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SALAR JUNG MUSEUM, HYDERABAD

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE)

SIXTH REPORT

SEVENTH LOK SABHA

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

SIXTH REPORT
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(1996-97)

(ELEVENTH LOK SABHA)

SALAR JUNG MUSEUM, HYDERABAD

**MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE)**

*Action Taken on 107th Report of Public
Accounts Committee (10th Lok Sabha)*



*Presented to Lok Sabha on 18.3.1997
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 18.3.1997*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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CORRIGENDA TO SIXTH REPORT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
COMMITTEE (ELEVENTH LOK SABHA)

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COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(1996-97)

Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi — *Chairman*

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INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Public Accounts Committee having been authorised by the Committee, do present on their behalf, this Sixth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee contained in their 107th Report (10th Lok Sabha) on Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad.

2. This Report was considered and finalised by the Public Accounts Committee at their sitting held on 13 March, 1997. Minutes of the sitting form Part II of the Report.

3. For facility of reference and convenience, the recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in a consolidated form in Appendix to the Report.

4. The Committee place on record their appreciation of the assistance rendered to them in the matter by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

NEW DELHI;
14 March, 1997

23 Phalguna, 1918 (Saka)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI,
Chairman,
Public Accounts Committee

CHAPTER I REPORT

1. This Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their Hundred and Seventh Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Paragraph 11 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31 March 1992, No. 11 of 1993, Union Government (Other Autonomous Bodies) relating to Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad.

2. The Hundred and Seventh Report which was presented to Lok Sabha on 25 August, 1995 contained 30 recommendations/observations. Action taken notes on all these recommendations/observations have been received from the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Culture) and have been broadly categorised as follows:

- (i) Recommendations and observations which have been accepted by Government:
Sl. Nos.: 1, 7, 8, 9, 11—13, 15—17, 20—24, 26—28
- (ii) Recommendations and observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in the light of the replies received from Government:
Sl. Nos.: 2, 14, 30
- (iii) Recommendations and observations, replies to which have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:
Sl. Nos.: 3—6, 25
- (iv) Recommendations and observations in respect of which Government have furnished interim replies:
Sl. Nos.: 10, 18, 19, and 29

3. The Committee desire that final replies to those recommendations and observations in respect of which only interim replies have been furnished by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Culture) should be submitted expeditiously after getting them vetted by audit.

Functioning of the Salar Jung Museum

4. The Salar Jung Museum at Hyderabad is a repository of the artistic achievements of diverse European, Asian and Far Eastern Countries of the World. The administration of the Museum was with Salar Jung Estate Committee till 1958. With the enactment of the Salar Jung Museum Act, 1961 by Parliament, the Museum and the Library was declared as an institution of national importance and the administration of the Museum

was entrusted to the Salar Jung Museum Board with the Governor of Andhra Pradesh as its Chairman assisted by ten members. The main functions of the Board as envisaged in the Act are: efficient management of the Museum and to plan, promote, organise and implement programmes for its development, besides providing for instruction and research relating to museums and libraries, advancement of learning and dissemination of knowledge etc.

5. In their 107th Report (Tenth Lok Sabha), the Committee had observed several irregularities/shortcomings in the functioning of the Museum. These *inter-alia* included financial and administrative irregularities, lapses in the upkeep of accounts, discrepancies in the number of art objects, loss of art objects actually in possession of the Museum, failure to account for the art objects, loss of art objects, failure to conduct physical verification as per the prescribed procedure, lapses/inadequacies in purchase, documentation, conservation and display of art objects, maintenance of the library irregularities in the execution of civil works and above all, lack of effective control over the Museum. The action taken notes furnished by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Culture) on the various observations/recommendations of the Committee contained in the Report have been reproduced in the relevant Chapters of this Report. In the succeeding paragraphs the Committee, however, deal with the action taken by Government on some of their observations/recommendations.

Delay in follow-up action on Expert Committee Report
(Sl. Nos. 3 to 6, Paragraphs 96 to 99)

6. In their 107th Report (10th Lok Sabha), the Committee had observed that there were discrepancies/defects in the actual number of art objects taken over from the Salar Jung Estate Committee and as shown in the subsequent registers prepared by the Government and that those were not fully and correctly accounted for at any point of time. What had caused concern to the Committee was that despite the glaring discrepancies, no serious efforts were made to conduct a thorough physical verification. Though a physical verification was taken up from 1980-81, in reality, the Museum authorities had not followed the prescribed procedure. In fact, neither was any proper procedure for physical verification attempted by the Museum authorities nor did the Ministry bother to enquire about the exact nature of such verifications. It was only after the discrepancies in the art objects and the shortcomings in the physical verification were pointed out by Audit that the ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Culture) appointed a Committee of Experts on 23 March, 1993 to physically verify all the objects in the original registers and other records so as to determine whether there were any missing objects and to fix the responsibility therefor and to suggest a system for future. The Report of the Expert Committee which was submitted in 29 September, 1994 had *inter-alia* revealed that 636 art objects had been lost from the

Museum Collections which consisted of cancelled/missing objects (263), substituted object (one) and art objects not produced before that Committee and declared untraceable (372). However, the matter was referred to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as late as in June 1995 to investigate as to the persons who had connived in the loss/pilferage of articles and also to take the help of other linked agencies to go into the roots of such thefts. While expressing their unhappiness over the delay in the follow-up action on the report of the Expert Committee, the Committee had desired that the CBI investigation and the action against the officers found guilty of having connived in the theft of articles should be got expedited.

7. The Committee had further noted that as a follow-up to the Report of the Expert Committee, the Director of the Salar Jung Museum had called for the explanation of all the officers responsible for their failure in conducting physical verification and their replies were placed before the Museum Board for further action against them. They had pointed out that no concrete action had been initiated against the officials of the Museum who had not only failed in their duties but also misled the Board by submitting wrong certificates regarding physical verification. While taking a serious view of this dereliction of duty by the officials, the Committee had recommended that the matter should be thoroughly inquired into and punishment meted out to the erring officials.

8. In their action taken note furnished to the Committee on 9 September, 1996 the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Culture) stated:

"As desired by PAC, CBI has been requested to investigate the cases of theft articles. CBI has not so far informed about outcome of their investigation. As regards missing objects, according to the findings of the Expert Committee 635 art objects have been lost from the Museum collection which consists of 263 missing objects and 372 untraceable objects. The Museum authorities stated (May 1996) that while the concerned keepers have been asked to locate and verify thoroughly these objects, final results have not yet become available, out of the 372 untraceable objects 311 have already been traced. After completion of the procedural formalities in the matter regarding availability of CBI report etc. the responsibility can be fixed."

9. When asked to indicate the latest position of action taken in respect of the aforesaid observations/recommendations of the Committee, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Culture) vide their letter dated 1 January, 1997 stated:

"At the time of the submission of the ATN, case was referred to CBI for investigation of missing art objects numbered to 635; before fixing the responsibility of missing art objects to persons.

Meanwhile DOC received a letter from Superintendent, CBI, New Delhi that it has come to notice of CBI investigating officer that as many as 326 missing items have been traced by SJM authorities and now it is felt desirable that these items should be examined by the same team of experts who looked into the items of the Museum physically so that these items could be excluded from purview of the investigation being conducted by the CBI. On this, DOC contacted the Chairman, Physically Verification Committee and he has been requested to take another physical verification with the help of the other members. The Chairman, Physical Verification Committee is under process of doing the same with the help of SJM authorities and the other members (So the CBI has to stop its investigation for the time being)."

10. The Committee wish to recall that based on the findings of the Report of the Expert Committee submitted in September, 1994, the matter regarding loss of art objects (numbering 636) was referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in June, 1995 to investigate as to the persons who had connived in the loss/pilferage of articles and also to take the help of other linked agencies to go into the roots of such thefts. The Committee have been informed that according to CBI 326 missing items have now been traced by Salar Jung Museum authorities. Surprisingly, the action taken note furnished by the Ministry does not reveal as to how those objects which had been missing for a long period have now resurfaced suddenly. This undoubtedly, cast doubts to the Committee on the role of the authorities of the Museum in the whole matter. It was, therefore, important that the CBI completed their investigation expeditiously with a view to establishing the connivance of persons in the loss/pilferage of valuable articles from the collections of the Museum and went into the roots of such thefts. Unfortunately, the course of investigation now reported to the Committee does not inspire sufficient confidence. Although a period of two years have elapsed since the matter was referred to the CBI, no concrete result of the investigation in terms of either of the missing objects or of the persons responsible for the theft has emerged. What is more disturbing is that no plausible explanation has been offered by the Ministry for stalling the ongoing CBI investigation during the period of verification of the retraced objects by the Expert Committee. Considering the present status of the case, the Committee are inclined to conclude that the whole issue has been dealt with in a casual manner and the gravity of offence for which the matter was referred to CBI has been greatly undermined. The Committee strongly deplore this state of affairs. They desire that the Expert Committee should complete verification of the retraced objects including their genuineness within a reasonable and specified period. The Ministry should take all necessary steps to get the CBI investigation resumed and completed and action against those found guilty for the loss/pilferage and also for having connived in the theft of articles got expedited. The Committee would like to

be apprised of the precise progress made in this regard within three months.

11. It is further disquieting to note that the action taken notes of the Ministry is completely silent about the action taken against officials of the Museum who not only failed in their duties but also misled the Museum Board by submitting wrong certificates regarding physical verification. Although the Committee were informed earlier that explanation called for from all the officials responsible for their failure in conducting physical verification had been placed before Salar Jung Museum Board, unfortunately, no further action has been taken on this count. The Committee deprecate the inaction on the part of the authorities concerned and desire that the matter should be thoroughly inquired into and punishment meted out to the erring officials. They would like to be informed of the conclusive action taken in the matter within a period of three months.

