

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(1968-69)

(FOURTH LOK SABHA)

SEVENTIETH REPORT

[Action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee contained in their 25th Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) relating to the Ministries of Home Affairs; Labour, Employment & Rehabilitation (Department of Rehabilitation) and Tourism and Civil Aviation]



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

April, 1969 Vaisakha, 1891 (Saka)

Price : Re. 0.80 Paise

336-3951R
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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

(1968-69)

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*Declared elected on 19th August, 1968 vice Shri M. M. Dharia, who resigned from the Committee.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, as authorised by the Committee, do present on their behalf this Seventieth Report on the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee contained in their 25th Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) relating to Ministries of Home Affairs; Labour, Employment & Rehabilitation (Deptt. of Rehabilitation) and Tourism & Civil Aviation.

2. On 12th June, 1968, an "Action Taken" Sub-Committee was appointed to scrutinise the replies received from Government in pursuance of the recommendations made by the Committee in their earlier Reports. The Sub-Committee was constituted with following Members :

1. Shri D. K. Kunte Convener
2. Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya
3. Shri K. K. Nayar
4. Shri Narendra Kumar Salve
5. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha
6. Shri N. R. M. Swamy.

3. The draft Report was considered and adopted by the Sub-Committee at their sitting held on 10th April 1969 and finally adopted by the Public Accounts Committee on 21st April, 1969.

4. For facility of reference the main conclusions recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report. A statement showing the summary of the main recommendations/Observations of the Committee is appended to the Report (Appendix).

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

M. R. MASANI,
Chairman,

NEW DELHI

April 28, 1969 Vaisakha 8, 1891(S)

Public Accounts Committee

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee deals with action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their 25th Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) relating to the Ministries of Home Affairs; Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Department of Rehabilitation) and Tourism & Civil Aviation, which was presented to the House on 11th April, 1968.

1.2. The action taken notes/statements on the recommendations of the Committee contained in the 25th Report have been categorised under the following heads :

(i) *Recommendations/observations that have been accepted by the Government :*

S. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 17 (Paras 2.69 to 2.72, 3.17, 3.18, 3.19, 3.35, 3.37, 3.39 and 3.40).

(ii) *Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view the replies of Government :*

S. Nos. Nil

(iii) *Recommendations/observations replies to which have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration :*

S. Nos. 5 (Paras 1.45 to 1.47), 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

(iv) *Recommendations/observations in respect of which Government have furnished interim replies :*

S. Nos. 16, 17 (Paras 3.36 and 3.49).

1.3. The Committee have dealt with the matter referred to in the recommendations contained in S. Nos. 8 and 9 (Paras 1.69 and 1.71) relating to the Indian Statistical Institute in their 59th Report presented to Lok Sabha on 2nd April, 1969.

1.4. The Committee desire that final replies to the recommendations/observations in respect of which Government have furnished interim replies, should be furnished expeditiously.

The Committee will now deal with Action Taken by Government on some of the recommendations.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Losses of Parachutes and other Supply Dropping Equipment in N.E.F.A.—Paragraphs 1.45—1.47 (S. No. 5) :

1.5. The Committee dealt with the question of retrieval of parachute and other Supply Dropping Equipment used in airdropping operations in N.E.F.A. and their utilisation/disposal. The Committee made the following observations in paragraphs 1.45—1.47.

*1.45 : The Committee note that the parachutes and other Supply Dropping Equipment valued at Rs. 28 lakhs are lying at outlying

places. The Committee desires that an early decision may be taken to retrieve or otherwise dispose of the parachutes and other Supply Dropping Equipment from the outlying difficult locations so that the material does not deteriorate with the passing of time."

"1.46. The Committee would also like Government to take an early decision about the disposal of 79,368 parachutes and other Supply Dropping Equipment valued at Rs. 51.19 lakhs which is stated to be under consideration of Government. According to the Air Force, 18 feet parachutes cannot be utilised effectively in air dropping as these are outmoded. The Committee would like Government to consider this matter further in detail in consultation with the Air Force authorities with a view to take an early decision about the standardisation of the sizes of parachutes required for air dropping for different commodities as well as taking into account the type of aircraft to be used so as to ensure maximum utilization of parachutes."

"1.47. The Committee find from the Ministry's note that during the period 1962-63 to 1965-66, the number of serviceable parachutes retrieved was 1,48,192 as against 1,56,426 parachutes purchased during the same period. The Committee desire that an enquiry may be conducted to find out :—

- (i) Whether losses of parachutes are comparable to similar losses in other sectors of the country where air dropping operations are carried out.
- (ii) How many serviceable retrieved parachutes have been pressed into service again and how far fresh purchases have been reduced due to the use of those parachutes.
- (iii) How the size of the parachutes was fixed at 18 ft. and to what extent the smaller size of the parachute is responsible for the heavy losses in air droppings.

1.6. In their reply dated 27th November, 1968, the Ministry of Home Affairs stated :

Para 1.45. Government have accepted the P.A.C.'s recommendation in the above paragraph. Action has been initiated for the retrieval of the parachutes and other S.D.E.'s lying at difficult locations. The final position in the matter will be reported to the P.A.C. in due course.

Para 1.46. This matter has been carefully examined in this Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. It has been decided that 79,368 parachutes valued at Rs. 51.19 lakhs, which are unserviceable, may be disposed through D.G.S. & D. (by action by calling tenders etc. if disposal is not made through D.G.S. & D.) to the best advantage of the Government after retrieving useful material and keeping sufficient quantity for cannibalisation to carry out minor repairs to serviceable parachutes.

As regards size of parachutes the Defence authorities were again consulted. In their opinion malfunctioning of parachutes or losses incurred during air-dropping operation are not in any way more in the case of 18 feet parachutes than in the case of parachutes of larger size

In NEFA supply dropping operations are generally being carried out through Dakota Aircrafts. Defence authorities have advised that 18 ft. parachutes is quite suitable for use on the Dakotas because of its side door ejection, which makes it difficult to drop heavier loads than what 18 ft. parachutes is designed to carry. In fact, Airforce are still using 18 ft. parachutes on Dakotas.

It may be mentioned that Air Force authorities are taking to the use of 28 ft. parachute in preference to the 18 ft. parachute because they are increasingly utilising heavier aircrafts than Dakotas (e.g. Paket, AN-12 Caribou) for which 28 ft. parachute is technically more suitable because of aft-end roller conveyor/transporter system ejection in case of these aircrafts.

Further Information

"The size of parachutes has been standardised at 28 ft. for all types of aircraft viz. Dakota, Caribou and AN-12 in use for air maintenance in NEFA. However, 18 ft. parachutes already manufactured by the Ordnance Factory and in stock will have to be used for Dakotas until the existing stocks are exhausted."

"Para 1.47. An enquiry has been conducted into the matter in pursuance to the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation contained in the above para. Seriatim replies to the points raised in the para are as under :—

- (i) The losses of parachutes in air dropping operations, in Rowriah and Mohanbari Sectors of NEFA were compared with similar losses in Eastern and Western Sectors during the period from 1962-63 to 1966-67. The percentage of loss/gain in respect of each sector was as under :—

Eastern Sector	Western Sector	Rowriah	Mohanbari
10% gain	10% loss	9% loss	47.5% loss

The percentage of losses in respect of Western Sector and Rowriah compares favourably. As regards Eastern Sector there was no loss but actually gain of 10% in the number of parachutes used. This more than cent-percent performance is presumably due to recovery during the period of some parachutes which might have been used for air dropping prior to July, 1962. As regards Mohanbari the percentage of losses is very high and the reasons leading to such high percentage of losses, are being looked into.

- (ii) During the period from 1960-61 to 1966-67 retrieved Serviceable parachutes numbering 1.78 lakhs have actually been utilised in air-dropping operations in NEFA AREA and this has correspondingly reduced the fresh purchase of parachutes.
- (iii) When air dropping operations were first introduced in NEFA, 18 ft. parachutes were procured from World War II Stock of the Army. At that time Army authorities also were using 18 ft. parachutes.

The similar size of parachute is not responsible in any way for heavy losses in air dropping. The malfunctioning of parachutes can be categorised into the following headings viz: —

- (a) *Roman Candle* i.e. when the parachute is not developed at all.
- (b) *Entanglement* i.e. when two or more parachutes get entangled with each other during the stage of development of the parachutes or their flight in air.
- (c) *Detachment* i.e. when the supplies get detached from the parachutes in flight.
- (d) *Tearings* i.e. when the parachutes get torn in the air.

In none of the above factors, the 18 ft. parachute is at a relative disadvantage, compared to the larger-size parachutes.

Further there may be other factors contributing to losses e.g. faulty parachute packing, or faulty packing of supplies within their containers. Attachment of containers to the parachutes may also be faulty. Alternatively, weight of supplies attached to a parachute may be in excess of what it is intended to carry. All these factors are common to both the 18 ft. parachutes, and the larger-size of parachutes."

1.7. The Committee would like Government to probe into the unduly high percentage of losses of 47.5% parachutes in Mohanbari area as compared to 9% in Rowriah area and 10% in the Westren Sector. The Committee would also like Government to look into the reasons for 10% gain in the retrieval of parachutes in the Eastern Sector. The Committee need hardly add that in the light of the investigations Government should take necessary follow up measures to ensure that

- (i) the parachutes are retrieved to the maximum extent possible;
- (ii) losses are not allowed to exceed the minimum percentage to be prescribed in that behalf;
- (iii) losses which exceed the prescribed minimum percentage are investigated promptly and remedial measures taken;
- (iv) the retrieved parachutes are pressed into service without loss of time; and
- (v) in the case of parachutes found unserviceable timely action is taken to arrange for their disposal.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT & REHABILITATION (DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION)

Compensation Pool—Issue and utilisation of statements of Accounts—Paras 2.7—2.13 (S. Nos. 11 of Appendix) :

1.8. In certain cases statements of accounts were issued to displaced persons from West Pakistan showing the net amount of compensation payable to claimants after adjustment of public dues etc. which could be utilised by the beneficiaries for purchasing 'Pool' properties etc. With regard

to the progress of issue and utilisation of the statements of accounts during the period 31-3-66 to 31-10-67, the Committee made the following observations in paragraphs 2.13 and 2.14 :

“The Committee note that 6507 statements of accounts of aggregate value of Rs. 0.90 crore were pending on 31st October, 1967.”

“They would like to know the effect of the new system according to which the cash compensation was to be paid against any unutilised statement of account up to the value of Rs. 2,000. If a considerable number of pending statements of account are liquidated, as is expected, the Department of Rehabilitation may examine the question of raising this limit further, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, so that all the pending statements of account are liquidated as early as possible.”

1.9. In their reply dated 14th October, 1968, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Department of Rehabilitation) have stated :

“As mentioned in the above recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee there were 6507 statements of account of the aggregate value of Rs. 0.90 crores pending on 31st October, 1967. The position as on 1st June, 1968, however, is that 5889 statements of account of the aggregate value of Rs. 82.94 lakhs were pending for liquidation.”

