

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE  
(2007-2008)**

**FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**DRAFT THIRTEENTH REPORT**

**(Presented on 07 September, 2007)**

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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**September, 2007/Bhadrapada, 1929(Saka)**

## CONTENTS

	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (2007-2008)</b>	<b>(iii)</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>(iv)</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	
I     Delay in laying Annual Reports and Audited accounts of South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur	1
II.    Delay in laying Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Assam University, Silchar	9

### **APPENDIX**

\* Summary of recommendations/observations contained in the  
Report

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\* Will be appended at the time of printing.

**COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**  
**(2007-2008)**

**Shri Hannan Mollah - Chairman**

**MEMBERS**

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**SECRETARIAT**

Shri P.K. Grover	-	Joint Secretary
Shri R.S.Misra	-	Director
Shri K. Jena	-	Deputy Secretary

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table of the House, having been authorized by the Committee to present this report on their behalf, present this Thirteenth Report.

2. As a result of examination of certain papers laid on the Table of Lok Sabha, the Committee have come to certain conclusions in regard to delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the (i) South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur and (ii) Assam University, Silchar.

3. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministries of Culture and Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) on 24.01.2007 and 16.5.2007 in connection with delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur and Assam University, Silchar respectively.

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministries of Culture and Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the information required by the Committee.

5. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 06 September, 2007.

6. A statement-showing summary of recommendations/observations made by the Committee is appended to the Report (Appendix).

**NEW DELHI**  
**September, 2007**  
**Bhadrapada, 1929 (Saka)**

**HANNAN MOLLAH,**  
**Chairman,**  
**Committee on Papers Laid on the Table**

## CHAPTER - I

### **Subject: Delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC), Nagpur.**

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The South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC), Nagpur is a society registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. The aim of the Centre is to preserve and promote the rich diversity and uniqueness of various arts of the zone and to upgrade and enrich consciousness of the people about their cultural heritage. The source of income of SCZCC is mostly from interest derived from the investment of the Corpus Fund of Rs.7 crores (Rs. 5 crore from Government of India and Rs.50 lakh each from the participating State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra). The Centre also receives grants from Government of India for special purposes. The Audit of accounts of the Centre has been entrusted to CAG under Section 20(1) of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 for a period of five years from 2000-2001 to 2004-2005.

1.2 As per the recommendation of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of autonomous organisations receiving grants-in-aid from the Government of India are required to be laid on the Table of the House within 9 months of the close of the accounting year i.e. by 31 December every year. However, there were delays in laying of the documents of the South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC), Nagpur year after year. The dates of laying and the extent of delay in laying the documents of the Centre from 2000-01 to 2004-05 are as under:-

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Laid on</u></b>	<b><u>Extent of delay</u></b>
2000-01	5.5.2003	16 months
2001-02	26.8.2004	20 months
2002-03	17.3.2006	26 months
2003-04	7.12.2006	23 months
2004-05	01.03.2007	14 months

1.3 The Committee have emphasized in the past that if for any reason the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of any organisation cannot be laid within the stipulated period of nine months, the concerned 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 for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts within the stipulated period. When asked to state the reasons for not adhering to the recommendation of the Committee, the Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:-

*“Statement indicating reason for delay in laying of the Annual Report & Audited Accounts etc. in respect of South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2006 itself.”*

1.4 The chronology of the dates of finalisation of the Annual Accounts of the Institute as observed from the delay statements laid on the Table of the House alongwith the documents for the years 2000-01 to 2004-05 is as under:-

