

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

**FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**FOURTEENTH REPORT**

**[Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations made by the  
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in their Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Reports  
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)]**

**(Presented on 28 November,2007)**

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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**November, 2007/Agrahayana,1929 (Saka)**

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

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

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairman, Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Fourteenth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Reports (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table.

2. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 09.10.2007.

New Delhi

October, 2007  
Asvina1929 (Saka)

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

## **REPORT**

This report of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table deals with the action taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in their Fourth Report presented on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2005 and Fifth and Sixth Reports which were presented on 6 December, 2005..

2. The Fourth Report dealt with delay in laying Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of (i) Food Corporation of India, New Delhi; (ii) Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi; (iii) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi; and (iv) National Council for Teacher Education, New Delhi.

3. The Fifth Report dealt with delay in laying Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of (i) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi; (ii) Sports Authority of India, New Delhi; (iii) Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy, New Delhi and (iv) Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd., New Delhi.

4. The Sixth Report dealt with delay in laying Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of (i) National Capital Region Planning Board, New Delhi; (ii) National Academy of Medical Sciences (India) New Delhi; (iii) Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi and (iv) Sahitya Academi, New Delhi.

5. Action Taken Notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the recommendations/observations contained in the Reports. Accordingly, a statement showing the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Reports (14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix-I II & III respectively. The Committee note that a scrutiny of these replies given by the Ministries indicates that the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in

respect of some of their recommendations is either incomplete or not satisfactory. The Committee desire that final reply in respect of the recommendations for which only interim reply has been given by the Government ought to be furnished to the Committee at the earliest.

6. The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of their recommendations/observations in succeeding paragraphs.

7. The Committee had recommended in para No.4.11, 4<sup>th</sup> Report (14<sup>th</sup> L.S) relating to delay in laying the documents of National Council for Teacher Education as under:-

“One of the oft repeated recommendations of the Committee has been that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of an organisation should always be laid together to enable the Members of Parliament to have a complete picture of the performance and activities of the organisation. The Committee regret to note that this recommendation has not been adhered to by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Elementary Education & Literacy) in respect of the National Council for Teacher Education from the year 1999-2000 onwards. The Committee in this connection note that whereas a time limit of nine months has been laid down under Rule 14 of the National Council for Teacher Education Rules, 1997 for submission of Council’s Annual Report, no such time limit has been laid down for submission of Audited Accounts. This is obviously a lacuna in the Rules. The Committee urge that a time limit of nine months should be laid down for submission of Audited Accounts of the Council so that the Annual Report alongwith the Audited Accounts could be laid simultaneously.”

In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy) have stated as under:-

“Comments of the Committee have been noted. NCTE had been asked to send a proposal for the above amendment to Rule 14 of NCTE Rules, 1997 and the same has been received on 7.10.2005. Further action in the matter is being taken.”

**The Committee are glad to note that the Ministry of Human Resource (Department of School Education & Literacy) have received the proposal to amend Rule 14 of NCTE Rules, 1997 on 7.10.2005 from NCTE. The Committee would like to know the further progress made by the Ministry in this regard.**

8. In para No.4.14, 4<sup>th</sup> Report (14 Lok Sabha) with regard to delay in laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of National Council for Teacher Education, the Committee had noted as under :-

“The Committee find that another reason for delay in laying the Audited Accounts of the Council has been the unduly long time taken by the Council in completing formalities after receipt of the final audit report. The Committee note that after receipt of audit report, the Council has taken 4 to 5 months every year in completing the formalities such as getting approval of the documents, translation/printing and sending them to the Ministry for laying. The Committee feel that time taken for these tasks is within the control of the Council and delay in this regard is avoidable. The Committee, therefore, stress that the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Elementary Education & Literacy) should lay down a time schedule of indicating target dates for completion of the task at each stage involved in finalisation of the documents, viz. compilation of Annual Accounts, preparation of Annual Report, audit of Accounts, approval of the documents, translation and printing, processing in the Ministry, laying on the Table of the House and it should be ensured that the schedule is adhered to both by the Council and the Ministry. The Committee hope that with these measures, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Council could be laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated time in future.”

In their Action Taken Reply dated 20.10.2005 the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy) have stated as under:-

“NCTE has been asked to prepare a Time-Schedule in consultation with Ministry for timely completion of each task involved in finalization of Annual Accounts and Report so that the same are laid in the Parliament, within the stipulated time.”



