

**COMMITTEE
ON
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(1986-87)**

(EIGHTH LOK SABHA)

THIRTEENTH REPORT

**[Action taken by Government on the recommendations/
observations of the Committee on Papers Laid
on the Table, made in their Sixteenth and
Twentieth to Twenty-Second Reports
(Seventh Lok Sabha)]**

(Presented on the 19 March, 1987)



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 1987/Phalguna, 1908 (Saka)

Price ; Rs. 4-00

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PERSONNEL OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (1986-87)	(iii)
INTRODUCTION	(v)
REPORT	
Implementation of recommendations/observations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in their Sixteenth and Twentieth to Twenty-second Reports (Seventh Lok Sabha)	1
APPENDICES	
I	
Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table made in their Sixteenth and Twentieth to Twenty-second Reports (Seventh Lok Sabha)	4
II	
Position obtaining in regard to laying of Annual Accounts of the Central Banks in Australia, New Zealand, England and U.S.A.	83
III	
Summary of recommendations/observations contained in the Report	85

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PERSONNEL OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE
TABLE (1986-87)

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*Nominated w. e. f. 11-6-1986.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this their Thirteenth Report on the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government on certain recommendations/observations of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table made in their Sixteenth and Twentieth to Twenty-second Reports (Seventh Lok Sabha).

2. The matters covered by this Report were considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 11 and 12 September, 1986.

3. At their sitting held on 7 October, 1986, the Committee heard oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Transport (Department of Civil Aviation) on implementation of recommendations made by the Committee in paras 4.12 to 4.17 of their Sixteenth Report (Seventh Lok Sabha, regarding delay in laying Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the International Airports Authority of India.

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Transport for furnishing information desired by the Committee.

5. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 4 March, 1987.

6. A statement giving summary of recommendations/observations of the Committee is appended to the Report (Appendix-III)

NEW DELHI;
4 March, 1987

13 Phalguna, 1908 (S)

M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY,
Chairman,
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table.

REPORT

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE IN THEIR SIXTEENTH AND TWENTIETH TO TWENTY-SECOND REPORTS (SEVENTH LOK SABHA)

The recommendations/observations made in the Sixteenth and Twentieth to Twenty-second Reports (Seventh Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Papers laid on the Table, on which Government have taken action, have been shown in a statement at Appendix-I.

1.2 The above matter was considered by the Committee on the Papers Laid on the Table at their sittings held on 11 and 12 September, 1986.

1.3 The Committee note that the Government have accepted all the recommendations/observations made by the Committee in their aforesaid Reports except in the cases of recommendations contained in (i) paras 4.12 to 4.17 of their Sixteenth Report (Sl. nos. 13 to 18 of the statement at Appendix-I) relating to delay in laying Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the International Airports Authority of India wherein the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation had expressed their difficulty in compilation of annual accounts within 3 months of the close of the accounting year; and (ii) para 1.9 of their Twenty-first Report (Sl. No. 66 of the statement at Appendix-I) relating to the laying of Annual Reports and Accounts of the Reserve Bank of India, Bombay wherein the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division) had explained the reasons for not being able to implement the recommendations of the Committee for laying the Annual Reports and accounts, on the Table of the House.

1.4 Regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the International Airports Authority of India, the Committee heard oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Transport (Department of Civil Aviation) on 7 October, 1986. Asked to explain the reasons given by the Ministry, the Joint Secretary, Department of Civil Aviation stated that one of the reasons for delay was the imposition of restrictions by foreign Governments on repatriation of funds to India. There were also some difficulties in getting the accounts audited in the Office of C.&A.G. Explaining the steps taken to eliminate the delay in future, the witness informed the Committee that they have impressed upon all agencies to finalise their accounts for submission to C. & A.G. well in advance and the position has since improved. The Annual Reports and Accounts of the Authority for the year 1985-86 had since been submitted to the Audit

on 15 August, 1986 and it was proposed to be laid on the Table of the House by the stipulated time.

1.5 The Committee trust that the Ministry of Transport would adhere to the time scheduled drawn by them for the purpose, in letter and spirit, and ensure that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the International Airports Authority of India are presented to Parliament in time, in future.

1.6 As regards laying of Annual Reports and Accounts of the Reserve Bank of India, the Committee held informal discussion in the matter, with the representatives of the Reserve Bank of India during their study visit to Bombay on 17 October, 1986. The representatives of the Reserve Bank of India, informed the Committee that there was no provision in R.B.I. Act for laying their Annual Reports and Accounts before Parliament. No attempt had been made so far to amend the Act for the purpose and Reserve Bank of India was also not in favour of doing so. The question of laying of Annual Reports and Accounts on the Table of the House had been discussed at length in Parliament and at the meetings of the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Finance and the matter was not pursued further in national interest. However, there was no question of delay as the Reports and Accounts of RBI, were printed in time and circulated to all Members of Parliament, printed in the Gazette of Government of India and kept in Parliament Library for reference purposes. These documents were not thus confidential. The Committee were further informed that discussions had been held in Parliament in reply to questions on various activities of RBI, particularly in regard to the developmental and promotional roles devolving on the Bank on account of Five Year Plans and other welfare measures, such as IRDP, 20 Point Programme etc.

1.7 The Governor, RBI further informed the Committee that the idea behind not laying these documents on the Table of the House was to avoid intensive discussion on sensitive issues, such as exchange rates, open market operations, reserve management etc. which could lead to undesirable domestic and international repercussions. This could also affect their relationship with international capital markets and other financial institutions. Many foreign Governments had avoided intensive enquiries of their central banking functions for similar reasons.

RBI could not be equated with the nationalised banks which were basically commercial organisations. The Governor, while contending Parliament's right to examine the country's economic policies and to provide guidance in these matters, felt that it would not be desirable to lay the reports in view of the reasons mentioned above. According to him, the present position satisfied both the Government and the Members of Parliament for discussion in the House at the same time giving to some extent autonomy to RBI.

1·8 The Committee after taking into account the action taken, reply received from the Ministry of Finance and also the views of the representatives of RBI in this regard, do not wish to pursue the matter further.

NEW DELHI;

4 March, 1987

13 Phalguna, 1908 (S)

M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY,

Chairman,

Committee on Papers Laid on the Table.

APPENDIX I

(Vide paragraph 2 of the Report)

Statement showing Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table made in their Sixteenth and Twentieth to Twenty-Second Reports (Seventh Lok Sabha)

Sl. No.	Reference to Para No. of the Report	Summary of recommendations/observations	Gist of Govt. reply/action taken
1	2	3	4
1.	Sixteenth Report (7th L. S.) 1.6 (Ministry of Education and Culture)	<p>The Committee note that the 16th Annual Report of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society for the year 1981-82 which in terms of the recommendation made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (Fifth Lok Sabha) in paragraph 3.5 of their First Report should have been laid on the Table of the House by 31 December, 1982 was actually laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 28 July, 1983. The said Report, thus, involved a delay on 7 months which can neither be construed as reasonable nor can it be justified.</p>	<p>Nehru Memorial Museum and Library have been advised to make special efforts to ensure that the finalisation of the accounts, their auditing, compilation of Annual Reports, translation, printing, adoption and submission to the Ministry for laying in the House is completed within 9 months of the close of the accounting year.</p>
2.	Sixteenth Report (7th L. S.) 1.7 (Ministry of Education and Culture)	<p>From the information furnished by the Ministry of Education and Culture (Department of Culture), the Committee find that delay was caused mainly at the stage of finalising the Audit Report. The Committee regret to observe that their recommendation</p>	<p>Nehru Memorial Museum and Library authorities have also been requested that the recommendation of the Com-</p>

contained in paragraph 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) was not adhered to in letter and spirit. The Committee need hardly emphasise that in order to ensure laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Society within the time limit of 9 months laid down by the Committee in their aforementioned recommendation, a time schedule is imperative for completion of actions in time at various stages of the Reports and Accounts. The Committee therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Education and Culture (Department of Culture) should, in consultation with the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society, draw up a time schedule for finalisation of the accounts, their auditing, compilation of Annual Reports, translation, printing, adoption and submission to the Ministry for laying in the House, within 9 months of the close of the accounting year.

3. Sixteenth Report (7th L. S.) 1.8 (Ministry of Education and Culture)

The Committee also note that the Annual Report together with the Audit Report of the Society for the year 1981-82 received by the Ministry on 5.4.83 could not be laid on the Table during the Budget Session of Lok Sabha held from 18-2-83 to 10-5-83 since the 'Delay Statement' showing the reasons for delay could not be prepared and get vetted by C&AG in time and was received only on 10-5-1983 which was the last day of the Budget Session of Lok Sabha. The Commit-

mittee on Papers Laid contained in para 3.5 of the First Report (5th Lok Sabha) may be adhered to strictly in letter and spirit.

The Department of Culture will also have a strict watch to ensure that recommendations of the Committee are adhered to.

[Vide Ministry of Education and Culture (Department of Culture) O. M. No. F.2-18/82-CH(CH-6) dated 6 June, 1984.]

The Department of Culture will in future take up the matter with the C. & A. G. etc. by personal efforts and would ensure that such delay is not repeated in future.

[Vide Ministry of Education and Culture (Department of Culture)]

tee is constrained to observe that the Ministry took more than a month for the preparation of a simple delay statement. The Committee feel that no serious and concerted efforts appear to have been made either by the Society or by the Ministry to finalise the Annual Report and Audit Report and lay them on the Table of the House within the stipulated time. The Committee hope that the Ministry would be more careful in this regard, in future.

4. Sixteenth Report (7th Lok Sabha) 2-7 (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

The Committee note that the Annual Reports of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines for the years 1980-81 and 1981-82 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 5 August, 1982 and 9 May, 1983 after a delay of 7 months and 4 months respectively. The Committee also note that the delay in laying the Annual Reports occurred due to the fact that the Council did not draw any time-bound programme for compiling the accounts, their submission to Audit for auditing, translation, printing and submission of the Report to the Ministry for laying on the Table of the House. The Committee are of the opinion that serious efforts were not made either by the Council or the Ministry to adhere to the time schedule laid down by the Committee in paragraph 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha).

O. M. No. F. 2-18/82-CH-1
(CH6),J

In order to avoid delays in future, a time bound programme for preparation of Annual statement of Accounts and its submission to the Director of Audit, preparation of Annual Report, approval of Report and Accounts by the Governing Body, its printing and submission to the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariat, has been prepared. The same has been referred to the Director of Audit, Central Revenues, New Delhi for their approval. Thereafter, the Central Council for Research

in Unani Medicines, New Delhi will also be asked to adhere to the time-bound programme in question, in future. [Vide Ministry of Health and Family Welfare O. M. No. R. 13015/1/83-ISM dated 20-6-1984].

5. **Sixteenth Report (7th Lok Sabha) 2-8 (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)**
 The Committee trust that a time-bound programme will be drawn up by the Ministry in consultation with the Council and the Director of Audit, Central Revenues to ensure strict observance of the norms prescribed by Committee for laying the Annual Reports and Audit Accounts of the Council before Parliament, in future.
6. **Sixteenth Report (7th Lok Sabha) 3-23 (Ministry of Education and Culture)**
 The Committee note that the Annual Audit Reports on the accounts of the Rastriya Sanskrit Sansthan for the years 1975-76 and 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79 and 1979-80 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 22-12-1980, 24-12-1981, and 29-7-1982 respectively after a delay ranging between 2 to 4 years. The Committee also note from the evidence given by the representative of the Ministry of Education and Culture that the main reasons which contributed towards the delay were (i) the proforma in which the accounts of the Sansthan for the year 1975-76 were to be prepared, was not fina-

lised till 1976 thereby delaying preparation of the accounts of the subsequent years; (ii) shortage of trained staff in accounting; and (iii) time taken for consolidating the accounts of all the six Vidyapithas under the Sansthan. The Committee further note that inordinate delays were caused in furnishing the accounts for the years 1975-76 to 1979-80 by the Sansthan to the Director of Audit, Central Revenues and the receipt of final Audit Report in the Sansthan from the Director of Audit, Central Revenues. Thus the delay occurred partly at the level of the Sansthan and partly at the level of the Audit. The Committee feel that no time bound programme had been drawn by the Ministry in consultation with the Sansthan and the Audit Authorities for finalisation of accounts.

7. Sixteenth Report (7th Lok Sabha)

(Ministry of Education and Culture)

The Committee are constrained to observe that no serious and concerted efforts seem to have been made either by the Ministry or by the Sansthan to have the accounts finalised without delay. The Committee need hardly point out that such delays deprive Members of Parliament of timely information about the working of the Sansthan.

