

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

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

169

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH REPORT

[Action-taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) on the Observations/Recommendations made by the Committee in their One Hundredth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Odisha Agro Industries Corporation Limited (OAIC), Bhubaneswar.]

(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 COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

LOK SABHA

(2023-24)

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 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 Naval K. Verma - Director
2. 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 One Hundred and 169th Report on the action taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) on the Observations/Recommendations made by the Committee in their One Hundredth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Odisha Agro Industries Corporation Limited (OAIC), Bhubaneswar.

2. The One Hundredth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 21.12.2022. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) has furnished their replies indicating the action taken on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the One Hundredth Report. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 07.12.2023.

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

Report on the action taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) on the Observations/Recommendations made by the Committee in their One Hundredth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Odisha Agro Industries Corporation Limited (OAIC), Bhubaneswar.

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 One Hundredth Report (17th Lok Sabha) presented to the Lok Sabha on 21.12.2022, which dealt with the matter of the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Odisha Agro Industries Corporation Limited (OAIC), Bhubaneswar for the years 2012-13 to 2020-21, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare).

2. The Committee had made six Observations/Recommendations in their One Hundredth Report (17th Lok Sabha). The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare) *vide* their O.M. No.19-9/2023-M&T(Admn), dated 31.08.2023 has furnished the action-taken replies in respect of all the six Observations/Recommendations made in the above-mentioned Report.

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

Recommendation No. 20

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

“The Committee is dismayed to note that the information furnished about the year of the creation/incorporation of OAIC, by the Ministry in its written

reply, is mentioned as 1962, whereas the official website of the OAIC mentions it as 17.12.1968. The Committee would, therefore, like to know the reason for this variation in the year of creation/incorporation of OAIC, Bhubaneswar.

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

“The date of incorporation of the OAIC was in the erstwhile name of the THE ORISSA SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED was on 20.12.1961 having certificate of incorporation No.420/9 of 1961-62 issued by ROC Cuttack..... Subsequently, the name clause of the Corporation has been changed to “The Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Ltd.” and certificate to this effect has been issued by ROC under Section 23(1) of Companies Act, 1956 w.e.f. 13.02.1974 with the approval of Central Government, Department of Law and Justice, New Delhi.....”

6. The Committee note that the Action-taken reply was required to be furnished within 03 months of presentation of Report i.e., by 22.03.2023. However, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DoA&FW) has furnished the action-taken reply with a delay of more than 05 months. The Committee recommend the Ministry to be more cautious in future.

Further, the Committee note that after the abovementioned observation/recommendation of the Committee, the website of OAICL has been updated with actual date of incorporation of OAICL. The Committee recommend the Ministry to direct all the organisations under its administrative control to update the information provided on their websites, on regular basis.

Recommendation Serial No. 21

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

“The Committee observe that the requisite documents of the Odisha Agro Industries Corporation Limited (OAIC), Bhubaneswar, under the administrative control of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DoA&FW), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) for 2012-2013 were laid with delays of 11 months and 23 days; for 2013-2014 these were laid with delays of 19 months and 02 days; for 2014-2015 documents were laid with delays of 24 months and 02 days; for 2015-2016 these were laid with delays of 24 months and 08 days; for 2016-2017 documents were laid with delays of 25 months and 04 days; for 2017-2018 these were laid with delays of 26 months and 23 days; for 2018-2019 these were laid with delays of 23 months and 14 days and for 2019-2020 were laid with delays of 19 months and 02 days. The Committee observe the trend of repeated delays in the matter of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the OAIC, Bhubaneswar since 2011-2012. Further, the requisite documents of the OAIC, Bhubaneswar for 2020-2021* have not been laid, till the conclusion of the Monsoon Session of 2022.

The Committee feel that the MoA&FW is perhaps not seriously committed towards its statutory obligation of ensuring timely submission of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of organizations under its administrative control. The Committee, therefore, recommend the MoA&FW to lay the pending requisite documents of the OAIC, Bhubaneswar for 2020-2021* at the earliest, as assured during the oral evidence, and also to ensure that from 2021-2022 onwards the requisite documents of not only OAIC, Bhubaneswar, but all organizations under its administrative control are laid within the stipulated time.”

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

“Letters at the level of Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Joint Secretary (Mechanization & Technology, DA&FW were sent to the respective State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Punjab on regular intervals to arrange to forward the pending Annual Reports and Audited Accounts reports of their State Agro Industries Corporation Limited on top priority. Besides above, this matter was also taken up during the Board Meeting of these SAICs by the Directors nominated by the Ministry to attend their Board Meeting. Concerted efforts made by Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare have yielded good results and as a consequence, the Department has been able to secure submission of pending annual Reports and Audited Accounts of many State Agro Industries Corporation in the recent past. Review Meetings are also being organized at regular intervals with all the SAICs to discuss various issues related to delayed laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts which include timely completion of accounting/audit of accounts, organization of Board Meetings to approve the Annual Report/Audited Accounts in a time-bound manner and other issues delaying the process. Due to the continuous efforts the Ministry was able to bring down the pendency of laying of Annual Reports/ Annual Accounts of these 10 SAICs.