		<b>2000-01</b>	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>2002-03</b>	<b>2003-04</b>	<b>2004-05</b>
1.	<i>Annual Accounts submitted to the Audit on</i>	18.10.2001	30.12.2002	15.10.2004	10.10.2004	21.12.2005
2.	<i>Duration of Audit of Accounts</i>	18.10.2001 to 24.10.2001	13.1.2003 to 18.1.2003	22.11.2004 to 6.12.2004	10.10.2004 to 18.10.2004	12.06.2006 to 07.07.2006
3.	<i>Discussion on Inspection Report</i>	Not discussed	18.1.2003	6.12.2004	17.10.2004	-
4.	<i>Draft Audit Report received by the SCZCC</i>	14.11.2001	13.2.2003	10.2.2005	-	2.8.2006
5.	<i>Draft Audit Report replied on</i>	--	10.3.2003	24.3.2005	-	18.8.2006
6.	<i>Issue of Final Audit Report (English)</i>	6.2.2002	26.3.2003	31.3.2005	6.10.2006	14.09.2006
7.	<i>Issue of Final Audit Report (Hindi)</i>	Not received. However only Audit Certificate has been received in Hindi	26.3.2003	31.3.2005	6.10.2006	-
8.	<i>Date of adoption/ approval of the Annual Account alongwith the Audit Report by the Governing Body/Executive Board</i>	6.6.2002	14.7.2003	30.7.2004	19.12.2005	19.12.2005

9.	Date on which the Annual Report alongwith the Audit Certificate forwarded to the Department of Culture	20.10.2002	26.8.2003	10.11.2005	20.10.2006	20.10.2006
10.	Date on which Review Statement and delay statement prepared	-	26.2.2004	-	-	-
11.	Hindi version of the Review statement and delay statement	-	3.6.2004	-	-	-
12.	Date on which the delay statement forwarded to the Department of Culture	-	14.6.2004	-	-	-
13.	Date of laying of the documents on the Table of the House	5.5.2003	26.8.2004	17.3.2006	7.12.2006	1.3.2007

1.5 It may be seen from the above statement that the time taken for compilation of the Annual Accounts and handing them over to auditors for auditing for the years 2000-01 to 2004-05 was 6 months, 9 months, 18 months, 6 months and 9 months as against 3 months recommended by the Committee for this purpose.

1.6 Taking into account the abnormal delay, the Committee considered the matter at their sitting held on 18 December 2006 and decided to take evidence of the representatives of the Organisation. The Committee held discussion with the representatives of Ministry of Culture on 24 January 2007.

1.7 On being enquired to explain the reasons for the recurring delay in laying the documents of South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, the Secretary, Ministry of Culture during evidence before the Committee stated as under:-

*“I am not saying that everything is correct. There have been delays which we have explained before the Committee, especially for the years 2002-03 and 2003-04. The basic problem is, in earlier meeting I have said this, in getting the certification from the AG which was taking some time. Here, there is an added dimension and that is, the Chairman of the Zonal Cultural Centres is, by definition, the Governor of the State where it is located. Accordingly, for this particular Centre, it is the Maharashtra Governor who is the Chairman. Sometimes, the*

*Governor's Office have also limitations in getting the meeting convened, whenever we want; sometimes it takes time. The Centre in Nagpur is Chaired by the Governor, living in Mumbai and it takes more time than expected to get the date for the meeting. For example, the accounts for 2002-03 was finalised from the audit side as early as 1.9.2003, but they had to wait till 30.7.2004, nearly 10 months before they could get the date from the Governor.*

*I am not justifying it; officers have a responsibility to go and pressurize the Governor there, through his Office, to get a date. So, this delay of 10 months cost the delay in laying the papers for 2002-03. As far as 2003-04 is concerned, there is a different story. The delay is not on the part of the meeting, but it is because of the change in the internal auditor, which apparently took sometime to sort out the problems. Change over from one auditor to another should not normally take time. But here, the matter went to the Expert Advisory Committee of the Chartered Accountants' Institution and it got sorted out only in 2005 and therefore, there was a delay. It is an unfortunate delay, which ought not to have happened because change of auditor is a common practice, after every 3-4 years. But there was a dispute in this case that has caused the delay.*

*As far as 2004-05 is concerned, it is not very much delayed; it came in September 2006; there was a delay of nearly 3-4 months; but then, that is up-to-date. We have proceeded with the audit and we are confident that by this year, we should be up-to-date. This is the humble submission I want to make as far as the accounts are concerned."*

1.8 As regards the reasons for taking over 18 months for compilation of accounts of the center for the year 2002-03, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Secondary & Higher Education) stated in a written note as under :-