8. Sixteenth Report (7th Lok Sabha)

The Committee are not convinced with the stereotyped reasons advanced by the Ministry that the delay in

3-25
(Ministry of Education
and Culture)

preparation of proforma for preparing the accounts of 1975-76 caused delay in preparation of the accounts for the subsequent years. The Committee also do not agree with the argument advanced by the Ministry that shortage of trained staff and delay in the receipt of accounts of all the six Vidyapithas of the Sansthan caused delay in finalisation of the accounts. The Committee feel that much of the delay could have been avoided if the Ministry had exercised due caution and shown promptness in making adequate arrangements for the preparation of proforma for accounts and imparting necessary training to the untrained accounts staff for submission of accounts to the Sansthan by its six Vidyapithas. The Committee feel that these abnormal delays could have been avoided by timely steps to make necessary arrangements in this behalf so as to ensure laying of Audited Accounts on the Table of the House well in time.

9. Sixteenth Report (7th
Lok Sabha)
3-26
(Ministry of Education
and Culture)

The Committee recommend that the Ministry of Education and Culture in consultation with the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan and the Audit Authorities should draw up a time bound programme for finalisation of accounts, their auditing and laying them on the Table of the House within the period of 9 months from the close of the accounting year and follow it realistically

The following time Schedule has been prescribed to ensure timely submission of the annual accounts :—

(a) Compilation of accounts by the individual Vidyapithas—
30th April.

so that there is no scope for any delay in laying the Audit Reports in future.

10. Sixteenth Report (7th Lok Sabha) 3-27 (Ministry of Education and Culture)

The Committee note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts thereon of the Sansthan are not laid on the Table of the House together. The Committee are not satisfied with the argument that the delay occurred because of the accumulation of arrears of accounts in respect of the previous years. The Committee need hardly stress that unless the Annual Report and Audited Accounts are laid together in the House, a complete picture of the working of the Sansthan does not emerge and as such the very purpose of laying these papers is defeated because the Members will not be able to assess the performance of the Sansthan in its true perspective and express their views thereon at the time of voting on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Audit Report in respect of each year of the Sansthan should be laid on the Table of the House together within the

(b) Submission to the audit authorities—1st week of May.

(c) Receipt of draft audit-report by—31st July.

(d) Submission of replies to the draft audit report 15th August.

(e) Receipt of certified copies from the A. Gs—15th September.

(f) Submission of accounts to Headquarters—15th October.

The remaining period of 2½ months will be utilised for the consolidation of the accounts and their certification by the Director of Audit, Central Revenue so that the accounts are ready for submission by 31st December.

The recommendations contained in para 3-27 have been noted and every endeavour

period prescribed by the Committee.

will be made to submit the annual report and audited accounts of the Sansthan together.

11. Sixteenth Report (7th Lok Sabha)
3.28
(Ministry of Education and Culture)

The Committee find that the assurance given by the witness on 25 January, 1983 for laying the Audited Accounts of the Sansthan for the year 1980-81 and 1981-82, which were in arrears, on the Table of the House during the Budget Session of Lok Sabha was not adhered to and these were laid only on 22 December, 1983. This negligence on the part of the Ministry could have been avoided had they been more vigilant to see that the accounts of the Sansthan did not fall into arrears but finalised by the stipulated time.

As regards the Annual accounts for the year 1982-83 it may be stated that these were sent to the Director of Audit Central Revenues for audit and certification on 23rd March, 1984. The audit has been completed on 4th July, 1984 and the audit certificate is awaited. As soon as it is received, the accounts will be submitted without any delay. (Vide Ministry of Education and Culture, Department of Education O. M. No. 26-7/82 SK-1 dated 17 July, 1984).

12. Sixteenth Report (7th Lok Sabha)
3.29
(Ministry of Education & Culture)

The Committee trust that as an earnest effort would be made to ensure that the Audited Accounts of the Sansthan for the year 1982-83 which are still in arrears, are laid on the Table of the House without any further delay, along with a statement explaining the reasons for delay and in future the Annual Report,

Audited Accounts and Audit Report of the Sansthan would be laid together before Parliament within the stipulated period.

13. Sixteenth Report-
(7th Lok Sabha)
4.12
(Ministry of Tourism
and Civil Aviation)

The Committee are concerned to note that the Annual Reports and the Audited Accounts and Audit Reports thereon of the International Airports Authorities of India for the years 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha as late as on 27 July, 1980, 29 April, 1981, 13 August, 1982 and 26 August, 1983 respectively i.e. 6 months, 4 months, 7-1/2 months and 8 months after the close of the relevant accounting year.

14. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
4.13
(Ministry of Tourism
and Civil Aviation)

The Committee regret to observe that there had been persistent delay in laying the documents on the Table of the House and the Authority did not follow even their own rules in regard to the submission of Annual Reports and Accounts to the Government within the period of 9 months.

15. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
4.14
(Ministry of Tourism
and Civil Aviation)

The Committee also note that the Authority have prescribed a period of 6 months in their Rule 3(1) and (2) of the Rules, 1977 for compilation of accounts and the balance 3 months for completing the other formalities whereas the Committee on Papers laid on the

The recommendations of the Committee have been carefully considered by the Government. The General Managers of Airports and the Project Directors in India and abroad take about 4 to 5 months for compilation of their accounts and another one month is taken at Headquarters for their consolidation. The compilation of Overseas Projects in particular takes time due to various restrictions imposed by the foreign Governments, difficulties in communication etc. The submission of accounts to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India within 3 months from the close of the financial years is, therefore, an extremely difficult task and

Table in paragraph 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) presented to Lok Sabha on 8 March, 1976, had already prescribed a period of 3 months for compilation of accounts and their submission to the Audit and the next 6 months for auditing of accounts; printing of the report and sending it to Government for laying on the Table of the House.

16. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
4.15
(Ministry of Tourism
and Civil Aviation)

The Committee are unhappy to observe that inspite of their aforementioned recommendation being clearly worded, the Ministry had not cared to have the rules of the Authority suitably amended to be in accord with the recommendations and to see that the documents of the Authority are laid on the Table of the House positively within 9 months time from the close of the accounting year. Had the Ministry got the relevant rules of the authority amended, there would not have been any delay in laying the documents on the Table of the House, in time.

17. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
4.16
(Ministry of Tourism
and Civil Aviation)

The Committee are surprised to note that one of the reasons advanced for keeping 6 months for compilation of accounts was that the IAAI have their two units abroad and it takes time for the Headquarters Office located at New Delhi to collect information from them and thereafter, compile them. The Committee feel that the reason given is not satisfactory especially in the present age of advanced technology

may not be feasible. The Government do, however, appreciate the Committee's view that more time should be allowed for completing the audit and other formalities and have decided, in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, to modify the existing schedule as follows :

	Existing Schedule	Proposed revised Schedule
Submission	30th Sept.	15th August
Accounts to C&AG		
Submission of Audited accounts to Government	31st Dec.	15th Dec.

The existing Rules are being amended for giving effect to the new Schedule indicated

where adequate facilities are available for fast communication.

above.

(Vide Ministry of Tourism & Civil Aviation O.M. No. H. 11013/2/84-AA (FII) dated, the 20th March, 1985).

18. Sixteenth Report (7th Lok Sabha) 4-17 (Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation)

The Committee trust that the Ministry would have the rules of the Authority amended in conformity with the aforementioned recommendation of the Committee to ensure timely finalisation of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts and its laying on the Table of the House.

19. Sixteenth Report (7th Lok Sabha) 5-9 (Ministry of Agriculture)

The Committee note that the Annual Reports and Audit Reports of the Dairy Federation for the years 1976-77, and 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 27-3-1980, 6-4-1981, 8-5-1981, 9-8-1982 and 22-8-1983 after a delay of 24 months, 12 months, 12 months, 1 month, 4 months and 5 months respectively.

20. Sixteenth Report (7th Lok Sabha) 5-10 (Ministry of

From the information furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation (Department of Co-operation), the Committee find that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 1976-77 were

In pursuance of the recommendation of the Committee on Papers laid on the Table contained in paragraph 2.5 of their Ninth Report (Sixth Lok Sabha) the former Department of Civil Supplies & Co-operation requested all the National Level Cooperative Federations including the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Limited on 5-2-1979 to

already adopted by its Annual General Body Meeting held on 14 March, 1978 but were, however, not sent for laying on the Table of the House as the Federation had not received any assistance in the form of share capital or grants from Government during 1976-77. Since the Federation did not receive any funds from the Government during 1976-77, the Committee do not insist upon the laying of their Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Audit Report on the Table of the House for this year. The Committee, however, are distressed to note that the Annual Reports, Audited Accounts and Audit Reports for the subsequent years during which the Federation got financial assistance from Government were never laid in time on the Table of the House i.e. within 9 months of the close of the accounting year.

forward copies of their Annual Reports and Audit Reports for the years 1976-77 and 1977-78 to the Government for being placed before the two Houses of Parliament. The Reports of NCDFI from the year 1977-78 onwards were approved by its General Body on the dates indicated against each year :—

1977-78	5-9-1979
1978-79	23-11-1980
1979-80	23-3-1981
1980-81	28-3-1982
1981-82	10-6-1983

It is seen that the Reports for the years 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1981-82 were approved by the General Body after 9 months of the close of the accounting year while the Reports for the years 1979-80 and 1980-81 were approved just at the close of the period. To ensure that the General Body meetings are convened well within the pres-

cribed period of nine months, the question of drawing the 'Time Schedule' is under the consideration of this Department. (*Vide* Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation O. M. No. 11077/5/84-CWS dated 19 May, 1984).

21. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
5.11
(Ministry of
Agriculture)

The Committee find that the delay had occurred almost at every stage of the Annual Reports and Accounts of the Federation for the years under report except in the case of Annual Report and Audit Report for the year 1979-80 when the delay occurred only in the approval of the Audited Accounts by the General Body and their translation in Hindi.

22. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
5.12
(Ministry of Agriculture)

In order to complete all the stages within the maximum prescribed period of 9 months, the Committee feel that a time scheduled is all the more necessary. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Ministry to draw up a time schedule in consultation with the Federation and the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies in such a manner that all the formalities are completed well in time and the Annual Reports, Audited Accounts and Audit Reports are laid on the Table of the

A meeting to draw up a 'Time Schedule' on the lines suggested by the Committee is being convened. (*vide* Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation O.M. No. 11011/5/84-CWS dated 19 May, 1984).

House within nine months of the close of the accounting year as recommended by the Committee on Papers laid on the Table in paragraph 1.16 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha).

23. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
5.13
(Ministry of
Agriculture)

The Committee note that the Annual Reports and Audit Reports of the Federation were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha without 'Review' on the working of the Federation. The Committee would like to reiterate the recommendations contained in paragraphs 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 of their Second Report (Sixth Lok Sabha) and urge upon the Government that while laying the Annual Reports of any Federation/Organisation before Parliament, the concerned Ministry should also lay along with the Report a 'Review' on the working of the Organisation.

The Annual/Audit Reports of the NCDFI for the years 1976-77 and 1977-78 were forwarded to the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha on 19-3-1980 without 'Review'. The fact that Review should also be laid was not pointed out in the earlier Reports. The Lok Sabha Secretariat *vide* their O.M. No. 81/3 (iv)/CI/SC. dated 24-4-1980 pointed out to this Department that a 'Review' on the working of the Federation along with Reports was to be laid on the Table of the two Houses of Parliament as per recommendations made by the Committee in paras 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 of their Second Report (Sixth Lok Sabha). On being apprised of this position, this

Department while forwarding Annual/Audit Reports of NCDFI for the year 1978-79 to Parliament, also sent a 'Review' on the working of the Federation and this is being done for the subsequent years as well. (vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation O.M. No. 11011/5/84-CWS dated 19 May, 1984).

24. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
5-14
(Ministry of
Agriculture)

It is disconcerting to note that the Ministry knowing fully well the recommendation of the Committee made in paragraph 35 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) that if for any reason the report, audited accounts and audit report cannot be laid within the stipulated period of nine months, the Ministry should lay within 30 days of expiry of the prescribed period or as soon as the House meets, whichever is later, a statement explaining the reasons why the report and accounts could not be laid within the stipulated period, did not follow the recommendation as it failed to lay the requisite statement in the case of the accounts of the Federation for any of the years from 1976-77 to 1981-

Generally, delay occurs in laying the Annual Reports/Audited Accounts and Audit Reports in time due to very many reasons such as delay in completion of Accounts, completion of audit, convening of the General Body meeting and translation of the Reports in Hindi by the concerned organisations. The Ministry generally takes 15 to 30 days to process the case further. The

82. If the Ministry itself shows an apathetic and indifferent attitude to the recommendations of the Committee, no better results can be expected from the Organisations and bodies which look forward to the Ministry for guidance.

position has improved very much now-a-days. The Ministry is trying its utmost to lay the Reports, in time. However, the recommendation made in this regard is noted for future guidance. (*vide* Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No. 11011/5/84-CWS dated 19 May, 1984).

25. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
5-15
(Ministry of Agriculture)

The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Ministry to follow the aforementioned recommendation of the Committee in letter and spirit and ensure that the Annual Reports, Audited Accounts and Audit Report together with the 'Review' are laid within the prescribed period for the purpose.

The Guidelines in this regard have been noted for future guidance (*vide* Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation O. M. No. 11011/5/84-CWS dt. 11th May, 1984).

26. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
6-12
(Ministry of Education and Culture)

The Committee note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Council of Science Museums, Calcutta for the years 1980-81 and 1981-82 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 30th March, 1983 and 10 May, 1983 respectively i.e. after a delay of 15 months and 4-1/2 months respectively.

Due to persistent efforts made by the Council and the Ministry, the extent of delay was reduced from 15th Months for laying the Reports for 1980-81 to 4-1/2 months in case of Reports for 1981-82, which the Committee

27. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
6-13
(Ministry of Education
and Culture).

From the information furnished by Ministry of Education and Culture, the Committee find that in the case of Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Council for 1980-81, the Audit took 7 months in auditing the accounts and the Council took 8 months in getting these accounts approved by its Society. The Committee feel that adequate vigilance was not exercised by the Ministry to ensure expeditious auditing of the accounts and their early adoption by the Society of the Council. The argument advanced by the Ministry that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts could not be adopted earlier because the Society of the Council could not meet during 1982 on account of pre-occupation of its President i.e. the Minister for State for Education and Culture, is hereby convincing. In this connection, the Committee would like to refer to the provisions of Rule 30 of the Rules of the National Council of Science Museums which read as under :

“The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society. In case the President is unable to attend a particular meeting, the Vice-President will preside over that meeting. If both are not present, the

has already noted, and this was further reduced while laying the latest report for 1982-83. For report for 1982-83, the Council had submitted these to the Ministry in the fourth week of December, 1983, that is within the stipulated time. However, since the Parliament was not in session at that time, these reports were sent to Parliament for laying at the beginning of the next session.

The observations of the Committee have, however, been noted. (vide Ministry of Education and Culture, Department of Culture O.M. No. F-1-14/84-CH. Desk dated 19th May, 1984).

Members present shall choose one of the members present to be the President of the particular meeting."

The Committee feel that had the Council and the Ministry been vigilant and had followed the provisions of the above rule, the delay in holding the meeting of the Society could have been minimised to a great extent. The Committee hope that, in future, the Ministry would be more careful in this regard.

Although the Committee note with satisfaction that the delay has been reduced from 15 months in the case of Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 1980-81 to 4½ months in the case of Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Council for 1981-82 yet they feel that there is still need for making concerted efforts to eliminate the delay completely. The Committee would like the Ministry of Education and Culture to draw up a time schedule for being strictly followed by the Council at various stages of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts so that all the formalities are completed and the Annual Report and Audited Accounts laid on the Table of the House within the period of 9 months of the close of the accounting year as prescribed in paragraph 3.5 of First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) of the Committee. The Committee trust that the Ministry would take necessary steps in the matter.

28. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
6.14
(Ministry of Education
and Culture)

2

29. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)

7.8

(Ministry of Education
and Culture).

3

The Committee note that the Annual Report and Audit Report on the accounts of the Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal for the year 1980-81 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 5 August 1982 i.e. after a delay of 7 months. The Committee do not appreciate the reason advanced by the Ministry that the delay in compiling the accounts occurred due to the disturbances in Assam region. The Committee are constrained to observe that the Ministry could have compiled at least the accounts of the other centres and should have laid on the Table of the House a delay statement in respect of the Gauhati centre of the Mandal with a view to avoid the delay.

4

It is not possible to compile the accounts of the Mandal without completing the accounts of Gauhati Centre, and accounts of all the Centres formed part of the accounts of the Mandal and the delay in compiling the accounts of Gauhati Centres due to disturbances in Assam region resulted in delay in compiling the accounts of Mandal also. However, the Director has been asked to ensure that accounts of all the Centres are compiled in time and if there is any delay in compiling the accounts of any centre, he should depute the Accounts Officer to visit the Centre for completing the accounts in time (*vide* Ministry of Education and Culture, Department of Education O.M. No. 6(12)/84-D. II(L) dated 4 June, 1984).

30. Sixteenth Report
(Seventh Lok Sabha)
7-9
(Ministry of Education
and Culture).

The format for maintaining the accounts of Mandal have been approved in consultation with Controller of Accounts and the question of revising the format will not arise in future. (*Vide* Ministry of Education and Culture, Department of Education O.M. No. 6(12)/84-DII(L) dt. 4 June, 1984).

31. Sixteenth Report
(Seventh Lok Sabha)
7-10
(Ministry of Education
and Culture).

The Committee note with regret that the Mandal submitted the accounts to the Accountant General, U.P. after a delay of more than 2 months i.e. on 10-8-1981 and that too with errors in figures and narration resulting in re-submission of the whole accounts to Auditor General, U.P. after making necessary corrections on 4-12-1981. The explanation given by the Ministry that the delay was due to revision of the format of the accounts, correction of typographical errors etc. does not appear to be tenable.

The Committee feel surprised to note that the A.G. U.P. took more than two months to furnish the draft Audit Report i.e. on 26th December, 1981 and the final Audit Report on 2 March, 1982 and during this interval no enquiry was made by the Mandal. This is an ample example of slackness on the part of the Mandal and the Ministry. Had the Mandal and the Ministry been more serious in adhering to the time schedule prescribed by the Committee in paragraph 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha), there would have not been any delay.

Since the Draft Audit Report was sent on 26th December, 1981, the A.G., U.P. normally takes two months to send the final report to Director, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan Mandal, Agra. The A.G., U.P. was not reminded by Director, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan Mandal since the final Audit Report was received on 2nd March, 1982.

However, the instructions regarding time schedule prescribed by the Committee in paragraph 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) will be observed in future. (*Vide* Ministry

of Education and Culture, Department of Education O.M. No. 6(12)/84-D II(L) dated 4th June, 1984).

As stated in our comments against para 7.9 the format for presentation of accounts have been prepared in consultation with Controller of Accounts Ministry of Education and this would avoid delay in compiling the accounts in future. (*Vide* Ministry of Education and Culture, Department of Education O.M. No. 6(12)/84-DII(L) dated 4th June, 1984).

The Committee find that apart from the Audit being responsible for taking a long time in furnishing the draft and final Audit Report thereon to the Mandal, the Mandal was also equally responsible for contributing towards the delay in as much as they did not complete the accounts with due care for submission to Audit within a period of 3 months of the close of the accounting year. The Committee are of the opinion that had the accounts been maintained properly and compiled accurately, there would have been no reason for the Audit to take along time in auditing the accounts and furnishing the draft and final Audit Report thereon. In order to obviate such delays, the Committee would like to suggest that the Mandal might prepare an agreed format for presentation of accounts in consultation with the Accountant General, U. P. and compile the accounts with utmost care.

The Committee are concerned to note that while laying on the Table of the House the Annual Report and Audit Report of the Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal, Agra for the year 1981-82, the Ministry did not care to lay the

The Audited Statement of Accounts for the year 1981-82 were laid on the 10th May, 1983 and the delay of 4-1/2 months

32. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
7.11
(Ministry of Education
and Culture)

33. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
7.12
(Ministry of Education)

& Culture).

Statement explaining the reasons for delay. The Committee cannot but express their displeasure over this lapse on the part of the Ministry. The Committee hope that the Ministry would be more careful in future in this regard.

was due to the fact that the Audited Statement of Accounts are required to be approved by the Finance Committee, Governing Council and Mandal before laying them on the Table of the two Houses of Parliament. The Audited Statement of Accounts were approved by Finance Committee, Governing Council and Mandal in the meeting held on 9th and 10th April, 1983 and after getting the approval of these Committees, the accounts were got printed and sent for presentation to the Parliament on 2nd May, 1983. In order to avoid delay in laying these documents on the Table of two Houses, the Director has been advised to expedite and organise the meetings of Finance Committee, Governing Council and Mandal so as to facilitate the Government to lay the statement on the table of the House within prescribed

time limits. (Vide Ministry of Education and Culture, Department of Education O. M. No. 8(12)/84 D-II(L), dated 4th June 1984).

34. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
8-20
(Ministry of Finance)

The Committee note that the Annual Reports of the Delhi Financial Corporation have been laid on the Table well in time but in the case of Audit Reports there has been a considerable delay. The Committee feel that though the delay in laying the Audit Reports has come down from 3 years in the case of Audit Reports for the years 1971-72 to 1974-75 to 7 months in the case of Audit Report for 1980-81, yet the delay needs to be totally eliminated so as to enable the Members of Parliament to have timely information about the liabilities and assets of the Corporation.

The Delhi Administration who are administratively concerned with the operations of the Delhi Financial Corporation have stated that they will endeavour to provide copies of the Annual Reports of Delhi Financial Corporation as well as Comptroller and Auditor General's Audit Reports on the Corporation to the Ministry of Finance (Banking Division) well in time to enable it to lay the same before both the Houses of Parliament within the stipulated period of 9 months of the close of accounting year i.e. by 31st December, every year as recommended by the Committee.

(*Vide* Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, Banking Division O.M. No. 9(1)84/Accts. dated 5th December, 1984).

Recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

(*Vide* Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, Banking Division O.M. No. 9(1)84/Accts. dated 5th December, 1984).

The Committee trust that a time bound programme will be drawn up by the Ministry of Finance in consultation with the C. & A.G. and the Delhi Financial Corporation, to ensure strict compliance in future of the norms prescribed by the Committee for laying the Audit Reports and Audited Accounts of the Corporation before Parliament within 9 months of the close of the accounting year.

The Delhi Administration who are administratively concerned with the operations of Delhi Financial Corporation have stated that they will endeavour to make available copies of the Annual Reports of Delhi Financial Corporation as well as Comptroller and Auditor General's Audit Reports thereon, well in time to the Ministry of Finance

The Committee feel surprised over the Statement made by the Ministry of Finance that the Committee has not indicated any specific time limit for laying the Audit Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India before the House. The argument advanced by the Ministry is not tenable because in paragraph 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha), the Committee have clearly recommended that the Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Audit Report thereon for a particular year should be laid on the Table within 9 months of the close of the accounting year unless otherwise stipulated in the

35. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
8-21
(Ministry of Finance)

36. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
8-22
(Ministry of Finance)

Act or rules under which the organisation has been set up. The Committee hope that the Ministry would adhere to the above mentioned recommendation and see that the Audit Report and Audited Accounts of the Delhi Financial Corporation are laid on the Table of the House together with the Annual Reports within 9 months of the close of the accounting year, i.e. by 31 December every year.

(Banking Division) for laying the same before both the Houses of Parliament within the stipulated period i.e. by 31st December, every year. (*Vide* Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, Banking Division, O. M. No. 9(1) 84/Accts. dated 5 December, 1984).

37. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
8-23
(Ministry of Finance)

The Committee are concerned to note that despite the assurance given by the Ministry of Finance that strict watch for timely submission of Annual Reports and Accounts by the Delhi Administration is kept and delay would not be allowed to occur in future, the Audit Report for 1980-81 was laid on the Table on 6 August, 1982 i.e. with the delay of 7 months. The Committee take a serious note of this and feel that no care was taken by the Ministry to implement the assurance given by them. The Committee desire that such lapses on the part of the Ministry should be avoided in future.

Observation of the Committee has been noted. (*Vide* Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, Banking Division, O. M. No. 9(1)84/-Accts. dated 5 December, 1984).

38. Sixteenth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
8-24

The Committee also note that the Ministry of Finance have not laid on the Table of the House their 'Review' along with the Annual Reports of the Cor-

The Delhi Administration who are administratively concerned with the operations of

poration, despite the Committee's recommendation made in paragraph 3.6 of their Second Report (Sixth Lok Sabha) in this regard. The Committee would, therefore, like to reiterate the said recommendation as under:—

“The Committee are of the view that laying of “Review” along with the Annual Report of the organisation need not be confined only to Companies incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956. Even in the case of autonomous bodies, Government should examine the reports submitted by such bodies and prepare a ‘Review’ giving salient points of achievements, total expenditure incurred by the Government on the Undertaking, how far the autonomous body has achieved the object for which it was set up and what are the salient features of its future programme. Where the Report or the Audit Report mentioned any serious irregularity or any other matter of importance which needed corrective action or further enquiry, it was expected that Government made a mention, in the Review of the Action being taken in that direction. However, where information on all the aforesaid matters is already available in the report and Government have nothing to add thereto, Government should, in accord-

the Delhi Financial Corporation have stated that a Review giving salient points of achievements etc. of the Corporation will be provided by the Administration to the Ministry of Finance (Banking Division) along with its Annual Report in future for laying the same before Parliament. (Vide Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, Banking Division O. M. No. 9(1)84/Acts. dated 5 December, 1984).

ance with the recommendations made by the Committee in para 4.18 of their Second Report (Fifth Lok Sabha), lay a statement saying that they are in agreement with the report and hence no 'Review' is being laid."

39. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
1-27
(Ministry of Education
and Culture)

The Committee are concerned to note that the Ministry of Education and Culture under whose administrative control the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla functions, have not so far laid on the Table of the House any Annual Report/Audited Accounts of that Institute. The Committee note that in January, 1978, the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla had made provisions in its Rules for laying its Annual Reports and Audited Accounts on the Table of the House within nine months of close of the accounting year but there has never been an occasion when those provisions had been followed. The Committee feel that it is of no use framing rules without observing them.

40. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
1-28
(Ministry of Education
& Culture)

The plea taken by the Ministry of Education and Culture that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla for the years from 1977-78 to 1981-82 have not been laid on the Table so far because there was uncertainty about the future of the Institute and that the General

The recommendations/conclusions have been noted. It may be stated that the Society and the Governing body of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study were reconstituted in May, 1984. The Annual Reports and the Audited statement of Accounts of the Institute for the years from 1977-78 to 1982-83 were adopted at the meetings of Governing Body and the Society held in June, 1984. These documents have now been laid on the Table of the House. (Vide Ministry of Education and Culture O. M. No. 6-4/83-U. 3 dated 30-8-1984).

Society and Governing Body of the Institute were not reconstituted, is not tenable. The mere fact of the future of the Institute being uncertain, does not absolve the Ministry of Education and Culture of their responsibility. Even if the Institute had been closed down, it was the responsibility of the Ministry to lay the Annual Reports and Accounts of the Institute for the past years during which the Institute had been sanctioned grants. The slackness on the part of the Ministry of Education and Culture is evident from the fact that the strength of the General Society and the Governing body of the Institute was full till 31 May, 1980 but these bodies never met during the period from the close of the year 1977-78 up to 31 May, 1980 despite the extent provisions in the Rules of the Institute for holding of the Annual General Meeting and the Meetings of the Governing Body. Had the General Society and Governing Body held their respective meetings during that period, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Institute for at least two years viz. 1977-78 and 1978-79, would have been approved and laid on the Table of the House.

Now that a reorganisation scheme for the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla has been approved by the Government putting at rest all the doubts about the uncertain future of the Institute, the Committee desire the Ministry of Education and

41. Twentieth Report

(7th Lok Sabha)

1-29

(Ministry of
Education and Culture)

Culture to make sincere and concerted efforts for re-constituting the General Society and the Governing Body of the Institute so that the Institute being an important Institution of National character, functions effectively and efficiently and its Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for all the years from 1977-78 to 1982-83 are laid on the Table of the House without any further delay. The Committee hope that the Ministry would be very careful in future in the matter of laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Institute, in time.

42. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
2-16
(Ministry of Industry)

The Committee are concerned to note that although the Annual Reports of the National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi for the years 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82 have already been laid on the Table of Lok Sabha yet the Audited Accounts of that Federation in respect of those years are still to be laid. The Committee regret to find that apart from the CBI which seized records of the Federation for the year 1976-77 and kept the same for quite some time, the Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies who is responsible for the appointment of statutory auditors, did not act promptly on requests made in him for the appointment of statutory auditors. The Committee would

The Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies has since appointed statutory auditors for undertaking audit of the accounts of the Federation up to the year 1981-82. The statutory auditors have completed the Audit of the accounts of the Federation for the year 1978-79 and the audit of the accounts for the year 1979-80 is receiving their attention. The Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies will be

like the Ministry of Industry to impress upon the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies the need for early appointment of statutory auditors so that the accounts of the Federation are not only audited in time but also laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated period of nine Months of the close of the accounting year.

requested, at appropriate time when the audit of the accounts for the year 1981-82 is taken up by the statutory auditors, to appoint statutory auditors, for the year 1982-83 onwards. This will be vigorously followed with the Central Registrar so that no delay occurs on this account. (*Vide* M/o Industry O. M. No. 11-1) 84-ICC dated 7-8-84).

**43. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
2.17
(Ministry of Industry)**

From the time schedule drawn up by the Ministry of Industry in consultation with the statutory auditors for auditing of Accounts for the years 1977-78 to 1981-82 the Committee find that the statutory Auditors would take 6 months in each case. The Committee feel that since the accounts of all the years have been finalised by the internal auditors the time given to the statutory auditors for carrying out their audit is not reasonable. If that schedule is followed the Committee apprehend that the accounts of the Federation for the future years would never be laid on the Table in time. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the time schedule as drawn up should be reconsidered and revised so that the auditing of

The matter has been considered again in consultation with the officials of the National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Limited and the statutory auditors. It has not been found feasible to reduce the time for auditing the accounts to 3 months as suggested by the Committee. However, in view of the need for clearing backlog of audit of the accounts of the Federation as early as possible, the

accounts of the Federation by the Statutory Auditors is completed within the minimum possible time and in no case it should exceed 3 months. The Committee would also like to suggest that efforts be made to resolve queries, if any raised by the Audit promptly through personal contacts and discussions with the Auditors instead of resorting to protracted correspondence.

time scheduling for clearing audit up to the year 1981-82 has been re-drawn, which is indicated below:—

Year	To be completed by
1979-80	30th November, 1984
1980-81	21st March, 1985
1981-82	31st July, 1985

The observations of the Committee for resolving audit queries through personal contacts and discussions with the auditors rather than resorting to protracted correspondence have been brought to the notice of the Federation for necessary action and compliance. (*Vide* Ministry of Industry O. M. No. 11(1) 84-ICC dated 7-8-84).

44. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
2-18
(Ministry of Industry)

The Committee hope that the Ministry would take requisite steps in the matter and also keep a close rapport with the Federation to ensure early finalisation and auditing of the accounts.

All possible efforts shall be made for early finalisation and auditing of the accounts of the Federation (*Vide* Ministry of Industry O. M. No. 11(1)/84-ICC dated 7-8-1984).

45. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
2-19
(Ministry of Industry)

The Committee trust that after clearing the backlog, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi would be laid on the Table of the House together and within nine months of close of the accounting year as per recommendation made by the Committee on papers laid on the Table paragraph 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha).

As soon as the backlog of audit of the accounts of the Federation is completed, necessary action will be taken to place together the Annual Reports and the Audited Accounts of the Federation before Parliament. (*Vide* Ministry of Industry O. M. No. 11(1)/84-ICC dated 7-8-84).

46. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
2-20
(Ministry of Industry)

The Committee regret to point out that the statements of reasons for delay laid alongwith the Annual Reports of the National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi for the years 1980-81, and 1981-82, are misleading as these do not bear any mention of the position of the Audited Accounts of the Federation in respect of those years which had not been laid on the Table of the House. Since the Audited Accounts of the Federation had not been laid on the Table of the House. It was but imperative that the House was apprised of the position re-

Noted for future. (*Vide* Ministry of Industry O. M. No. 11(1)/84-ICC dated 7-8-84).

cribed manner. The team, in addition to advising the staff, gave detailed guidelines in writing so that the Institute does not commit such mistakes in future. It is hoped that the Institute will not find any difficulty in future in maintaining its accounts according to the procedure prescribed for the purpose (*Vide* M/o Education and Culture O.M. No. 8-28/83-CH-3 dated 25 July, 1984).

From the current financial year, the Ministry will endeavour to follow the instructions of the Committee to lay the Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Audit Report thereon of the Institute, together, on the Table of the House. (*Vide* Ministry of Education & Culture O. M. No. 8-28/83-CH-3 dated 25 July, 1984).

The Committee also trust that the Ministry would lay on the Table of the House the Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Report thereon of the School together in future to enable the Members of Parliament to assess the performance of the School in its true perspective.

50. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
3-17
(Ministry of Education
and Culture)

51. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
4-17
(Ministry of Commerce)

The Committee are concerned to note that it took for the Coffee Board 17 months, 13-1/2 months and 12 months in submitting the accounts for 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79 to the Audit whereas these were due for submission by 30 June, 1977, 30 June, 1978 and 30 June, 1979 respectively and the Ministry of Commerce did not remind the Coffee Board during the delay period. The Committee note with regret that the recommendation of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table contained in paragraph 3-5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha), presented to Lok Sabha on 8 March, 1976, was not complied with either by the Ministry or the Coffee Board. Had the Ministry and the Coffee Board been serious in following the aforementioned recommendation of the Committee, there would not have been such abnormal delays.

52. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
4-18
(Ministry of Commerce)

The Committee trust that a time bound programme will be drawn up by the Ministry of Commerce in consultation with the Coffee Board to ensure strict observance of the norms prescribed by the Committee for laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Board before Parliament, in time, in future.

The General Fund Accounts for 1982-83 and Pool Fund Accounts for 1979-80 have already been laid on the table of the House. A time bound programme for preparing, auditing and laying the accounts of General and Pool

Funds is as follows:—

Preparation and sending to Audit	Certification by the Audit	Hindi translation/copies and laying before Parliament.
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46

(1) General Fund accounts of a financial year say 1984-85.

(2) Pool Fund accounts of the previous season 1983-84

(3) Annual Reports, 1984-85

30th June, 1985	30th Sept. 1985	31st Dec., 1985
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30th June, 1985	30th Sept., 1985	31st Dec., 1985
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31st Dec., 1985

There is a backlog of Pool Fund Accounts for 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 seasons which are being revised by the Board on basis of observations of Audit on 1979-80 season. Pool Fund Accounts (which were laid before Parliament in the

Budget Session, 1984). A time schedule for preparing auditing and laying of these accounts is being prepared in consultation with the Coffee Board. [*Vide* Ministry of Commerce O.M No. 25/1/84 Plant (B) dated 14-8-1984].

The Committee are constrained to observe that had the Marketing Committee and the Board taken a decision before February, 1980 to go by the Calendar year in finalising the accounts and keeping the set of audit instead of two and simplifying the Pool Fund accounting procedure by restructuring the accounting period to one calendar year, there would not have been such abnormal delays at least at the stage of compilation of accounts and their auditing. The Committee hope that the Ministry and the Board would follow the decision thus arrived at by the Marketing Committee and the Board and see that both the General Fund and previous year's Pool Fund Accounts are laid before Parliament together with the Annual Report with a view to present a comprehensive picture of the affairs of the Coffee Board.

Accounts of the Pool fund are now being maintained for accounting period of one calendar year effective from 1979-80 season. Because of procedural changes there has been some delay in laying the Pool Fund accounts for 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 in time. However, the Pool Fund Accounts for 1983-84 season will be submitted alongwith General Fund Accounts for 1984-85 and Annual Report before 31 December 1985. [*Vide* Ministry of Commerce O.M. No. 25/1/84-Plant (B) dated 14-8-1984].

53, Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)

4-19

(Ministry of Commerce)

54. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
5-17
(Ministry of Agriculture)

The Committee are unhappy to note that the Annual Reports of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation for the years 1978-79, 1979-80 and 1980-81 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha with an inordinate delay of 39-1/2 months, 27-1/2 months and 15-1/2 months respectively.

The observations of the Committee have been noted. Suitable directions have been given to the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation to ensure that annual reports are finalised in time and that a time schedule is observed in this regard for completing the various stages of preparation of the report. (Vide Ministry of Agriculture O. M. No. 8-16/84-C.A.I dated 19-3-85)

55. Twentieth Report (7th
Lok Sabha)
5-18
(Ministry of Agriculture)

From the statement laid by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Committee note that in the case of Annual Report for the year 1978-79, the accounts were compiled in time i.e. within 3 months of the close of the accounting year but the Corporation took 3 years after approval of the Report in translating the Annual Report. The explanation given by the Ministry that though the Corporation made a number of attempts, they could not obtain suitable persons for translating the copies in Hindi, is hardly convincing. The Committee feel that the Ministry of Agriculture did not make sincere efforts in getting the translation work done in time and have the Annual Reports laid on the Table of

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted. The Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation has made arrangements for preparing Hindi translation so that work is completed without delay. (Vide Ministry of Agriculture O.M. No. 8-16/84-C. A. I dated 19-3-85)

the House within 9 months from the close of the accounting year already prescribed by the Committee. The Committee hope that the Ministry would be more careful in this regard in future.

56. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
5-19
(Ministry of
Agriculture)

The Committee find that the Corporation took 13 months instead of 3 months recommended by the Committee on Papers laid on the Table, in compiling the accounts for the year 1979-80 and one year in translating the Annual Report. Similarly it took 6 months in compiling the accounts for 1980-81 and 3-1/2 months in translating the Annual Report. The justification given by the Ministry of Agriculture that since the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation was functioning along with its sister concern Karnataka Forest Plantation Corporation Limited and the accounts were maintained by the staff of Karnataka Forest Plantation Corporation Ltd., the finalisation of accounts was delayed alongwith the accounts of that Corporation, is hardly convincing. The Ministry should have seen that the accounts of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation which was a separate organisation were maintained independently with a view to have the compilation of their accounts done within 3 months from the close of the accounting year as already recommended by the Committee on Papers laid on the Table in paragraph 3-5 of their first Report (Fifth Lok Sabha).

The accounts of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation are now being maintained separately. (*Vide* Ministry of Agriculture O.M. No. 8-16/84-C.A. I dated 19-3-85).

7. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
5.20
(Ministry of
Agriculture)

The Committee desire that in order to comply with the afore mentioned recommendation of the Committee on Papers laid on the Table, a proper time bound programme should be drawn up by the Ministry in consultation with the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation for compilation of accounts, their auditing, adoption, translation, printing and sending to the Ministry for laying on the Table of the House, in time.

A time schedule has been drawn up in consultation with the Managing Director, Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited. (M/o Agriculture O. M. No. 8-16/84 C.A. I dated 19-3-85).

Events Mutually agreed time-schedule

1. Compilation of A/cs' by the Corporation 30th June (after close of the financial year) 12 weeks.
2. Auditing of A/cs' by the Statutory Auditors. 31st August (8 weeks)
3. Auditing by CAG and their comments and adopting of Audited Accounts 31st October (8 weeks)

along with
comments of
A.G.

4. Review of the 31st De-
Annual Report cember.
along with the

Audited A/Cs by
the Ministry and
laying them on
the Table of the
Lok Sabha/Rajya
Sabha.

The Managing Director has,
however been requested to
obtain the concurrence of the
Accountant General to the
schedule and finalise the time
table. (Vide Ministry of
Agriculture O. M. No. 8-16/
84-C,A. I dated 19-3-85).

The recommendations of the
Committee have been noted for
compliance. (Vide Ministry of
Agriculture O.M. No. 8-16/
84-C,A. I dated 19-3-85).

58. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
5.21
(Ministry of Agriculture)

The request made by the Ministry of Agriculture to
exempt the Corporation from the requirement of
laying the Annual Reports on the Table of the House
on the ground that the Government of India's share
capital contribution stands at only 30.55% and is
likely to go down further thus making the Corporation
totally a State venture, is not acceptable as it is already

provided in Section 619A(1) of the Companies Act, 1956 that where the Central Government is a member of a Government Company, the Central Government shall cause an annual report on the working and affairs of that Company to be prepared and laid before both the Houses of Parliament together with a copy of the audit report, The Committee would, therefore, advise the Ministry to continue laying the Report of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation irrespective of the fact that the Central Government do not have majority of the shares in the Corporation.

59. Twentieth Report

(7th Lok Sabha)

6.4 (Ministry of Rural Development)

The Committee find from the information furnished by the concerned Ministries and Departments of the Government of India that the organisations like (i) National Institute of Rural Development; (ii) J. K. Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation, Srinagar; (iii) Rehabilitato in Plantation Limited, Punalur; (iv) Co-operative Canteen Societies; (v) Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling; (vi) Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi; (vii) Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation; and (viii) Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi though receive grants from the Consolidated fund of India yet their Annual Reports and Audit Reports are not laid on the Table of the House.

60. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
6.5 (Ministry of Rural
Development)

In respect of the National Institute of Rural Development, the Committee note that although the Audited Accounts of the Institute are laid on the Table of the House, the Annual Report is not laid. The argument adduced by the Ministry of Rural Development that the Annual Report of the Institute is not laid on the Table because it forms part of the Annual Report of the Ministry, is not at all convincing. The Committee on Papers laid on the Table have already recommended in clear terms in paragraph 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) that the Annual Reports and Audit Reports of all the autonomous organisations should be laid together so that Parliament has a complete picture of the performance of the organisation and its financial stability. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Ministry of Rural Development should lay on the Table of the House the Annual Report of the Institute also so that both the documents are available to the Members of Parliament at the same time. The Committee trust that the Ministry would take necessary steps in this regard.

The recommendations of the Committee on Papers laid on the Table have been accepted by this Ministry. The Annual Report for the year 1982-83 will be laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament shortly. In future the Accounts of the National Institute of Rural Development will be laid on the Table of both the Houses of the Parliament alongwith the Annual Report of the Institute. (Vide Ministry of Rural Development O.M. No. G. 25011/2/83-Trg. I dated the 29th May, 1984).

61. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
6.6 (Ministry of
Labour &
Rehabilitation &

In the cases of the J&K Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation and the Rehabilitation Plantation Limited, the Committee find that both are Government companies in terms of Section 617 of the Companies Act whose reports are required to

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted. The financial year of the Rehabilitation Plantations Limited Punalur, closes on 31st March.

Ministry of Rural
Development)

be laid before Parliament as well as State Legislatures under Section 619A(1) and (2) of the Companies Act, 1956. It is regrettable that in spite of the Statutory provisions the Annual Reports of none of the aforementioned companies are placed before Parliament. The argument advanced by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Rehabilitation that the Annual Reports are not laid before Parliament, because the majority of shares are held by the State Governments cannot stand scrutiny in view of the aforementioned statutory provisions. It is a serious lapse on the part of the Ministries concerned to keep Parliament in dark about the functioning of these corporations in which Central Government have invested a substantial capital. The Committee recommend that urgent steps should be taken to lay the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of both the Corporations before Parliament.

The Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Corporation for the year 1982-83 would, therefore, be submitted to both the Houses of Parliament as early as possible. The future reports would also be laid in time. [Vide Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation (Department of Rehabilitation) Office Memorandum No. 14/1/84-RRH (S), dated the 6th August, 1984].

The Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the J&K HPMC have been finalised and published for the years 1978-79 and 1979-80 only. The State Government of J&K has been requested to send this Ministry immediately requisite number of copies of these Reports and Accounts both in English and Hindi, so that these could be placed before the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

The State Government of J&K has also been requested to take immediate steps to prepare/finance and make available to this Ministry Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the J&K HPMC for the years 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84. The State Government has also been requested to intimate this Ministry the reasons for the delay in finalising these Reports/Accounts. (*Vide* M/RD U. O. No. 12-10/83-M. II, dated 5-7-1984).

62. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
6.7 (Department of
Atomic Energy)

In regard to the Co-operative Canteen Societies run by the Department of the Atomic Energy, the Committee note that the Department of Atomic Energy renders financial assistance to a large number of small co-operative canteen societies under it, at various places in the country. These canteens are run for the welfare of the staff. The Committee feel that the compilation of Annual Reports of each and every canteen would be cumbersome and not commensurate with the labour involved. The Committee therefore, recommend that the Department of Atomic Energy

Action, to include a chapter in its Annual Report, is accordingly being taken. (*Vide* Department of Atomic Energy O. M. No. 18/30/84-Gen. dated 18-1-1985).

should include a chapter in respect of all the co-operative Canteen Societies run by it, in its Annual Report indicating the money spent on each of them, during the year.

63. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
6-8 (Ministry of
Defence)

The Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling and Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi have been asked to furnish their Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the year 1983-84. These reports, together with the Audited Accounts, would be laid before Parliament by 31st December, 1984. (Vide Ministry of Defence O. M. No. 417/HMI/79 dated 9-7-1984).

The Committee note that the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling and the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi are of national importance getting handsome grants from the Centre as well as from the concerned State Governments. From the information given by the Ministry of Defence it is clear that there is a good amount of involvement of the Central Government in the affairs of these Institutes as officials of the Ministries of the Government of India and of State Governments are represented in the Executive Council. Their Annual Reports and Audited Accounts are, however, not laid before Parliament. The reason given by the Ministry of Defence that these Institutes being registered private bodies in their respective States, the State Legislatures would be appropriately concerned with their Annual Reports and Accounts, is not justified because the net annual expenditure shared by the Central Government in the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling and the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi is 70% and 50% respectively. Further the share of recurring and non-recurring

expenditure of Ministry of Defence on these Institutes is increasing every year. From Rs. 2 lakhs per annum upto 1977-78 it has been raised to Rs. 6 lakhs from 1982-83. The Committee feel that the Parliament should more appropriately be concerned with the Annual Reports and accounts of these Institutes than the State Legislatures concerned. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Defence should lay before Parliament the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of both the aforementioned Institutes within 9 months of the close of their accounting year.

64. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
6-9 (Department of
Coal)

As regards Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisations, the Committee note that it receives substantial grant from the Ministry of Energy, but its Annual Reports and Audited Accounts are not laid before Parliament. The reason advanced by the Ministry that there are no statutory provisions for doing so, is hardly convincing. The Committee urge upon the Ministry of Energy to follow the recommendations of the Committee on papers laid on the Table contained in paragraphs 1-12 and 1-14 of their Second Report (Sixth Lok Sabha), by amending the Statutes if necessary, and lay the Annual Report and Accounts of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation before Parliament.

Suitable action is being taken to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund, Coal Mines Family Pension and Coal Mines Deposit-linked Insurance Schemes for incorporating a provision therein for laying of Annual Reports/Audited Accounts of the three Schemes before the Parliament within nine months of the close of the accounting year so that the parliament is apprised of their activities. After amendment of the three Schemes, the requisite papers

65. Twentieth Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
6.10 (Ministry of
External Affairs)

As far as the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi is concerned the Committee note that the Organisation receives more than 90% of its grant from the Centre every year, as is evident from the grants sanctioned during the years 1979-80 and 1980-81. The Committee is unhappy to note that despite such heavy grants being given to them, their Annual Report and Audited Accounts are not laid before Parliament. The Committee recommend that the Ministry of External Affairs should impress upon the Council to submit their Annual Report and Audited Accounts for laying on the Table of the House.

will be laid before Parliament
[*Vide* Department of Coal O.
M. No. H 11013 (2)/82-Adm.
I (PF) dated 19-7-1984].

The Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi have already impressed upon the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi to submit their Annual Report and Audited Accounts for laying on the Table of the House.

The matter is being pursued with them. (*Vide* Ministry of External Affairs O. M. No. AA/125/35/84 dated 19 April, 1985).

66. Twenty-First Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
1.9 (Ministry of
Finance)

The Committee note that Annual Reports and Accounts of the Reserve Bank of India :—
(i) are already published in the Gazette of India and can thus be quoted or made; and
(ii) are already made available to Members of Parliament by circulating to them;

The Committee's observations that the Annual Report and Accounts of the Reserve Bank of India are not secret in nature and any Member of Parliament can raise any connected issue

in Parliament is entirely valid. In fact, a number of questions are also raised and answered in Parliament relating to the functioning of the Reserve Bank of India and other allied matters, apart from the periodic discussions before the Consultative Committee of Parliament. However, laying of the Report on the Table of Parliament could lead to a detailed and intensive discussion by the Members on all aspects of the functioning of the Reserve Bank of India and policy decisions taken by the Bank in the discharge of its central banking functions. Discussions could also centre on highly sensitive areas such as exchange rates and reserve management which could lead to undesirable domestic and international repercussions. For, more or less, similar reasons, most of the Central Banks of the world have been extended

(iii) can in the above circumstances not by any stretch of imagination be treated as confidential or secret in nature.

The Committee, therefore, fail to appreciate the logic behind the reasoning of the Government that the mere fact of laying the Annual Report and Accounts on the Table would undermine the autonomy of the Bank. The Committee accordingly do not see any valid objection to the laying on the Table of Annual Reports and Accounts of the Reserve Bank of India and, therefore, recommend that in future these Annual Reports and Accounts should be laid on the Table and if necessary, the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 or the rules framed thereunder may be amended for the purpose.

1 2 3 4

the privilege of functioning without being required to undergo intensive public scrutiny on the delicate and sensitive matters pertaining to the discharge of Central banking functions.

It is, therefore, the considered view of the Government that the present status should be allowed to continue. Government also do not feel the necessity of amending the Reserve Bank of India Act for the purpose in view. Reserve Bank of India would, however, continue with the present practice of circulating its Annual Report and Accounts among Members of Parliament. [*Vide* Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division) U.O. No. F. 9 (6) 84/Accounts dated 4 February 1985].