Report of the Fact Finding Committee and action taken thereon
(S. No. 25, Paragraph 117)

12. In their earlier Report, the Committee had noted that an independent Fact Finding Committee was constituted by the Government in 1991 to go into a number of allegations made against the administration of Salar Jung Museum and the then Director of Salar Jung Museum, Dr. M.L. Nigam. The Fact Finding Committee had taken up 16 major allegations against the Director for examination and the Report submitted in November 1992 largely sustained the allegations against the Director. The main allegations briefly related to missing of antiquities, irregular awarding of contracts, failure to prevent encroachment into the museum premises, irregular shifting of residence and drawal of house rent allowance, non-maintenance of personal service book and destruction of records, impropriety in the appointment of employees, non-utilisation of huge stock of teak wood and costly equipments, non-utilisation of 40 staff quarters, purchasing art objects of dubious authenticity, inept handling of important purchases, purchase of land for private house, non-reply to audit report, alleged misuse of staff car and telephone facilities, misuse of museum employees, misbehaviour with the staff, etc. Subsequently, a sub-committee was constituted by the Salar Jung Museum Board to go through the Report of the Fact Finding Committee and submit its recommendations on actionable points. The Sub-committee report was considered by the Board and the matter was referred to the Central Vigilance Commission for advice who in turn gave their report recommending chargesheet on 20 October, 1993. However, the actual chargesheet including 9 Articles from the 16 allegations was issued to Dr. M.L. Nigam on 2 July, 1994 only. Dr. Nigam filed a writ petition in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh and obtained a stay on 4 August, 1994 and the matter was pending since then.

Expressing their deep concern over the inordinate delays in processing charges, issuing the chargesheet and getting the stay vacated, the Committee in Para 117 of their 107th Report (10th Lok Sabha) had *inter-alia* recommended:

"The Committee are deeply concerned to note that despite the grave nature of offences perpetuated against this prime institution, no single person has effectively been punished as yet. Undoubtedly, there had been inordinate delays in processing the charges, issuing the chargesheet and getting the stay vacated. The Committee cannot but express their strong displeasure over the same and recommended that immediate and urgent steps should be taken to get the stay order vacated and enlist the case for facilitating the future course of action. The precise progress made in this direction may be intimated to the Committee within a period of three months."

13. In their action taken note, the Ministry have stated as follows:

"Stay Vacation Petition was filed *vide* WMP No. 1402/95 and the case has not yet been listed by the High Court for hearing. As such the Stay could not be vacated. There is a move under consideration of Government to change the present Standing Counsel for the pending Court cases filed by Dr. M.L. Nigam, including the one in which he was chargesheeted and against which the Court had issued stay order. The Government feels that the Central Government Standing Counsel will take the required interest for an early hearing of these cases and will be able to vacate the stay."

14. It is a matter of deep concern to the Committee that even though more than two years have elapsed since the stay order was obtained by the then Director, no serious efforts were made by the Government to vacate the same and get the case enlisted. Distressingly, the Government are yet to conceive any concrete plan of action in this regard which is indicative of gross negligence on the part of the authorities concerned. Keeping in view the fact that the allegations were *prima facie* found true atleast in November 1992 and also the current status of the matter, the Committee cannot but deplore the abject failure of the Government to pursue the case to its logical end. While taking a serious view of the sorry state of affairs, the Committee reiterate that all required steps be taken by the Ministry to get the stay vacated and the case enlisted for expediting the matter.

Appointment of Review Committee

(Sl. Nos. 27 & 28, Paragraphs 120 & 121)

15. In their earlier Report, the Committee had observed that gross mismanagement of the Museum over the years had resulted in various irregularities/shortcomings in its functioning. Based on their findings, the Committee had made several specific recommendations for streamlining

the working of the Museum. The Committee were surprised to note that though the Museum had been under the control of the Ministry for over 30 years and the Salar Jung Museum Act, 1961 provided ample powers to the Ministry for administering control over the Museum, unfortunately the Ministry had woefully failed in exercising effective control over the Museum over the years. Expressing their serious concern over the state of affairs prevalent in the Museum, which was declared as an institution of national importance, the Committee in para 121 had summed up the Report as follows:

“The Committee are of the strong view that while there was an atmosphere of non-accountability prevalent at large in the Salar Jung Museum, the Department of Culture were equally remiss in the discharge of the responsibility cast upon them by the Salar Jung Museum Act, 1961. The Committee consider it unfortunate that though the irregularities in the Museum were within the knowledge of the Ministry at least since 1991, no single person has effectively been punished for the same till now. The Committee cannot but strongly deplore this sorry state of affairs in the Museum which was declared as an institution of national importance by Parliament way back in 1961. It is, therefore, highly imperative that this unsatisfactory situation is remedied forthwith. The Committee therefore recommend that the facts contained in the Report should be thoroughly looked into and the Government take appropriate corrective/remedial measures with a view to ensuring that the Salar Jung Museum plays the role assigned to it in the Salar Jung Museum Act 1961 effectively in the promotion of education and propagation of culture and that irregularities of the nature commented upon in this Report do not recur.”

16. In their action taken notes on the observations/recommendations of the Committee regarding poor administration of the Museum and failure of the Ministry to administer effective control over it, the Ministry have inter-alia stated that a Review Committee has been constituted on 29.1.1996 under the Chairmanship of Shri M.N. Deshpande, retired Director General, Archaeological Survey of India with following terms of reference:

- (i) To review the SJM Act, 1961 Rules and Bye-laws and recommend revision, if any for proper functioning of the Museum.
- (ii) To examine the existing administrative functions, financial procedure and the security arrangement in the Museum as well as delegation of further administrative/disciplinary powers to the Director and Officer on Special Duty, Salar Jung Museum.
- (iii) To formulate a perspective Plan for the future growth of the Museum.

- (iv) To formulate a functional staff structure in consonance with the prospective Plan and to recommend necessary changes in the Recruitment Rules.
- (v) To look into the present system of conservation and preservation of art objects and to suggest measures for their systematic conservation and preservation.
- (vi) To examine/look into the written off/lost art objects based on the Report of the Expert Committee and to suggest recommendations and further follow up action in this regard.

According to the Ministry, the Review Committee will go into wide areas and as such their recommendations on the functioning of the Salar Jung Museum will definitely improve the functioning of the Museum. The Government are further stated to be hopeful that the recommendations of the Committee will definitely stop recurrence of financial and other irregularities pointed out by the Fact Finding Committee and Public Accounts Committee. The Review Committee were stated to have met four times for discussing the various objectives vested with them. However, the final report of the Committee is still awaited. It was further stated that in order to curb tendency of the staff of the Museum for irregularities etc. Government would try to have periodical audit in addition to the normal practice of yearly audit. According to the Ministry, in addition to above, special efforts in the form of surprise checks by the officials of this Department will also be carried out.

17. The Committee note that besides various steps claimed to have been taken by the Ministry of Human Resource Development now to improve the functioning of the Salar Jung Museum, a Review Committee has also been appointed by Government on 29 January, 1996 under the Chairmanship of M.N. Deshpande, retired Director of Archaeological Survey of India with wide terms of reference (as enumerated above). According to the Ministry, the recommendations of the Review Committee will definitely improve the functioning of the Museum and stop recurrence of various irregularities/shortcomings. However, in view of the inadequate action taken on the Reports of the various Committees appointed by Government for improving the functioning of the Museum in general, namely, Sihare Committee, Randhawa Committee (1969), Dr. Motichandra Committee (1970) and also the Reports of Fact Finding Committee (1991) and Experts Committee (1993) appointed by Government in relation to the functioning of the Museum in particular, the Committee, at this stage, are not inclined to share this optimism. Further, though the Review Committee has been in existence for more than a year the Committee have not been apprised of the specific time given for the said Committee to complete the assigned task. In the absence of the same, the Committee fail to appreciate the precise progress made towards fulfilment of the assignment by the Review Committee. Keeping in view the grave nature of offences perpetuated

against this prime institution due to gross mismanagement, the Committee desire that the Review Committee be asked to accomplish the assignment in a time-bound manner and Government take necessary follow-up action so as to ensure that the Salar Jung Museum plays the role assigned to it in the Salar Jung Museum Act, 1961 effectively in the promotion of education and propagation of culture. The Committee would like to be apprised of the precise action taken in this regard.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendations

The Salar Jung Museum at Hyderabad is a repository of the artistic achievements of diverse European, Asian and Far Eastern countries of the world. A major portion of these collections were acquired by Late Shri Mir Yousuf Ali Khan, popularly known as 'Salar Jung III'. The administration of the Museum was with Salar Jung Estate committee till 1958. Thereafter, by virtue of a compromise deed based on a High Court decree in December 1958 the Museum came under the control of the then Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Government of India. Later, with the enactment of the Salar Jung Museum Act, 1961 by Parliament, the Museum and the Library was declared as an institution of national importance and the administration of the Museum was entrusted to the Salar Jung Museum Board with the Governor of Andhra Pradesh as its Chairman assisted by ten members. The main functions of the Board as envisaged in the Act are: efficient management of the Museum and to plan, promote, organise and implement programmes for its development, besides providing for instruction and research relating to museum and libraries, advancement of learning and dissemination of knowledge etc. The Audit paragraph based on a review of the working of the Museum covering the period from 1985-86 to 1991-92 and further examination of the subject by the Committee have revealed several irregularities in the functioning of the Museum which are dealt with in the succeeding paragraphs.

