

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

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

176

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY SIXTH REPORT

[Delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change]

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 08.02.2024)



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
February 2024/ Magha 1945 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF 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
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6. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
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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, 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 176th Report in respect of the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

2. In terms of the recommendations of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table contained in its First and Second Reports of 5th Lok Sabha and also in the Second Report of 6th Lok Sabha presented to the House on 08 March, 1976, 12 May, 1976 and 22 December, 1977 respectively, 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 Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora for the years 2013-14 to 2021-2022 were laid before the Parliament with delays. However, the requisite documents for the year 2022-23 have been laid within stipulated time. The Committee considered the matter of delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora for the years 2013-14 to 2021-2022 and took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and NIHE, Almora at their sitting held on 19.12.2023.

4. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 07.02.2024.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE) for furnishing the written replies and other material/information for being placed before the Committee.

6. The Committee also 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
07 February 2024
18 Magha, 1945 (Saka)**

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

REPORT
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2023-24)

Delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora was established in the year 1988-89, as an autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India. The Institute has been identified as a focal agency to advance scientific knowledge, to evolve integrated management strategies, demonstrate their efficacy for conservation of natural resources, and to ensure environmentally sound development in the entire Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).

- i. To undertake in-depth research and development studies on environmental problems of the Indian Himalayan Region;
- ii. To identify and strengthen the local knowledge of the environment and contribute towards strengthening researchers of regional relevance; and
- iii. To evolve and demonstrate suitable technology packages and delivery systems for sustainable development of the region in harmony with local perceptions.

The Institute executes its mandate through the Headquarters located at Kosi-Katarmal, Almora (Uttarakhand), and five Regional Centres located at Kullu (Himachal Pradesh), Srinagar-Garhwal (Uttarakhand), Pangthang (Sikkim), Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) and Leh (Ladakh).

In its research and other activities, NIHE attempts to maintain a balance between socio-cultural, ecological, economic and physical systems that could lead to sustainability in the IHR. To achieve this, the Institute follows a multidisciplinary and holistic approach in all its Research and Development programmes with an emphasis on interlinking natural and social sciences. In this effort, special attention is placed on the preservation of fragile mountain ecosystems, indigenous knowledge systems, and sustainable use of natural resources. The Institute aims to ensure participation of local inhabitants for long-term acceptance and success of various programs. Training, environmental education and awareness to different stakeholders are essential components of all the R&D programmes of the Institute.

The Institute designs and implements R&D activities on priority environmental problems; develops and demonstrates best practices and delivers technology packages for improved livelihood options for the people of IHR. The identified thematic centres for Institute R&D activities include: (1) Centre for Land and Water Resource Management (CLWRM); (2) Centre for Socio-Economic Development (CSED); (3) Centre for Biodiversity Conservation and Management (CBCM) and (4) Centre for Environmental Assessment and Climate Change (CEA&CC). The projects sites, spread over different parts of IHR, have been selected carefully keeping in view the biophysical heterogeneity and location-specific needs of the inhabitants. All activities are need-based, target-oriented and time-bound. Research, demonstration, and dissemination are underlying elements of all project activities geared towards development of environment-friendly technology packages.

2. The Committee desired to know from the Ministry to state the Act, Rule or Regulation under which the requisite documents of the NIHE are being laid on the Table of the House. The Ministry in its written reply submitted the following:

“The papers of NIHE were being laid on the Table of the House as per Clause 23 of the Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations its Society which empowers the Society for their adoption. However, the President of the Society, Hon'ble Minister EF&CC, has recently delegated powers for adoption of Annual Report and Audited Accounts to the Governing Body, chaired by Secretary (EF&CC), as per Clause 3 (xii) the Rules and Regulations of Society.”