67. Twenty-First Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
2-6
(Department of
Rural Development/
District Rural Develop-
ment Agencies)

The Committee note that there are about four hundred District Rural Development Agencies functioning at present all over India to implement the integrated Rural Development programme which is one of the major components of the 20 Point Programme. These agencies are financed on 50 : 50 basis by the Central Government and the State Government and in the case of the Union Territories 100% funds are given by the Government of India. The Committee also note that the Annual Report of the Ministry of Rural Development contain Chapter regarding Integrated Rural Development Programme as well as outlays therefor for the period 1980-85 and Annual Plans. Chapter III of the performance Budget also contains statistical information on the progress made by the programme during the years 1980-81 to 1982-83 mentioning statewide information on releases made, expenditure incurred and credit mobilised under the programme.

68. Twenty-First Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
2-7
(Department of
Rural Development)

The Committee agree that it would be a cumbersome task for the Ministry of Rural Development to collect and compile all the information within the prescribed period of 9 months from all the four hundred District Rural Development Agencies, scattered all over the country. The Committee, therefore, do not insist on the laying of the Annual Report and Accounts of the District Rural Development Agencies on the Table

Action is being taken to incorporate the details regarding organisation, functioning, etc. of the District Rural Development Agencies in the Annual Report of the Department of Rural Development. (*Vide* Department of Rural Development

of the House. The Committee, however, desire that the details regarding the organisation, functioning, etc. of all the District Rural Development Agencies be suitably reflected in the Annual Reports of the Ministry of Rural Development in order to keep the Members of Parliament apprised of these agencies and their performance.

69. Twenty-First Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
3-8
(Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare)

The Committee note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Dental Council of India for 1981-82 and 1982-83 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 11 August, 1983 and 8 March, 1984, respectively, i.e. after a delay of about 7-1/2 months and 2-1/2 months. The Committee find that the final Audit Report in respect of 1981-82 was received in the Council on 18-12-1982 but it was adopted by the Executive Committee of the Council only on 7-4-1983, i.e., after about 3-1/2 months. The Council also took 3 months from 7-4-1983 to 2-7-1983 in translating and cyclo-styling the Annual Report and Audited Accounts. Similarly the Directorate of Audit, Central Revenues took about 3 months in submitting the Audit Report to the Council for the year 1982-83. The Committee feel that the Council did not make serious efforts to finalise the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts at different stages so as to stick to the stipulated period of 9 months.

D. O. No. H-11/11/1982 F. II
dated 8 March, 1985).

The Ministry shares the concern expressed by the esteemed Committee and assure that in future all-out efforts would be made to lay the Reports well in time. The Committee have already expressed satisfaction with regard to the Reports in respect of this Council for the year 1982-83. The position has improved with regard to the Reports for the year 1983-84, which are being laid shortly. In order to ensure timely laying of these Reports in future, suitable instructions have been issued to the Dental Council of India for according priority to these Reports over other works/jobs. For

this purpose they have been advised to approach the Ministry for any possible assistance that the Ministry could render to them. (*Vide* Ministry of Health and Family Welfare O.M. No. Z. 20016/8/83-PMS, dated 25th January, 1985).

70. Twenty First Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
3-9
(Ministry of Health
& Family Welfare)
- The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare should in consultation with the Dental Council of India draw up a time-bound programme and make Some Officer responsible in the Ministry and the Council to ensure strict compliance of the same with a view to obviate delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Council, in future.
71. Twenty-First Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
3-10
(Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare)
- The Committee, however, note with satisfaction that the delay which was 7-1/2 months in the case of Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 1981-82 has come down to 2-1/4 months in the case of Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 1982-83. The Committee desire the Ministry to make concerted efforts so as to sustain the improvement and eliminate the delay completely.
72. Twenty-First Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
4-6
(M/o Health &
- The Committee note that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Indian Nursing Council for the year 1981-82 which were required to be laid by 31 December, 1982 were actually laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on
- The view and observations of the esteemed Committee have been noted and the Indian Nursing Council has been impressed

Family Welfare)

11 August, 1983, i.e. after a delay of 7-1/2 months.

upon to ensure meticulous compliance. It has already been mentioned by the Committee that they are satisfied that the Reports/Accounts for the year 1982-83 have been laid in time. The reports of the Council for the year 1983-84 have also been laid. (Vide Ministry of Health and Family Welfare O. M. No. Z. 20016/6/83-PMS dated 29-1-1985).

73. Twenty-First Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
4-7

(Ministry of Health and
Family Welfare)

From the information supplied by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Committee further note that the accounts for 1981-82 were ready for audit on 31 March, 1982 but the Audit authorities were informed about that only on 6 July, 1982, i.e. after about 3 months of the finalisation of accounts. The Committee fail to understand as to why the Council sat over the accounts for three months without approaching the Audit authorities. The Committee must clarify that the time schedule for compilation of annual reports and accounts and for auditing of the accounts laid down in paragraph 3-5 of the First Report of the Committee (Fifth Lok Sabha) Prescribes only the outer limits of various stages and

it was not and indeed it could not have been the intention of the Committee that at each stage the maximum time must necessarily be taken. There cannot be any bar to handling over the accounts to Audit before expiry of the period of 3 months after close of the accounting year allowed by the Committee. Had the Council approached the Audit immediately after compilation of the accounts for 1981-82, there would have definitely been no delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts on the Table of the House. The Committee hope that the Council will be very careful in future in this regard.

74. Twenty-First Report(7th Lok Sabha)
4·8
(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

The Committee, however, note with satisfaction that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Council for the year 1982-83 were laid on the Table in time, i.e. on 8 December, 1983. The Committee hope that this trend would be sustained and the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Council would continue to be laid on the Table of the House in time in future.

The views and observations of the esteemed Committee have been noted and the Indian Nursing Council has been impressed upon to ensure meticulous compliance. (Vide Ministry of Health and Family Welfare O.M.No. Z. 20016/6/83-PMS dated 29-1-1985).

75. Twenty-First Report(7th Lok Sabha)
5·10
(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

The Committee note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi for the years 1981-82 and 1982-83 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 25 August, 1983 and 12 April, 1984 respectively, i.e. after a delay of 9 months, and 3½ months respectively. The Com-

The recommendations of the Committee have been noted. The Director, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy has been advised suitably to ensure that the recommendations

mittee find that the Council took 54 months and 10 months in compiling its accounts for 1981-82 and 1982-83, respectively, as against normal period of 3 months allowed by the Committee. The Committee regret to observe that their recommendations contained in paragraphs 1.16 and 3.5 of the First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) were not followed by the Council in letter and spirit. The Committee feel that much of the delay could have been avoided, had the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare been vigilant and kept a close watch over the finalisation of accounts of the Council and auditing thereof.

76. Twenty-First Report(7th Lok Sabha)
5.11
(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

The Committee, therefore, reiterated their recommendations contained in paras 1.16 and 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) and hope that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare would take steps and prepare a time bound programme to ensure timely laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Council on the Table of the House and make some officer responsible for monitoring the progress and timely execution.

of the Committee on Papers laid on the Table of Lok Sabha are implemented both in letter and spirit. He has also been asked to make some officer responsible to watch the progress relating to the preparation of Accounts, their Audit, preparation of the Annual Report and its approval by the Competent Authority, translation of the Report and Accounts into Hindi, printing of the Report and Accounts and final submission to the Ministry for laying these documents before both Houses of Parliament. (Vide Ministry of Health and Family Welfare O.M. No. V.27020/19/84-Homoeo dated 17 September, 1984).

77. Twenty-First Report (7th Lok Sabha)
5.12
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

The Committee, however, note with satisfaction that the delay has come down from 9 months in the case of Annual Report and Audited Accounts of 1981-82 to 3½ months in the case of Annual Report and Audited Accounts of 1982-83 and hope that this improvement in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Council will be sustained and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare would be watchful enough to ensure that the delay is totally eliminated.

The recommendations of the Committee have been taken note of. (Vide Ministry of Health and Family Welfare O.M. No. V. 27020/19/84-Homoeo dated 17 September, 1984).

78. Twenty-First Report (7th Lok Sabha)
6.11
Ministry of Shipping and Transport)

The Committee note that—

(i) the Dock Labour Boards are statutory bodies, set up at all the Major Port Trusts. The Chairman of the Port Trust is the Chairman of the Corresponding Dock Labour Board. The Audit Reports of all the Major Port Trusts are laid on the Table of the House.

(ii) the Dock Labour Boards are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport. The Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of these Boards are received in the Ministry of Shipping and Transport ; and

(iii) the accounts of the Dock Labour Boards are subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

The Committee feel that the above facts are adequate enough for the Dock Labour Boards to lay their Annual Reports and Audited Accounts

on the Table of the House. The Committee do not see any justification in the plea taking by the Ministry of Shipping and Transport that there are no provisions in the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1984 enjoining upon the Government to lay the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Boards on the Table of the House. Since the Dock Labour Boards are accountable to the Ministry of Shipping and Transport as also to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, propriety demands that they should also be accountable to Parliament irrespective of the quantum of grant/subsidy/loan received by them.

The Committee further note that the Ministry of Shipping and Transport have based their request for exemption from laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Dock Labour Boards, on the recommendations made by the Committee on Papers laid on the Table in paragraphs 1.10 and 1.11 of their Sixth Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) whereby the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare were granted exemption from laying separate Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Research Institutes which were supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research. The

79. Twenty-First Report (7th
Lok Sabha)
6.12
Ministry of Shipping &
Transport)

Committee find that the position of Dock Labour Boards is different from those of the Research Institutes under the Indian Council of Social Science Research. The Dock Labour Boards are under the direct control of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport whereas the Research Institutes are under the direct control of the Indian Council of Social Science Research and not the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare. Thus, no parallel can be drawn between the Dock Labour Boards and the Research Institutes.

80. Twenty-First Report (7th Lok Sabha) 6-13 (Ministry of Shipping & Transport)

The Committee, therefore, do not find any valid reasons to grant exemption to the Ministry of Shipping and Transport from the requirement of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Dock Labour Boards on the Table of the House. Since the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Dock Labour Boards are received in the Ministry there should not be any reason to withhold the same from Parliament.

81. Twenty-First Report (7th Lok Sabha) 6-14 (Ministry of Shipping & Transport)

The Committee recommend that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of all the Dock Labour Boards should in future be laid on the Table of the House alongwith a 'Review' of Government within 9 months of close of the accounting year and if necessary, an amendment may be made in the Dock Workers' (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948 or the rules, if any, made thereunder, in that regard.

The recommendation of the Committee regarding laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of all Dock Labour Boards has been noted for compliance. The Committee's recommendation for amendment to the Dock Workers' (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948 or the Rules framed thereunder will be considered as and when other amendments to the Dock Workers' (Regulation of Employment) Act or Rules framed thereunder are considered.

2. It may be stated that in pursuance of the directives given by the Committee to this Ministry, during oral evidence of the Officers of this Ministry, on 17-5-1984, the Annual Reports, together with Audited Accounts of all seven Dock Labour Boards; for the years 1977-78 to 1982-83, were laid on the Table of House on the following dates:—

Lok Sabha —23rd August, 1984

—27th August, 1984

Rajya Sabha —24th August, 1984

—29th August, 1984

(Vide Ministry of Shipping and Transport O. M. No. LDF/8/84-L. II dated 22-10-84).

82. Twenty-Second Report (7th Lok Sabha) 1-8 (Ministry of Education and Culture)
- The Committee note that the Annual Report and the Audited Accounts of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi for the year 1981-82 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 24 February, 1983 and 25 August, 1983, respectively, i.e. after a delay of 2 months and 8 months, respectively. Although the delay is not much in the case of Annual Report for the
- The Accountant General, U. P. II, was constantly reminded, both by the Institute and the Department of Culture to finalise the Audit Report on the accounts of the Institute for the year 1981-82 vide letters

year 1981-82, the delay that occurred in the case of Audited Accounts for that year is not reasonable. From the information supplied by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Committee find that the delay in the case of Audited Accounts occurred due to the time taken by the Accountant General, Uttar Pradesh II. The Committee feel more vigilant and taken up the question of delay with the Accountant General, much of the delay could have been eliminated.