[Sl. No. 94 Para 1 of Appendix-II to 107th Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken by Ministry

This is an introductory paragraph and contains general observations of PAC. As such no action is required to be taken on this.

[Department of Culture, O.M. No. 15-18/93-CH. 1/M.1, dated 4.9.96]

Recommendation

The Committee are astonished to note there was no system in the Museum providing for verification at periodical intervals by experts in the field to guard against disappearance of genuine objects and their replacement by duplicates. Unfortunately, it was also not considered necessary to include this issue among the terms of reference to Expert Committee which undertook the physical verification. Thus there is no certification as on date on the authenticity/genuineness of the art objects

in the possession of the Museum. The Committee are deeply concerned to note that no system was built up in the Museum for the last 30 years to have a scrutiny of the genuineness of the objects which are considered to be one of the rare collections and ranked as one of the foremost of its kind in India and abroad. The Department of Culture assured that with the proposed introduction of the Computerised Archival Storage System, aspects of verification of genuineness of the objects could be adequately attended to. The Committee cannot remain convinced with this. They recommend that at least now a system should be devised in the Museum for periodical verification by experts to guard against disappearances of genuine objects and their substitution by fakes. The Committee would like to be informed of the progress made in the introduction of Computerised Archival Storage system.

[Sl.No. 100 Para 7 of Appendix-II to 107th Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

The Museum has already initiated physical verification of store of art objects in respect of store IV, VA, VB, VC & VI from 6/95 onwards by guide lecturers in the presence of Committee of three officers i.e. Keeper (MBB), Chemist and Keeper (Galleries).

As regards introduction of Computerised Archival Storage System, the Museum has initiated action with the help from National Informatic Centre, Hyderabad, and preparing index cards for the entire content under three major categories — Eastern, Indian and European, depending on the origin style and date of the art collections.

[Department of Culture, O.M.No. 15-18/93-CH.1/M.1, dated 4.9.96]

Recommendation

The Committee further note that as per the Report of Expert Committee, various inventories have occasional remarks as 'written off', 'cancelled' against the relevant entries in the Register. The Expert Committee had expressed their doubts over the competence of the Board to write off the antiquities and therefore, recommended that the matter should be referred to the Ministry of Law. Surprisingly, the Ministry have not done it so far. The Ministry contended that they have appointed a Review Committee who will be asked to go into this question and suggest recommendations in this regard. According to the Ministry, after the Report of the Review Committee is received, the issue, if necessary will be referred to the Ministry of Law for their final opinion. The Committee would like to be apprised of the further action taken in the matter.

The Committee would also like to be informed of the terms of references of the Review Committee, their recommendations and the action taken thereon.

[Sl.No. 101 & 102 Para 8 & 9 of Appendix-II to 107th Report of PAC
(10th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

A Review Committee has been appointed by the Ministry vide Govt. Order No. F.15-13/95-CH.1, dated 29.1.1996 under the Chairmanship of Shri M.N. Deshpande and the terms of reference of the Committee are:

- (i) To review the SJM Act, 1961 Rules and Bye-laws and recommend revision, if any for proper functioning of the Museum.
- (ii) To examine the existing administrative functions, financial procedure and the security arrangement in the Museum as well as delegation of further administrative/disciplinary powers to the Director and Officer on Special Duty, Salar Jung Museum.
- (iii) To formulate a perspective Plan for the future growth of the Museum.
- (iv) To formulate a functional staff structure in consonance with the prospective Plan and to recommend necessary changes in the Recruitment Rules.
- (v) To look into the present system of conservation and preservation of art objects and to suggest measures for their systematic conservation and preservation.
- (vi) To examine/look into the written off/lost art objects based on the Report of the Expert Committee and to suggest recommendations and further follow up action in this regard.

The first meeting of the Committee was held on 19.2.1996 in New Delhi and the second meeting was held on 5th and 6th July, 1996 at Hyderabad.

The Committee has yet to submit its report.

[Department of Culture, O.M.No. F 15-18/93-CH.1/M.1, dated 4.9.96]

Recommendation

In this connection, the Committee find that with a view to avoiding competition, among the three National museums viz., Indian Museum, Calcutta, National Museum, New Delhi and Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad and to effect economy, the Government desired in February 1993 that there should be a combined art purchase committee for three museums and issued guidelines that purchases may be made through the committee. Strangely enough, the Salar Jung Museum Board continued with the existing acquisition committee to buy objects. The Ministry pleaded that the Boards of the various museums being different and that

their specific needs also being different, the combined art purchase committee could not function. While no specified orders to supercede the guidelines were issued, the combined art purchase committee become non-functional as none of the museums evinced any interest in this regard. The Committee cannot but express their dissatisfaction over the manner in which the idea of combined art purchase committee was relegated to the background by the Ministry.

The Committee have been informed that an Expert Committee appointed by the Department of Culture in January 1994 issued certain guidelines suggesting a workable method for combined purchase of art objects by different museums. According to these guidelines, the Directors of each museum will be a member of the art purchase committee of the other museums. The Ministry stated that these guidelines will be reviewed further after two years so that a systematic purchase of art objects is made in-built. The Committee desire that the Ministry should keep a strict vigil over the implementation of the guidelines, monitor the improvements effected and carry out the necessary review in order to streamline the process of acquisition of art objects and making the acquisition procedure more transparent.

[Sl.No. 104 & 105—Para 11 & 12 of Appendix-II to 107th Report of PAC
(10th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken by the Ministry

The Boards of the various Museums being different and that their specific needs are also different, the combined Art Purchase Committee could not function. While no specific orders to supercede the guidelines were issued, the combined Art Purchase Committee became non-functional as none of the Museum evinced any interest in this regard.

These guidelines will be reviewed after two years, so that systematic purchase of Art objects is made in built.

[Department of Culture, O.M.No. 15-18/93-CH.1/M.1, dated 4.9.96]

Recommendation

The Committee are unhappy to note that no sincere effort was made by the Museum authorities to preserve the photo-negatives of the objects in a systematic manner despite the recommendations made by the Randhawa Committee in this regard way back in 1969. It is incredible and yet true the work of keeping the negatives in Salar Jung Museum was entrusted to an unskilled Class IV Employee resulting in total disarray. Significantly, this was in gross violation of the clear instructions from the Board stating that the negatives should be under the personal custody of the Director of the Museums and that usage should be made sparingly. This speaks volumes of the laxity and indifferent attitude of the authorities concerned towards an institution declared by Parliament as of national importance. The Department of Culture pleaded that the system was

attempted by brought back to order and the work of systematic serial numbering of the photonegatives is expected to be completed by the end of August, 1995. Considering the crucial importance of the photo negatives in ensuring genuineness of the art objects, the Committee desire that the work should expeditiously completed. They would like to be informed of the progress made in the matter.

[Sl.No.106 para 13 of the Appendix -II to 107th report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

The work has been started and upto the end of April, 1996, entries of 49,682 negatives out of a total 71,627 have been made. The negatives pertaining to the Museum collections (of galleries and stores) have been duly registered and the total number registered remain the same because of reverification and numbering on the individuals negatives has been undertaken during the months of May and June. The remaining negatives relate to various manuscript collection and the negatives are being verified for registration.

[Department of Culture O.M.No. 15-18/93-CH. 1/M.1 dated 4.9.96]

Recommendations

The Committee are astonished to note that 60 per cent of the items purchased by the Museum were not displayed at all for seven years. The main reason attributed by the Ministry in this regard was the paucity of space. They, however, assured that the Museum was in the process of constructing two new wings, with the completion of which more objects will be displayed. The committee recommend that the Museum should devise a long term display policy with a view to ensuring efficient display of objects acquired by the Museum and enabling the public to have a view of these rare collections.

Yet another shortcoming observed by the Committee related to the inordinate delay in opening up a gallery for tribal art. Even though the Government advised the Museum to open the gallery during the Seventh Five Year Plan and a special provision of Rs. 6 lakhs was provided in the budget, the entire grant remained unutilised. The Ministry stated that one of the two new wings which are under the process of construction would be fully ready by 31 March 1996. The gallery of tribal art will be opened in this new building within two months of completion of construction. The Committee consider the inordinate delay in this case as unfortunate and desire that sustained efforts should be made by the Ministry/Museum to expedite opening of the gallery for tribal art with a view to launching a long-term programme for promoting tribal culture.

The mobile exhibition is one of the important activities taken up by the Museum under the aegis of mass education programme. The basic objective of the mobile exhibition was to reach the people living in slum

areas and outlying districts and under privileged school children who cannot normally afford to come to the Museum. Though an exhibition van for the above purpose was purchased at a cost of Rs. 2.35 lakhs, it remained largely under-utilised defeating the very purpose of mobile exhibition. In the opinion of the Committee, since the Museum has an acknowledged role to play in the field of informal and continuing education, this area deserves much more serious attention of the Ministry. The Committee recommend that in addition to the programmes drawn up as a part of mobile exhibition to cover rural population, other activities like temporary exhibition, special exhibition, popular lectures, training courses, seminars and symposiums should also be taken up at regular intervals to promote mass education programme at a wider scale.