(Para 2.13)

“It may be stated that as a result of the decision taken in the Conference of Evacuee Properties held in October, 1967, orders were issued raising the limit of cash payment to Rs. 2,000/-. It was expected that this decision would hasten the pace of liquidation of pending statements of account. The orders to this effect were issued in the month of December, 1967 and the position kept under constant review. As the results were not as encouraging as expected, the item was again discussed in the Conference of Regional Settlement Commissioners and Custodians of Evacuee Properties held on the 6th and 7th of June, 1968. According to the Regional Settlement Commissioners, the facts of (i) non-cooperation by the holders of the statements of account, (ii) death of the claimants in whose favour statements account had been issued, and (iii) the present addresses of the holders of the statements of account being unknown to the Department; were standing in their way to liquidate the statements of account in large numbers. It was, therefore, decided that the department should not waste its efforts in pursuing those cases and if, after a reasonable notice, the parties did not come forward to tender their statements of account, the case might be consigned to Records.

In addition to the above stipulations, it was observed that some of the holders of statements of account did not come forward to receive payment as the National Defence Certificates which are issued to them under the existing Rules, are encashable only after a period of one year. A suggestion to allow payment in hard cash upto Rs. 1,000/- initially and the balance in the form of National Defence Certificates, was accepted in principle. The proposal is being examined in consultation with the Ministry of Finance etc.

Notwithstanding the above decisions it was again impressed on all the Regional Settlement Commissioners that the problem of liquidation of statements of account was causing concern to the Department and they should, therefore, personally look into each case with a view to liquidating it in as short a time as possible."

(Para 2.14)

1.10. The Committee are not satisfied with progress made with the liquidation of outstanding statements of accounts. As against 6507 statements of account of the aggregate value of Rs. 90 lakhs pending on 31st October, 1967, 5889 statements of account of the aggregate value of Rs. 82.94 lakhs were still pending on 1st June, 1968.

1.11. The effect of the new system of payment of compensation in the form of National Defence Certificates encashable after a period of one year in respect of the statement of accounts up to the value of Rs. 2,000 has not been encouraging. The Committee desire that early decision should be taken on the proposal to allow payment in hard cash upto Rs. 1000 initially and the balance in the form of National Defence Certificates.

1.12. The Committee also suggest that new system of payment may be suitably publicised amongst the displaced persons so that they may come forward in larger numbers and accelerate the process of finalisation of pending statements of accounts.

Arrears of Rent—Paras 2.15—2.25 (S. No. 12—Paras 2.26 and 2.27 of Appendix to the Twenty-fifth Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) :

1.13. In paras 2.15—2.25 of 25th Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) the Committee had dealt with the arrears of rent on account of acquired evacuee properties, composite evacuee properties and Government built properties in Delhi and New Delhi. The Committee had made the following observations :

"The Committee note that Government have been able to bring down the figures of arrears of rent by Rs. 95 lakhs within a period of 18 months though a major part of this reduction is as a result of correction of demands and write off of irrecoverable rents. The Committee hope that the Department of Rehabilitation will take effective steps to recover the rent with a view to liquidate the balance at an early date."
(Para 2.26)

"The Committee would also like to know as to when the Department of Rehabilitation hope to complete all corrections in the demand registers regarding arrears of rent."
(Para 2.27)

1.14. In their reply dated 20th November, 1968, the Department of Rehabilitation have stated :—

"The question relating to the speedy liquidation of the arrears of rent of the evacuee properties has been engaging the attention of the Department of Rehabilitation for some time past. In view of the gradual winding up of the Settlement Organisation which is actually responsible for the liquidation of the arrears, it was considered expedient if the recovery work could be handed over to the State Government on agency basis.

Accordingly the work relating to the recovery of arrears of rent in respect of evacuee properties has been transferred to the State Governments on agency basis except in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra where the work is being handled departmentally. Where the work has been transferred to the State Governments, we have to depend upon them for necessary steps being taken to liquidate this work as early as possible. The Department of Rehabilitation have accordingly been pursuing this matter by holding periodical meetings and by writing letters to the State Governments to expedite this work. Meetings are also arranged, whenever possible, with the District authorities to resolve difficulties, if any, encountered by them, in recovering the rental demand. This matter was also discussed in the meeting of the Regional Settlement Commissions-cum-Custodians of Evacuee Property held at Delhi on the 6th-7th June, 1968. In that meeting, it was again stressed upon the officers concerned to take effective steps to liquidate this work in as short a time as possible.

2. As the Department of Rehabilitation is anxious to close down the Settlement Organisation in as short a time as possible, it is felt that if the Settlement Organisation's assets in different states including the rent demand are transferred to the State Governments in the form of package deals, it would help us to achieve our object of closing down the organisation early. Necessary action to sound the State Governments in this behalf is also being taken.

3. It might also be added here that the arrears of rent which stood at Rs. 285.38 lakhs on 1-10-1967 in respect of the evacuee properties and the Govt. Built properties in Delhi have been further reduced to Rs. 245.34 lakhs as on 1-6-1968; the reduction of Rs. 39.04 lakhs comprised :—

(In lakhs of)	
	Rs.
Actual realisation	15.29
Reduction as a result of correction of Demands	18.32
Irrecoverable arrears of rent written off	5.43
TOTAL	39.04

1.15. With regard to the completion of corrections in the demand registers regarding arrears of rent the Government have stated :

"As regards completion of work regarding corrections in the Demand Registers, it may be stated that this is a simultaneous process along with the recovery of arrears of rent. The squads in Delhi and rent recovery staff in Jullundur region while effecting recovery of arrears of rent, also take action for the correction of the demand. In so far as the States where the work has been transferred to the State Governments on agency basis, they have also been requested to have this work of correction completed as early as possible. In case the proposal mentioned in para 2 above regarding package deals materialises, this will obviate the necessity of making any corrections as the demands standing in the books will be transferred to the State Governments in the form of package deals. However, till such deals are

entered into with the State Governments, urgent steps are being taken to carry out the corrections in the rental demands."

1.16. The Committee note that Government have been able to bring down the arrears of rent in respect of evacuee properties and Government built properties in Delhi from Rs. 285.38 lakhs on 1st October, 67 to Rs. 246.34 lakhs on the 1st June, 68. Out of the reduction of arrears of rent by Rs. 39.04 lakhs, the actual realisation was only to the extent of Rs. 15.29 lakhs the remaining being accounted by correction of demands (Rs. 18.32 lakhs) and write off of irrecoverable arrears of rent Rs. 5.43 lakhs. This is indicative of the fact that the amounts shown as arrears need to be carefully and systematically scrutinised.

1.17. Pending the proposed transfer of assets of the Settlement Organisation's including the rent demand to the State Government, in the form of package deals, the Committee consider that efforts should continue to be made by the Department of Rehabilitation in the meantime to rectify the rent demands and realise the arrears.

Properties Awaiting Disposal—Paras 2.28—2.33 (S. No. 13—Para 2.34 of Appendix to the 25th Report—Fourth Lok Sabha).

1.18. In para 2.34 of their 25th Report (Fourth Lok Sabha), the Committee had made the following observations with regard to the disposal of acquired and Government Built properties :

"The Committee hope that Government will take necessary steps so that the acquired and Government built properties are disposed of at an early date." (Para 2.334)

1.19. In their reply dated the 14th January, 1969, the Department of Rehabilitation have stated :—

"The number of acquired evacuee properties and Government built properties awaiting disposal as on 1st August, 1967 was 9,564 at an early date."

Region	Acquired evacuee pro- perties	Govt. built pro- perties	Total
1	2	3	4
1. Delhi	1,386	..	1,386
2. Bombay	141	1,890	2,040
3. Jullundur	4,192	..	4,192
4. Rajasthan	119	21	140
5. M.P.	84	118	202
6. U.P.	805	426	1,231
7. Bihar	303	70	373
TOTAL	7,030	2,534	9,564

2. The position of the disposal of properties was received in the meeting of the Regional Settlement Commissioners held on 6th and 7th

June, 1968. The number of properties awaiting disposal as on 1-5-68 was 10,381. During the period from May, 1968 to August, 1968, as many as 924 properties were resumed as a result of non-payment of instalments, cancellation of sales etc. Of this total number of 11,305 properties, 1,800 properties were disposed of during the aforesaid period leaving a balance of 9,505 properties as on 1-9-68. The region-wise break-up of this figure is given below :

Region	Acquired evacuee pro- perties	Govt. built pro- perties	Total
1	2	3	4
1. Delhi	670	..	670
2. Bombay	77	1,515	1,592
3. Jullundur	4,282	..	4,282
4. Jaipur	133	45	158
5. Indore	65	104	169
6. Lucknow	835	1,544	2,379
7. Patna	245	10	255
TOTAL	6,287	3,218	9,505

3. The following measures have been taken to expedite the disposal of these properties :—

- (i) The Regional Settlement Commissioners have been authorised vide this Department letter No. 5(24) Comp. & Prop., 67, dated 23-10-67 (Annexure I) to sell the properties to the sitting occupants by negotiated sale, if the properties have not fetched adequate bids at the first auction.
- (ii) The properties in occupation of Scheduled Castes Tribes in Punjab have been sold to the State Government in a package deal at 15% of the reserve price for transfer to the present occupants. (Annexure II).
- (iii) The Regional Settlement Commissioner, Jullundur, has been authorised to sell the properties built upon or encroached upon by the occupants of the adjoining properties, at the market price.
- (iv) The properties in Delhi which are situated in Slum Areas have been transferred to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, under the Slum Clearance Act.
- (v) All the acquired evacuee properties in Rajasthan are being transferred to the State Government in a package deal. Similarly the possibilities of transferring the residuary properties to the other State Governments in package deals are being explored.

4. As a result of the above measures, it is hoped that a large number of properties will be disposed of soon.

5. The disposal of properties is being watched through the monthly reports received from the Regional Settlement Commissioners. The position of pending work in the Regional Offices is also reviewed by the M(R) periodically by holding discussions with the individual Regional Settlement Commissioners."

1.20. The Committee note that as against 9564 properties awaiting disposal as on 1st August, 1967, the number of properties outstanding as on 1st September, 1968 was 9505. The Committee hope that a result of the various measures recently devised by the Ministry, the pace of disposal of properties would be accelerated.

Transfer of Work Relating to the Collection of Dues etc.—Paras 2.35, 2.36 (S. No. 14—Para 2.37—of Appendix to the 25th Report Fourth Lok Sabha).

1.21. While reviewing the progress made upto 31st March, 1966 in the realisation of dues in respect of regions where the work had been transferred to the State Governments on commission basis, the Committee in para 2.37 of the 25th Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) had made the following observations :—

"The Committee regret to note that Government have been able to recover a sum of Rs. 70 lakhs only out of Rs. 430 lakhs which was outstanding. They suggest that, in consultation with the State Governments, concerned, vigorous efforts should be made to realise the outstanding dues of Rs. 360 lakhs and to ensure that the subsequent dues are not allowed to fall in arrears.