83. Twenty-Second Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
1-9
(Ministry of Education
and Culture)

The Committee regret to find that the Ministry of Education and Culture had laid on the Table of the House the Audited Accounts of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi for the year 1981-82 prior to their being placed before the Annual General body of the Institute. The Committee need hardly point out that the documents/papers/ Reports and Accounts should be laid on the Table of the House after complying with all the statutory requirements. Laying of documents prior to their approval by the Annual General Body of an organisation is a serious matter, Technically speaking, the documents laid on the Table prior to its approval by the Annual General Body cannot be called a complete document. The Committee are constrained to observe that before laying the Audited Accounts of the Institute for 1981-82 on the Table of the House,

dated 23 May, 7 June, 9 July, 23 October, 22 November and 14 December, 1982 and 6 January, 1983. In future the matter would be taken up with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. (Vide Ministry of Education and Culture O.M. No. F. 7-13/84-CH-3 dated 29 November, 1984).

The findings of the Committee have been noted and will be complied with accordingly. The Ministry have further stated that since the Institute had furnished the printed copies of the Audited Accounts and Audit Report in anticipation of adoption by the Governing Body of the Institute, the same were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha (Vide Ministry of Education and Culture O.M. No. 7-13/84-CH-3 dated 29 November, 1984)

the Ministry of Education and Culture failed to ensure that these were final and complete in every respect. The Committee hope that the Ministry of Education and Culture would be more careful in future and would not allow any such lapse to recur.

84. Twenty-Second Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
1-10
(Ministry of Education
and Culture)

The Committee also note that the Annual Reports and the Audited Accounts of the Institute are not being laid on the Table together despite the fact that the Ministry/Departments of Government of India had often been impressed about the need for laying the same simultaneously. The Annual Report and the Audited Accounts for 1981-82 were laid on 24 February and 25 August, 1983, respectively and those for 1982-83 on 22 December, 1983 and 12 April, 1984, respectively. Laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts separately deprive the Members of Parliament of the complete picture of the stability and functioning of the organisation at a point of time. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Annual Reports and the Audited Accounts of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi should, in future, be laid on the Table of the House together within nine months of close of the accounting year.

From the current financial year, the Ministry will endeavour to follow the instructions of the Committee to lay together with in the prescribed period, the Annual Reports, Audited Accounts and Audit Report of the Institute on the Table of the House. (*Vide* Ministry of Education and Culture O.M. No. 7-13/84-CH-3 dated 29 November, 1984).

85. Twenty-Second Report
(7th Lok Sabha)

The Committee note that the Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Audit Report thereon of the Oil Palm

Regretted the delay caused in laying the Annual Report and

2-11

(Ministry of Agriculture)

India Limited, Kottayam, Kerala for the year 1981-82 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 12 December, 1983, i.e. after a delay of 11½ months. The Committee also note that the Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Audit Report of the Company for the year 1982-83 which were required to be laid on the Table of the House by 31 December, 1983, have not so far been laid. Instead, the Ministry have laid a statement explaining the reason for not having laid the said documents on the Table of the House within the stipulated period of 9 months after the close of the accounting year.

Audited Accounts for the year 1981-82. The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 1982-83 have since been received from the Oil Palm India Limited and would be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha during the next Session, Steps have been taken to avoid delay in future in compiling accounts by the Company. (Vide Ministry of Agriculture O. M. No. 18-2/83-C.A. II dated 3 December, 1984).

86. Twenty-Second Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
12-12
(Ministry of Agriculture)

The Committee further note that one of the factors that contributed towards delay was that the Company took about 6 months and 4 months as against three months prescribed by the Committee for compilation of accounts of the Company for the years 1981-82 and 1982-83, respectively and making them available to the Statutory Auditors for auditing. The delay was, thus, of recurring nature. The Committee cannot but express their displeasure over the recurring nature of such delay and feel that much of the delay could have been avoided had the Company and the Ministry made concerted efforts in having the accounts compiled within 3 month prescribed by the Committee on Papers laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

87. **Twenty-Second Report**
(7th Lok Sabha)
2-13
(Ministry of
Agriculture)

The Committee find from the information furnished by the Ministry that 3 months were spent in holding the Annual General Meeting of the Company to adopt the accounts for the year 1981-82 as well as to consider the accounts for the year 1982-83. Had the Company and the Ministry been vigilant in the matter, the meeting could have been held earlier and the accounts adopted within the stipulated time schedule. The Committee trust that the Company and the Ministry would monitor the progress at stipulated intervals and take steps to avoid such delays in future and ensure laying of the said documents on the Table of the House within the stipulated period of 9 months from the close of the accounting year.

88. **Twenty-Second Report**
(7th Lok Sabha)
2-14
(Ministry of
Agriculture)

The Committee, however, note with satisfaction that the delay has come down from 52 in the case of Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 1977-78 to 11½ months in the case of Annual Report and audited Accounts for the year 1981-82. There is, thus, general improvement in laying the documents of the Company on the Table of the House. The Committee hope that suitable steps would be taken by the Ministry and the company to eliminate the delay, in future.

The Annual General Meeting which was to be held in June, 1983 was postponed in September, 1983 to enable both the shareholders i.e. the Government of India and the Plantation Corporation of Kerala Limited to be present at the meeting. Suitable steps are being taken to avoid delays in future in holding the Annual General Meeting and in laying the reports on the Table of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha. (Vide M/o Agriculture O.M. No. 18-2/83-C.A. II dated 3 December, 1984).

The Company is taking all possible steps to ensure that the Annual Reports are presented to the House in time in future. (Vide Ministry of Agriculture O.M.No. 18-2/83-C.A. II dated 3 December, 1984.)

89. **Twenty-Second Report (7th Lok Sabha)**
3-8
(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)
- The Committee regret to observe that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi for the years 1979-80 and 1980-81 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha as late as on 25 August, 1983, and those for the year 1981-82 on 17 November, 1983, i.e. after a delay of 32 months, 10 months and 10½ months, respectively. Further the Annual Report and the Audited Accounts for the year 1982-83 have not been laid so far.
- The views of the Committee have been noted for guidance and strict compliance in future. Suitable instructions have been issued to the Pharmacy Council of India in this respect. The Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Council for 1982-83, were sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat and Rajya Sabha Secretariat on 14 August, 1984. The same was laid on the Table on 23 August, 1984. (Vide Ministry of Health and Family Welfare O.M. No. Z 20016/4/83-PMS dated 29 January, 1985).
90. **Twenty-Second Report (7th Lok Sabha)**
3-9
(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)
- The Committee are distressed to note that the recommendation contained in paragraph 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) has not been adhered to by the Council and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The justification given by the Ministry that since the Council has a very small establishment, the first quarter of the Financial year is generally busy in arranging inspections during the examinations, in meeting the spill over expenditure and processing for the first instalment of the grant-in-aid and that the audit is

generally taken in hand during the last quarter of the year as it suits the Auditors and the Council, is not convincing, statutory requirement or direction from Parliament for laying the Report and Accounts has to be given precedence over all other considerations. The Committee trust that the Ministry in coordination with the Council will make positive arrangements in future so that the Councils Annual Reports, Audited Accounts and the Audit Report together with the 'Review' are finalised expeditiously and laid on the Table of the House well within the stipulated period of 9 months from the close of the accounting year.

91. Twenty-Second Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
3-10
(Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare)

The Committee are surprised to find that one of reasons that led to the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts was that the Council did not have its own arrangements for translation and job was to be done privately. The Committee are constrained to observe that neither the Ministry nor the Council had made any attempt to see that the translation of such a small Report/Accounts is done in the shortest possible time and that it was allowed to linger on from 6 to 10½ months and thereby adding more to the delay. The Committee recommend that a person in the Council may be made responsible to see and ensure that the Annual Reports and Accounts are promptly

The position has been reviewed in the light of the observations made by the Committee. The Ministry would keep a close watch in the matter, with a view to ensuring that there is no let up or delay in the submission of the Reports on account of the preparation of their Hindi version. (Vide Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, O.M. No. Z. 20016/4/83-PMS dated 29

finalised, audited, adopted, translated and sent to the Ministry for laying on the Table of the House within 9 months of the close of the relevant accounting year so that the Members of Parliament may have timely information about the working and performance of the Council with a view to make use of the Reports/Accounts while expressing their views at the time of discussion on Demands for Grants.

92. Twenty-Second Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
4-7
(Ministry of Agriculture)

The Committee note that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) for the year 1981-82 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 8 August, 1983 with a delay of about 44 months. The Committee also note that the delay occurred at the stages of auditing of accounts, submission of draft audit report, translation and printing of Annual Report and Audited Accounts.

The Ministry have, from time to time emphasised the need for timely completion of audit and also for timely holding of the meeting of the Annual General Body of the national level cooperative organisations to facilitate laying of the required documents before Parliament within the prescribed time limit. The Ministry have

93. Twenty-Second Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
4-8
(Ministry of Agriculture)

The Committee further note that the auditing of accounts by Statutory Auditors commenced in December, 1982/January, 1983 whereas it should have commenced in September, 1982 *i.e.* 3 months earlier so as to have all the other formalities completed within the stipulated period of 9 months from the close of the accounting year. The reply given by the Ministry that the auditors commenced audit of various Branches of NAFED after

also stated that in August, 1984, the Chief Executives of the national cooperative Societies were suggested a time schedule, whereby all the formalities of completion of audit, preparation of Annual Report, holding of the annual

January, 1985).

the appointment of Statutory Auditors by the Central Registrar in October, 1982, is rather vague in the sense that it does not specify as to when the Central Registrar was approached for appointment of Statutory Auditors. The Committee feel that the Central Registrar was approached for appointment of Statutory Auditors later than it was required or the matter was not sincerely pursued with the Central Registrar. Had the Ministry and the Federation approached the Central Registrar well in time the auditors would have been appointed earlier and thereafter, the documents could have been laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated period.

The Committee feel that neither the Federation nor the Ministry had handled the matter with the requisite seriousness. The Committee feel that neither the Federation nor the Ministry had handled the matter with the requisite seriousness.

general meeting, preparation of Hindi version of the required documents and printing thereof, could be completed in accordance with a time bound schedule and requisite number of copies of these documents furnished to the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation positively by 28 February. This would enable laying of these reports before Parliament within the prescribed period of nine months from the date of closing of the accounts. (vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, O.M. No. H. 11013/7/84-ACMP dated 31 October, 1984).

The Committee hope that in future the Ministry and the Federation will make coordinated effort to approach the Central Registrar well in advance and see that the auditing of accounts commences positively in the first week of September every year with a view to complete all the stages and lay the documents on the Table of the House positively towards the end of March every year.

94. Twenty-Second Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
4-9
(Ministry of Agriculture)

The Committee also find that despite the assurance given by the Ministry in November 1983 that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Federation for the year 1982-83 would be laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated period *i. e.* by 31 March 1984, the said documents have not so far been laid. This is a glaring example of the slackness on the part of the Federation and the Ministry. The Committee take a serious note of the matter and feel that no care had been taken by the Ministry to implement their assurance given to the Committee. The Committee desire that the said Annual Report, Audited Accounts, Audit Report for 1982-83 and 'Review' thereon in respect of the Federation should be laid on the Table of the House without any further delay. The Committee also trust that the Ministry would take necessary remedial measures to eliminate the delay in laying the re-

The Auditors to audit the accounts for 1982-83 were appointed by the Central Registrar on 30 August 1983 but since the NAFED has 35 branches spread over the entire country, the audit work took more time. The Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Audit Report could, therefore be placed on the Table of the House on 24 August 1984. With the laying of time schedule for the completion of Audit Report, they hope that the required documents would be placed on the Table of the House within the prescribed

quired documents on the Table of the House in time in future.

time in future (*Vide* Ministry of Agriculture, Deptt. of Agriculture and Co-operation O. M. No. H-11013/7/84-ACMP dated 31 October 1984)

95. Twenty-Second Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
5·7
(Ministry of Health and
Family Welfare)

The Committee note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the International Institute of Population Studies, Bombay for the years 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha after a delay of 40½ months, 28½ months, 24 months, 12 months and 3½ months, respectively. From the information furnished by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Committee find that the delay had occurred mainly at the stages of auditing of the accounts and translation of the Annual Reports and Accounts. The Committee feel that had the Ministry taken up the question of delay with the audit authorities and the Institute, and made some standing arrangements for translation of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Institute, much of the delay could have been avoided, if not totally eliminated. The Committee would like the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to be made careful in this regard in future.

Suitable instructions have been issued to the international institute for population Sciences, Bombay, in the matter to ensure that there is no delay in future in placing the papers on the Table of the House. A time schedule is also prescribed for the purpose. (*Vide* Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Family Welfare, O. M. No. A. 45012/28/84-C & G. dated 23 October, 1984).