3. The Committee further desired to know from the Ministry about the provision and timeline for laying of Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the NIHE on the Table of the House. The Ministry in its written reply submitted the following:-

“The Clause 23 of the Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations of the Society reads:

An annual report on the working of the Institute and all work undertaken by its constituent units during the year shall be prepared by the Governing Body for information of the members of the Society and together with audited accounts of the Society along with the Auditor's Report thereon it shall be placed before the Society at its annual general meeting. After adoption of the report by the Society, the Member Secretary would forward the report to the Government of India for laying it on the Table of the Houses of the Parliament.

Further, the instructions received from Committee Branch, Lok Sabha Secretariat for laying the papers on the Table of the House within a period of nine months after the closure of the respective accounting year are regularly followed.”

4. The Committee sought from the Ministry information regarding the pattern of funding by the Government to the NIHE. The Ministry in its written reply submitted the following:-

“The Institute receives Grants-in-Aid from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. Details of the year-wise grants for the last ten years are given below:

Year	Recurring	Non-recurring	Total (in crores)
2013-14	12.31	1.69	14.00
2014-15	11.60	1.40	13.00
2015-16	12.12	0.50	12.62
2016-17	15.50	2.50	18.00
2017-18	16.50	3.50	20.00
2018-19	21.80	5.70	27.50
2019-20	20.65	5.35	26.00
2020-21	14.31	2.39	16.70
2021-22	20.60	3.40	24.00
2022-23	22.40	1.40	23.80

5. In terms of the recommendations of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table contained in its First and Second Reports of 5th Lok Sabha and also in the Second Report of 6th Lok Sabha presented to the House on 08 March, 1976, 12 May, 1976 and 22 December, 1977 respectively, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Organisations/Corporations/PSUs are required to be laid on the Table of the House within nine months of the closure of the accounting year. To comply with the requirement proper timeline schedule should be laid down for compilation of the Annual Report and Annual Accounts and their auditing. The Committee felt that normally a period of three months would be sufficient for compilation of Annual Accounts and their submission for Audit; the next six months might be given for auditing of accounts, printing of the Reports and sending it to Government for laying. If for any reason, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of 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 decided to examine the matter pertaining to the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE) for the years for the last ten financial years i.e. 2013-14 to 2021-22 which were laid on the Table with repeated delays ranging from more than 04 days to 24 months. The requisite documents for the 2022-23 have been laid within stipulated time. The statement showing the actual dates of laying of the Annual Reports/Audited Accounts of the NIHE for 2013-14 to 2022-23, alongwith the extent of delays in laying these documents as appended at **Annexure -I**.

7. The Committee asked the Ministry to state the reasons for delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts since its inception. The Ministry in its written reply have submitted that:-

“As per the prevailing rules, the Annual Report had to be approved/ adopted by the Institute’s Society before being submitted to the Ministry for placing in both the houses of the Parliament. The Honourable MEFCC is the President and Honourable MOS is the Vice President of the Society. There are 43 Members in the Society including two Members of Parliament, Minister-In-charges of Environment of Himalayan States and two MLAs from the State of Uttarakhand.

The 23rd meeting of Institute’s Society was held on 02.08.2022 wherein Annual Report of 2020-21 was adopted and then laid on the table of the both the houses of the Parliament. As no meeting of the Institute's Society could be conducted after 02.08.2022, the approval for the adoption of Annual Report for the year 2021-22 and 2022-23 could not be obtained.

The President of the Society has recently delegated powers for adoption of Annual Report and Audited Accounts to the Governing Body, in order to avoid delay in this regard and has approved adoption of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the years 2021-22 and 2022-23 by circulation to all the Society members. The same has been submitted for laying on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 11.12.2023”

8. The Committee further asked the Ministry about the information in respect of the usual time-line to finalize the Annual Report, Audited Accounts etc. and the actual time taken by the Ministry and the NIHE at each stage the years under examination. The information regarding the usual time-line in finalisation of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of NIHE, as furnished by the Ministry is appended at **Annexure -II**.

9. The Committee desired to know from the Ministry as to whether it had identified the stages in which delays have occurred during all these years and, if so, how did the Ministry propose to curtail the same. In reply the Ministry stated:-

“The Ministry has identified the stages in which delays have occurred and needful measures taken to avoid delays.....”