(Para 2.37)

1.22. In their reply dated the 2nd December, 1966, the Department of Rehabilitation had stated :

"The above recommendation made by the Public Accounts Committee refers to the residuary work of the Settlement Organisation since transferred to the State Governments for disposal on agency basis. Briefly, the position is that the Settlement Organisations' work relating to the payment of compensation to the Displaced Persons from West Pakistan and disposal of the evacuee properties in India having mostly been completed, it was not considered economical to keep the Organisation intact for a long time. Therefore, with a view to early winding up of the Organisation, certain items of work dealt with in the regional offices have been transferred to some of the State Governments on agency basis. The following are the items of work which have generally been transferred to State Governments on payment of commission :—

Item of work

1. Collection of arrears of rent (urban & rural properties including agricultural lands)
2. Collection of balance price of properties sold on instalments basis (Govt. Built & Evacuee properties).
3. Disposal of evacuee agricultural land.
4. Disposal of rural evacuee houses/sites.

5. Verification & correction of demand of rent of rural properties.
6. Disposal of un-acquired evacuee properties (urban & rural).
7. Disposal of remaining Govt. Built & Evacuee Properties.
8. Collection of lease money from occupants of land.

2. The process for transfer of the Settlement Organisation work to the State Governments was started with U.P. with effect from 1-4-1963. Since then, we have transferred work in other States such as Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Kerala & Mysore. The reasons which influenced the department to take this decision for transfer of the work to the State Governments were that with the gradual winding up of the Settlement Organisation, the regional offices did not have full complement of staff so as to tackle the remaining work effectively specially when the properties awaiting disposal and in respect of which recoveries were to be made, were scattered in the remote districts of the various States. It was felt that it would not be economical to keep sufficient staff to tackle the remaining work.

3. Five years have since elapsed when we started transferring the work to the State Governments. It was expected that after lists/ registers indicating the recovery to be effected had been passed on to the district authorities, the State Governments would put their machinery on the job whole heartedly, and make speedy recovery of our dues. The results achieved by the State Government have, however, not been very encouraging. From the reports so far received from the State Governments, the overall position as on 31-3-1968 is that out of total demand of Rs. 514.37 lakhs in all the States, recovery to the extent of Rs. 117.40 lakhs only has been made as per statement attached (Appendix...). It will be seen from the Statement that whereas some recoveries have been effected in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Kerala, the recoveries made in other States are quite negligible.

4. We have been repeatedly requesting the State Governments to give due priority to the disposal of the Settlement Organisation's work which has since been taken over by them on agency basis. Besides reminding the State Governments demi-officially, meetings have also been held with them to impress the urgency of the work. In some States, meetings were even held with the Collectors to resolve their difficulties, if any, in the disposal of this work. The question of accelerating the pace of recovery had also been discussed at the meetings of the Rehabilitation Ministers Conference held on 5-5-1966 & 17-5-1967 in Delhi. After the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation referred to above was received, the Chief Secretaries of the various State Governments were again addressed demi-officially on 27th May, 1968 bringing to their notice the observations made by the Public Accounts Committee. It was again impressed upon them that one of purposes underlying the transfer of this work to the State Governments was its expeditious disposal. As the progress was not up to the expectation, the State Governments were again requested to bestow urgent attention on this matter and arrange for necessary steps to be taken to ensure that the remaining work of recovery was completed within the shortest possible time. The Regional Settlement

Commissioners were also instructed to maintain close liaison with the State Governments and to render all possible assistance to the latter in the speedy liquidation of the pending work transferred to the State Governments. This has thereafter been followed by personal discussion with the State Governments. Some of the State Governments have in turn urged upon the district authorities to take effective steps for expeditious liquidation of the residuary work.

5. Besides repeated requests made to the State Governments to expedite disposal of the work, their officers have also been delegated with necessary powers under the Displaced Persons (Compensation & Rehabilitation) Act, 1954 to enable them to tackle the work effectively. It will, therefore, be seen that all possible efforts are being made to get the work expedited.

6. It has, however, been lately felt that after transfer of the work to the State Governments on agency basis, we have still to maintain some staff in the regional offices to receive returns from the State Governments, to compile them and also to attend to various queries raised by the State Governments or their officials in the discharge of their functions. Accordingly, a suggestion has been made that it will be a better proposition if the residuary assets of the Settlement Organisation in various States are transferred for good to the State Governments by way of package deals, as has already been done in respect of some items in Punjab on some agreed price. We are now pursuing this line, and have started negotiating accordingly with the various State Governments. In fact, the Rajasthan Government is the second Government to have agreed recently to a package deal in respect of (1) Urban and rural properties (2) arrears of rent etc."

1.23. The Committee note that the State Governments to whom the work of recovering outstanding dues for evacuee properties was transferred on agency basis have made recoveries to the extent of only Rs. 117.40 lakhs out of a total demand of Rs. 514.31. Whereas recoveries amounting to some lakhs were effected in the States of U.P., Gujarat, Rajasthan and Punjab, the recoveries in other States were negligible.

1.24. The Committee would like the Department of Rehabilitation to continue to pursue vigorously with the State Governments the question of effecting recoveries pending the conclusion of the package deals for transferring the assets of the Settlement Organisation to the State Governments.

Outstanding recoveries due to Faridabad Development Board—Paras 2.38—2.46—(S. No. 15—Para 2.47—of Appendix to the 25th Report—Fourth Lok Sabha).

1.25. In paras 2.38 to 2.46, the Committee had dealt with the question regarding outstanding recoveries amounting to Rs. 34 lakhs due from various parties at the time of the merger of the Faridabad Development Board with the (Department of Rehabilitation) and made the following observations :

"The Committee are constrained to note that a sum of Rs. 60,000 became irrecoverable due to liquidation of four co-operative societies. The Committee desire that Government should take appropriate steps to safeguard their financial interest in case these societies are found

to hold any assets. The Committee also desire that clearance of outstanding recoveries from Government departments as well as from other private institutions should be expedited."

(Para 2.47)

1.26. In their reply dated the 5th December, 1968 the Department of Rehabilitation had stated :—

"The recommendation of the Committee has been noted. Effort is being made to recover as much amount from the cooperative societies as possible. The State Government has intimated that in case of one of the four societies, members have agreed to clear the amount in instalments. In the case of another Society, the addresses of some of the members are being supplied to the State Government to effect recoveries. The State Government has also been apprised of the recommendation of the Committee.

Similarly, all efforts are being made to recover dues from Government departments as well as other private institutions. The latest position is that out of Rs. 2.54 lakhs, shown as recoverable in the para, an amount of Rs. 2.197 lakhs has already been recovered/adjusted/written off.

Further, out of Rs. 2.92 lakhs due on account of rent etc. an amount of Rs. 43,700 has already been recovered."

1.27. The Committee desire that vigorous efforts should be made to recover the arrears of rent for properties in Faridabad, as only Rs. 43,700 out of Rs. 2.92 lakhs shown as outstanding have been recovered so far.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation

The Committee note that copper clad cables worth Rs. 36.22 lakhs received as a gift imported in April, 1964, have not been used so far in the project initially envisaged due to reported financial stringency. The Committee hope that the Ministry of Home Affairs, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, will be able to utilise these cables forthwith. In case it is not possible for the Ministry to utilise these cables, the Committee suggest that the same may be handed over to the Posts and Telegraphs Department who have a ready use for them.

(S. No. 1 of Appendix—Para 1.11 to Twenty-fifth Report of the P.A.C. Fourth Lok Sabha)

Action taken

The observation of the Committee in the above paragraph has been noted in this Ministry and their suggestion implemented. Out of the total length of 3443 miles of cables lying with the Intelligence Bureau, 1350 miles of wire required by the Border Security Force has since been lifted by them. The remaining cable has been transferred to the Posts and Telegraphs Department for their use. No cable is left with the Intelligence Bureau now.

[Ministry of Home Affairs O.M. No. 19, 18 68-P. III, dt. 30th Oct. 1968].

Recommendation

The Committee would like Government to make a critical review of the procedure for procurement of supplies for the NEFA Administration without further delay so as to achieve maximum economy and efficiency.

(S. No. 2 of Appendix, para 1.23 of 25th Report Public Accounts Committee—Fourth Lok Sabha).

Action taken

A critical review of the procedure for procurement of supplies for NEFA Administration has been made in pursuance of the Public Accounts Committee's recommendations contained in the above para. In the course of the review it was noticed that commodities like rice, wheat and sugar are being procured now from the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation on the basis of their monthly allotments. Items like kerosene oil and motor spirit are being procured from the source of supply and a few items of consumer goods are being procured from Canteen Stores Department. The present system of procurement of these commodities is considered quite satisfactory and no change in the procedure is called for.

2. As regards the procedure for procurement of vegetable ghee, the matter has been carefully examined in this Ministry in consultation with the NEFA Administration and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation. The NEFA Administration have now been advised to procure their supply of vegetable ghee direct from manufacturers at controlled price, instead of procuring the same from the traders, selected on the basis of competitive tenders, as had been the previous practice.

3. At present, dals and mustard oil are being procured from the contractors selected on competitive tender basis. It has now been suggested that attempts should be made to procure dals and mustard oil direct from the producing states, either through agency of Food Corporation of India or through the Cooperative Societies.

4. Tinned fruits and tinned vegetables are being procured from the manufacturers on competitive tender basis. This system appears to be quite satisfactory and economical. It has however been suggested that attempts should be made to procure the whole quantity of tinned fruits or a portion thereof from the Assam Government Agriculture Department which is producing certain varieties of tinned fruits.

5. It is felt that there is no alternative to procuring fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, fresh milk, meat and similar other items from the contractors selected on competitive tender basis and this practice will have to continue.

[Ministry of Home Affairs O.M. No. F.21 4/68-AC II, dated 1-1-1969].

Recommendation

The Committee hope that the re-constituted Supply Board with its revised functions will play a more effective role and the system of procurement of supplies for the NEFA Administration will be placed on a sounder footing.

(S. No. 2 of Appendix, Para 1.24 of 25th Report—Public Accounts Committee—Fourth Lok Sabha).

Action taken

The observation of the Public Accounts Committee contained in this paragraph has been brought to the notice of all the members of the reconstituted Supply Advisory Board for their guidance.

[Ministry of Home Affairs O.M. No. F.21 4/68-AC II, dated 1-1-1969].

Recommendation

The Committee consider it unfortunate that despite the heavy requirements of vegetable ghee, the NEFA Administration did not initiate any action till January, 1967, to obtain supplies at the manufacturer's price either by direct negotiations with the manufacturers or through the intervention of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. This lack of initiative

on the part of the Administration resulted in an avoidable extra expenditure of Rs. 1.31 lakhs.

(S. No. 3 of Appendix, para 1.29 of 25th Report—Public Accounts Committee—4th Lok Sabha).

Action taken

The observation of the Public Accounts Committee has been circulated to all the concerned officers of the NEFA Administration for their information and future guidance.

