Accordingly, the statement showing the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fiftieth Report (17th Lok Sabha) are given in Appendix.

3. The Committee in their Fiftieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) had pointed out the failure of the Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence Research and Development) in timely laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Bengaluru from 2016-2017 to 2018-2019 and recommended that the documents of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) should be laid within the stipulated time in future.

4. The Committee are, however, constrained to note that the documents of the ADA for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 which were required to be laid on the Table of the House within nine months from the closure of the respective financial years have not been laid as yet, despite Committee's directions/recommendations in their Fiftieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha). While taking a serious note in the matter, the Committee expect the Government to make concerted efforts to ensure timely laying of the documents of the ADA in future.

5. The Committee are, however, not satisfied with the Action-taken replies given by the Ministry that the Separate Audit Report (SAR) for 2019-20 was received on 21.12.2021 and the Ministry thereafter could not take effective steps to lay the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the year 2019-2020 on the Table of the House during Budget Session 2022 i.e. between 31.01.2022 to 11.02.2022 and 14.03.2022 to 08.04.2022. Moreover, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the ADA for 2020-2021 have also not been laid on the Table of the House.

6. In the given situation, the Committee strongly reiterate that utmost efforts need to be made to adhere to the recommendations made by the Committee in the matter so that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 should be laid at the first available opportunity and for succeeding years also, within the stipulated time. The Committee would like to be informed of the Action taken by the Ministry in this regard.

NEW DELHI
05 April, 2023
Chaitra 15, 1945 (Saka)

Girish Chandra
Chairperson
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

APPENDIX-I
(Vide Para 2 of the Report)

**STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS / OBSERVATIONS
CONTAINED IN THE FIFTIETH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE
TABLE (LOK SABHA), SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA**

(Observations / Recommendation Serial No.14)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence Research and Development) and ADA, Bengaluru 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 laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts on the Table of the House. The mandatory requirement of laying the papers within nine months from closure of the accounting year has not been complied with. These documents of the ADA for years 2016-17 to 2018-19 were laid with delays ranging from more than 07 to 21 months. The Committee also note that the documents for the year 2019-20 were not laid as yet. The Committee also observe that the Ministry/ADA, Bengaluru had taken four to seven months for appointment of Auditors for the years 2016-17 to 2019-20.

Reply of the Government

ADA humbly agrees to the delays in tabling of Annual Report & Audited Accounts for the above period. ADA shall make every effort to adhere to the time frames stipulated as above. The Separate Audit Report (SAR) for the year 2019-20 has been received only on 21.12.2021 and the process has been already initiated for laying the papers on both the Houses of Parliament. The delay in appointing Auditors as mentioned in Annexure II of the report will henceforth be complied within the time limit. Further, the Finalisation of Audit Report (SAR) has taken 4 to 11 months on an average.

(Ministry of Defence O.M. No LAFEAS-CBII061/5/2021-CBII 28 Dated Dec 2021)

**STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS / OBSERVATIONS
CONTAINED IN THE FIFTIETH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE
TABLE (LOK SABHA), SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA**

(Observations / Recommendation Serial No.15)

After taking into account all the aspects, the Committee were of the opinion that the Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence Research and Development) had not been able to put in place an effective monitoring system to ensure laying of documents of the ADA on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament within the stipulated time. Changes in accounting system could not be the only reason for such delays specially for the year 2017-18, rather, it was a systemic failure. The Committee, therefore, asked the representatives of the Ministry and the ADA to make all efforts to ensure that henceforth documents of the ADA for the year 2019-20 are laid as early as possible, and for succeeding years, are laid within the stipulated time. The Committee should be informed of the compliance of these directions and also the measures taken by the Ministry to avoid such delays in future.

Response

ADA shall take every effort to conform to the time frame in laying of documents on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament. Appropriate monitoring shall also be ensured to adhere to the time schedule as per GFR provisions. Further, ADA has received the SAR for the year 2019-20 on 21.12.2021 and the process is initiated on fast-track basis for laying the papers with necessary approvals.

(Ministry of Defence O.M. No LAFEAS-CBII061/5/2021-CBII 28 Dated Dec 2021)

**STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS / OBSERVATIONS
CONTAINED IN THE FIFTIETH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE
TABLE (LOK SABHA), SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA**

(Observations / Recommendation Serial No.16)

The Committee also observed that if at all due to unavoidable reasons, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the ADA, Bengaluru 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 have been laid on the Table of the House within 30 days or as soon as the House met, whichever was later. The Committee asked the representatives of the Ministry and the ADA to take note of this lapse and to not repeat it in future.

Response

The lapse is admitted and ADA has taken note for strict compliance henceforth.

(Ministry of Defence O.M. No LAFEAS-CBII061/5/2021-CBII 28 Dated Dec 2021)

Appendix-II

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

The Committee sat on Wednesday, 05th April, 2023 from 15:00 hours to 16:10 hours in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Girish Chandra - *Chairperson*

Members

(Lok Sabha)

16. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
17. Dr. A. Chellakumar
18. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
19. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
20. Shri T.N. Prathapan
21. Shri Sellaperumal Ramalingam
22. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
23. Shri Devendrappa Y.

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 regarding consideration and adoption of 3 original and 9 Action-taken draft Reports and oral evidence of the representatives of the (i) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) and the (ii) Ministry of Heavy Industries.

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

(i) Action-taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in the Fiftieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Bengaluru;

(ii)	X	X	X	X	X;
(iii)	X	X	X	X	X;
(iv)	X	X	X	X	X.
(v)	X	X	X	X	X;
(vi)	X	X	X	X	X;
(vii)	X	X	X	X	X X;
(viii)	X	X	X	X	X X.
(ix)	X	X	X	X	X.
(x)	X	X	X	X	X.
(xi)	X	X	X	X	X.
(xii)	X	X	X	X	X X.

The above mentioned three draft Reports and nine Action taken Reports were unanimously adopted by the Committee. The Chairperson was authorized by the Committee to finalize and present these Reports to the Lok Sabha.

4-7. X X X X X

The Committee then adjourned.

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