[S.No. 108, 110 Para 15-17 of the Appendix-II to 107th Report of PAC
(10th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

This is in conformity with the general policy followed by the National Museums all over the world and not more than 20 to 30% are exhibited in the galleries. However, annually six special exhibitions are held with specific themes befitting the educational programmes from the reserved/stored collections. However, more objects are expected to be displayed as and when the additional space is available. Two new wings of the Museum are under construction and the entire art collections will be arranged under three major groups viz Eastern, Indian and Western. It is hoped that the percentage of the objects for display will be increased considerably, subject to proper security arrangements. As more space is likely to be available, the setting up of the Tribal art gallery will be taken up. The basic frame work is being worked at in consultation with the Tribal Art Research Centre and Museum, Tank Bund road, Government of A.P., Hyderabad which is organising an exclusive gallery of Tribal Arts and Culture of Andhra Pradesh.

Observations of Audit: It is verified that the construction of new buildings where the gallery of tribal art was proposed to be opened, was not completed by 31.3.1996 as stated by the Ministry. The period of completion has been extended upto 31.7.1996.

Comments: The NBCC could not complete the works and sought the extension upto 31st December, 1996.

[Department of Culture O.M.No.15-18/93-CH. 1/M. 1 dated 4.9.96]

Recommendation

The Committee also found certain inadequacies in the Museum Library and its utilisation and also the microfilming unit which was purchased in 1983 at a cost of Rs. 2.17 lakhs with a view to taking microfilms of all rare manuscripts available in the Museum. The physical verification by the Expert Committee has also established that in the Manuscript library

there were cases of loss of books, substitution of books, double entries and bifurcation of manuscripts. Recounting the corrective steps taken, the Ministry stated that the museum services have since been geared up, effective steps have been taken to recover books from the defaulting staff and the microfilming unit has been conditioned and put to use. The recommendations of the Expert Committee in this regard are stated to have been in the process of implementation. Since the Library and the Museum has been declared as an institution of national importance and it is one of the premier manuscript libraries of India, its maintenance and preservation needs serious attention from the Board/Ministry.

[Sl. No. 113 Para 30 of Appendix-II 107th Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

1. Effective steps have been taken to recover the books from defaulting staff. The Board of the Museum in its meeting held on 25.11.1995, has resolved to issue final reminders from remitting the books collected by Salar Jungs, within a month, failing which police action will be taken against the defaulters. Microfilming unit has been conditioned and put to use by MSS Section.

2. Out of 52 books lost/found missing; 19 belongs to category I i.e. Salar Jung Collection and only one of this category has been recovered. Out of the 33 belonging to category II (Purchased and gratis) five have been recovered.

[Department of Culture, O.M. No. 15-18/93-CH. 1/M.1, dated 4.9.96]

Recommendation

The Committee note with concern that Museum publications worth Rs. 12.74 lakhs were lying unsold due to unrealistic assessment of the demand. In this connection Dr. Motichandra Committee which was appointed by Government of India in 1969 had in their Report which was stated to have been adopted by Government in 1970 recommended that the Museum should have a properly trained publication officer for careful planning and execution of publication work, but there was no publication officer in the Museum. Further, the Randhawa Committee recommended that a review of all books published should be maintained in the library of the Museum, but no such review seems to have been done by the Museum. Above all, the publications sub-committee constituted by the Board for this purpose also did not function properly. Evidently, this wing of the Museum was left unattended to and neither the recommendations of the Motichandra Committee nor those of Randhawa Committee were implemented. The Committee deprecate the casual and negligent attitude of the authorities in this regard. They recommend that besides implementation of the recommendations of these two committees, a realistic

assessment of demand for books be under taken and a definite publication programme drawn for efficient utilisation of the resources of the Museum.

[Sl. No. 114 Para 21 of Appendix-II 107th Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

The backlog of Salar Jung Museum Bi-annual Research Journal from 1986-87 onwards till date is taken up for publication. The research papers are Vols. XXIII-XXIV (1986-87) XXV-XXVI (1988-89) have been sent to press. The Telugu and Urdu versions of the Guide book for the visiting public are under preparation which will be brought out during this very financial year. The number of copies to be printed will be restricted to 300 in respect of Journals.

The sale is augmented through display at the reception counter. Local Institutions/Universities were also informed of the sale of publication. Journals/Books are also exchanged, nearly one lakh rupees sale is registered between 1993-94.

It is verified that an amount of Rs. 1.12 lakhs and 1.25 lakhs were released during 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively on sale of publication.

[Department of Culture O.M.No.15-18/93-CH. 1/M. 1 dated 4.9.96]

Recommendation

During the course of examination the Committee's attention was drawn to the inadequate security system which prevailed in the Museum. The Committee have been informed that the existing system of security where internal and outside security were looked after by different officials resulted in shifting of responsibility and as a consequence, the entire security suffered. According to the Ministry the new system now proposed to be envisaged will have only a single security agency both for internal and external security and also will provide complete electronic system. The Museum authorities are state to have approached the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) for this purpose and a survey had reportedly been carried out by a technical team of the CISF. The Committee desire that besides the introduction of the measures enumerated above. The museum should also keep track with the developments taking place in the security systems of other museums of the world with a view to upgrading and strengthening the security system for effective protection of the museum.

[Sl.No. 115 Para 22 of Appendix II to 107th Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

Security System

The Salar Jung Museum is an apex Museum of National importance. It is located unfortunately in private area unlike other Museums of National

importance like National Museum (New Delhi), Indian Museum (Calcutta), Govt. Museum (Madras). These three Museums are amidst governmental controlled areas and come under security zone. Whereas Salar Jung Museum is devoid of any external security and located in sensitive communally disturbed old city area of Hyderabad. Coupled with this, at the Southern, Eastern and Western sides of the Museum Compound wall, right above the high wall, encroachers have built from 1963 onward high raised multi-storeyed buildings with openings towards Museum. These encroachers and nearby slums pose a severe threat of security. The existing security staff is as follows I- Security Officer (Class-II), 3-Security Assistants (Class-III), 4-Naiks (Class-IV), 9 Regular Chowkidars (Class-IV), besides 27 Ex-servicemen Personnel on Consolidated monthly pay of Rs. 1600/-. Thus a total of 44 security Personnel are entrusted with internal as well as external security. This arrangement was found to be most inadequate. Keeping this fact in mind, the Salar Jung Museum Board in its meeting, held on 18.01.1995 decided to deploy CISF. A Committee was constituted by the Board which studied various aspects relating to both internal and peripheral security of the Museum. Accordingly, CISF Group Commandant, Hyderabad was asked to submit after a detailed study, the requirements for both peripheral and internal security, they have provided duty point-wise deployment chart for induction of CISF in two phases. In first phase, 106 personnel of various categories were finalised by the CISF. The existing security personnel 44 Nos. will be given duties at various points of the Museum Interior to keep up the Security of the galleries and movement of visitors, ticket counters and deposit rooms (Cloak) etc.

The deployment of CISF has been finalised by the Department of Culture and posting of personnel is awaited from CISF Headquarters, Lodi Raod, New Delhi.

[Department of Culture, O.M.No. 15-18/93-CH.1/M.1, dated 4.9.96]

Recommendation

It is distressing to note that though the Randhawa Committee recommended a review of the working of the Museum every five years and the Government accepted the recommendation as far back as 1969, no such review was either conducted by the Museum or got enforced by the Department of Culture. Explaining the reasons for the same, the Ministry stated that though the recommendations of the Randhawa Committee report in this regard should have been brought to the knowledge of the Board or the Government for constituting the Review Committee, unfortunately this was not done. In regard to the implementation of other recommendations of the committee, it was stated that though this Report was placed before the Board for noting the action to be taken, their implementations were not brought before the Board or the Government by the then Director. The Committee were further informed that apart from the non-implementation of the recommendations of Randhawa Committee

report, even the recommendations of the Sihare Committee report which was a later report on Museum have been left unimplemented by the Museum. This is clearly indicative of the irresponsible and casual attitude of the authorities concerned in implementing the government policies. The Committee are of the firm view that had the Government implemented these recommendations, the irregularities/lapses committed could have been noticed earlier and timely steps could have been taken to correct the system of administration of the Museum.

As regards the present status of implementation of the recommendations of the Randhawa Committee, the Ministry stated that some of these recommendations have now been got implemented, and the Museum has now proposed constitution of a Review Committee on which action is at hand. The recommendations of the Sihare Committee are expected to be fully implemented with effect from April, 1996. The Committee would like to stress the need for faithful implementation of the recommendations of the various committees appointed from time to time by Government. The Ministry should ensure that in future the reviews are undertaken in the prescribed time so as to improve the functioning the Museum. The Committee would like to know the progress made in this direction.

[Sl.No. 116 & 117 Para 23 & 24 of Appendix II to 107th Report of PAC
(10th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken by Ministry

The Government has constituted a Review Committee of Salar Jung Museum under the chairmanship of Shri M.N. Deshpande, retired Director General, Archaeological Survey of India with seven members for systematic conservation/preservation of art objects on Salarjung Museum. The Terms of reference of this Committee has been discussed in the previous paragraphs.

[Department of Culture, O.M.No. 15-18/93-CH.1/M.1, dated 4.9.96]

Recommendation

It is a matter of concern to the Committee that though the Administration of the Museum was entrusted to the Salar Jung Museum Board by virtue of Salar Jung Museum Act, 1961 and the entire functioning of Salar Jung Museum is administered by this Central Act and Rules thereunder, the former Director of the Museum is stated to have completely carried on the Administration in disregard of the laid down rules/procedures which reportedly resulted in gross mismanagement and earned a bad repute to this institution of national importance. In the light of the above, the Committee are of the firm view that the role of the Director in the overall administration of the museum needs a critical review and an in-built system of checks and balances needs to be evolved to ensure enforcement of accountability on the part of the Director to guard against any such misuse of authority in future.