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96. Twenty-Second Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
5-8
(Ministry of Health &
Family Welfare)

Although the delay which was 4 ½ months in the case of Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 1978-79 has come down the 3½ months in the case of Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 1982-83 yet there is still need for further improvement so that the delay is completely avoided. In order to ensure timely laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Institute on the Table of the House, the Committee feel that a time schedule is all the more necessary for completing action at various stages of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Institute. The Committee urge the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that they should in consultation with the International Institute of Population Studies, Bombay, chalk out a time schedule for strict observance by the Institute to ensure laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts on the Table of the House within nine months of the close of the accounting year.

97. Twenty-Second Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
6-7
(Ministry of Health &
Family Welfare)

The Committee note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur for the year 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha after a delay of about 48 months, 36 months, 24 months, 12 months, and 4 months, respectively. The Committee also note that the Institute took 39 months, 31 months, 21 months and 12 months and against

Regret the delay in submitting the documents in time. The observations of the Committee have been noted for future guidance. Every effort will be made by the Institute and the Ministry to lay the document in time after completing all the

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formalities. (Vide Ministry of Health and Family Welfare O. M. No. V-20011/37/84-Ay. dated 23 November, 1984).

3 months allowed by the Committee, for compiling the accounts for the years 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82 respectively, The justification given by the Ministry that the Institute could not submit the Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Audit Report thereon in time owing to the non-availability of experienced staff, is not convincing. The Committee cannot refrain from expressing their displeasure over the state of affairs prevailing in the Institute as also for not keeping the Parliament informed about its performance for years together on the pretext of non-availability of experienced staff. The Committee feel that neither the Ministry nor the Institute had made any sincere efforts to adhere to the time limit of 9 months laid down by the Committee on Papers laid on the Table in paragraph 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha).

The Committee find that the Institute took 8 months, 5 months and 3 months in translating the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the years 1978-79, 1979-80 and 1980-81, respectively, The Committee feel that the time taken for translation was too long, and the Institute had also not paid serious attention to see that the translation job was completed well in time,

98. Twenty-Second Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
6-8

(Ministry of Health and
Family Welfare)

99. Twenty-Second Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
6-9
(Ministry of Health and
Family Welfare)

The Committee urge the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that they should, in consultation with the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, draw up a time bound schedule for completing all the formalities like compilation of accounts, their auditing, translation, printing, adoption of Annual Report and Audited Accounts and laying the same on the Table of the House, within 9 months as recommended by the Committee in their aforementioned Report. The Committee hope that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare would also impress upon the Institute to make an office responsible in the Institute to keep a watch at various stages of finalisation of the Annual Report and Accounts and to ensure that these documents are laid on the Table of the House within the prescribed period of 9 months from the close of the relevant accounting year.

As directed by them, the Director, National Institute of Ayurveda has drawn up a time bound programme for finalisation of the annual reports and audited accounts at different stages for presentation to Parliament by the stipulated period. He has also made Deputy Director (Admn.) of the Institute responsible to keep a watch at various stages of finalisation of the Annual Report and Accounts and to ensure that these documents are laid on the Table of the House within the prescribed period of 9 months from the close of the relevant accounting year. (*Vide* Ministry of Health and Family Welfare O. M. No. V-20011/37/84-Ay. Desk-II dated 23-11-84)

100. Twenty-Second Report
(Seventh Lok Sabha)
7-10

The Committee feel concerned to note that despite clear guidelines contained in their recommendation *vide* paragraph 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha)

The recommendation of the Committee has been taken note of [*Vide* Ministry of Commerce

O.M. No. 10/42/82-EP (LSG),
dated 15th November, 1984].

for finalisation of Annual Reports and accounts and their laying before Parliament, the Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Audit Report thereon of the Export Promotion Council for Finished Leather and Leather Manufactures for the year 1981-82 were not laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated period, *i.e.*, within 9 months of the close of the relevant accounting year.

The Committee are distressed to note that the reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Export Promotion Council for Finished Leather and Leather Manufactures for 1981-82 have not been adequately spelt out in the statement of delay laid on the Table of the House. The statement lacked information required for identifying the stages where the delay had actually taken place. The Committee are constrained to observe that the Ministry of Commerce have treated the requirement of laying of statement of reasons for delay as a mere formality. The Committee desire that in future, the Ministry should invariably indicate in the statement of reasons for delay, in chronological order, the dates of finalisation of Annual Reports and Accounts, making them available to the Auditors for audit, receipt of draft audit report, replies given on audit queries, receipt of final audit report,

(Ministry of Commerce)

101. Twenty-Second Report
(Seventh Lok Sabha)
7-11
(Ministry of Commerce)

translation and printing of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts, adoption of Annual Report and Accounts by the General Body, furnishing of copies of printed Annual Reports and Audited Accounts to the Ministry for laying on the Table of the House, so that the House may be in a position to locate the stages and extent of delay and suggest remedial measures with a view to eliminate the delay in laying such documents on the Table within the prescribed period.

102. Twenty-Second Report
(Seventh Lok Sabha)
7-12
(Ministry of Commerce)

The Committee note that the Annual Report and the Audited Accounts for the year 1982-83 which were required to be laid on the Table of the House by 31st December, 1983, have not yet been laid. The Committee would like the Ministry to take urgent steps for laying them without further delay.

The Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Council for the year 1982-83 have already been laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 3rd August, 1984 [Vide Ministry of Commerce O.M. No. 10/42/82-EP (LSG), dated 16th November, 1984].

103. Twenty-Second Report
(Seventh Lok Sabha)
7-13
(Ministry of Commerce)

The Committee note that with regret the Council approached the Ministry for appointment of Statutory Auditors for auditing the accounts for 1981-82 as late as on 14th March, 1983 as against the normal practice of doing it much in advance. The Ministry of Commerce, therefore, took 3 months in obtaining the approval of the Ministry of Law and conveying the same to the Council. Had the Council approached the Ministry earlier and the Ministry made serious efforts in getting

The Annual General Meeting of the Council at its meeting held on 12th March, 1983, had recommended the names of Auditors for approval of the Government. The matter was then taken up with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs on 23rd March, 1983 and

the Statutory Auditors appointed in time, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 1981-82 would not have been delayed to such an extent. The Committee consider it to be a serious lapse on the part of the Council and the Ministry and hope that the Ministry and the Council would take greater initiative in coordination with each other in future with a view to ensure that the required documents are laid on the Table of the House within the prescribed period of 9 months from the close of the relevant accounting year.

the Department of Company Affairs referred the matter to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India on 12 April, 1983 for verification of the antecedents of the concerned Chartered Accountants. The reply from the Institute was received on 28th May, 1983. The Department of Company Affairs conveyed their concurrence to the Ministry of Commerce on 13th June, 1983. The Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has been requested to take steps to accord expeditious approvals regarding appointments of auditors in future [Vide Ministry of Commerce O.M. No. 10/42/82-EP (LSG), dated 15th November, 1984].

The Ministry of Energy have noted the observation of the Committee for compliance. (Vide Ministry of Energy, Department of Petroleum O.M. No.

The Committee note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Oil India Limited, New Delhi for the years 1981-82 and 1982-83 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha with the delay of 8 months and 2 months, respectively. The Committee also note that the delay

104. Twenty-Second Report
(Seventh Lok Sabha)
8-8
(Ministry of Energy)

of 8 months in the case of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 1981-82 occurred due to the backlog of finalisation and adoption of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the earlier four year i.e. Calendar years from 1977 to 1980, before Oil India Limited became a Government Company. The Committee feel satisfied that the Ministry of Energy have cleared the backlog and have now become up-to-date in so far as the laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Oil India Limited on the Table of the House, is concerned.

21012/2/84-Prod. dated 4th
September, 1984).

105. Twenty-Second Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
8-10
(Ministry of Energy)

The Committee are also happy to note that the Oil India Limited have since switched over from Calendar year to the Financial year and have fallen in line with that of the Government.

106. Twenty-Second Report
(7th Lok Sabha)
8-10
(Ministry of Energy)

The Committee are, however, not happy to find that the delay has not been completely eliminated in as much as the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Oil India Limited for the year 1982-83 were laid on the Table of the House with the delay of 2 months despite the fact that the earlier backlogs were already cleared by 24 August, 1983. The Committee trust that the Ministry of Energy and the Company will comply with the recommendation of the Committee on Papers laid on the Table contained in paragraph 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) and make sincere efforts to

The Ministry of Energy have stated that the recommendation has been noted for compliance and necessary instructions have been issued to the Chief Executive of the Company i.e. Oil India Limited with the request to make necessary arrangements in such a way that the Annual Reports are submitted to the Government well in time for placing

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lay before the House the requisite documents within the prescribed period of 9 months from the close of the relevant accounting year.

before Parliament within the stipulated period. (Vide Ministry of Energy, Department of Petroleum O.M. No. F-31012/2/84-Prod. dated 4th September, 1984).

APPENDIX II

(See para 1·6 to 1·8 of the Report)

Position obtaining in regard to laying of Annual Accounts of Central Banks in Australia, New Zealand, England and U.S.A.

1. AUSTRALIA

Reserve Bank of Australia

Section 81(3) of the R.B.A. Act 1959 requires the Board of the Bank to provide copies of the annual report and financial statements together with the report of the Auditor-General to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives *for laying before the Senate and the House of Representatives respectively.*

There is no specific statutory requirements as to when this should be done, other than that Section 81(1) of the Act states that the Board shall prepare an Annual report and financial statements "as soon as practicable" after 30 June each year. It has become the practice, however, for the Annual report and accounts of the Bank to be tabled shortly after the Treasurer presents the Commonwealth's Budget in Parliament (usually, around mid-August). In this way, the information in the Bank's report and annual accounts is available to Parliament for use, if necessary, during the Budget Debate.

2. NEW ZEALAND

Reserve Bank of New Zealand

The Bank's Annual Report and Accounts *are tabled in Parliament, by statutory requirement,* in July of each year. There is provision to debate the report once it is tabled, but discussions in the past have varied.

From time to time the Governors of the Bank are called to appear before the Government's Public Expenditure Committee and although their appearance is on the basis of government expenditure related to the Bank, they do get questions related to the Annual Report.

There is a requirement for the report to be produced in a standard format *for tabling in Parliament,* but the Bank also produces a "gloasy" version of the report for distribution within New Zealand and overseas.

3. ENGLAND

Bank of England

The Bank of England has for many years published an Annual Report on its activities, which has been formally made available to Parlia-

ment by being placed in the House of Commons Library. The Annual Report did not include the Bank's Accounts because there never was, nor is there at the present time, any legal requirement for the Bank of England to publish accounts, nor to make accounts available to Parliament. Since 1971, however, in accordance with a recommendation made in 1969-70 by the House of Commons' Select Committee on Nationalised Industries, the Bank has in fact published annual accounts, complying voluntarily in these accounts with the level of disclosure applicable to Public Limited companies. Since then, the Annual Report has included *the Bank's Accounts and has continued to be made available to Parliament*. The published accounts have not so far prompted any discussion in Parliament.

4. U.S.A.

Federal Reserve Systems

As a creation of Congress, the Federal Reserve is required by several Federal statutes to report to Congress periodically on the Federal Reserve's activities, policies and plans, and is often requested by Congressional committees to testify on, submit and to make recommendations on legislation affecting the economy. Each year the Federal Reserve submits an annual report of its activities to the Congress. Under the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-523), the Board is also required to transmit to Congress by February 20 and July 20 of each year reports on the System's objectives and plans with regard to the growth of the monetary and credit aggregates for the year. Consultation with the House and Senate Banking Committee is also required,

APPENDIX III

Summary of recommendations/observations contained in the Report

S. No.	Reference to para No. of the Report	Summary of recommendations/observatiouss
1	2	3
1.	1·3	The Committee note that the Government have accepted all the recommendations/observations made by the Committee in their aforesaid Reports except in the cases of recommendations contained in (i) para 4·12 to 4·17 of their Sixteenth Report (Sl. nos. 13 to 18 of the statement at Appendix—I) relating to delay in laying Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the International Airports Authority of India wherein the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation had expressed their difficulty in compilation of annual accounts within 3 months of the close of the accounting year; and (ii) para 1·9 of their Twenty-first Report (Sl. No. 66 of the statement at Appendix-I) relating to the laying of Annual Reports and Accounts of the Reserve Bank of India, Bombay wherein the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division) had explained the reasons for not being able to implement the recommendation of the Committee for laying the Annual Reports and Accounts, on the Table of the House.
2.	1·5	The Committee trust that the Ministry of Transport would adhere to the time schedule drawn by them for the purpose, in letter and spirit, and ensure that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the International Airports Authority of India are presented to Parliament in time, in future.
3.	1·8	The Committee after taking into account the action taken reply received from the Ministry of Finance and also the views of the representatives of RBI in this regard, do not wish to pursue the matter further.