**The Committee are unhappy to note that the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy) have not laid down a formal time schedule even after a recommendation was made by the Committee to this effect in the report. Instead the department has given a casual reply that NCTE has been asked to prepare a time schedule in consultation with the Ministry for timely compilation of each task involved in finalisation of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that a time schedule in this regard should be laid down forthwith and the Ministry should ensure timely finalisation and laying of documents of NCTE on the Table of the House and the Committee may be apprised of the action taken in this regard.**

9. The Committee had recommended in para 2.16 (5<sup>th</sup> Report) relating to delay in laying Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Sports Authority of India, New Delhi, as under :-

“The Committee have emphasised in the past that if for any reason the Annual Report and Audited Accounts cannot 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. The Committee regret to note that no such statement has been laid for any of the years from 1996-97 to 2002-03 in respect of SAI. The Committee hope that the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports have taken note of the said recommendation for compliance in future.”

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in their action taken reply have stated as under:-

“During evidence on 7.2.2005 before the Committee, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has regretted for lapses (for not laying a statement within 30 days) occurred and ensured that these things will not happen in future. An internal committee has been constituted by Director General, SAI on

19.12.2003 for monitoring the progress and to take remedial action for ensuring timely submission of the Report in Parliament. A time schedule for laying the Annual Audited Account of Sports Authority of India before the Parliament has also been prepared to check the delay. Accordingly, the Ministry seeks the extension of time for the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for submission of the said Reports from time to time in case any delay occurs for the same.”

**The Committee note with concern that despite the remedial measures taken by the Ministry/S.A.I., the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Authority for the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 were laid on the Table of the House on 26.7.2006 and 9.5.07 respectively after delays of 19 months and 16 months. The Committee further note that even after the assurance given by the Ministry the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2005-06 were neither laid on the Table of the House in time i.e. by 19.12.2006 nor a delay statement to this effect was laid during the Budget Session, 2007. It appears that the Ministry have taken the matter regarding delay in laying the documents very lightly. The Committee, therefore, strongly urge the Ministry to ensure that the documents should be laid on the Table of the House within stipulated period of time and for any reason if not possible, a delay statement should invariably be laid on the Table of the House within 30 days of the expiry of prescribed period or as soon as the House meets, whichever is later. Further the Committee would also like to know the reasons for not laying either the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2005-06 or a delay statement to this effect in time.**

10. In para 3.17 of their Sixth Report (14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha), with regard to the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, the Committee had noted as under:-

“The Committee regret to note that the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) which coordinates and determines the standards in the system of distance education in the country and ought to promote professionalism among different segments of the population through its various academic programmes has itself been a habitual defaulter in adhering to the time limit laid down by the statute for submission of its Annual Reports and Audited Accounts before Parliament. Further contrary to the recommendation of the Committee Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the University which should have been laid together, were actually laid separately year after year with inordinate delays on the plea that the Annual Reports of the University have been laid in the House without waiting for the audited accounts as delays were anticipated. The delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the University pertaining to the years 1998-99 to 2003-04 ranges from 2 months to 28 ½ months. “

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) in their action taken reply dated 9.3.2006 have stated as under:-

“The Activities of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) are horizontally distributed amongst the vast net work of the Regional Centers/Sub-Regional Centers (64), Study Centres/programme Study Centers (over 1417) all over the country. Though every effort is made to collect the data/details of the receipts and expenditure emanating from these centers which comprise the major part of the University’s accounts, the exercise has been taking time. The Study Centres are managed by Part-time functionaries drawn from the host institutions and paid honorarium for the job. It is not feasible to appoint regular staff in their place as the cost of operations will increase manifold warranting increase in fees or enhanced financial support from the Government which may result in additional burden on tax-prayers. It may be submitted that IGNOU differs from the campus based conventional Universities where every transaction taken place in a particular campus and the figures/details are available daily. It may further be submitted that as per the Section 28 (3) of the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act 1985(No. 50 of 1985), a copy of the Annual Report prepared by the University shall be submitted to the Central Govt. which shall, as soon as may be, cause the same to be laid before both the Houses of Parliament. The Annual Report for the year 2004-05 has been laid in the Lok Sabha on December 20, 2005 and in the Rajya Sabha on December 23, 2005 which is within the stipulated time.”