10. The Committee further desired to know from the Ministry as to whether it had prepared any Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to pursue with the auditing of accounts and finally timely receipt of the final audit reports from the audit authorities and the relevant documents from the NIHE. In reply, the Ministry stated:-

“A well-defined Standard Procedure is in place along with timelines for completion for timely preparation of Annual Report and finalization of accounts after audit.”

11. The Committee questioned the Ministry/NIHE as to whether they had faced any procedural difficulties associated with convening the meeting of the competent authority for getting approval of the documents etc. The Ministry in its written reply submitted:-

“All efforts and needful follow-ups are made by Ministry/ NIHE for convening the meeting and obtaining the approval of the competent authority.”

12. The Committee enquired from the Ministry about the status of digitization and computerization of the process of accounting to facilitate speedy and timely compilation of accounts, The Ministry in its written reply submitted:-

“Details of expenditure are maintained in Public Financial Management Systems (PFMS) portal. Further, the accounting software, Tally, is being used for the smooth management of institute accounts.”

13. The Committee further enquired as to whether the NIHE had 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 its written reply submitted that they have internal audit mechanism

14. On being asked as to whether there was any mechanism in the Ministry to monitor the progress of work to ensure timely laying of documents, the Ministry in its written reply submitted:-

“Efforts and needful follow-ups are done by the Ministry to hold the Institute's Society, Governing Body and Finance Committee meetings regularly for obtaining the approval of the competent authorities on time and placing the documents on the table of the Lok Sabha.”

15. The Committee desired to know about the remedial measures taken by the Ministry/NIHE to ensure timely laying of the documents, the Ministry submitted:-

“The President of the Society, Honourable MEFCC, has recently delegated powers for adoption of Annual Report and Audited Accounts to the Governing Body, chaired by Secretary (EF&CC), in order to ensure timely laying of the documents before the Parliament within the prescribed period. NIHE ensures timely completion of the statutory audit and finalisation of the Annual Report.”

16. The Committee enquired from the Ministry/NIHE about the latest position regarding finalisation of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the NIHE for the year 2021-22 and 2022-2023 and also as to how soon were these pending documents expected to be laid on the Table of the House. In reply, the Ministry submitted:-

“The Annual report and Audited Accounts of NIHE for the year 2021-22 and 2022-23 have been submitted to the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Secretariats for laying on the Table of both the Houses on 14th December 2023 and 11th December 2023, respectively. .”

17. The Committee also asked the Ministry to as to whether the Ministry/NIHE has taken the help of Information technology to ensure that the documents are laid on the Table of the House, timely. In reply, the Ministry submitted:-

“Yes. NIHE extensively uses Information Technology in their regular activities, including accounting, communication, preparation of documents, etc. For instance, details of expenditure are maintained in Public Financial Management Systems (PFMS) portal and the accounting software, Tally, is being used for the smooth management of institute accounts. The institute has also implemented communication through Government Email and processing of files through e-office system.”

18. The Committee further decided to examine and discuss the matter of delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora for the years 2013-2014 to 2021-2022 and requested the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the NIHE, Almora to appear and tender oral evidence before the Committee on 19.12.2023.

18. During the oral evidence, the representatives of the Ministry/NIHE made the following submissions:-

“महोदय, हमारी रिपोर्ट को जमा करने में विलंब हुआ है, उसके लिए हम क्षमाप्रार्थी हैं। हम आपके संज्ञानार्थ यह भी बताना चाहते हैं कि भविष्य में विलंब नहीं होगा। पिछले वर्ष विलंब हुआ था। हो सकता है कि हमारे ऑडिट में थोड़ा विलंब हुआ। इस साल की एनुअल रिपोर्ट भी हमने माननीय संसद के दोनों सदनों में प्रस्तुत कर दी है।

Observations/ Recommendations

19. From the examination of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora for the years 2013-2014 to 2021-2022, the Committee observe that the requisite documents of NIHE for these years were laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha with inordinate delays. However, the Committee is pleased to note that the requisite documents of NIHE for the year 2022-23 have been laid within stipulated time.