*"The Accounts of the Centre were finalised and the approval was granted by the Competent Authority on 20.9.2004 (The meeting was held on 30.7.2004 and the approval to the minutes was accorded by Hon'ble Chairman on 20.9.2004).*

*The communication in this regard to the Principal Director of Audit (Central) Mumbai (OAD) was made on 15.10.2004.*

*The Audit Party came to the Centre for the audit of Accounts and the Accounts was presented on 22.11.2004 to 6.12.2004 for audit, because of the above reasons there was a delay in finalization of the accounts which were beyond the control of the management of the Centre."*



1.9 On being asked whether there is any internal accounting mechanism in the center to ensure smooth and timely auditing of accounts by the auditors and also to resolve audit query the Ministry in a written reply stated that “a Chartered Accountant has been appointed as internal auditor of the Centre.”

1.10 To a specific query why the audit took about 2 years for giving final audit report in respect of the year 2003-04, the Ministry of Culture in their written reply vide O.M. dated 18 January, 2007 stated as under:-

*“The accounts of the Centre are complied and finalised after internal audit by Chartered Accountant for the year 2003-04. The Centre replaced the then existing C.A. by a new one. There was a dispute raised by outgoing C.A. to issue NOC to incoming auditor as required by Indian Institute of Chartered Accountant. This was referred to the expert advisory committee of ICAI, New Delhi and the issue was finally settled by August 2005 and subsequently approved by Executive Board and Governing Body on 19.12.2005. Hence the final audit was delayed for reasons beyond the control of the Centre.”*

1.11 When asked about the status of computerisation of accounting activities of the Centre, the Ministry of Culture have stated in a written reply (OM dated 18.1.2007) that the Centre has taken up the computerization of accounts recently.

1.12 After compilation of the accounts for the years from 2000-01 to 2002-03, the same were handed over to auditors. The auditors took 3 to 4 months to audit the accounts and to issue Final Audit Report for these years. However, the Ministry in this regard have stated as under:-

*“The most important reason for delay in submission of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of SCZCC on the Table of the House is delay in receipt of the final Audit Report from the Principal Director of Audit (Central) Mumbai. The SCZCC was regularly following up the early issuing of the Audit Report with the Principal Director of Audit (Central) Mumbai.”*

1.13 As regards delay in translation of documents, the Ministry stated (OM dated 17.7.2006) as under:-

*“The non-availability of the technical persons to translate the accounts is major hindrance. The persons from local A.G. Office have been identified for this work”.*

1.14 On being asked to state how the Final Audit Report for the year 2002-03 was approved by the Governing Body on 30.7.2004, when it was received by the Centre on 31.3.2005, the Ministry have stated as under:-

*“The Governing Body was the Competent Authority to approve the Accounts and the approval was granted on 30.7.2004. The Principal Director of Audit (Central) Mumbai (OAD) audits the accounts after the approval of the Competent Authority, hence the accounts were audited subsequently from 22.11.2004 to 6.12.2004 and the Report received on 31.3.2005.”*

1.15 Regarding the latest position on finalisation and laying of documents for the year 2005-06, the Ministry stated (O.M. dated 18.1.2007) as under:-

*“The Accounts of 2005-06 have been submitted to A.G. on 18.12.2006 and submission of Annual reports would be possible after receiving Audit Certificate from them. Efforts are being made to expedite the same.”*

1.16 Enquired whether the Ministry have laid down any time schedule for completion of each stage regarding finalisations of accounts and Annual Reports, the Ministry in their written reply stated as under:-

*“The Department has laid down a time schedule for completion of task at various stages of the finalisation of the Report. As per the direction the Annual Accounts are to be finalised by SCZCC and submitted to the Principal Director of Audit (Central) Mumbai latest by 30<sup>th</sup> June of the year succeeding the financial year to which it relates. The Annual Report & Audited Accounts along with the Audit Certificate is to be submitted to the Department after obtaining the approval of the Competent Authorities in the SCZCC by 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2006. The*

*Director in-Charge dealing with the Zonal Cultural Centres are regularly monitoring it.”*