[Ministry of Home Affairs O.M. No. F21.4/68-AC II, dated 1-1-1969].

Recommendation

The Committee hope that suitable arrangements will be made without further delay to procure in future vegetable ghee for the NEFA Administration at the manufacturer's price and thus effect a saving.

(S. No. 3 of Appendix, para 1.30 of 25th Report—Public Accounts Committee—Fourth Lok Sabha).

Action taken

The matter has been carefully examined in this Ministry in consultation with the NEFA Administration and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation. The NEFA Administration have now been advised to procure their supply of vegetable ghee direct from the manufacturers at controlled rates. A copy of instructions issued to NEFA Administration in this regard is enclosed (Annexure I).

[Ministry of Home Affairs O.M. No. F21.4/68-AC II, dated 1-1-1969].

ANNEXURE I

Shri—————,

Dy. Financial Adviser.

D.O. No. 21/4/68-AC II
Dated the 9th September, 1968.

New Delhi-1.

Dear Shri

Kindly refer to the correspondence resting with my endorsement No. 21/4/68-AC II, dated 17-8-68. I have since received a reply from Shri V. P. Sethi, Deputy Chief Director, Department of Co-operation, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, *vide* his d.o. letter No. 29-15/CIS dated 3-9-68, a copy of which has also been endorsed to objection to the N.E.F.A. Administration making arrangements for direct supply of vanaspati from the manufacturers. Since the intention is to effect savings as far as possible by eliminating intermediaries I would now suggest that DST may make arrangements direct with the manufacturers in the Eastern region for the supply of vegetable ghee to the NEFA Administration instead of routing the supplies through N.E.F.A. Stores. The recent imposition of

control over the price of vegetable ghee will, I presume, make procurements of supplies direct from the manufacturers all the more easy.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

Shri
Adviser to the Governor of Assam,
N.E.F.A.
Shillong.

Recommendation

The Committee agree with the Ministry of Home Affairs that "there is really no good reason why the supply of Advisory Board should not have accepted the lowest rate of Rs. 88 per parachute for 15,000 parachutes. It seems that the desirability of procuring 15,000 parachutes from the lowest tenderer at Rs. 88 per parachute did not occur to the Board at all". As pointed out by Audit, this lapse on the part of the Supply Advisory Board has resulted in an avoidable expenditure of Rs. 30,000. The Committee hope that with the re-constitution of the Board and the issue of detailed instructions to them for processing tenders, such lapses will not recur. The Committee cannot but strongly emphasise that whenever it is proposed to accept tenders other than the lowest, detailed reasons should be recorded and that all such cases should be put up to the next higher authority for scrutiny and sanctions.

[S. No. 4 of Appendix, para 1.30 of 25th Report—Public Accounts Committee, (Fourth Lok Sabha)].

Action taken

The recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee has been brought to the notice of the re-constituted Supply Advisory Board and the concerned Departments of the NEFA Administration for strict compliance.

[Ministry of Home Affairs O.M. No. F21/4/68-AC II, dated 1-1-1969].

Recommendation

The Committee regret to note that the training-*cum*-production centres were opened in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands without proper assessment of the availability of raw materials, aptitude of the local people and avenues for employment of the people trained in the Centres. This resulted in an infructuous expenditure of Rs. 1.56 lakhs. They are unhappy to find that no periodical assessment of the scheme was undertaken which was allowed to continue without much benefit for three to four years. The Committee feel that, if a periodical review had been made, some of the expenditure on the scheme which ultimately proved to be infructuous could have been saved.

The Committee also desire that before launching such training schemes in future, it should be ensured that they are planned properly so that such cases of infructuous expenditure do not recur.

[S. No. 6 of Appendix, Paras 1.59 and 1.60 of Twenty-fifth Report (Fourth Lok Sabha)].

Action taken

The Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been instructed *vide* Ministry's D.O. No. F. 18/2/68-AC.II dated 25-4-68 (copy enclosed. See Annexure II), to ensure that before launching such training schemes in future, they are planned properly so that such cases of **infructuous expenditure** do not recur. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has issued suitable instruction in this behalf to the subordinate authorities *vide* Administration letter No. 50-117/68-Dev. I dated 12-6-68 (copy enclosed. See Annexure III). The Administration had already issued instructions to the subordinate authorities for periodical review of all the schemes in hand in a critical and analytical manner before making recommendations regarding their continuance or otherwise *vide* their letter No. 11-22(ii)/67-Accts. dated 29-11-67 (copy enclosed. See Annexure IV).

[Ministry of Home Affairs OM No. F. 18/2 68-ACII dated 27-7-1968].

ANNEXURE II**Copy**

D.O. No. F.18/2/68-Ac. II

Deputy Financial Adviser

New Delhi, dated the 25th April, 1968.

Telephone No. 31315

I enclose herewith extracts of paras 1.48 to 1.60 of the Twenty-fifth Report of the Public Accounts Committee (1967-68) (Fourth Lok Sabha) containing their observations on para 39 of the Audit Report (Civil) 1967 regarding abandonment of schemes and wasteful expenditure on the opening of training-*cum*-production centres in Andaman and Nicobar Islands for information and guidance.

2. It may kindly be ensured that, as recommended by the Public Accounts Committee in para 1.60 of their Report, before launching such training schemes in future, they are planned properly, so that such cases of **infructuous expenditure** do not recur. Necessary instructions in the matter may kindly be issued to all concerned and copy furnished to this Ministry.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

Shri
Chief Commissioner,
Andaman and Nicobar Islands,
Port Blair.

ANNEXURE III

Copy

No. 50-117/68-Dev. I

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION

Chief Commissioner's Secretariat

Port Blair, dated the 12th June, 1968.

CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT :—*25th Report of the Public Accounts Committee (1967-68) (Fourth Lok Sabha) Committee's Observations on para 39 of the Audit Report (Civil) 1967 about abandonment of Schemes and wasteful expenditure on the opening of Training-cum-Production Centres.*

The undersigned is directed to invite attention of all Heads of Departments/Offices of this Administration to Circular Memorandum No. 11-22 (ii)/67-Accts, dated the 29th November, 1967 on the above subject and to say that the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs have also viewed with great concern the loss sustained by the Government in unnecessarily continuing infructuous schemes causing considerable loss to the Public Exchequer, and have desired that before launching such training schemes in future, it should be assured that they are planned properly, so that such cases of infructuous expenditure do not recur. Extract of paras 1.48 and 1.60 of the 25th Report of the Public Accounts Committee (1967-68) (Fourth Lok Sabha) containing their observations on para 39 of the Audit Report (Civil) 1967 regarding abandonment of schemes and wasteful expenditure on the Training-cum-Production Centres in Andaman and Nicobar Islands are enclosed.

As already explained in the Circular Memorandum referred to above, the Chief Commissioner has also given an assurance to the Public Accounts Committee that 'Wrong Planning would not be done in future' and that very serious efforts will be made to see that these infructuous schemes are liquidated and money is not wasted in any way.

All Heads of Departments/Offices are once again requested to carefully note the observations of the Public Accounts Committee and the assurance given by the Chief Commissioner as contained in the extracts referred to above, and furthermore to undertake periodical reviews, say once in a quarter of all the schemes in hand in a critical and analytical manner and make definite recommendations to the Administration in regard to their continuance or otherwise. If, after such reviews being undertaken, the Heads of Departments/Offices come to the conclusion that there is no scheme being implemented in their department which is unproductive or the expenditure on which is infructuous in the long run a certificate to this effect should be furnished to the Secretariat. The first review should relate to the quarter ending 30th June, 1968 and should be furnished to the Secretariat by 15th of July, 1968 positively.

The formulation of the new Draft Fourth Five Year Plan is shortly being taken up and instructions are being issued constituting working groups for each sector of the plan. All the Heads of Departments/Offices should ensure that no schemes are included in the Draft Fourth Five Year Plan, the expenditure on which will prove to be infructuous in the long run.

As already mentioned in the Administration's Circular Memorandum dated the 29th November, 1967 referred to above the Heads of Departments/Offices implementing/continuing any scheme are going to be personally held responsible, if any avoidable loss in the continued implementation of infructuous schemes is sustained by Government in any stage.

The receipt of this communication may kindly be acknowledged.

By Order
Sd.-

Development Commissioner-cum-Development Secretary

To

1. All Heads of Departments Offices under A & N Islands Admn.
2. The Chief Development Commissioner.
3. All Officers in the Secretariat.
4. All Sections in the Secretariat.

Spare copies—10.

ANNEXURE IV

Copy

No. 11-22(ii)/67-Acetts.

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION,

Chief Commissioner's Secretariat.

Port Blair, the 29th November, 1967.

CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT :—*Abandonment of certain schemes formulated by the Administration.*

Three Training-cum-Production Centres were set up by this Administration in the Second and Third Five Year Plans of these Islands. These projects were abandoned without achieving the targets fixed after incurring an expenditure of about Rs. 1.56 lakhs. The infructuous expenditure incurred on these schemes came in for audit criticism and all the three schemes were included in the Audit Report (Civil) 1967.

These items were discussed in the Public Accounts Committee meeting held on the 27th October, 1967 which was also attended by the Chief Commissioner. The Public Accounts Committee was perturbed at the loss sustained by the Government in unnecessarily continuing these three infructuous schemes causing considerable loss to the public exchequer.

The Public Accounts Committee was informed that the schemes proved to be infructuous, as they were ill-conceived and were based on indefinite and rather improbable data particularly in the matter of the availability of raw materials and the personnel desirous of undergoing the training. The difficult means of communications leading to delayed sanctions, etc., which were also responsible for continuing these infructuous schemes over a period of time were also explained to the Public Accounts Committee. During the course of discussions, the Public Accounts Committee demanded an assurance from the Administration that such impracticable, untenable and infructuous schemes will not be allowed to be implemented in future and that public money will not be so callously wasted. The Public Accounts Committee members were assured that in future only workable schemes would be taken in hand for implementation and that the follow-up would be critical and analytic with a view to ensuring that no avoidable loss in the continued implementation of infructuous schemes is sustained by Government.

In view of the assurances given to the Public Accounts Committee, the Chief Commissioner has ordered that the Heads of Departments/Offices in this Administration implementing/continuing the schemes should be made squarely and personally responsible for implementation of schemes. They should periodically review all schemes in hand very critically and make definite recommendations to the Administration with regard to their continuance or otherwise. Failure to do so will render them personally responsible for any avoidable losses sustained by Government on the continuance of such schemes.

The receipt of this communication may please be acknowledged

By Order

S/-

Secretary (Finance) to the Chief Commissioner

All Heads of Departments/Offices under A. & N. Admn.

The Development Commissioner-cum-Development Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Port Blair.

All Sections in the Chief Commissioner's Secretariat.