**The Committee find that the reply of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) is not satisfactory. The plea of the**

**Ministry that compilation of accounts takes a very long time is hardly convincing particularly in the era of strides made in the computerisation of accounts and fast modes available for communicating data electronically. Further contrary to recommendation of the Committee that Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the University, which should have been laid together, have actually been laid separately year after year with inordinate delay. The Committee in their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) have recommended that “the annual Report and Audited Accounts of autonomous organizations should be presented to Parliament together to enable the House to have complete picture of the working of that body.” The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department Higher Education) to comply with the above recommendation of the Committee in future in the case of laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Indira Gandhi National Open University. Steps taken and progress achieved in this regard should be communicated to the Committee.**

New Delhi  
October, 2007  
Asvina, 929 (Saka)

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

## **APPENDIX-I**

### **STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE MADE IN THEIR FOURTH REPORT (14<sup>TH</sup> LOK SABHA)**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 1.11 and 1.12)**

The Committee are distressed to note that there have been inordinate delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Food Corporation of India in which the Government have invested as much as Rs. 2324 crore. The delay ranged from two to three years in respect of documents pertaining to the year 1996-97 and onwards. The documents for the year 2003-2004 which were due for laying by 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2004 were not laid till this report was adopted by the Committee.

According to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (Department of consumer Affairs), certain peculiar difficulties were faced by the Food Corporation of India vis-à-vis Principal Auditors during the year 1996-97. The Auditors reportedly demanded a much higher amount than what had been recommended by the C&AG and had persistently raised professional objection when the Corporation tried to engage other auditors recommended by the C&AG. The Committee regret to note that instead of resolving the dispute amicably and expeditiously, the matter was allowed to linger on for nearly three and a half years. In the process, rules regarding the timely placement of accounts of the Corporation in Parliament were given a go by. In order to overcome the difficulties, it was decided to amend Section 34 of the Food Corporation Act. At last, the Act was amended on 12 May, 2000 to devolve the responsibility of auditing the accounts solely upon C&AG. The Committee note that following this action, Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Food Corporation of India pertaining to five years have been laid on the Table during the last three years. The documents pertaining to the year 2002-2003 were laid only on 21 March, 2005. The

Committee urge that as assured by the Ministry, the backlog of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts including that of the year 2003-2004 should be cleared expeditiously and it should be ensured that the documents of the Corporation are laid on the Table within the stipulated time in future.

### **Reply of the Government**

The accounts of the FCI for the year 2003-04 were finalized during April, 2005 and adopted by the Board of Directors in its 298<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2005. The accounts have since been audited by Comptroller & Audit General of India and the draft comments have been received. The replies to the draft comments have been scheduled to be discussed with the Principal Director of Commercial Audit, Ex-Officio Member Audit Board IV on 21<sup>st</sup> of October, 2005. The Director (North) assured to issue the final C&AG Audit Report by 25<sup>th</sup> of October, 2005. The reply to the said Audit Report is likely to be placed before the Board of Directors in its 299<sup>th</sup> meeting to be held on 28.10.2005, for approval. The Annual Report for 2003-04 is expected to be submitted to the Ministry by the end of November 2005 and likely to be laid before the Parliament by end December 2005.

[Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution O.M. No. 24/3/2004-FC.II dated 21.10.2005]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.15)**

The Committee regret to note that the Bureau of Indian Standards which sets standards and ought to set an example in observance of standards has itself been a habitual defaulter in adhering to the time limit laid down by the statute for submission of its Annual Report and Audited Accounts. There have been delays of 12 to 14 months in laying the documents on the Table of the House every year. The documents for the year 2003-04 which should have been laid on the Table by 31.12.2004 were not laid till the Committee considered the matter. The Committee find that while the delay is partly

attributable to the long time taken in auditing of accounts, the main reason for delay has been on the part of the Bureau in getting translation of the documents, in printing and completing other formalities.

### **Reply of the Government**

The progress of printing of Annual Report 2003-04 is as follows:-

BIS submitted its accounts for audit to CAG on 30 June 2004. The audit was conducted by CAG from 16 August 2004 to September 2004. BIS received the Audit Certificate and the Audit Report from CAG on 17 February 2005 after a period of six and a half months. In the mean time, the Draft Annual Report 2003-04 was got translated in Hindi and Simultaneously also sent for composing to the Printing Department. As per procedure the draft annual report including the Audit Certificate and Report has to be approved by the Executive Committee of BIS and the Bureau before the same is submitted to the Government. The Draft Annual Report (bilingual version) was approved by the Executive Committee in the meeting held on 10 March 2005. Subsequently, the Draft Annual Report was approved by the Bureau by circulation on 24 March 2005. After approval of the Bureau the Draft Annual Report was got printed and submitted to the Government on 12 April 2005. The Government after completing all the preliminaries laid the report on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2005 and Lok Sabha on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2005. Efforts are being made to ensure that the Annual Report of BIS for the year 2004-05 is laid in both the Houses of Parliament by 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2005

[Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) letter no. 14/1/2004-BIS dated 8.6.2005]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.16)**

The time taken by audit for completing their task and furnish the audit report ranges from 8 to 9 months every year. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) have now proposed steps to bring

about better coordination with the C&AG in order to see that delay is not repeated. Internal audit is also reportedly being introduced to save time during audit by the C&AG. The Committee hope that with these measures, the time taken during audit of accounts could be brought within limits.