The Salar Jung Museum had been under the control of the Department of Culture for over 30 years. The facts stated in the foregoing paragraphs make it abundantly clear that the Museum was grossly mismanaged over the years resulting in financial irregularities, continued loss/pilferage of valuable articles and art objects and several other shortcomings. Significantly, even though the Salar Jung Museum Board is autonomous in nature, the representatives of the Ministry in the Board are required and expected to discharge their functions in terms of the provisions of the Salar Jung Museum Act 1961. The Act also provides ample powers to the Government to issue directions to the Board in the functioning of the Museum. Thus Ministry has sufficient powers for administering control over the Museum. The Committee further understand that the office of the C & AG have also been issuing Inspection reports to the Ministry on the functioning of the Museum. Unfortunately, as would be evident from the facts narrated above, the Department of Culture had woefully failed in exercising effective control over the Museum over the years which is deplorable. During evidence, the Secretary, Department of Culture admitted, "The Department cannot divert itself of its responsibility". The Committee need hardly comment further on this self-admitted dereliction of duty on the part of the Ministry. The Committee hope that the Ministry would atleast now take effective steps and keep a close vigil on the working of the Museum with a view to ensuring that the Museum is run in consonance with the functions envisaged in the Act and also obviating recurrence of such irregularities in future.

To sum up, the facts stated in the foregoing paragraphs have revealed several irregularities/shortcomings in the functioning of the Salar Jung Museum. Briefly, these include, financial and administrative irregularities, lapses in the upkeep of accounts discrepancies in the number of art objects actually in possession of the Museum, failure to account for the art objects, loss of art objects, failure to conduct physical verification as per the prescribed procedure, lapses/inadequacies in purchase, documentation, conservation and display of art objects maintenance of the library, irregularities in the execution of civil works and above all lack of effective control over the Museum. The Ministry of Human Resource Development have admitted these irregularities/inadequacies. The Committee are of the strong view that while there was an atmosphere of non-accountability prevalent at large in the Salar Jung Museum, the Department of Culture were equally remiss in the discharge of the responsibility cast upon them by the Salar Jung Museum Act 1961. The Committee consider it unfortunate that though the irregularities in the Museum were within the knowledge of the Ministry atleast since 1991, no single person has effectively been punished for the same till now. The Committee cannot but strongly deplore this sorry state of affairs in the Museum which was declared as an institution of national importance by

Parliament way back in 1961. It is, therefore, highly imperative that this unsatisfactory situation is remedied forthwith. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the facts contained in the Report should be thoroughly looked into and Government take appropriate corrective/remedial measures with a view to ensuring that the Salar Jung Museum with a view to ensuring that the Salar Jung Museum Act 1961 effectively in the promotion of education and propagation of culture and that irregularities of the nature commented upon in this Report do not recur.

[Sl. No. 119 to 121 Para 26-28 of Appendix II to 107th Report of PAC
(10th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken by Ministry

The Committee has very rightly pointed out that under the Salar Jung Museum Act, 1961, the Central Government has ample powers to issue directions to the Board in the functioning of the Museum. The Government under this power, has set up a Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri M.N. Deshpande, retired Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.

As may be seen from the terms of reference of this Committee, which have been discussed in the previous paragraphs, the Committee will go into wide areas and, as such, their recommendations on the functioning of the Salar Jung Museum will definitely improve the functioning of the museum. The Government is hopeful that the recommendations of the Review Committee will definitely stop recurrence of financial and other irregularities pointed out by the Fact Finding Committee and the PAC.

In order to curb tendency of the staff of the Museum for irregularities etc., Government would try to have periodical audit in addition to the normal practice of yearly audit. In addition to above, special efforts in the form of surprise checks by the officials of this Department will also be carried out.

[Department of Culture, O.M. No. 15-18/93-CH.1/M.1, dated 4.9.96]

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN THE LIGHT OF THE REPLIES RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation

The Museum is financed by grants-in-aid from the Government both for development and upkeep. In addition, the Museum also receives revenue from other miscellaneous receipts. Based on the budget estimates prepared by the Museum, the Government of India release lump sum grants leaving it to the Museum to defray this amount under the various heads according to local priorities decided by the Salar Jung Museum Board. During examination, the Committee have come across several cases of financial irregularities of varied nature such as, non utilisation of grants, irregularities in drawing cheques for payment, non-reconciliation of cash book with bank pass book, non-maintenance of asset register in the prescribed form etc. Some of such instances are briefly dealt with below:

Under the financial rules, only so much of grant shall be paid during any financial years as is likely to be expended during that year. In the case of Salar Jung Museum, the Committee find that amounts of Rs.2.31 lakhs, Rs.1.26 lakhs, Rs.6.31 lakhs and Rs.10.01 lakhs were drawn by the authorities of the Museum on 31st March of 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990 respectively to show grants as utilised during these financial years. In fact, the authorities of the Museum expended this amount varying from six months to over one a half years later. Another case of financial irregularity observed by the Committee was that out of three cheques for Rs.13.83 lakhs drawn for payment to contractors on 30 March, 1991, two cheques for Rs.8.678 lakhs were not handed over to the party till August, 1992 even after a lapse of 17 months as the works were not completed. It was found that the Museum authorities draw the cheques towards the end of the financial year to ensure and to show in the accounts that they have spent the amount, but the work itself was not completed. The cheques were eventually released on 3 December, 1992 only after the completion of the work.

It is further disquieting to note that no action was taken by the authorities concerned to reconcile the balance amounts as per the Museum records with that of the bank. Further, although the financial rules prescribe that institutions receiving grants from the Government of India should maintain the asset register and furnish a copy thereof to Government annually, no such register was maintained by the Museum.

Yet another irregularity related to non-investment of surplus grants in violation of the Government instructions and also the specific decision of the Board resulting in loss of interest. Surprisingly, the accounts wing of the Museum was run without any regular officer.

It is evident from the facts stated above that there was a total absence of administration and financial management in the Museum over the years. The Committee consider it amazing that such gross acts of irregularities, violations, improprieties etc. went undetected for a prolonged length of time. This is clearly indicative of the lack of accountability which persisted in the Museum over considerable period. The Committee strongly deprecate the callous attitude of the museum authorities. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Culture) admitted these irregularities and attributed them to the mal-administration of the Museum, lack of knowledge of procedure, absence of officers etc. They stated that some of these irregularities have also been included among other points in the charge sheet issued to the then Director and that adequate remedial steps have since been taken. The Committee cannot remain satisfied with this and they desire that all the cases of financial irregularities/violations/improprieties etc. mentioned above should be thoroughly looked into and action taken against all the officers found responsible for the various acts of omissions and commissions. The Ministry should also ensure the efficacy of the remedial steps taken with a view to obviating recurrence of such cases in future.

[Sl. No. 73 Para 2 of Appendix II to 107th, Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken by Ministry

PAC observed that (1) the irregularities in issuing cheques on 31st March, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991 but not issued till August, 1992 be reviewed for taking action against the officials concerned.

Correct procedure is followed now.

(2) *Bank reconciliation was not done between cash book and Bank Pass Book:*

Present status:

Bank reconciliation has been completed upto the end of 94-95, and current year reconciliation is in progress.

(3) Non-Maintenance of Asset register:*Present status*

Asset register has since been maintained and brought upto date agreeing the figures with the Annual Balance sheet for 1994-1995.

During the above periods, the following officers drafted on deputation were holding charge as Administrative & Accounts Officer S/Sri

1. A. R. Subramaniam, A & A.O.

(on deputation from A.G.A.P) (3/87)

2. D.N. Verma, Keeper looking after the duties of A & AO (3/88)

3. Shaik Abdulla, A & AO (3/89 to 3/91) on deputation from A.G.A.P.

As far as the question of taking action against the officers found responsible for such financial irregularities is concerned, PAC may note that during the period from 1987 to 1991, three different officers who were on deputation in SJM were holding charges as A & AO. The Officers have since retired from service and no action is possible at this stage.

PAC has cautioned this Ministry to ensure the efficiency of the remedial steps taken with a view to obviating recurrence of such cases in future. In order to avoid recurrence of such cases in future, the accounting system of the Museum has been streamlined and experienced officers have been appointed as A &AO.

Observations of the Audit

Against the grants released by GOI under Plan, an amount of Rs. 2.39 crores remained unutilised as at the end of 3/95. Reason attributed for non-utilisation was due to slow progress of building works by National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC). The amount of advance lying with NBCC as at the end of March, 1996 could not be arrived at as the relevant information/record was not made available to Audit.

Clarifications

A sum of Rs. 2.39 crores was the unspent balance out of the Plan grant upto the financial year 1994-95 unutilised due to the slow progress of constructional works of NBCC. The amount outstanding with national Building Construction Corporation towards Mobilisation Advance as on 31.3.96 stands at Rs. 1,36,12,756.00. As the finalisation of annual accounts was in progress the above figure could not be specifically furnished in the first week of May, 1996 to the A.A.O. of the Accountant General's Office. As on date the amount outstanding from NBCC stands at Rs. 1,25,26,586.