Recommendation

The Committee regret to note that the Budget estimates for the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Establishment were not prepared realistically keeping in view the actual requirements. They find that in case the actual expenditure fell short of Budget estimates by 68 per cent in 1963-64, 53 per cent in 1964-65 and 47 per cent in 1965-66. While the Committee understand the difficulties faced in raising the Border Police they cannot appreciate why year after year Budget provision was made grossly in excess of requirements. The Committee desire that the Border Police Establishment should prepare their Budget estimates more realistically, keeping in view their actual requirements and the likely availability of equipment and stores. The Committee expect Government to scrutinise the estimates of the Border Police Establishment more closely before including them in the Budget estimates.

[S. No. 7 of Appendix—Para 1.63 to Twenty-fifth Report of the P.A.C. (Fourth Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

The observation of the Committee in the above paragraph has been noted in this Ministry and has been brought to the notice of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Establishment on 13-5-68. It will be observed from the following table that the expenditure position in respect of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force improved considerably during the succeeding years of 1966-67 and 1967-68 :—

Year	Final Grant	Actual Expenditure
1966-67	Rs. 3,05,75,339	Rs. 3,02,31,445 (Unit figures)
1967-68	4,47,97,800	4,47,97,800 Departmental Figures (Provisional)

[Ministry of Home Affairs O.M. No. 52/8/68-ACI, dated 9-9-1968]

Recommendation

The Committee note that out of 812 compensation applications pending on 31st March, 1966, 807 cases have already been finalised and efforts are being made to finalise the remaining 5 cases as early as possible. They further note that the Government have since decided not to entertain any fresh compensation applications and that only in rare cases where some public dues are recoverable from the claimants is condonation of the delay in filing such applications allowed. They hope that, as decided at the Regional Settlement Commissioner's conference held in October, 1967, the Department of Rehabilitation will strictly adhere to the maximum time limit of three months for finalising a fresh compensation case.

[S. No. 10 (para 2.6) of Appendix to 25th Report (Fourth Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

Every effort is being made to adhere to the maximum limit of 3 months for finalizing a fresh compensation case as per the decision taken by Government in this behalf. During the period from April, 1966 to 31st March, 1968, 178 fresh R.G./Compensation Applications were entertained as the delay in filing them was condoned after examining the merits of each case and also in such cases where fresh claims were verified. Thus the total number of applications pending were 990. Out of these 979 cases were disposed of leaving a balance of 11 cases only, and there were only 4 such cases which are more than 3 months old. The main reasons for the pendency of these cases are (i) cases have become subject matter of judicial action with the appellate authorities of the department and/or Civil Courts, High Courts etc. and (ii) the desired co-operation from the claimants and also the information necessary for disposal of the cases is awaited from the State Governments. All out efforts are however being made to liquidate this small number of cases as early as possible. The position was also discussed in the conference of Regional Settlement Commissioners/Custodians held on the 6th & 7th of June, 1968, and the need for liquidating the residuary work at

the earliest was stressed on all the Regional Settlement Commissioners. The target of 3 months for finalising the fresh cases was reiterated.

[Ministry of Labour, Employment & Rehabilitation Department of Rehabilitation O.M. No. 4(2)/68-Bud, dated 14-10-68]

Recommendation

The Committee found from the deed of lease entered into between the Golf Club, Faridabad, and the Government of India that no time limit was laid down for the development of the Children's Park. The Committee feel that a time limit for the development of Children's park could well have been laid down in the deed itself.

[S. No. 17 (para 2.69) of Appendix to 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

The recommendation of the P.A.C. has been noted for future guidance. It may, however, be pointed out that in view of the circumstances explained in Para 2.64 of the Report, the lessee would not have been able to adhere to the date because the club itself had to be developed. The only recourse which the Government could take was to enforce the provisions of sub-section (13) of clause II of the lease deed which contains the remedy for non-fulfilment of the terms of the lease. In fact a show cause notice was given to the lessee as to why this clause may not be enforced when they took steps to develop the park.

Recommendation

The Committee note that the Club authorities have developed the Children's Park, a hockey ground and a football ground since the Audit Para was prepared. They agree that the objectives Government had in mind have thus been partially fulfilled. They hope that Government will take suitable steps to ensure that the Golf Club also develops the remaining eight acres of land earmarked for the Children's Park in accordance with the terms of the lease.

[S. No. 17 (Para 2.70) of Appendix to 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

Steps have already been initiated to have the remaining area allocated for the Children's Park developed. The club has decided to develop in this area of about 8 acres a general public park on the lines of Lodi Gardens in which they are providing more of long life graceful trees in place of annual flowers and ornamental plants, which have been provided in the Children's Park proper. The area has already been cleared of the unnecessary bushes/trees and fresh trees have been planted.

It would be appreciated that the growth of trees etc. is a long term process and it will take some time before the area looks like a good public park. The Department would be constantly watching the progress in this regard.

Recommendation

The Committee have no doubt that Government will ensure that all the conditions prescribed in the lease deed are carried out by the Club and that the Children's Park is well maintained by the Club.

[S. No. 17 (Para 2.71) of Appendix to 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

It is confirmed that a strict watch is being kept to see that all the necessary conditions prescribed in the lease deed are carried out by the club and that the Children's Park is well maintained by it.

Recommendation

The Committee would like Government to consider and review its general policy in regard to the maintenance of green belts in urban area so that the most suitable method can be adopted for fulfilling the underlying objectives.

[S. No. 17 (Para 2.72) of Appendix to 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

The Central Government is not directly responsible for the maintenance of green belts in urban or rural areas. It is a local body function and therefore either the Municipalities or the State Governments are concerned with the subject matter. It was only by chance that the Central Government had to deal with the subject matter because some townships were directly developed by the Central Government and had to be maintained by it for some years after which the local body functions in these townships were transferred to the local authorities. At Faridabad also except the Central Green, all the green belts already stand transferred to the local body through the State Government.

[Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Department of Rehabilitation) O.M. No. 2(2) 68-Bud. dated the 10-12-68].

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION

Note showing action taken proposed to be taken on the Recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee.

S. No.	Conclusion Recommendation	Reply of Government
1	2	3
17 (Para 3.17) of Appendix to 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha).	The Committee are distressed to note that the equipment which was imported between January and June, 1962, has not yet been installed even after a lapse of about six years. The Committee deprecate this gross delay. They are surprised to know that it took nearly 20 months to initiate action to acquire land on the selected site. The Ministry of Defence took a long time to release the land and the acquisition was completed in May, 1966, after a lapse of 30 months. The Committee feel that, when the Ministry of	The observations of the Committee have been noted. The buildings for 3 out of the 4 components of the Instrument Landing System viz. Localiser, Glide Path and Outer Marker have already been completed. The construction of the approach road to the Middle Marker site and the building for the Middle Marker which is the 4th component of the Instrument Landing System and which could not be taken up due to delay in the release of Defence land has since been taken up and the work is expected

1	2	3
	<p>Tourism and Civil Aviation were of the view that "the building was holding up the installation of a very essential navigational aid at Madras, that they could ill afford to continue the situation without incurring the criticism of the International Civil Aviation Organisations" and that they "would also be failing in their obligation to ensure the safety of Civil aircraft." they should have taken up the issue of the release of land at the highest level from the beginning rather than enter into a protracted correspondence at a lower level. Such delays in inter-departmental dealings not only indicate lack of proper coordination and co-operation between the different Ministries of the Government of India but also a lack of appreciation on the part of the Ministry of the needs of others.</p>	<p>to be completed in about two months time. The installation of the Localiser Glide Path and Outer Marker equipment has been completed. Further adjustments of the equipment and flight inspection of these components of the Instrument Landing System can be carried out only after the demolition of the structures very close to the Localiser site and the shifting of the fencing immediately behind the Localiser antenna system. The Defence land needed for this purpose has since been released to the Civil Aviation Department by the local Ministry authorities on the 20-6-68. The value of the structures communicated by the Ministry of Defence to this Ministry in May 1968 has been accepted and this acceptance conveyed to them in August 1968 with a request to issue immediate instructions to the local Military authorities for handing over these structures to the Civil Aviation Department.</p>
<p>17 (Para 3.18) of Appendix to 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha).</p>	<p>The Committee feel that in such cases in future, the assistance of the organisation recently set up in the Cabinet Secretariat to effect co-ordination between various Government agencies should be taken and delays in execution of such important projects strictly avoided.</p>	<p>The recommendation of the Committee is noted. In future the assistance of the organisation recently set up in the Cabinet Secretariat to effect co-ordination between various Government authorities will be taken, wherever necessary.</p>
<p>17 (Para 3.19) of Appendix to 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha).</p>	<p>There was also lack of co-ordination in the purchase of equipment and acquisition of land. The Committee feel that the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation should have initiated action much earlier in regard to the selection and acquisition of land so that, by the time the machinery was received from abroad, it could have been installed without any loss of time. Keeping imported equipment</p>	<p>The observations of the Committee have been noted. The Civil Aviation Department and other organisations under this Ministry have been advised on 19-9-1968 to ensure compliance with the recommendation in future. The Director General of Civil Aviation has also been requested on 30-10-1967 to draw up project reports, wherever applicable, indicating the action to be taken in a detailed manner.</p>

1	2	3
	<p>idle like this not only blocks money and involves the risk of deterioration but also affects the schedule of installation and its commissioning and hampers the very object for which such equipment is imported by spending valuable foreign exchange.</p>	

[Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation OM No. 9-VB(32)/66-pt., dated the 14-11-1968].

Recommendation

The Committee are distressed to note that there was a delay of about four years in the construction and one and a half years in utilisation of the Canteen-cum-Rest House at Ajanta. They note that the initial delay was due to non-availability of land till April, 1960, while the sanction for the construction had been given in October, 1958. Further delay was due to difficulty in getting suitable contractor to execute the construction work at the selected site and the lack of water supply for drinking and constructional purposes. The committee feel that, if the Department had visualised these difficulties sufficiently before hand, this abnormal delay in the completion and utilisation of the building could have been avoided.

[Para 3.35 of the 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

To avoid delays in construction and utilisation of facilities to be provided, the Tourist Department will henceforth undertake more detailed surveys of the places to be developed before providing facilities.

Recommendation

The Study group of the Committee noticed during their visit to Ajanta that the Canteen-cum-Rest House had been located at a low site. The Committee consider that detailed investigations should have been made so as to select the best spot, preferably one having a good view of the monument for the location of the Rest House. The Committee also feel that before undertaking national and international tourist interest like Ajanta a careful study should be made about the requirements of tourists (both foreign and Indian) who would be making use of it. The facilities in a Rest House Tourist Home should be provided in accordance with these requirements while keeping a sufficient margin for future expansion. The style of architecture should harmonise with the monuments and the surrounding area. Special care should be taken about sanitary arrangements. Drinking water facilities should be provided, special care being taken to see that the water is free from contamination. In general, the supply of water should be plentiful and assured.