OAIC has already submitted the printed copies of the Annual Report 2021-22 following dates to Government of India for laying on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament, which is likely to be laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament during Monsoon Session.

DAFW sends regular reminders, holds meetings at JS and AS level. A Dash Board also has been created for this purpose. M&T Division, DAFW, sends Annual Reports received in the forthcoming Parliament Session without any delay.”

Recommendation Serial No. 22

9. The Committee in their original Report had recommended as under:
“The Committee were apprised by the MoA&FW during the evidence that from the financial year 2015-2016 onwards, the delay in finalization of Annual Accounts of the OAIC was due to, among others, large scale retirement of accounts personnel in those years, as a result of which the organisation had to outsource the job through Chartered Accountant firms. The Committee, however, note that there were delays in laying of requisite documents even before 2015-2016 also and desire to be informed in this regard.”

10. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-
“With the proactive action of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, New Delhi and consistent efforts of OAIC, the Annual Report/Audited Accounts has been expedited and submitted to Government of India upto 2021-22 till date. Now, finalization of Annual Accounts for 2022-23 is in progress and expected to be authenticated in Board of Directors Meeting by end of September, 2023 for Audit and adoption in AGM of the Company. The OAIC, Bhubaneswar regretted for the past delay in submitting Annual Report prior to 2015-16.”

11. The Committee are happy about the proactive action taken and efforts made by the Ministry/OAIC as a result of which the delays have been reduced. The Committee hope that in future there will be no delays and all documents will be laid within prescribed time frame and in accordance with statutory obligations.

Recommendation Serial No. 23

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

“The Committee note that from the financial year 2020-2021 onwards, the day to day accounts like sale, purchase, money receipt etc., has been digitized as per the reply received from the Ministry. The Committee is surprised to note that in the existing information technology era, it took more than four decades since inception, for the OAIC, since its inception, to move towards digitization. The Committee would like to know why the Ministry did not take any step to sensitize OAIC about the utilization of information technology tools in its operations.”

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

“The Accounts data of OAIC Ltd. like purchase, sale, money receipt challan, day book, ledger, Trial Balance, Profit & Loss Account and Balance Sheet has been digitized since 2015-16 in Tally Software. Now, the Final Statements of Accounts is being prepared in Tally Software with server system of OAIC. Hence, OAIC has upgraded IT Infrastructure since 2015-16 onwards.”

14. **The Committee note the clarification made by the Ministry regarding observation of the Committee about the use of digital methods at OAIC for preparation of annual accounts. The Committee expect that this digital upgradation will help the OAIC to timely prepare and submit the annual accounts to the auditors.**

Recommendation Serial No. 24

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

“The MoA&FW has apprised the Committee that regular letters and reminders were sent to all the State Agro Industries Corporations (SAIC) and also that meetings were held at the level of Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary for reducing pendency. The Committee, however, disagree with this submission, as despite the efforts, reportedly made by the Ministry, there is no visible improvement in the time taken in laying the requisite documents of OAIC before the House. On the contrary, the requisite documents of the OAIC are being laid with repeated and increasing delays every year. The Committee recommend the MoAF&W to frame a time schedule indicating the target date for completion of each stage involved in finalization of the requisite documents of all organizations under its administrative control and also to ensure its strict compliance.”

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

“A Schedule of finalization of Audited Accounts/Annual Report has been fixed by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for all SAICs. A Dash Board has been created by the DAFW for monitoring every stage, for sending automated reminders and reprimand mail as suggested by the Committee of Parliament on Laying of Papers on Table of both Houses.”

17. The Committee note with content that as per the recommendation of this Committee, the Ministry has prepared a time schedule for finalisation of requisite documents and also has created a dashboard accordingly. The Committee recommend the Ministry/Department to ensure that the time schedule hence prepared is strictly adhered to and that the dashboard is also monitored regularly to ensure timely compilation of information/data.

Recommendation Serial No. 25

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

“The Committee had requested the MoA&FW to furnish the information regarding the chronological sequence in respect of finalization of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the OAIC for the last ten years i.e., w.e.f. 2011-2012. However, the Committee note that the Ministry could not furnish the information for the year 2011-2012. In this regard, the Committee recommend the Ministry to furnish the information for 2011-2012 as well and also the reasons for not submitting the same before the Committee.”

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

“OAIC Ltd., Bhubaneswar has submitted printed copy of Annual Report/Audited Accounts for 2011-12 to Government of India vide their letter No.12717 dated 13.02.2014 for laying on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament. The Annual Report/Audited Accounts for 2011-12 alongwith Review Statement and Statement showing the Reasons for Delayed Laying of Annual Report/Audited Accounts for 2011-12 was submitted on 12.08.2014.”

20. The Committee recommend the Ministry/Department to give due importance to the observations, recommendations, instructions etc. made by this Committee, in future.

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

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

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;

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|-------|--|---|---|---|--------|
| vi. | X | X | X | X | X; |
| vii. | X | X | X | X | X; |
| viii. | X | X | X | X | X; |
| ix. | X | X | X | X | X; and |
| x. | Action-taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) on the Observations/Recommendations made by the Committee in their One Hundredth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Odisha Agro Industries Corporation Limited (OAIC), Bhubaneswar. | | | | |

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.)