**1.17 The Committee regret to note that there has been delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC), Nagpur year after year. The laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of SCZCC for the years 2000-01 to 2004-05 was delayed from 14 to 26 months. The Committee have emphasized in the past that if for any reason the Annual Report and Audited Accounts can not be laid within the stipulated period the Ministry concerned should lay within 30 days of the 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 in time. The Committee are unhappy to note that no such statement has been laid on the Table for any of the years from 2001 to 2005 in respect of SCZCC. The Committee expect the Ministry of Culture to take note of the above recommendation of the Committee for compliance in case a need arises in future.**

**1.18 The Committee further note that the Centre took over six months for the year 2000-01, 9 months for the year 2001-02, 18 months for the year 2002-03, 6 months for the year 2003-04 and 9 months for the year 2004-05 for the compilation of accounts and handing them over to auditors for auditing as against three months recommended by the Committee for the purpose. The Committee deplore the causal approach adopted by the Cultural Centre in compiling the accounts especially in the computer era keeping in view the fact that compilation of accounts was well within the control of the Centre and the delay on this account could have**

been avoided. The Committee therefore, urge the Government to ensure that compilation of the accounts should invariably be done within the stipulated period of time i.e. by 3 months after the close of the accounting year in future.

1.19 The Committee feel that neither the Centre nor the Ministry appear to have made serious efforts to ensure timely finalisation and laying of documents even after having a clear cut time schedule, indicating target dates for completion of each stage and finalisation of documents. The matter of timely laying of Reports and Audited Accounts seems to have been taken in a casual manner. The Committee, therefore, deprecate this callous attitude on the part of the Centre and the Ministry and urge that due care should be taken in future to ensure timely laying of the documents viz. Annual Reports and Audited Accounts on the Table of the House within the stipulated period of 9 months of the close of the accounting year.

## CHAPTER -II

### **Delay in laying Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Assam University, Silchar for the years 1999-2000 to 2004-05.**

...

The Assam University, Silchar, a Central University established under the Assam University Act, 1989, started functioning from 21 January 1994. The accounts of the University are audited under Section 19(2) of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971. The University is mainly funded by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in the shape of grants-in-aid. During the years from 2003-04 and 2004-05, the University received grants-in-aid of Rs.21.86 crore and 9.95 crore respectively from the UGC and other sources.

2.2 In terms of Section 30 and 31 of the Assam University Act 1989, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the University are to be laid before both Houses of Parliament. As per recommendation of the Committee the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of statutory bodies are required to be presented together within 9 months of the close of the accounting year. However, it was observed that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Assam University were laid separately year after year. Explaining the reasons for laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the University separately for the years from 1999-2000 to 2004-05, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) stated (O.M. dated 16.5.2007) as under:-

*“Efforts are made by the Ministry to lay the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Central Universities together, but due to delay in the receipt of the Audit Reports, it has not been possible to lay the Annual Reports and the Audited Accounts of the Assam University together. It is regretted that despite repeated attempts, the University has failed to bring about improvement in its internal system to ensure that the Annual Reports*

*and Audited Accounts are made available to the Ministry in accordance with the prescribed instructions. This, in turn, has resulted in the delay in laying these documents in the Parliament within the time limit.”*

2.3 The dates of laying and extent of delay occurred in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the University, for the years from 1999-2000 to 20004-05 were as under:-

Year	<u>Annual Report</u>		<u>Audited Accounts</u>	
	Date of laying	Extent of Delay	Date of laying	Extent of Delay
1999-2000	14.8.2001	7 months	19.3.2002	15 months
2000-2001	3.12.2001	No delay	17.12.2002	12 months
2001-2002	22.8.2003	8 months	25.8.2004	20 months
2002-2003	21.12.2004	11 months	14.3.2006	26 ½ months
2003-2004	23.8.2005	8 months	1.8.2006	19 months
2004-2005	22.8.2006	8 months	20.3.2007	15 months

2.4 The Committee considered the matter regarding delay in laying the documents in their sitting held on 9.4.2007 and thereafter took oral evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) and those of Assam University on 16.5.2007.