[Para 3.37 of the 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

The Tourist Department had undertaken a survey of the area to select the best possible site for constructing the Canteen-cum-Rest House at Ajanta. The caves are situated in a gorge, and there being hardly any space between the river and the hills which rise steeply from the river-bed, the only site available within walking distance of the caves was the broad flat land from where the ascent to the caves commences. It is also accessible by road as the motorable road leading to the caves terminates at this place. Though the construction of building across the river would have afforded a better view of the caves, the hill on that side of the river is quite steep and therefore a suitable plot of land could not be located. It would also have meant constructing a bridge across the river as there is no approach road on the other side. The Tourist Department therefore had no other alternative but to select the present site for the construction of the Canteen-cum-Rest House at Ajanta.

As a result of the experience gained in constructing Tourist Bungalows / Canteens during the second and third plan periods, the Tourist Department has initiated action to carry out more detailed surveys of places of tourist importance before providing facilities at these places. The suggestions contained in this para have been noted for future action while planning the surveys.

Recommendation

The Committee would like the Department of Tourism to evolve suitable guidelines in the light of the above and the experience gained by them for location and construction of rest houses and tourist homes at places of national and international tourist interest.

[Para 3.39 of the 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

The suggestion has been noted for suitable action.

Recommendation

The Committee would like the Department to improve the catering arrangements in the Canteen-cum-Rest House at Ajanta by taking the help of the India Tourism Development Corporation.

[Para. 3.40 of the 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

The management of the tourist Bungalows Canteens constructed by the Tourist Department including that at Ajanta has already been transferred to the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited since 1st April, 1967 and we have been informed that they have located a satisfactory contractor to run them.

[Ministry of Tourism & Civil Aviation, O.M. No. 37-PC(49)-68 dated 16-12-1968]

CHAPTER III

**RECOMMENDATIONS OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE
DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES OF
GOVERNMENT**

—NIL—

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation

The Committee note that parachutes and other Supply Dropping Equipment valued at Rs. 28 lakhs are lying at outlying places. The Committee desire that an early decision may be taken to retrieve or otherwise dispose of the parachutes and other Supply Dropping Equipment from the outlying difficult locations so that the material does not deteriorate with the passing of time.

Para. 1.45 Serial No. 5 of Appendix of the 25th Report of the Public Accounts Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha-1967-68).

Action taken

Government have accepted the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation in the above paragraph. Action has been initiated for the retrieval of the parachutes and other Supply Dropping Equipment lying at difficult locations. The final position in the matter will be reported to the Public Accounts Committee in due course.

[Ministry of Home Affairs, O.M. No. N1/893(4)-65, dated 31-1-1969]

Recommendation

The Committee would also like Government to take an early decision about the disposal of 79,368 parachutes and other Supply Dropping Equipment valued at Rs 51.19 lakhs which is stated to be under consideration of Government. According to the Air Force, 18 feet parachutes cannot be utilised effectively in air dropping as these are outmoded. The Committee would like Government to consider this matter further in detail in consultation with the Air Force authorities with a view to take an early decision about the standardisation of the sizes of parachutes required for air dropping for different commodities as well as taking into account the type of aircraft to be used so as to ensure maximum utilization of parachutes.

(S. No. 5 of Appendix, para 1.46 of 25th Report—Public Accounts Committee—Fourth Lok Sabha)

Action taken

This matter has been carefully examined in this Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. It has been decided that 79,368 parachutes valued at Rs. 51.19 lakhs, which are unserviceable, may be disposed through D.G.S. & D. (by auction by calling tenders etc. if disposal is not made through D.G.S. & D.) to the best advantage of the Government after retrieving useful material and keeping sufficient quantity for cannibalisation to carry out minor repairs to serviceable parachutes.

As regards size of parachutes the Defence authorities were again consulted. In their opinion malfunctioning of parachutes or losses incurred during

air-dropping operation are not in anyway more in the case of 18 feet parachutes than in the case of parachutes of larger size. In NEFA supply dropping operations are generally being carried out through Dakota Aircrafts. Defence authorities have advised that 18 ft. parachute is quite suitable for use on the Dakotas because of its side door ejection, which makes it difficult to drop heavier loads than what 18 ft. parachutes is designed to carry. In fact, Air force are still using 18 ft. parachutes on Dakotas.

It may be mentioned that Air Force authorities are taking to the use of 28 ft. parachute in preference to the 18 ft. parachute because they are increasingly utilising heavier aircrafts than Dakotas (e.g. Paketa, AN-12 Caribou) for which 28 ft. parachute is technically more suitable because of aft-end roller conveyors/transporter system ejection in case of these aircrafts.

[Ministry of Home Affairs, O.M. No. 21-4-68-ACII, dated 1-1-69]

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

List of points arising out of replies given by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the recommendations contained in the 25th Report of the Public Accounts Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha).

Sl. No. 5 (para 1.46—Appendix to 25th Report of the PAC).

QUESTION : Please state whether any definite decision has been taken about standardisation of parachutes.

ANSWER : "The size of parachutes has been standardised at 28 ft. for all types of aircraft viz. Dakota, Caribou and AN-12 in use for air maintenance in N.E.F.A. However, 18 ft. parachutes already manufactured by the Ordnance Factory and in stock will have to be used for Dakotas until the existing stocks are exhausted."

[Ministry of Home Affairs, O.M. No. 21-4-68-ACII, dated 18-1-69]

Recommendation

The Committee find from the Ministry's note that during the period 1962-63 to 1965-66, the number of serviceable parachutes retrieved was 1,48,192 as against 1,56,426 parachutes purchased during the same period. The Committee desire that an enquiry may be conducted to find out :—

- (i) Whether losses of parachutes are comparable to similar losses in other sectors of the country where air dropping operations are carried out.
- (ii) How many serviceable retrieved parachutes have been pressed into service again and how far fresh purchases have been reduced due to the use of those parachutes.
- (iii) How the size of the parachutes was fixed at 18 ft. and to what extent the smaller size of the parachute is responsible for the heavy losses in air droppings.

(S. No. 5 of the Appendix—para 1.47 of 25th Report—Public Accounts Committee—Fourth Lok Sabha).

Action taken.

An enquiry has been conducted into the matter in pursuance to the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation contained in the above para. Seriatim replies to the points raised in the para are as under :—

(i) The losses of parachutes in air dropping operations, in Rowriah and Mohanbari Sectors of NEFA were compared with similar losses in Eastern and Western Sectors during the period from 1962-63 to 1966-67. The percentage of loss/gain in respect of each sector was as under :—

<i>Eastern Sector</i>	<i>Western Sector</i>	<i>Rowriah</i>	<i>Mohanbari</i>
10% gain	10% loss	9% loss	47.5% loss

The percentage of losses in respect of Western Sector and Rowriah compares favourably. As regards Eastern Sector there was no loss but actually gain of 10% in the number of parachutes used. This more than cent percent performance is presumably due to recovery during the period of some parachutes which might have been used for air dropping prior to July, 1962. As regards Mohanbari the percentage of losses is very high and the reasons leading to such high percentage of losses, are being looked into.

(ii) During the period from 1960-61 to 1966-67 retrieved Serviceable parachutes numbering 1.78 lakhs have actually been utilised in air-dropping operations in NEFA area and this has correspondingly reduced the fresh purchase of parachutes.

(iii) When air dropping operations were first introduced in NEFA, 18 ft. parachutes were procured from World War II Stock of the Army. At that time Army authorities also were using 18 ft. parachutes.

The smaller size of parachute is not responsible in any way for heavy losses in air dropping. The malfunctioning of parachutes can be categorised into the following headings viz. :—

- (a) *Roman Candle* i.e. when the parachute is not developed at all.
- (b) *Entanglement* i.e. when two or more parachutes get entangled with each other during the stage of development of the parachutes or their flight in air.
- (c) *Detachment* i.e. when the supplies get detached from the parachutes in flight.
- (d) *Tearings* i.e. when the parachutes get torn in the air.

In none of the above factors, the 18 ft. parachute is at a relative disadvantage, compared to the larger-size parachutes.

Further there may be other factors contributing to losses e.g. faulty parachute packing, or faulty packing of supplies within their containers. Attachment of containers to the parachutes may also be faulty. Alternatively, weight of supplies attached to a parachute may be in excess of what it is intended to carry. All these factors are common to both the 18 ft. parachutes, and the larger size of parachutes.

[Ministry of Home Affairs O.M. No. 33/4/68-ACII dated 27-11-1968]

Recommendations

The Committee notes that 6507 statements of account of the aggregate value of Rs. 0.90 crores were pending on 31st October, 1967.

[S. No. 11 (para 2.13) of appendix to 25th Report (Fourth Lok Sabha)]

They would like to know the effect of the new system according to which the cash compensation was to be paid against any unutilised statement of account upto the value of Rs. 2,000. If a considerable number of pending statements of account are liquidated, as is expected, the Department of Rehabilitation may examine the question of raising this limit further, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, so that all the pending Statements of Account are liquidated as early as possible.

[Sl. No. 11 (para 2.14) Appendix to 25th Report (Fourth Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

Para 2.13. As mentioned in the above recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee there were 6507 statements of Account of the aggregate value of Rs. 0.90 crores pending on 31st October, 1967. The position as on 1st June, 1968 however, is that 5889 statements of account of the aggregate value of Rs. 82.94 lakhs were pending for liquidation.

Para 2.14. It may be stated that as a result of the decision taken in the Conference of the Regional Settlement Commissioners and Custodians of Evacuee Properties held in October, 1967, orders were issued raising the limit of cash payment to Rs. 2,000. It was expected that this decision would hasten the pace of liquidation of pending statements of account. The orders to this effect were issued in the month of December, 1967 and the position kept under constant review. As the results were not as encouraging as expected, the item was again discussed in the Conference of Regional Settlement Commissioners and Custodians of Evacuee Properties held on the 6th and 7th of June, 1968. According to the Regional Settlement Commissioners, the facts of

(i) non-cooperation by the holders of the statements of account, (ii) death of the claimants in whose favour statements of account had been issued, and (iii) the present addresses of the holders of the statements of account being unknown to the Department; were standing in their way to liquidate the statements of account in large numbers. It was, therefore, decided that the department should not waste its efforts in pursuing those cases and if, after a reasonable notice, the parties did not come forward to tender their statements of account, the case might be consigned to Records.

In addition to the above stipulations, it was observed that some of the holders of statements of account did not come forward to receive payment as the National Defence Certificates which are issued to them under the existing Rules, are encashable only after a period of one year. A suggestion to allow payment in hard cash upto Rs. 1,000 initially and the balance in the form of National Defence Certificates, was accepted in principle. The proposal is being examined in consultation with the Ministry of Finance etc.

Notwithstanding the above decisions it was again impressed on all the Regional Settlement Commissioners that the problem of liquidation of statements of account was causing concern to the Department and they should,

-therefore, personally look into each case with a view to liquidating it in as short a time as possible.

[Ministry of Labour & Employment and Rehabilitation (Deptt. of Rehabilitation) OM No. 4(2)/68-Bud, dated 14-10-68]

Recommendation

The Committee note that the Government have been able to bring down the figures of arrears of rent by Rs. 95 lakhs within a period of 18 months though a major part of this reduction is as a result of correction of demand and write off of irrecoverable rents. The Committee hope that the Department of Rehabilitation will take effective steps to recover the rent with a view to liquidate balance at an early date.