[Department of Culture, U.O. No. 15-18/93-CH.1/M.1, dated 4.9.96]

Recommendation

During examination the Committee found that the preservation of museum exhibits left a lot to be desired. The Committee find that out of

And of the 657 art objects purchased for Rs. 16.99 lakhs during 1985-86 to 1991-92, 503 objects were also in a damaged condition. Unfortunately, the Ministry failed to provide any satisfactory explanation for the damage caused to these objects and action taken on this count. What was further intriguing was that though a chemical conservation laboratory was established in 1962-63 for attending to the work of preservation and conservation of cultural property, there were abnormal delays in completion of chemical treatment of objects in several cases, the delay leading even upto seven years. Significantly, the Expert Committee has identified 200 art objects which warranted conservation with a measure of urgency preservation including 347 manuscripts. The Committee regret to conclude that no serious attempt was made by the Board to identify the art objects requiring conservation and preservation treatment and no plan of action carrying out restoration work in a phased manner was drawn up. The Committee cannot but express their deep concern over the damage caused to the art objects. The Ministry stated that the laboratory of the Museum was not properly equipped earlier and the Board has now initiated steps to strengthen it. The Committee desire that the process of conservation and preservation of art objects should be systematised and a review should be undertaken to find out the number of art objects requiring urgent attention and a plan of action drawn up to carry out the restoration work in a time bound manner. They also desire that reasons for damaged objects should be looked into with a view to fixing responsibility. The Committee would like to be intimated about the precise progress made in this regard.

[Sl. No. 107 Para 14 of Appendix II to 107 Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken by Ministry

Preservation of Museum Exhibits-Chemical Treatment

On receipt of PAC report and the Physical Verification of the Expert Committee's report, a Plan of action was drawn vide letter No. I-15(B)/85-96 of 31.7.1995 and the Chemist was asked to work out a time bound programme including the requirements of Chemicals, supporting staff and help of personnel from National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC), Lucknow and INTACH Regional Office at Bangalore to send personnel to help in the chemical preservation and conservation work renowned Chemists, Shri S. Subbaraman and Shri N. Hari Narayan, have been appointed as visitors to the Museums to suggest technical measures and oversee the work already done. Shri Subbaraman visited Hyderabad and extended his expertise. There has been considerable progress in the work, nearly 50% of the art objects and books and MSS have been treated. Since the work requires careful process, the remaining objects are under treatment in a phased manner. The reasons for damaged objects are lack of adequate storage facility, periodical

upkeep due to shortage of staff and high pollution rate due to slums around the Museum and Musi river in front which carries sullage drain water of the twin cities, polluting the areas. In view of reason for such damage which includes pollution etc. responsibility cannot be fixed on any officer.

Out of the 5157 damaged objects upto May, 1996, 2904 were treated. Another 224 objects have been treated upto end of July, 1996 making the total of 3128.

[Department of Culture, O.M. No. 15-18/93-CH.1/M.1, dated 4-9-96]

Recommendation

During the course of examination, the Committee's attention was drawn to the fact that some of the museums/similar institutions of national importance under the Department of Culture were functioning without proper heads. The Committee consider this as an unhealthy situation and not conducive to the proper functioning of such institutions set up for promotion of education and propagation of culture. They are of the view that Government should take necessary steps to ensure that such appointments are made in time from among the eminent personalities in the relevant field.

[Sl. No. 123 Para 30 of Apendix II to 107th Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken by Ministry

The Committee has recommended that such appointments should be made in time amongst the eminent personalities. However, it is not always feasible to appoint such eminent personalities as recruiting agencies such as UPSC are involved in selecting the Heads of institutions. Such posts are filled up as per the Recruitment Rules and Govt. has to follow these rules.

[Department of Culture, O.M. No. 15-18/93-CH.1/M.1, dated 4-9-96]

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS REPLIES TO WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION

Recommendation

The Committee note that based on a compromise deed filed with the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, 38,371 art objects listed in 85 High Court registers were taken over in 1961 by the Government from the Salar Jung Estate Committee. On the basis of the High Court registers, inventory registers were prepared in 1964 according to which the number of art objects was 46,081. This figure was stated to have been arrived at after deleting 1,971 items on grounds of double entries in the High Court registers and addition of 9,681 items which were not shown in the High Court registers. After the Museum was shifted to new buildings in 1968, Master registers were prepared in 1976 in which 44,797 art objects were listed. The decrease in the number of art objects from the inventory registers to the master registers was reportedly due to double entries and cancellation of certain items. Thus, there were discrepancies/defects in the actual number of art objects taken over from the Salar Jung Estate Committee and as shown in the subsequent registers prepared by the Government. The Committee are surprised to note that the art objects received from the Estate were not fully and completely accounted for at any point of time viz. (i) at the time of take over of the administration by the Board in 1961 or (2) at the time of preparation of inventory registers in 1964 or (3) at the time of preparation of master registers in 1976.

What was caused concern to the Committee is that despite the glaring discrepancies in the number of art objects, no serious efforts were made by the authorities to conduct a thorough physical verification. Pertinently, the Randhawa Committee which was appointed by Government of India in 1968 in the context of formulating a national policy on Museums and whose recommendations were stated to have been accepted by the Government in 1969 had prescribed that in case of Salar Jung Museum the physical verification of art objects should be conducted once in three years. The then Director of Salar Jung Museum also seems to have suggested on 25th September, 1967 the desirability of physical verification before the Museum was shifted to the new building. Distressingly, no such physical verification done prior to 1975 further though physical verification was taken up from 1980-81 simultaneous cross referencing to basic records was not done. The Ministry stated that even though the Salar Jung Museum Board officials had been reporting to the Board periodically

that physical verifications had been carried out at the rate of one third of the objects every year, making a 100 per cent in three years, in reality, the Museum authorities had not followed the prescribed procedure. This clearly indicates that neither was any proper procedure for physical verification attempted by the Museum authorities nor did the Ministry bother to enquire about the exact nature of such verifications. The Secretary (Department of Culture) conceded during evidence "it is certainly a failure because this verification should have completed every three years".

The Committee find that after the discrepancies in the art objects and the shortcomings in physical verifications were pointed out by Audit, the Department of Culture appointed a Committee of Experts on 23 March, 1993 to physically verify all the objects in the original registers and other records so as to determine whether there were any missing objects and to fix the responsibility therefor and to suggest a system for future. The Report of the Expert Committee which was submitted on 29 September, 1994 established that a large number of articles were missing from the collection of the Museum and that many articles had not been correctly accounted for. The findings of the Expert Committee based on collated records has revealed that 635 art objects have been lost from the museum collections which consist of cancelled/missing objects (263) substituted objects (one) and art objects not produced before the Committee and declared untraceable (372). Although the Expert Committee submitted their Report in September, 94 the matter was referred to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in June, 1995 only (i.e. after this Committee selected the subject for oral examination) to investigate as to the persons who have connived in the loss/pilferage of articles and also take the help of other linked agencies to go into the roots of such thefts. The Committee are unhappy over the delay in the follow-up-action on the report of the Expert Committee. They desire that the CBI investigation and the action against the officers found guilty of having connived in the theft of articles should be got expedited. The Committee would like to be informed of the progress made in the matter within three months.

The Committee have been informed that after receipt of the report of the Expert Committee, at the instance of the Ministry, the Director of the Salar Jung Museum is stated to have called for the explanation of all the officers responsible for their failure in conducting physical verification and that their replies were being placed before the Museum Board for further action against them. The Committee consider it relevant to point out that though the inadequacies in physical verification was brought to the notice of the Ministry as early as 1991, no concrete action has been initiated against the officials of the Museum who had not only failed in their duties but also misled the Board by submitting wrong certificates regarding physical verification. This is unfortunate to say the least. While

taking a serious view of this dereliction of duty by the officials, the Committee recommend that the matter should thoroughly inquired into and punished meted out to the erring officials. The Committee may be apprised of the conclusive action taken in this regard.

[Sl. No. 96 to 99 Para 3—6 of the Appendix II to 107th Report of PAC
(10th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken by Ministry

PAC has mainly observed on missing art objects and delay in follow up action on the report of Expert Committee set up by the Ministry on physical verification of art objects. As desired by PAC, CBI has been requested to investigate the cases of theft of articles. CBI has not so far informed about outcome of their investigation.

As regards missing objects, according to the findings of the Expert Committee 635 art objects have been lost from the Museum collection which consists of 263 missing objects and 372 un-traceable objects. The Museum Authorities stated (May 1996) that while the concerned keepers have been asked to locate and verify thoroughly these objects, final results have not yet become available, out of the 372 untraceable objects 311 have already been traced.

After completion of the procedural formalities in the matter regarding availability of CBI report etc. the responsibility can be fixed.

[Department of Culture U.O.No.15-18/93-CH.1/M.1, dated 4-9-96]

Updated Action taken by Ministry

At the time of submission of the ATN, case was referred to CBI for investigation of missing art objects numbered to 635; before fixing the responsibility of missing art objects to persons. Meanwhile DOC received a letter from Superintendent, CBI, New Delhi that it has come to notice of the CBI investigating officer that as many as 326 missing items have been traced by S.J.M. authorities and not it is felt desirable that these items should be examined by the same team of experts who looked into the items of the Museum physically so that these items could be excluded from purview of the investigation being conducted by the CBI. On this, DOC contacted the Chairman, Physically Verification Committee and he has been requested to take another physical verification with the help of the other members. The Chairman, Physically Verification Committee is under process of doing the same with the help of SJM authorities and the other members (So the CBI has to stop its investigation for the time being).