2.5 As regards delay in laying the documents for the years from 1999-2000 to 2004-05 before Parliament, the Ministry in their written reply (dt. 7.8.2006) stated as under: -  
*“The responsibility for timely preparation and submission of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts in respect of the central Universities primarily lies with the concerned University and the Ministry lay these documents before the Parliament as soon as the same are received from the University.”*

2.6 When the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) were asked to explain about their responsibilities in this regard, the Ministry in their written reply (16.05.2007) stated as under:-

*“.....It may however be submitted that while the Ministry is responsible to Parliament for timely compliance with the schedule for laying of papers prescribed by the Hon’ble Committee; and has in the past taken up issues of delays in writing with the C&AG on behalf of all Universities, the onus for timely preparation of the Annual Reports as well as compilation of the Annual Accounts, lies with the Assam University, being a statutory autonomous body.”*

2.7 The Committee found that delay statement was also not laid on the Table by Ministry of Human Resource Development in regard to the Assam University in respect of the years from 1999-2000 to 2004-2005. As per recommendation of the Committee para 3.5, First Report (5th Lok Sabha), the “Delay Statement” should be laid on the Table of the House within 30 days (in case the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts are not laid within 9 months of the close of accounting year).

2.8 When the Committee wanted to know about the reasons for delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the years 2000-01 to 2004-2005 the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) in their written reply (dated 7.8.2007) stated as under:-

**Audited Accounts:**

**2000-01**

*“The Accounts of the University for the year 2000-2001 were finalised in July, 2001 and were submitted to Audit in early September, 2001 after authentication by the Finance Committee of the University in August, 2001. The Draft Audit Report was received in March, 2002 and replies thereto were also furnished by the University in the same month. The final Audit Report was received in July, 2002. The printed and translated Audit Report & Accounts were received in the Ministry in September, 2002. After receipt of the delay statement the Ministry could lay these documents only in winter session of the Parliament”.*

**2001-2002**

*“The Accounts of the University for the year 2001-2002 were finalised in September, 2002 and were approved by the Executive Council of the University in October, 2002. The accounts were submitted to Audit in*

*November, 2002. The Final Audit Report and Certificate were received in January, 2004. The Audited Accounts were thereafter received in the Ministry in the end of March, 2004 by when the Parliament Session was over and subsequently the Accounts were laid in the Parliament in the Monsoon Session”.*

### **2002-2003**

*“The Accounts of the University were finalised in November, 2003 and approved by the Executive Council in December, 2003. The Accounts were submitted to Audit in early February, 2004. The draft audit observations were received by the University in two phases i.e. August, 2004 and February, 2005 which were replied to by the University in October, 2004 and February, 2005 respectively. The Audit Certificate and Audit Report was received in June, 2005. The printed and translated Audit Report and Accounts were received in the Ministry alongwith delay statement in February, 2006 and were laid in the Lok Sabha on 14.3.2006”.*

### **2003-2004**

*“The accounts of the University were finalised on 16.2.2005 and approved by the Finance Commission and Executive Council on 14.3.2005 and 4.5.2005 respectively. The accounts were submitted to Audit on 18.5.2005. The draft Audit Report was received on 14.12.2005 which were replied by the University on 9.1.2006. The Final Audit Report was received on 11.5.2006. The printed and translated Audit Report and Accounts were received in the Ministry alongwith delay statement on 13.6.2006 and were laid in the Lok Sabha on 1.8.2006”.*

### **2004-2005**

*“The accounts of the University were finalised on 15.2.2006 and approved by the Finance Commission and Executive Council on 13.4.2006 and 10.5.2006 respectively. The accounts were submitted to Audit on 16.5.2006. The draft Audit Report was received on 19.10.2006, which were replied by the University on 8.11.2006. The Final Audit Report was received on 06.01.2007. The printed and translated Audit Report and Accounts were received in the Ministry alongwith delay statement on 20.2.2007 and were laid in the Lok Sabha on 20.3.2007”.*



## Annual Reports

As regards delay in laying the Annual Reports it was stated that compilation of Annual Reports of the University and their Hindi translation took more time. The representative of the University also stated during evidence that there was only one Hindi translator and no Hindi typist in the University.

