

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2023-24)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

168

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-EIGHTH REPORT

[Action taken by the Ministry of Railways on the Observations/Recommendations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (17th Lok Sabha) in the 144th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NRTU Foundation, New Delhi]

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 20.12.2023)



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December 2023/ Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
LOK SABHA
(2023-24)

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

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R.K. Suryanarayanan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Naval K. Verma - Director
3. Shri Rahul Singh - Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2023-24), having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this 168th Report on the action taken by the Ministry of Railways on the Observations/Recommendations made by the Committee in their 144th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NRTU Foundation, New Delhi.

2. The 144th Report (17th Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 01.08.2023. The Ministry of Railways has furnished their replies indicating the action taken on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 144th Report. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 13.12.2023.

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
13th December, 2023
Agrahayana 22, 1945 (Saka)

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

REPORT

Action taken by the Ministry of Railways on the Observations/Recommendations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (17th Lok Sabha) in the 144th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NRTU Foundation, 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 (2022-23) in their 144th Report (17th Lok Sabha) presented to the Lok Sabha on 01.08.2023, which dealt with the matter of the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NRTU Foundation, New Delhi for the years 2018-19 to 2021-22, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways.

2. The Committee had made seven Observations/Recommendations in their 144th Report (17th Lok Sabha). The Ministry of Railways *vide* their O.M. No. 2023/Parl/8/COPLLOT/Report(144) dated 20.10.2023 has furnished the Action-taken replies in respect of all the seven Observations/Recommendations made in the above-mentioned Report.

3. The recommendations of the Committee; action taken by the Government thereon and further comments of the Committee are given in the following paragraphs.

Recommendation No. 17

4. The Committee in their original Report had recommended as under:

“From the examination of the Annual reports and Audited Accounts of the NRTU for the years 2018-19 to 2021-22 which were laid before the Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Railways on 06.04.2022, the Committee note that the documents of NRTU were not laid within the stipulated time since its inception in the year 2018. These documents had a delay ranging from approximately 27 months to 03 months.”

5. The Ministry in its Action taken reply has stated as under:-

“Factually correct. Ministry of Railways has issued a Standard Operating Procedure to NRTU Foundation and Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, such that there is no occasion for delays. This is being monitored periodically. It is brought out that the C&AG’s supplementary Audit of NRTU Foundation for Financial Year 2022-2023 has been completed on 18.08.2023. Hence the Annual Report of NRTU Foundation shall be laid in the Tables of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha during the ensuing Winter session of Parliament.”

Recommendation Serial No.18

6. The Committee in their original Report had recommended as under:

“While examining the reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the NRTU for the years 2018-19 to 2020-21, the Committee note that major delay was on the part of the NRTU in the process of finalization of Annual Accounts. The Committee also note the reasons put forth by the Ministry that the audit authorities took extra time in the process of auditing and supplementary auditing of the annual accounts of the NRTU for the year 2021-22, is not convincing as the audit authorities took minimal time in completing the process of auditing the accounts and furnishing the Final Audit Report for these years. Moreover, the NRTU took 26, 14 and 03 months in getting the documents for 2018-19 to 2020-21 translated and printed after getting the approval from competent authority. In this regard, the Committee desire to know the specific reasons. The Committee are also of the view that efforts should be made to translate the requisite documents simultaneously to avoid delays in future.”

7. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

“The dates of laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of NRTU Foundation, New Delhi for 2018-19 to 2021-22 as brought out at Annexure-I referred at para 06 of the 144th Report of committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2022-2023), 17th Lok Sabha is factually correct. Specific reasons for Delays is attributed to the Covid-19 situations and the delay in Hindi translations and subsequent printing of the Annual Reports after the in person official working became normal. The delay is regretted and may be

condoned. It is once again assured that there will be no such occasion of delays in future.

As brought out at para-17 Action Taken Report above, C&AG's supplementary Audit for FY 2022-2023 has been completed on 18.08.2023. AGM of NRTU Foundation will be held in mid-September, 2023 and the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of NRTU Foundation for 2022-2023 shall be tabled in the ensuing Winter session of the Lok Sabha well within the stipulated time."

Recommendation Serial No. 19

8. The Committee in their original Report had recommended as under:

"The Committee also take note of the submission made by the Ministry of Railways that the requisite documents of NRTU for 2021-22 were sent to the Ministry on 19.12.2022 for being laid in the House. However, these documents could not be laid in the winter session of Lok Sabha as the Lok Sabha was adjourned sine-die on 23.12.2022 and these documents were subsequently were laid in the House on 24.03.2023. The Committee are of the opinion that the Ministry should ensure that every organization, body etc, under its administrative control should plan the finalization of requisite documents in such a way that the requisite documents of these organizations etc., are received by the Ministry, well in advance, in order to provide sufficient time for laying them in the House, within the stipulated time.

The Committee also desire to know as to why the requisite documents of NRTU for the year 2021-22 were not laid immediately at the commencement of the First part of the Budget session 2023, when these documents were already ready for presentation in the winter session of 2022."

9. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

"It is submitted that NRTU Foundation submitted the Annual Report to Ministry of Railways on 19.12.2022. Observations made by the Hon'ble Committee that Ministry should ensure that every organisation, body, etc under its administrative control should plan the finalisation of the requisite

documents in such a way that the requisite documents are received by the Ministry is noted for strict compliance in respect of NRTU Foundation. 17th Lok Sabha's Budget Session commenced on 31st January, 2023. Ministry of Railways vide Office Memorandum No. 2019/NRTU/10/Pt. dated 06.02.2023 had requested for extension for laying of Annual Report in the Tables of Lok/Rajya Sabha upto the Budget Session of the Parliament in 2023. Budget Session (Part-I) concluded on 13.02.2023. Thereafter in the Budget Session (Part-II) the aforesaid reports got tabled.”

Recommendation Serial No. 20

10. The Committee in their original Report had recommended as under:

“The Committee further note that a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) indicating timeline for each of the processes involved in finalization of Accounts till the Annual Report are laid in the Parliament for the year 2022-23 has been prepared by the NRTU. The Committee recommend the Ministry to ensure that these SOPs are framed for all other organizations etc. under its administrative control and also recommend to ensure that these SOPs are strictly adhered to by each and every organization so that there is no delay in laying of the requisite documents.”

11. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

“A common SOP, indicating timeline for each of the processes involved in finalization of Accounts till the Annual Report are laid in the Parliament, has been circulated to all organizations under administrative control of Ministry of Railways with explicit direction to ensure that the SOP is strictly adhered to by each and every organization so that there is no delay in laying of the requisite documents.”

Recommendation Serial No. 21

12. The Committee in their original Report had recommended as under:

“The Committee also recommend the Ministry of Railways to ensure that the Committee is informed about the creation, merger and winding up of any new/existing organization under its administrative control, which are

required to lay their Annual Reports and Audited Accounts as per the General Financial Rules.”

13. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

“The recommendation of the Committee has been forwarded to all organizations under administrative control of Ministry of Railways for strict compliance of all concerned.”

Recommendation Serial No. 22

14. The Committee in their original Report had recommended as under:

“The Committee are of the considered view that timely submission of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of an organization is essential to enable scrutiny of these documents by the House at the time of consideration of demands for grants pertaining to the Ministry concerned. Hence, the Committee recommend the Ministry to ensure that the requisite documents of not only NRTU, but of all the organizations under its administrative control are laid within stipulated time i.e., 31st December of respective financial year.”

15. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

“The recommendation of the Committee has been forwarded to all organizations under administrative control of Ministry of Railways for strict compliance of all concerned.”

Recommendation Serial No. 23

16. The Committee in their original Report had recommended as under:

“The Committee also impress upon the Ministry that in case of delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts due to unavoidable reasons, a statement explaining the reasons as to why the requisite documents could not be laid within prescribed period should be laid on the Table of the House within 30 days as recommended by the Committee in their earlier reports.”

17. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

“The recommendation of the Committee has been forwarded to all organizations under administrative control of Ministry of Railways for strict compliance of all concerned.”

18. The Committee take note of the submission made by the Ministry of Railways that the recommendations made by this Committee in their original Report, alongwith the directions from the Ministry have been forwarded to all organizations under its administrative control for strict compliance. The Committee also note the assurance given by the Ministry of Railways that the requisite documents of the NRTU Foundation for the year 2022-23* will be laid within stipulated time. The Committee expect that the submission/assurance will be duly met.

19. The Committee observe that the NRTU Foundation has now been subsumed into Gati Shakti Vishwvidayala, a Central University under the Ministry of Railways. However, no formal communication has been received in this Secretariat from the Ministry of Railways about the closure of the NRTU Foundation and subsequent creation of the Gati Shakti Vishwvidayala, as was recommended by this Committee *vide* the Recommendation no. 21 of their original Report. The Committee take a serious view of this neglect of the recommendation of this Committee by the Ministry of Railways and hence, once again recommend that the Ministry should inform this Secretariat about the creation, merger and winding up of any new/existing organization under its administrative control without fail.

**New Delhi
13th December, 2023
Agrahayana 22, 1945 (Saka)**

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

* Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 2022-23 were laid on 13.12.2023.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (2023-24)

Extracts of the Minutes of the second sitting of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2023-24) held on 13.12.2023.

The Committee sat on Wednesday, 13th December, 2023 from 1445 hours to 1540 hours in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Girish Chandra - ***Chairperson***

***Members
(Lok Sabha)***

2. Dr. A. Chellakumar
3. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
4. Shri Devendrappa Y.
5. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav

Secretariat

1. Shri R.K. Suryanarayanan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Naval K. Verma - 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 two original draft Reports, eight Action-taken Reports and oral evidence of the representatives of the (i) XXXX; and (ii) XXXX.

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following two Original and eight Action-taken Reports for consideration and adoption:-

- | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---|----|
| i. | X | X | X | X | X; |
| 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;
viii.	X	X	X	X	X;
ix.	Action taken by the Ministry of Railways on the Observations/Recommendations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (17th Lok Sabha) in the 144th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NRTU Foundation, New Delhi; and				
x.	X	X	X	X	X.

The ten draft Reports were adopted unanimously. The Hon'ble Chairperson was authorized by the Committee to finalize and present these Reports to the Lok Sabha on a date convenient to him.

4-6.	X	X	X	X	X
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The Meeting then adjourned.

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