Recommendation

The Committee observe that based on a number of allegations received from different corners against the administration of the Salar Jung Museum and against the then Director, Dr. M.L. Nigam, and independent Fact Finding Committee was constituted in 1991 to go into the allegations and

render the report. The Fact Finding Committee took up 16 major allegations against the Director for examination. Briefly, the main allegations related to missing of antiquities, irregular awarding of contracts, failure to prevent encroachment into the museum premises, irregular shifting of residence of drawal of house rent allowance, non-maintenance of personal service book and destruction of records, impropriety in the appointment of employees, non-utilisation of huge stock of teak wood and costly equipments, non-utilisation of 40 staff quarters, purchasing art objects of dubious authenticity, inept handling of important purchases, purchase of land for private house, non-reply to audit report, alleged misuse of staff car and telephone facilities, misuse of museum employees, misbehaviour with the staff, etc. The Report of the Fact Finding Committee submitted in November 1992 largely sustained the allegations against the former Director. Subsequent to the submission of the Report, the Salar Jung Museum Board appointed a sub-committee to go through the Report of the Fact Finding Committee and submit its recommendations on actionable points. The sub-committee report was considered by the Board on 22nd December, 1992 wherein it was decided that the entire report be referred to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for their advice. The Central vigilance Commission gave its report recommending chargesheet on 20th October, 1993. However, the actual chargesheet including 9 Articles from the 16 allegations was issued to Dr. M.L. Nigam and 2nd July, 1994 only. Dr. Nigam filed a writ petition in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh and obtained a stay on 4th August, 1994. Since then the matter is pending. The Committee are deeply concerned to note that despite the grave nature of offences perpetuated against this prime institution, no single persons has effectively been punished as yet. Undoubtedly, here had been inordinate delays in processing charges, issuing the chargesheet and getting the stay vacated. The Committee cannot but express their strong displeasure over the same and recommend that immediate and urgent steps should be taken to get the stay order vacated and enlist the case for facilitating the future course of action. The precise progress made in this direction may be intimated to the Committee within a period of three months.

[Sl. No. 118, Para 25 of Appendix II to 107th Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken by Ministry

Stay Vacation Petition was filed vide WMP No. 1402/95 and the case has not yet been listed by the High Court for hearing. As such the Stay could not be vacated.

There is a move under consideration of Govt. to change the present Standing Counsel for the pending Court Cases filed by Dr. M.L. Nigam, including the one in which he was chargesheeted and against which the Court has issued stay order. The Govt. feels that the Central Government

Standing Counsel will take the required interest for an early hearing of these cases and will be able to vacate the stay.

[Department of Culture. O.M.No.15—18/93-CH.1/M.1, dated 4-9-96]

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH GOVERNMENT HAVE FURNISHED INTERIM REPLIES

Recommendation

Another area in the functioning of the Salar Jung Museum which caused concern to the Committee related to the acquisition of art objects. The Salar Jung Museum Board constituted an art purchase committee consisting of seven members for purchasing art objects. The art objects were proposed to be acquired by the Board to fill the gaps in the collections of the Museum. The Committee, however, find certain irregularities in the purchase of art objects. According to the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 "Antiquities include paintings, sculptures, objects of art, crafts, things of historical importance, etc. which have been in existence for not less than 100 years. Curiously enough, 95 out of 657 art objects purchased during 1985-86 to 1991-92 related to the 20th Century. Surprisingly, this was justified by the Museum under the plea of "aesthetic value". Secondly, the Museum had neither maintained a list of reputed dealers in antiquities nor reputed suppliers of other Museums contracted for the purchases. Some of the local dealers of Hyderabad were favoured in purchasing 94 per cent of the objects during the period from 1985-86 to 1991-92. Obviously, no standard procedure was laid down for regulating the functioning of the art purchase committee and the reasonableness of the purchases made was left entirely to the discretion of the members of the art purchase committee. The Committee consider this as totally unsatisfactory and, therefore, desire that a review of the purchases made during 1985-86 to 1991-92 be made with a view to ascertaining the reasonableness of acquisitions made.

[Sl. No. 103, Para 10 of Appendix-II to 107th Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

A review of the purchases made during 1985-86 to 1991-92 is to be undertaken by the Art Purchase Committee constituted by the Ministry for the National Museum.

An Art Purchase Committee exclusively for the Salar Jung Museum has not been constituted.

[Department of Culture O.M. No. 15—1893-CH.1/M.1 dated 4-9-96]

Recommendation

The Committee's examination also found certain glaring irregularities in the civil works undertaken by the Museum. The Museum deposited Rs. 166.63 lakhs with the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) for executing various construction works. While there were several cases of delays in execution of these works, in some cases the works have also not been capitalised. The Ministry have held CPWD responsible for the various delays. It was stated that inspite of repeated reminders, the concerned Superintending Engineers have not even submitted audited accounts for some of these works for the last one decade. The Chief Engineer CPWD had been asked to remit their unutilised advance with penal interest. The Committee regret to note that except reminding the Department, the Museum authorities have not taken recourse to any other action against the Department for recovery of the unutilised advance even though ten years elapsed in between. This is clearly indicative of the casual and negligent attitude of the authorities concerned in regard to recovery of Museum funds. While expressing their strong displeasure over this state of affairs, the Committee desire that proper explanation be called from the officials of the Museum for their failure in initiating timely action for effecting recovery of unutilised funds from CPWD. The Committee also recommend that the matter regarding recovery of unutilised advance with penal interest should be vigorously pursued with the Department at the highest level and recourse to legal action may be taken, if necessary. The Committee would like to be apprised of the results in this regard.

[Sl. No. 11, Para 18 of Appendix-II to 107th Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

Civil Works Undertaken by Museums

The matter was taken up effectively with D.G., C.P.W.D., New Delhi and the C.E. of C.P.W.D., Hyderabad. They were called upon to remit the unutilised advances lying with them over years with penal interest. Some of the incomplete works, both Civil and Electrical were asked to be handed over, in as-is, where is condition. There is no response from C.P.W.D., Hyderabad although Director General's office at New Delhi has directed the local C.E. to furnish the Audited A/cs and completion reports besides remittance of excess advances. Ministry of Human Resource Development has taken up the matter with the Secretary, Department of Urban Development.

The audit observed that there had not been any further progress in the matter and an amount of Rs. 166.63 lakhs remained unutilised with the CPWD.

The matter was accordingly checked with the SJM who informed that Finalised and Audited Accounts were not submitted to Salar Jung Museum by the CPWD for the deposit works at any stage. Even in respect of completed work no handing over at site was done. The matter was finally brought to the notice of CAG who replied on 8.7.96 that "the matter is under examination and reply may be awaited".

[Department of Culture, O.M. No. F.15—1893-CH.1/M.1 dated 4-9-96]

Recommendations

During the course of their examination the Committee also came across certain reported irregularities in the contract awarded to National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) in 1986 for construction of two new independent wings of Museum building. Surprisingly, before entering into contract, the authorities had not obtained any competitive offer. Several irregularities were found in the contract. Amazingly, even the amount contracted was not specified in the agreement document. Further, an amount of more than Rs. 2.00 Crores was paid as mobilisation advance to the contractors with no stipulations in the contract for recovery of penal interest. The Ministry while admitting the shortcomings/irregularities held the then Director responsible for not following the advice of the Board scrupulously and lantering into preliminary agreement with NBCC. They stated that a fresh contract has been entered into with NBCC incorporating therein *inter alia* penal provisions for slowing down the work. It was also stated that the Museum had since recovered an amount of Rs. 34.4 lakhs of the sums advanced and collected penal interest amounting to Rs. 18.75 lakhs and the remaining dues were stated to be under the process of recovery. While expressing their severe unhappiness over the manner in which the whole matter was dealt with, the Committee desire that all steps should be taken to ensure that there was no financial loss to the Museum. The Committee would like to be apprised of the further developments.

[Sl.No. 112, Para 19 of Appendix-II to 107th Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

Contract with NBCC

The NBCC works have been totally reviewed. The Building Advisory Committee, in the meeting held on 8.12.1995, had reviewed the NBCC work and decided to invoke the penal clauses of the Contract in case the NBCC does not complete the work by July, 1996.

The NBCC has sought extension till 31.12.1996 and as in July, 1996 out of an advance of Rs. 210 lakhs given to them, the outstanding balance is Rs. 125,26,586 with them.

[Department of Culture, O.M. No. F.15—1893-CH.1/M.1 dated 4-9-96]

Recommendation

The Committee observe that the Government of India had appointed the Randhawa Committee and Dr. Motichandra Committee during August 1968 and November 1969 respectively for formulating a national policy on museums to improve their working and define their role in promoting the cause of education. Though the Reports of these committees were stated to have been adopted by the Government as far back as in 1969 and 1970 respectively, their recommendations were not implemented in letter and spirit. According to the Ministry, the Department of Culture, for the first time, is formulating a detailed written down policy on Culture. Based on the suggestions emanating from various seminars held all over the country during 1990, the paper was prepared and placed before the Committee of Secretaries and Ministers of various State governments. Then an approach paper on the National Policy of Culture was prepared and was placed in both the Houses of Parliament. A Committee has been appointed by the Ministry for finalising the various stages of preparation of the Cultural policy. After the policy note is prepared the same will be placed before the Cabinet for its approval whereafter the policy will be placed before Parliament for programme of action in this regard and the policy on museums will form part of the over all National Policy on Culture. The Committee desire that all necessary steps be taken by Ministry to expedite finalisation of policy on Culture and apprise the Committee about the progress made in this regard.

[Sl.No. 122, Para 29 of Appendix-II to 107th Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

The National Policy on Culture is under formulation.