### **Reply of the Government**

In order to expedite the task of auditing, the accounts of BIS by C&AG, the following actins have been taken by BIS:-

#### **Audit by C&AG:**

The C&AG has already started the 1<sup>st</sup> stage i.e. transaction audit of BIS from 11.5.2005. The 2<sup>nd</sup> stage i.e. Balance Sheet Audit will be undertaken by C&AG after submission of Annual Accounts i.e. after 20 June 2005. The approval of the Finance Committee will be obtained before submission of accounts to C&AG. Efforts are being made to submit the Annual Accounts of 2004-05 to Audit expectedly by 20 June 2005. Office of the Principal Director of Audit Office has also been apprised of all the recommendations of the Committee on Papers laid on the Table in respect of timely laying of Annual Report of BIS with a request to take requisite action on the relevant recommendations of the Committee which are related to timely conduct of audit and remittance of the draft and final audit report to BIS.

BIS will finalize the appointment of Internal Auditor for audition its accounts for the year 2004-05 by the end of June 2005. The internal audit of the accounts for the year 2004-05 is expected to be completed by 31.8.2005

[Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) letter no. 14/1/2005-BIS dated 8.6.2005]



### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.17)**

The time taken by the Bureau in getting translation/printing of the documents, getting approval of the documents from the executive/Bureau and completing other formalities ranged from 9 to 12 months every year. The Committee feel that the inordinate delay on the part of the Bureau in this regard is within the control of the Bureau and thus avoidable. In order to avoid delay in future, it has been proposed to take steps such as outsourcing preparation of accounts, computerisation of accounting activities, advance action for translation and approval of Annual Report by circulation. The Committee hope that as assured in a written reply as well as during oral evidence these steps will be taken in right earnest and it would be ensured that there is no avoidable delay on the part of the Bureau in future. The Committee urge that the time schedule indicating target dates for completion of various stages involved in finalisation of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts formulated in this regard should be strictly adhered to and it should be ensured that the documents of the Bureau are laid on the Table of the House in time in future.

### **Reply of the Government**

In order to avoid delay in the preparation of the Annual Reports of BIS for the year 2004-05, the following steps have been taken:-

Outsourcing of Annual Accounts: The panel of Chartered Accountant firms was provided by C&AG and the accounting jobs have been outsourced at some of the Branches of BIS, whereas it is under consideration in some other branches. Further at some of the branches, the existing staff s able to update the accounts.

Computerization of Accounts activities: Accounting has been computerized at HQ and Pune Branch for the purpose of generation o accounting records i.e.Bank Book, Journals Ledgers and Trial balance etc. A committee in BIS has been constituted for the comprehensive integrated computerization of accounting functions at all Regional Offices/Branch Offices with interconnectivity at Head Quarter. The committee has

asked all Regional Offices/Branch Offices about their requirement /functions/activities. Thereafter the tender document will be prepared and the quotations would be invited. For activities relating to Standardization, Certification, Laboratory Services, Training and Support Services for inclusion in Annual Report 2004-05, the information from the concerned departments has been received and is being compiled and the time schedule indicating targets for various stages involved in the finalization of Annual Report 2004-05 shall be adhered to

[Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) letter No. 14/1/2005-BIS dated 8.6.2005]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 3.14)**

In terms of rule 3 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Annual Report and Returns) Rules, 1999 the Annual Report of TRAI is required to be submitted to the Central Government by 30<sup>th</sup> September every year. The Committee regret to note that Telecom Regulatory Authority of India under the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications) has been a habitual defaulter in the matter of timely laying of their Annual Reports and Audited Accounts. A scrutiny of dates of laying of these documents of the Authority pertaining to the years from 1997-98 to 2002-03 shows that delay in laying the documents on the Table of the House ranges from 8 to 12 months every year. The documents for the year 2003-04 which were due for laying by 31.12.2004 were laid only on 9 March 2005.