2.9 It may be seen from the above that the delays ranging for 1 to 8 months occurred in compilation of annual accounts of the University and handing them over to the auditors for the years from 2000-01 to 2004-05 as against 3 months prescribed by the Committee. And after the receipt of the documents, the auditors took about 8 to 16 months in auditing the accounts and issuing the final Audit Report to the University in these years..

2.10 Asked to state the reasons for delay in compiling the accounts for the years 2000-01 to 2004-05, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) in their written reply (dated 16.5.2007) have stated as under:-

*“According to the information furnished by Assam University, the delay can largely be attributed to the lack of proper infrastructure in the University and the non-availability of sufficient manpower. There is inadequate and disruptive power supply and frequent break-down in road transportation and communication network during the monsoon season. No additional manpower was sanctioned during the Xth Plan, including any trained staff in Hindi translation and typing.”*

The Ministry further stated in the written note that

*“The University has now secured a 33 KVA sub-station from the Assam Electricity Board for proper distribution of power near University Campus. The University has proposed adequate manpower in its XIth Plan which was submitted to the University Grants Commission. It has, in the meanwhile, taken up computerisation of Finance Section, which is expected to be completed soon. Double entry accounting system has been introduced by the University with the support of National Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad and services of a Chartered Accountant has also been hired temporarily to speed up the process.”*

2.11 On this point the representative of the University stated during evidence that: -

*“...we are trying to improve upon the situation by taking up some simultaneous issues together. The first one is that doubly entry system has*

*to be expedited. Secondly, for the last three years you will be happy to note that, we are sending our finance personnel to a very important institute, the Indian Institute of Financial Management at Faridabad so that they can come here and get themselves trained and also in turn train other people. It will be a continuing process. By that time, we will be definitely able to improve on that count.”*

2.12 As regards delay in laying the documents the Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development during evidence stated as under:-

*“As you have pointed out, there has been some difficulty in presenting the things in time and the delays have been there almost at all levels. We also find that while in some cases the annual report gets prepared, but incase of Annual Accounts which has to go to DGCR, there also some little more delay takes places and as a result of which even the Annual Report which is ready, we are not able to present before the Parliament.”*

He further stated:-

*“the University has indicated that there are problems of electricity, telecommunication problems, transport and also there was insurgency. While, we can give some weightage to these reasons, but we will like to submit that with greater diligence and improvement in the internal systems, these delays should not have taken place and they could have been substantially reduced, if not totally eliminated.”*

2.13 As regards delay in auditing and issue of Audit Certificate, the Ministry stated in a written note as under :-

*“..... the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has desired this Ministry to impress upon the Central Universities to ensure submission of accounts in time. The said office is separately directing its field offices to look into various stages of delay in audit and to ensure completion of audit job in time. We have also been desired to direct the Central Universities for submission of their Annual Accounts in the new standard format prescribed by the Ministry of Finance.”*

On this point the Secretary, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) stated during evidence as under:-

*“We have taken up the issue with the CAG. We have also written to them about the time table and all and there are delays in audit also. In fact,*

*there are cases when even after the completion of audit, the audit replies or reports come to us after some time. One more thing, which I was thinking is that now our technology is on our side, so e-mail can be utilized to see that we can reduce delay”*

2.14 When asked to state whether there was any internal accounting mechanism to ensure smooth and timely resolution of the audit query, the Ministry in their written reply (dated 16.5.2007) stated that:-

*“The Assam University has submitted that there is presently no internal auditing/ accounting mechanism in the University. However, the University is making necessary effort to develop an internal auditing/accounting mechanism in the University.”*

2.15 On being asked whether the Ministry have laid down a time schedule giving target dates of compilation of each stage regarding finalisation of accounts, the Ministry in their written reply stated that a time schedule with consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General has been prepared which is reproduced as under:-

	<b>Stage</b>	<b>As per Ministry</b>	<b>As suggested by IA&amp;AD</b>
1.	Compilation of accounts	30 <sup>th</sup> June	15 <sup>th</sup> June
2.	Submission of accounts/ balance sheet duly authenticated and approved by the competent authority		30 <sup>th</sup> June
3.	Completion of audit	15 <sup>th</sup> July	June itself (if possible)
4.	Submission of draft audit report by audit	30 <sup>th</sup> September	15 <sup>th</sup> September
5.	Submission of replies by the University	15 <sup>th</sup> October	30 <sup>th</sup> September
6.	Issue of SAR (English version)	31 <sup>st</sup> October	31 <sup>st</sup> October