[Department of Culture, O.M. No. 15—1893-CH.1/M.1 dated 4-9-96]

APPENDIX

Conclusions/Recommendations

Sl. No.	Para No.	Ministry/ Deptt. concerned	Conclusions/Recommendations
1	2	3	4
1.	3	Human Resource Development (Deptt. of Culture)	The Committee desire that final replies to those recommendations and observations in respect of which only interim replies have been furnished by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Culture) should be submitted expeditiously after getting them vetted by Audit.
2.	10	-do-	The Committee wish to recall that based on the findings of the Report of the Expert Committee submitted in September, 1994, the matter regarding loss of art objects (numbering 636) was referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in June, 1995 to investigate as to the persons who had connived in the loss/pilferage of articles and also to take the help of other linked agencies to go into the roots of such thefts. The Committee have been informed that according to CBI 326 missing items have now been traced by Salar Jung Museum authorities. Surprisingly, the action taken note furnished by the Ministry does not reveal as to how those objects which had been missing for a long period have now resurfaced suddenly. This undoubtedly, cast doubts to the Committee on the role of the

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authorities of the Museum in the whole matter. It was, therefore, important that the CBI completed their investigation expeditiously with a view to establishing the connivance of persons in the loss/pilferage of valuable articles from the collections of the Museum and went into the roots of such thefts. Unfortunately, the course of investigation now reported to the Committee does not inspire sufficient confidence. Although a period of two years have elapsed since the matter was referred to the CBI, no concrete result of the investigation in terms of either of the missing objects or of the persons responsible for the theft has emerged. What is more disturbing is that no plausible explanation has been offered by the Ministry for stalling the ongoing CBI investigation during the period of verification of the retraced objects by the Expert Committee. Considering the present status of the case, the Committee are inclined to conclude that the whole issue has been dealt with in a casual manner and the gravity of offence for which the matter was referred to CBI has been greatly undermined. The Committee strongly deplore this state of affairs. They desire that the Expert Committee should complete verification of the retraced objects including their genuineness within a reasonable and specified period. The Ministry should take all necessary steps to get the CBI investigation resumed and completed and action against those found guilty for the loss/pilferage and also for having connived in the theft of articles got expedited. The Committee would like

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			to be apprised of the precise progress made in this regard within three months.
3.	11	Human Resource Development (Deptt. of Culture)	It is further disquieting to note that the action taken notes of the Ministry is completely silent about the action taken against officials of the Museum who not only failed in their duties but also misled the Museum Board by submitting wrong certificates regarding physical verification. Although the Committee were informed earlier that explanation called for from all the officials responsible for their failure in conducting physical verification had been placed before Salar Jung Museum Board, unfortunately, no further action has been taken on this count. The Committee deprecate the inaction on the part of the authorities concerned and desire that the matter should be thoroughly inquired into and punishment meted out to the erring officials. They would like to be informed of the conclusive action taken in the matter within a period of three months.
4.	14	Human Resource Development (Deptt. of Culture)	It is a matter of deep concern to the Committee that even though more than two years have elapsed since the stay order was obtained by the then Director, no serious efforts were made by the Government to vacate the same and get the case enlisted. Distressingly, the Government are yet to conceive any concrete plan of action in this regard which is indicative of gross negligence on the part of the authorities concerned. Keeping in view the fact that the allegations were <i>prima facie</i>

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found true atleast in November 1992 and also the current status of the matter, the Committee cannot but deplore the abject failure of the Government to pursue the case to its logical end. While taking a serious view of the sorry state of affairs, the Committee reiterate that all required steps be taken by the Ministry to get the stay vacated and the case enlisted for expediting the matter.

5. 17 Human Resource Development (Deptt. of Culture)

The Committee note that besides various steps claimed to have been taken by the Ministry of Human Resource Development now to improve the functioning of the Salar Jung Museum, a Review Committee has also been appointed by Government on 29 January, 1996 under the chairmanship of M.N. Deshpande, retired Director of Archaeological Survey of India with wide terms of reference (as enumerated above). According to the Ministry, the recommendations of the Review Committee will definitely improve the functioning of the Museum and stop recurrence of various irregularities/shortcomings.

However, in view of the inadequate action taken on the Reports of the various Committees appointed by Government for improving the functioning of the Museum in general, namely, Sihare Committee, Randhawa Committee (1969), Dr. Motichandra Committee (1970) and also the Reports of Fact Finding Committee (1991) and Experts Committee (1993) appointed by Government in relation to the functioning of the Museum in particular, the Committee, at this stage, are not inclined to share this optimism.

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Further, though the Review Committee has been in existence for more than a year the Committee have not been apprised of the specific time given for the said Committee to complete the assigned task. In the absence of the same, the Committee fail to appreciate the precise progress made towards fulfilment of the assignment by the Review Committee. Keeping in view the grave nature of offences perpetuated against this prime institution due to gross mismanagement, the Committee desire that the Review Committee be asked to accomplish the assignment in a time-bound manner and Government take necessary follow-up action so as to ensure that the Salar Jung Museum plays the role assigned to it in the Salar Jung Museum Act, 1961 effectively in the promotion of education and propagation of culture. The Committee would like to be apprised of the precise action taken in this regard.

PART II

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SITTING OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 MARCH, 1997

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1545 hrs. on 13 March, 1997 in
Committee Room "B", Parliament House Annexe.

PRESENT

Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi—*Chairman*

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee
3. Smt. Sumitra Mahajan
4. Shri Suresh Prabhu
5. Shri B.L. Shankar
6. Shri Ishwar Dayal Swami

Rajya Sabha

7. Shri Ajit P.K. Jogi
8. Shri R.K. Kumar

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P. Sreedharan — *Deputy Secretary*
2. Shri Rajeev Sharma — *Under Secretary*

OFFICERS OF THE OFFICE OF C&AG OF INDIA

1. Shri I.P. Singh — Addl. Dy. C&AG
2. Shri V. Srikantan — Addl. Dy. C&AG
3. Shri Vijay Kumar — Director General of Audit (P&T)
4. Shri A.K. Thakur — Principal Director (Reports—Central)
5. Shri Jayanti Prasad — Director (AB)

2. The Committee took up for consideration the following draft Reports:

(i) **** **** **** **** ****

ANNEXURE III

Amendments/Modifications made by the public accounts committee in the Draft Action Taken Report relating to Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad

Page	Para	line	Amendments/Modifications
14	17	last	<i>Add after "culture." "The Committee would like to be apprised of the precise action taken in this regard."</i>

LIST OF AUTHORISED AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT PUBLICATION

Sl. No.	Name of Agent	Sl. No.	Name of Agent
ANDHRA PRADESH		UTTAR PRADESH	
1.	M/s. Vijay Book Agency, 11-1-477, Mylargadda, Secunderabad-500 306.	12.	Law Publishers, Sardar Patel Marg, P.B. No. 77, Allahabad, U.P.
BIHAR		WEST BENGAL	
2.	M/s. Crown Book Depot, Upper Bazar, Ranchi (Bihar).	13.	M/s. Madimala, Buys & Sells, 123, Bow, Bazar Street, Calcutta-1.
GUJARAT		DELHI	
3.	The New Order Book Company, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad-380 006. (T.No. 79065)	14.	M/s. Jain Book Agency, C-9, Connaught Place, New Delhi, (T.No. 351663 & 350806)
MADHYA PRADESH		15.	M/s. J.M. Jain & Brothers, P. Box 1020, Mori Gate, Delhi-110006. (T.No. 2915064 & 230936)
4.	Modern Book House, Shiv Vilas Place, Indore City. (T.No. 35289)	16.	M/s. Oxford Book & Stationery Co., Scindia House, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110 001. (T.No. 3315308 & 45896)
MAHARASHTRA		17.	M/s. Bookwell, 2/72, Sant Nirankari Colony, Kingsway Camp, Delhi-110 009. (T.No. 7112309).
5.	M/s. Sunderdas Gian Chand, 601, Girgaum Road, Near Princes Street, Bombay-400 002.	18.	M/s. Rajendra Book Agency, 1V-DR59, Lajpat Nagar, Old Double Storey, New Delhi-110 024. (T.No. 6412362 & 6412131).
6.	The International Book Service, Deccan Gymkhana, Poona-4.	19.	M/s. Ashok Book Agency, BH-82, Poorvi Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110 033.
7.	The Current Book House, Maruti Lane, Raghunath Dadaji Street, Bombay-400 001.	20.	M/s. Venus Enterprises, B-2/85, Phase-II, Ashok Vihar, Delhi.
8.	M/s. Usha Book Depot, Law Book Seller and Publishers' Agents Govt. Publications, 585, Chitra Bazar, Khan House, Bombay-400 002.	21.	M/s. Central News Agency Pvt. Ltd., 23/90, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110 001. (T.No. 344448, 322705, 344478 & 344508).
9.	M & J Services, Publishers, Representative Accounts & Law Book Sellers, Mohan Kunj, Ground Floor, 68, Jyotiba Fule Road Nalgaum, Dadar, Bombay-400 014.	22.	M/s. Amrit Book Co., N-21, Connaught Circus, New Delhi.
10.	Subscribers Subscription Service India, 21, Raghunath Dadaji Street, 2nd Floor, Bombay-400 001.	23.	M/s. Books India Corporation Publishers, Importers & Exporters, L-27, Shastrri Nagar, Delhi-110 052. (T.No. 269631 & 714465).
TAMIL NADU		24.	M/s. Sangam Book Depot, 4378/4B, Murari Lal Street, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110 002.
11.	M/s. M.M. Subscription Agencies, 14th Murali Street, (1st Floor), Mahalingapuram, Nungambakkam, Madras-600 034. (T. No. 476558)		