20. The Committee also observe several instances of delay between 2013-14 to 2022-23 wherein the NIHE took 03 to 24 months in getting approval of the requisite documents from the Competent Authority after the receipt of Final audit Report and finalisation of Annual Report. The Committee also note that there are multiple stages for obtaining the approval i.e., Finance Committee, Governing Body and the Institute's Society which consumes a lot of time in obtaining approval. However, the Committee were apprised that now the President of the Institute's Society has delegated power for adoption/approval of requisite documents to the Governing body for timely submission to the Ministry for laying of documents before the Parliament. The Committee recommend the Ministry/NIHE to ensure that the meetings of competent authority are held timely and approval of the requisite documents are obtained within the timelines set by the Ministry.

The Committee recommend the Ministry to ensure that it continues to meet its statutory obligation of timely laying the requisite documents on the table of the House, not only of the NIHE, but of all the organisations under its administrative control as per the earlier recommendations of this Committee and also in accordance with the General Financial Rules, 2017, in future also.

21. The Committee are disappointed to note that the Ministry/NIHE has given wrong dates in replies/submission to the questionnaire sent by this Secretariat which formed the basis for the discussion during the oral evidence. The Ministry in its reply has submitted 30.07.2015/04.08.2015; 05.12.2016/12.12.2016 and 12.03.21/15.03.21 as the dates of laying the requisite documents of NIHE for the years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2019-2020 respectively. However, after verifying the same from the documents available with this Secretariat, the Committee observe that these documents were actually laid on 11.08.2015; 16.12.2016 and

19.03.2021 respectively and not on the dates furnished by the Ministry, which shows that the Ministry does not have the exact record of these dates. The Committee would expect the Ministry to be more careful in furnishing replies to the Committee.

22. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to ensure 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.

**New Delhi
07 February 2024
18 Magha, 1945 (Saka)**

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

Annexure -I
vide para 06 of the Report

Statement showing the dates of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora for 2013-14 to 2022-23.

Financial Year	Date by which Annual Reports and Audited Accounts were required to be laid	Date of laying furnished by the Ministry vide their reply	Actual date of laying of requisite documents*	Extent of delay
2013-2014	31.12.2014	30.07.2015 04.08.2015	11.08.2015	07 Months
2014-2015	31.12.2015	05/06.12.2016 12.12.2016	16.12.2016	12 Months
2015-2016	31.12.2016	04.01.2019 07.01.2019	04.01.2019	24 Months
2016-2017	31.12.2017	04.01.2019 07.01.2019	04.01.2019	12 Months
2017-2018	31.12.2018	04.01.2019 07.01.2019	04.01.2019	04 days
2018-2019	31.12.2019	02.03.2020 06.03.2020	06.03.2020	02 Months
2019-2020	31.12.2020	12.03.2021 15.03.2021	19.03.2021	03 Months
2020-2021	31.12.2021	15.12.2022 19.12.2022	19.12.2022	12 Months
2021-2022	31.12.2022	11.12.2023 14.12.2023	11.12.2023	11 Months
2022-2023	31.12.2023	11.12.2023 14.12.2023	11.12.2023	No delay

**as per Bulletin Part-I of Lok Sabha Secretariat.*

Annexure -II
vide para 08 of the Report

Chronological sequence in respect of finalization of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora for 2013-14 to 2022-23.