2.16 Asked to state whether there is any mechanism in the Ministry to monitor the progress of work relating to timely finalisation of Accounts at each stage and laying of documents of the University, the Ministry in their written reply (dated 16.5.2007) stated as under:-

“The Deputy Secretary/Director in-charge of the Central Universities in the Ministry has been entrusted with the responsibilities of monitoring and timely submission of the documents and he, whenever necessary, takes up the matter with the Universities authorities. Periodic review is also undertaken at the level of the Joint Secretary. The statutory requirement of timely preparation of Annual Accounts and balance sheet for submission to the C&AG is also highlighted by the Ministry officials representing the Government in the meetings of the Finance Committee of the Central Universities.”

**2.17 The Committee regret to note that there has been delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Assam University, Silchar from the years 1999-2000 to 2004-2005 except for the year 2000-01. The delay in respect of Annual Report ranges from 7 to 11 months and that of Audited Accounts from 15 to 26 months. The reasons for delay in laying the accounts are stated to be lack of proper infrastructure, non availability of sufficient man power, inadequate and disruptive power supply frequent break down in road transportation and break down in communication network during the monsoon season etc. The Committee are hardly convinced with the reasons advanced by the Ministry. The Committee, however, hope that these basic facilities would be provided to the University at the earliest and the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the University be laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated period of time in future.**

**2.18 One of the oft-repeated recommendations of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table is that Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of an autonomous organisation should be laid together to enable the House to have a complete picture of the working of that organisation. The Committee are perturbed to note that in the case of Assam University, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts have been laid on the Table of the House separately during all the years from 1999-2000 to 2004-2005. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to pay serious attention to the recommendation of the Committee and ensure that in future Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the University are laid together on the Table of the House.**

**2.19 As per recommendation of the Committee the delay statement should be laid on the Table of the House within 30 days after the expiry of the prescribed period (after 9 months of the accounting year). The Committee regret to note that**

the “Delay Statement” in regard to the Assam University has never been laid since 1999-2000 to 2004-2005. While reiterating their earlier recommendation the Committee strongly urge the Ministry/University to lay a delay statement on the Table of the House within the stipulated period in future whenever the tabling of the documents is delayed beyond 9 months of the accounting year.

2.20 The Committee regret to note that the delay in compilation of accounts ranges from 1 month to 8 months during the years 1999-2000 to 2004-05. As per Ministry’s submission the location of colleges is in the insurgency-prone area, there is lack of proper communication facilities, non availability of sufficient manpower, lack of infrastructure facilities like electricity, transport, tele-communication services etc. which adversely affect the preparation of the Report on time. As a remedial measure, the University has now secured a 73 KVA Sub-Station from Assam State Electricity Board for proper distribution of electricity near the University Campus. Further the Computerization of accounts has been introduced from the year 2005-06 and the University has installed the Tally program of Double Entry System besides getting the finance personnel trained from Indian Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad. The Committee expect that with these measures the University will now be able to complete their accounting in time and submit them to the Ministry for laying on the Table of the House.

2.21 The Committee note that one of the main reasons for delay in laying the documents has been long time taken by auditors in auditing the accounts and furnishing their final Audit Report. In order to rectify the situation, the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India is directing its field offices to look into various stages of delay in audit and to ensure completion of audit job in time. The Committee urge that the Ministry on its part should also issue instructions to all the Central Universities for timely finalization of documents and monitor through its officials the compliance thereof so that the documents are submitted to auditors in

**time. Further the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) should take up the matter with the C&AG so as to avoid any delay in issuing Audit Certificates to the Central Universities.**

**NEW DELHI**  
**September, 2007**  
**Bhadrapada, 1929 (Saka)**

**HANNAN MOLLAH,**  
**Chairman,**  
**Committee on Papers Laid on the Table**