[Sl. No. 12 (para 2.26) of Appendix to the 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha)]

The Committee would also like to know as to when the Department of Rehabilitation hope to complete all corrections in the Demand Registers regarding arrears of rent.

[Sl. No. 12 (para 2.27) of Appendix to the 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

The question relating to the speedy liquidation of the arrears of rent of the evacuee properties has been engaging the attention of the Department of Rehabilitation for sometime past. In view of the gradual winding up of the Settlement organisation which is actually responsible for the liquidation of the arrears, it was considered expedient if the recovery work could be handed over to the State Government on agency basis.

Accordingly the work relating to the recovery of arrears of rent in respect of evacuee properties has been transferred to the State Governments on agency basis except in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra where the work is being handled departmentally. Where the work has been transferred to the State Government, we have to depend upon them for necessary steps being taken to liquidate this work as early as possible. The Department of Rehabilitation have accordingly been pursuing this matter by holding periodical meetings and by writing letters to the State Governments to expedite this work. Meetings are also arranged, whenever possible, with the District authorities to resolve difficulties, if any, encountered by them, in recovering the rental demand. This matter was also discussed in the meeting of the Regional Settlement Commissioners- *cum*-Custodians of Evacuee Property held at Delhi on the 6th—7th June, 1968. In that meeting, it was again stressed upon the officers concerned to take effective steps to liquidate this work in as short a time as possible.

2. As the Department of Rehabilitation is anxious to close down the Settlement Organisation in as short a time as possible, it is felt that if the Settlement Organisation's assets in different States including the rent demand are transferred to the State Governments in the form of package deals, it would help us to achieve our object of closing down the organisation early. Necessary action to sound the State Governments in this behalf is also being taken.

3. It might also be added here that the arrears of rent which stood at Rs. 285.38 lakhs on 1-10-67 in respect of the evacuee properties and

the Government Built properties in Delhi have been further reduced to Rs. 246.34 lakhs as on 1-6-68; the reduction of Rs. 39.04 lakhs comprises:—

	(In lakhs of Rs.)
Actual realisation	15.29
Reduction as a result of correction of Demand	18.32
Irrecoverable arrears of rent written off	5.43
TOTAL	39.04

4. As regards completion of work regarding corrections in the Demand Registers, it may be stated that this is a simultaneous process along with the recovery of arrears of rent. The squads in Delhi and rent recovery staff in Jullundur region while effecting recovery of arrears of rent, also take action for the correction of the demand. In so far as the States where the work has been transferred to the State Governments on agency basis, they have also been requested to have this work of correction completed as early as possible. In case the proposal mentioned in para 2 above regarding package deals materialises, this will obviate the necessity of making any corrections as the demands standing in the books will be transferred to the State Governments in the form of package deals. However, till such deals are entered into with the State Governments urgent steps are being taken to carry out the corrections in the rental demands.

[Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation, (Deptt. of Rehabilitation) OM No. 4/2/68—Bud, dated 20-11-68]

Recommendation

The Committee hope that Government will take necessary steps so that the acquired and Government built properties are disposed of at an early date.

[Sl. No. 13 (para 2.34) of Appendix to 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha)]

Reply

The number of acquired evacuee properties and Government built properties awaiting disposal as on 1st August, 1967 was 9,564 as shown in the region-wise break-up given below :—

Region	Acquired evacuee pro- perties	Govt. built pro- perties	Total
1	2	3	4
1. Delhi	1,386	..	1,386
2. Bombay	141	1,899	2,040
3. Jullundur	4,192	..	4,192
4. Rajasthan	119	21	140
5. M.P.	84	118	202
6. U.P.	805	426	1,231
7. Bihar	303	70	373
TOTAL	7,030	2,534	9,564

2. The position of the disposal of properties was reviewed in the meeting of the Regional Settlement Commissioners held on 6th & 7th June, 1968. The number of properties awaiting disposal as on 1-5-1968 was 10,381. During the period from May, 1968 to August, 1968, as many as 924 properties were resumed as a result of non-payment of instalments cancellation of sales etc. of this total number of 11,305 properties, 1,800 properties were disposed of during the aforesaid period leaving a balance of 9,505 properties as on 1-9-1968. The region-wise break-up of this figure is given below :—

Region	Acquired evacuee properties	Govt. built properties	Total
1	2	3	4
1. Delhi	670	..	670
2. Bombay	77	1,515	1,592
3. Jullundur	4,282	..	4,282
4. Jaipur	113	45	158
5. Indore	65	104	169
6. Lucknow	835	1,544	2,379
7. Patna	245	10	255
TOTAL	6,287	3,218	9,505

3. The following measures have been taken to expedite the disposal of these properties :—

- (i) The Regional Settlement Commissioners have been authorised *vide* this Department letter No. 5(24) Comp. & Prop./67, dated 23-10-67 (Annexure V) to sell the properties to the sitting occupants by negotiated sale, if the properties have not fetched adequate bids at the first auction.
- (ii) The properties in occupation of Scheduled Castes/Tribes in Punjab have been sold to the State Government in a package deal at 15% of the reserve price for transfer to the present occupant. (Annexure VI).
- (iii) The Regional Settlement Commissioner, Jullundur, has been authorised to sell the properties built upon or encroached upon by the occupants of the adjoining properties, at the market price.
- (iv) The properties in Delhi which are situated in Slum Areas have been transferred to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, under the Slum Clearance Act.
- (v) All the acquired evacuee properties in Rajasthan are being transferred to the State Govt. in a package deal. Similarly the possibilities of transferring the residuary properties to the other State Governments in package deals are being explored.

4. As a result of the above measures it is hoped that a large number of properties will be disposed of soon.

5. The disposal of properties is being watched through the monthly reports received from the Regional Settlement Commissioners. The position

of pending work in the Regional offices is also reviewed by the M(R) periodically by holding discussions with the individual Regional Settlement Commissioners.

[Ministry of Labour & Employment & Rehabilitation (Deptt. of Rehabilitation) OM No. 4(2)/68-Bud, dated 14-1-1969]

ANNEXURE V

No. 5(24) Comp. & Prop./67

Government of India

Ministry of Labour, Employment & Rehabilitation

(Department of Rehabilitation)

Office of the Chief Settlement Commissioner

Jaisalmer House, New Delhi,

Dated the 23rd October, 1967.

To

All Regional Settlement Commissioners/
Asstt. Settlement Commissioners 1/c.

SUBJECT :—*Sale of undisposed of acquired evacuee properties to the sitting occupants jointly*

Sir,

I hereby direct that the remaining undisposed of evacuee properties which had been tried in auction once and have not fetched bids upto the reserve price be sold by negotiated sale to the sitting occupants. The sale of properties of the value up to Rs. 25,000 be finalised by Settlement Commissioner themselves by following the under-mentioned principles :—

- (i) Properties in occupation of more than one person which are valued up to Rs. 25,000 may be sold to the sitting occupants whether authorities without reference to me if they are interested in purchasing the properties.

The persons who came in occupation of acquired evacuee properties before 31st December, 1960, were eligible for regularisation of their occupation. The regularisation of saleable properties was stopped with effect from 31-12-62 and that of allottable properties was stopped w.e.f. 28-2-1963. The sale of properties by negotiation be made in favour of only those persons who came in possession of the properties before 31st December, 1960.

- (ii) If any one of the occupants is not interested to purchase the property, the property be transferred to the remaining occupants *Jointly*.
- (iii) The property should be offered at the market price;
- (iv) While offering properties a maximum time limit of one month be allowed to the occupants by which they should pay the price. In cases where the price is not paid within the stipulated period,

3. Five years have since elapsed when we started transferring the work to the State Governments. It was expected that after lists/registers indicating the recovery to be effected had been passed on to the district authorities, the State Governments would put their machinery on the job whole heartedly, and make speedy recovery of our dues. The results achieved by the State Governments have, however, not been very encouraging. From the reports so far received from the State Governments, the over-all position as on 31-3-1968 is that out of total demand of Rs. 514.37 lakhs in all the States, recovery to the extent of Rs. 117.40 lakhs only has been made as per statement attached. It will be seen from the Statement that whereas some recoveries have been effected in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Kerala, the recoveries made in other States are quite negligible.

4. We have been repeatedly requesting the State Governments to give due priority to the disposal of the Settlement Organisation's work has since been taken over by them on agency basis. Besides reminding the State Governments demi-officially, meetings have also been held with them to impress the urgency of the work. In some States meetings were even held with the Collectors to resolve their difficulties, if any, in the disposal of this work. The question of accelerating the pace of recovery had also been discussed at the meetings of the Rehabilitation Ministers Conferences held on 5-5-1966 and 17-5-1967 in Delhi. After the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation referred to above was received, the Chief Secretaries of the various State Governments were again addressed demi-officially on 27th May, 1968 bringing to their notice the observations made by the Public Accounts Committee. It was again impressed upon them that one of purposes underlying the transfer of this work to the State Governments was its expeditious disposal. As the progress was not upto the expectation, the State Governments were again requested to bestow urgent attention on this matter and arrange for necessary steps to be taken to ensure that the remaining work of recovery was completed within the shortest possible time. The Regional Settlement Commissioners were also instructed to maintain close decision with the State Governments and to render all possible assistance to the latter in the speedy liquidation of the pending work transferred to the State Governments. This has thereafter been followed by personal discussion with the State Governments. Some of the State Governments have in turn urged upon the districts authorities to take effective steps for expeditious liquidation of the residuary work.

5. Besides repeated requests made to the State Governments to expedite disposal of the work, their officers have also been delegated with necessary powers under the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954 to enable them to tackle the work effectively. It will, therefore, be seen that all possible efforts are being made to get the work expedited.

6. It has, however, been lately felt that after transfer of the work to the State Governments on agency basis, we have still to maintain some staff in the regional offices to receive returns from the State Governments, to compile them and also to attend to various queries raised by the State Governments or their officials in the discharge of their functions. Accordingly a suggestion has been made that it will be a better proposition if

the residuary assets of the Settlement Organisation in various States are transferred for good to the State Governments by way of package deals, as has already been done in respect of some items in Punjab on some agreed price. We are now pursuing this line, and have started negotiating accordingly with the various State Governments. In fact, the Rajasthan Government is the second Government to have agreed recently to a package in respect of (1) Urban and rural properties (2) arrears of rent, etc.