S.No	Subject	Year-wise details for the last ten financial years									
		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
(i)	Date of approach to the audit authorities	10.07.14	25.5.15	12.10.15	10.06.17	10.07.18	28.11.18	25-09-19	07-10-20	22.10.21	18.10.22
	Time taken after the closure of accounting year	4 month	2.5 month	4 month.	3 month.	4.5 month.	5.5 month.	5.5 month	4.5 month.	5 month.	2.5month .
(ii)	Date of appointment of statutory auditors	05.07.14	22.5.15	17.7.15	02.06.17	6.7.18	3.8.18	9.8.19	18.8.20	16.8.21	31.8.22
	Time taken after the approaching the audit authorities for appointment of auditors	1 month	1 month	1 month	1 month	1 month	3.5 months	1.5 months	1.5 months	2 months	2 months
(iii)	Date of compilation of annual accounts	4.8.14	19.6.15	4.8.16	4.7.17	13.8.18	6.9.19	16.9.20	13.8.21	24.8.22	25.6.23
	Time taken after the closure of the accounting year	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week
(iv)	Date of submission of annual accounts to auditors	28.7.14	12.6.15	28.7.16	28.6.17	6.8.18	3.8.19	9.9.20	6.8.21	17.8.22	18.6.23
	Time taken after closure of respective accounting year	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week
(v)	The date and duration for auditing the annual accounts by statutory auditors	28.7.14 1 week	12.6.15 1 week	28.7.16 1 week	28.6.17 1 week	6.8.18 1week	3.8.19 1 week	9.9.20 1 week	6.8.21 1week	17.8.22 1week	18.6.23 1 week
(vi)	The date of queries raised by auditors during auditing/ after completion of the annual accounts	30.7.14	15.6.15	29.7.16	30.6.17	7.8.18	5.8.19	10.9.20	7.8.21	19.8.22	21.6.23
	Time taken by auditors in raising the queries during auditing/after completion of the annual accounts to audit authorities	3 days approx	3 days approx	3 days approx	3 days approx	3 days approx	3 days approx	3 days approx	3 days approx	3 days approx	3 days approx.

(vii)	The date on which the replies to the audit queries were furnished to the Auditors	3.8.14	18.6.15	1.8.16	3.7.17	10.8.18	8.8.19	13.9.20	10.8.21	22.8.22	24.6.23
	The time taken to resolve the queries	2 days	2 days	2 days	2 days	2 days	2 days	2 days	2 days	2 days	2 days
(viii)	The date on which draft Audit Report was issued by Audit Authorities	3.8.14	18.6.15	3.8.16	3.7.17	12.8.18	5.9.19	15.9.20	12.8.21	23.8.22	24.6.23
	Time taken after auditing of the annual accounts	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day
(ix)	The date on which the final audit report Received by the organisation	4.8.14	19.6.15	4.8.16	4.7.17	13.8.18	6.9.19	16.9.20	13.8.21	24.8.22	25.6.23
	Time taken after issue of draft report	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day
(x)	Total time taken by the audit authorities after receiving of the annual accounts to furnishing the final audit report to the organisation	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week
(xi)	Date of finalization of the annual report	4.8.14	19.6.15	4.8.16	4.7.17	13.8.18	6.9.19	16.9.20	13.8.21	24.8.22	25.6.23
	Time taken after the closure of the financial year; and also	4 mth	2.5 mth	4mth.	3mth.	4.5 mth.	5.5 mth.	6 mth.	4.5 mth.	5 mth.	2.5mth.
	Time taken after the receipt of the final audit report	4 Months	2.5 months	4 months	3 months	4.5 months	5.5 months.	6 months.	4.5 months.	5 months	2.5months.
(xii)	The date on which the documents were got approved from the Competent Authority	02.03.15	13.07.16	19.11.18	19.11.18	19.11.18	30.12.19	12.01.21	02.08.22	14.11.23	14.11.23
	Time taken after finalization of Annual Report	1 month	1 month	1 month	1 month	1 month	1 month	1 month	1 month	One day	One day
	Time taken after receipt of Final Audit Report	7 month	13 month	24 month	17 month	4 month	3 month	3 month	1 year	15 month	5 month

(xiii)	The date on which documents were taken up for translation & printing	03.03.15	14.07.16	20.11.18	20.11.18	20.11.18	31.12.19	15.02.21	03.08.22	01.12.23	01.12.23
	The time taken for completing the task at each stage.	One month	One month	One month	One month	One month	Two month	One month	One month	15 days	15 days
(xiv)	The date for sending the documents to the Ministry for being laid in House after the completion the task at each stage.	24.4.15	11.8.16	18.12.18	18.12.18	18.12.18	5.2.20	18.02.21	5.9.22	01.12.23	01.12.23
	Time taken by the organisation in sending the documents to the Ministry	3 days	3 days	3 days	3 days	3 days	3 days	3 days	3 days	3 days	3 days
(xv)	The date of laying the documents to the House.	30.07.15 04.08.15	05/06.12.16 12.12.16	04.01.19 07.01.19	04.01.19 07.01.19	04.01.19 07.01.19	02.03.20 06.03.20	12.03.21 15.03.21	15.12.22 19.12.22	11.12.23 14.12.23	11.12.23 14.12.23
	Time taken after receipt of the documents from the organisation	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months	15 days	1 month	2 months	3 months	10 days	10 days

Committee On Papers Laid On The Table (2022-2023)

Extracts of the Minutes of the third sitting of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2023-2024) held on 19.12.2023.

The Committee sat on Tuesday, 19th December, 2023 from 1500 hours to 1600 hours in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Girish Chandra - ***Chairperson***

Members

(Lok Sabha)

2. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
3. Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal
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 a original draft Report and oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, (i) National Bio-diversity Authority, Chennai and (ii) G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Almora, in connection with delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the:-

(i) National Bio-diversity Authority, Chennai; and

(ii) G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Almora

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up the Report regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Animal Welfare Board of India, Ballabgarh under the administrative control of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying).

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

4. The Committee then called the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC); National Bio-diversity Authority (NBA), Chennai; and G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (NHE), Almora.

Representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC);

(i) National Bio-diversity Authority (NBA), Chennai; and

(ii) G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (NHE), Almora.

1.	Shri Tanmay Kumar	-	Additional Secretary, MoEFCC
2.	Ms. Nameeta Prasad	-	Joint Secretary, MoEFCC
3.	Shri C. Achalendra Reddy	-	Chairperson, NBA
4.	Dr. Balaji	-	Secretary, NBA
5.	Dr. Sunil Nautiyal	-	Secretary, NIHE

The Chairperson welcomed the representatives and informed them about the provisions of Direction 58 by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, regarding the confidentiality of the proceedings.

5. X X X X X.

6. Thereafter, the Committee desired to know the reasons for delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (NHE), Almora for the years 2013-14 to 2021-22 which were laid with delays ranging from 02 months to 24 months, except for the year 2017-18. The representatives of the NHE enumerated the time taken in approaching the audit authorities to audit the accounts as one of the reasons of delay. The Committee was apprised that the time taken by the Ministry in laying the requisite documents after its receipt from the NHE was another reason for the delay. The Committee also noted that the requisite documents of the NHE for the year 2022-23 have been laid timely. The representatives of the Ministry/NHE assured of timely laying of the requisite documents before the Parliament in future.

7. The Chairperson thanked the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC); (i) National Bio-diversity Authority (NBA), Chennai; and (ii) G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (NHE), Almora for their free and frank views and requested them to respond to various queries raised during the meeting.

The witnesses then withdrew.

The Meeting then adjourned.

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

The Extracts of the Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2023-2024) held on 07.02.2024.

The Committee sat on Wednesday, 07th February, 2024 from 1500 hours to 1530 hours in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Girish Chandra - ***Chairperson***

Members

(Lok Sabha)

2. Shi Pallab Lochan Das
3. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
4. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
5. Shri Devendrappa Y.

Secretariat

1. Shri R.K. Suryanarayanan - 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 XXXX, 08 original and 5 Action-taken draft Reports.

3. X X X X X

4. Then, the Committee took up the following eight Original and five 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.	Delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora;				
vii.	X	X	X	X	X;
viii.	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; and
xiii.	X	X	X	X	X.

The 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.

The Meeting then adjourned.