[Ministry of Labour, Employment & Rehabilitation (Deptt. of Rehabilitation) O.M. No. 4(2)/68-Bud, dated 2-12-1968]

Statement showing the progress made by the State Government in the work transferred to them (in terms of Money) on Agency Basis upto 31-3-1968

S. No.	State	Quantum of work transferred		Quantum of work Completed
		<i>Amount due</i>	<i>As on</i>	
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 133.31 lakhs	13-5-63	Rs. 34.17 lakhs (upto 31-3-67)
2.	Gujarat	Rs. 112.53 lakhs	9-10-63	Rs. 38.06 lakhs (upto 31-3-68)
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 6.25 lakhs	20-10-64	Rs. 45 lakhs (upto 31-3-67)
4.	Rajasthan	Rs. 170.73 lakhs	19-5-65	Rs. 7.06 lakhs (upto 31-3-1968)
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 4.99 lakhs	16-8-65	Rs. 1.02 lakhs (upto 31-5-67)
6.	Punjab	Rs. 79.58 lakhs (including Haryana & Himachal Pradesh)	22-8-64 1-6-65	Rs. 35.77 lakhs (upto 31-3-68)
7.	Bihar	Rs. 4.42 lakhs	30-3-66	Rs. 16 lakhs (upto 31-5-67)
8.	Mysore	Rs. 1.75 lakhs	28-12-64	Rs. 20 lakhs (upto 31-5-67)
9.	Kerala	Rs. 81 lakhs	3-7-63	Rs. 51 lakhs
		Rs. 514.37 lakhs		Rs. 117.40 lakhs

Recommendation

The Committee are constrained to note that a sum of Rs. 60,000.00 became irrecoverable due to liquidation of four cooperative societies. The Committee desire that Government should take appropriate steps to safeguard their financial interests in case these societies are found to hold any assets. The Committee also desire that clearance of outstanding recoveries from Government departments as well as from other private institutions should be expedited.

[S. No. 15 (para 2.47) of Appendix to 25th Report—(4th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted. Effort is being made to recover as much amount from the cooperative societies

Action taken

A note on the subject will be submitted in consultation with the Department of Works and Housing as the work of constructing the building at Ajanta was entrusted to the C.P.W.D.

Recommendation

The Committee also feel that what a tourist requires the most after a visit to a widely spread out monument like Ajanta is some space to stretch out and relax. It may be a good idea to provide for stretch-on chairs in a gallery commanding a good view.

[Para 3.38 of the 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

The suggestion has been forwarded to the Archaeological Survey of India for necessary action. The Public Accounts Committee will be informed of the position in due course.

[Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation O.M. No. 37-PC(48)/68 dated 16-12-1968]

Recommendation

As the case is *sub-judice*, the Committee would not like to comment on it at this stage. They would, however, like to be informed in due course of the result of the Court proceedings and of the disciplinary action taken against the officer(s) at fault.

[Para 3.49 of the 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

The two officers involved in the case were an Accountant in the Government of India Tourist Office, Madras, and a Manager of the Government of India Tourist Bungalow, Madurai. Both these officers were tried in courts of law and have since been convicted. The Manager has been sentenced to Rigorous Imprisonment for 2 years and the Accountant has been awarded sentence of one year's Rigorous Imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500/-. The Accountant has filed an appeal against the sentence in the High Court, Madras.

During the period of embezzlement involved in the case, five officers functioned as Drawing and Disbursing Officers at different times. With a view to determining the extent to which laxity in supervision on their part facilitated the said embezzlement, their explanations were called for. From the explanations furnished by them, it is found that in the case of four officers, it is *prima-facie* not possible to ascribe any responsibility. As regards the fifth, some further information has been called for and the Public Accounts Committee will be informed in due course.

Recommendation

The Committee understand that the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation have taken some remedial measures to check such cases of embezzlement. They would like the Ministry to review the working of these measures and examine their adequacy and tighten up the present procedure, if found lacking, to avoid recurrence of such cases.

[Para 3.50 of the 25th Report (4th Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

The amount of embezzlement related mainly to transactions connected with the Tourist Bungalows which, until the transfer of their management to the India Tourism Development Corporation with effect from 1-4-1967, were run departmentally. The Tourist Bungalow, Mahabalipuram was under the charge of a Steward from 1-4-60 to 1-10-62. The cash remittances between the Tourist Office, Madras, and the Tourist Bungalows under its jurisdiction were frequent and sizeable providing opportunities to persons entrusted with their handling to indulge in malpractices and defalcation. With the transfer of management of the Tourist Bungalows to the India Tourism Development Corporation, the chances of misappropriation of Government moneys in the Tourist Office have been minimised as the handling of cash is restricted to transactions relating to the office itself. In the circumstances, the existing system of periodical audit inspections of the accounts of the Tourist Offices by the respective Accountants General is considered an adequate safeguard against embezzlement of Government moneys in these offices. The Accountants General concerned have also been requested on 7th December, 1968 that in future, they should arrange for more intensive inspections of the accounts of the Tourist Offices and at least once a year so as to ensure that the maintenance of accounts in these offices does not leave loopholes. These audit inspections will be in addition to the periodical administrative inspections. Furthermore, the provisions of the Treasury Rules regarding maintenance of cash book etc. have been pointedly brought to the notice of the Heads of the Tourist Offices on 7th December, 1968 for strict observance by the Drawing and Disbursing Officers in these offices.

[Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation O.M. No. 37—PC(49), 68 dated 10-1-69]

NEW DELHI;

April 28, 1969

Vaisakhi 8, 1891(S)

M. R. MASANI,
Chairman,

Public Accounts Committee.

APPENDIX

Summary of Conclusions/Recommendations

Sl. No.	Para No. of the Report	Ministry/Department concerned	Recommendations
1	2	3	4
1.	1-4	All Ministries concerned	The Committee desire that final replies to the recommendations/observations in respect of which Government have furnished interim replies, should be furnished expeditiously.
2.	1-7	Ministry of Home Affairs	<p>The Committee would like Government to probe into the unduly high percentage of losses of 47.5% parachutes in Mohanbari area as compared to 9% in Rowrah area and 10% in the Western Sector. The Committee would also like Government to look into the reasons for 10% gain in the retrieval of parachutes in the Eastern Sector. The Committee need hardly add that in the light of the investigations Government should take necessary follow up measures to ensure that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the parachutes are retrieved to the maximum extent possible; (ii) losses are not allowed to exceed the minimum percentage to be prescribed in that behalf; (iii) losses which exceed the prescribed minimum percentage investigated promptly and remedial measures taken; (iv) the retrieved parachutes are pressed into service without loss of time; and (v) in the case of parachutes found unserviceable timely action is taken to arrange for their disposal.
3.	1-10	Ministry of Labour and Employment and Rehabilitation (Deptt. of Rehabilitation)	The Committee are not satisfied with progress made with the liquidation of outstanding statements of accounts. As against 6507 statements of account of the aggregate value of Rs. 90 lakhs pending on 31st October, 1967, 5889 statements of account of the aggregate value of Rs. 82.94 lakhs were still pending on 1st June, 1968.

1	2	3	4
4.	1-11	Ministry of Labour and Employment and Rehabilitation (Deptt. of Rehabilitation)	The effect of the new system of payment of compensation in the form of National Defence Certificates encashable after a period of one year in respect of the statement of accounts up to the value of Rs. 2,000 has not been encouraging. The Committee desire that early decision should be taken on the proposal to allow payment in hard cash up to Rs. 1,000 initially and the balance in the form of National Defence Certificates.
5.	1-12	Do.	The Committee also suggest that new system of payment may be suitably publicised amongst the displaced persons so that they may come forward in larger numbers and accelerate the process of finalisation of pending statements of accounts.
6.	1-16	Do.	The Committee note that Government have been able to bring down the arrears of rent in respect of evacuee properties and Government built properties in Delhi from Rs. 285.38 lakhs on 1st October, 1967 to Rs. 246.34 lakhs on the 1st June, 1968. Out of the reduction of arrears of rent by Rs. 39.04 lakhs, the actual realisation was only to the extent of Rs. 15.29 lakhs the remaining being accounted by correction of demands (Rs. 18.32 lakhs) and write off of irrecoverable arrears of rent Rs. 5.43 lakhs. This is indicative of the fact that the amounts shown as arrears need to be carefully and systematically scrutinised.
7.	1-17	Do.	Pending the proposed transfer of assets of the Settlement Organisation including the rent demand to the State Government, in the form of package deals, the Committee consider that efforts should continue to be made by the Department of Rehabilitation in the meantime to rectify the rent demands and realise the arrears.
8.	1-20	Do.	The Committee note that as against 9564 properties awaiting disposal as on 1st August, 1967, the number of properties outstanding as on 1st September, 1968 wa 9505. The Committee hope that as a result of the various measures recently devised by the Ministry, the pace of disposal of properties would be accelerated.

1	2	3	4
9.	1-23	Ministry of Labour and Employment and Rehabilitation (Deptt. of Rehabilitation.)	The Committee note that the State Governments to whom the work of recovering outstanding dues for evacuee properties was transferred on agency basis have made recoveries to the extent of only Rs. 117.40 lakhs out of a total demand of Rs. 514.31. Whereas recoveries amounting to some lakhs were effected in the States of U.P., Gujarat, Rajasthan and Punjab, the recoveries in other States were negligible.
10.	1-24	Do.	The Committee would like the Department of Rehabilitation to continue to pursue vigorously with the State Government the question of effecting recoveries pending the conclusion of the package deals for transferring the assets of the Settlement Organisation to the State Governments.
11.	1-27	Do.	The Committee desire that vigorous efforts should be made to recover the arrears of rent for properties in Faridabad as only Rs. 43 700 out of Rs. 2.92 lakhs shown as outstanding have been recovered so far.

Sl. No.	Name of Agent	Agency No.	Sl. No.	Name of Agent	Agency No.
DELHI			34.	People's Publishing House, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi.	96
24.	Jain Book Agency, Connaught Place, New Delhi.	11			
25.	Sat Narain & Sons, 3141, Mohd. Ali Bazar, Mori Gate, Delhi.	3	35.	The United Book Agency, 48, Amrit Kaur Market, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi.	88
26.	Atma Ram & Sons, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-6.	9	36.	Hind Book House, 82, Janpath, New Delhi.	95
27.	J. M. Jaina & Brothers, Mori Gate, Delhi.	11	37.	Bookwell, 4, Sant Narankari Colony, Kingsway Camp, Delhi-9.	96
28.	The Central News Agency, 23/90, Connaught Place, New Delhi.	15	MANIPUR		
29.	The English Book Store, 7-L, Connaught Circus, New Delhi.	20	38.	Shri N. Chaoba Singh, News Agent, Ramlal Paul High School Annex, Imphal.	77
30.	Lakshmi Book Store, 42, Municipal Market, Janpath, New Delhi.	23	AGENTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES		
31.	Bahree Brothers, 188 Lajpatrai Market, Delhi-6.	27	39.	The Secretary, Establish- ment Department, The High Commission of India, India House, Aldwych, LONDON, W.C.—2.	59
32.	Jayana Book Depot, Chap- parwala Kuan, Karol Bagh, New Delhi.	66			
33.	Oxford Book & Stationery Company, Scindia House, Connaught Place, New Delhi-1.	66			

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PUBLISHED UNDER RULE 382 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT
OF BUSINESS IN LOK SABHA (FIFTH EDITION) AND PRINTED BY THE
MANAGER, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, FARIDABAD.