### **Reply of the Government**

TRAI as an autonomous body which follows commercial accounting system for preparation of Annual Accounts. After establishment of TRAI for quite some time, due to lack of experienced staff in commercial accounting, the finalization of accounts could not be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> September. It has also been experience every year in the past that the complete process of certification of the annual accounts and receipt of the final audit certificate along with audit report from C&AG takes approximately 7 to 8 months.

The following brief statement of showing date-wise submission/receipt of Annual Accounts/Annual Report for the years 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 which shows that TRAI has continuously improved in finalizing the accounts from year to year. TRAI has now recruited trained staff conversant with the commercial accounting system. The annual accounts of TRAI for 2004-05 has since been prepared in June, 2005 and has been approved by the Authority on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2005. Reference has also been sent to the office Director General, Audit (P&T) on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2005 requesting them to carry out the audit and issue the audit certificate at an early date.

S.No.	Details of Activity	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
1.	Date of approval of Annual Accounts by the Authority	05.10.2001	01.01.2003	31.12.2003	9.8.2004
2.	Date of submission of Accounts of Audit	8.10.2001	3.1.2003	12.1.2004	10.8.2004
3.	Date of conducting Audit	16.10.2001 to 13.11.2001	24.1.2003 to 10.3.2003	22.1.2004 to 5.3.2004	23.8.2004 to 6.10.2004
4.	Dates of HM replies sent to Audit	28.11.2001 to 6.12.2001	27.3.2003 to 2.5.2003	15.3.2004 to 16.4.2004	3.11.2004
5.	Date of receipt of draft Audit Report	18.1.2002	17.6.2003	8.6.2004	14.12.2004
6.	Date of replies of draft Audit Report sent on	11.2.2002	10.7.2003	23.6.2004	14.12.2004
7.	Date of receipt of Audit Certificate	9.4.2002	31.10.2003	27.7.2004	28.12.2004
8.	Date of receipt of Annual Report from Printer	15.7.2002	24.11.2003	3.8.2004	28.1.2005
9.	Date of submission of English and Hindi version of Annual Report to DOT	23.7.2002	8.12.2003	9.8.2004	4.2.2005
10.	Date of laying of Annual Report in Lok Sabha	11.12.2002	17.12.2003	25.8.2004	9.3.2005

[Ministry of Communications & IT, Department of Telecommunications O.M. No. 10/18/2003-Restg. Dated 29.11.2005]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 3.15)**

The Committee have emphasised in the past that if for any reason the Annual Report and Audited Accounts cannot 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. The Committee regret to note that no such statement has been laid on the Table for any of the years from 1997-98 to 2002-03 in respect of TRAI. The Committee hope that the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunication) have taken note of the above recommendation for compliance, if a need arises in future.

### **Reply of the Government**

The observations of the Committee have been respectfully noted.

[Ministry of Communications & IT, Department of Telecommunications O.M. No. 10/18/2003-Restg. Dated 29.11.2005]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 3.16)**

The Committee find that there has been avoidable delay on the part of TRAI in compilation of accounts. The time taken by TRAI for compilation of Accounts after the close of the accounting year ranged from six months to nine months during the last three years as against the prescribed time of three months. The delay is attributed to the requirement of maintaining commercial accounting system with which the staff drafted from Central Government were not conversant. It has been stated that TRAI has now recruited trained staff to maintain the accounts of the Authority and that they would be able to compile the accounts in time. The Committee hope that TRAI would ensure that there is no delay in compilation of accounts in future.

### **Reply of the Government**

TRAI has now recruited trained staff conversant with the commercial accounting system. The annual accounts of TRAI for 2004-05 has since been prepared in June, 2005

and has been approved by the Authority on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2005. Reference has also been sent to the office Director General, Audit (P&T) on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2005 requesting them to carry out the audit and issue the audit certificate at an early date. The Annual Report along with the Audited Accounts and the Audit Report thereon for the year 2004-05, has since been received from TRAI and the matter is being processed for its laying.

[Ministry of Communications & IT, Department of Telecommunications O.M. No. 10/18/2003-Restg. Dated 29.11.2005]

### **Recommendation (Para No 3.17)**

Another reason cited for delay in finalisation of the Accounts has been the delay in completion of audit by DGACR. The time taken by audit for issue of audit certificate during the last three years ranged from six to ten months. The Committee regret to note that though there has been delay on the part of Audit, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications) have never formally taken up this question with the C&AG, impressing upon them the need for timely completion of audit. The Committee believe that as assured by a representative of the Department of Telecommunications the matter would be taken up with the C&AG in order to ensure that there is no delay at the stage of auditing.

### **Reply of the Government**

The matter had been taken up with Director General of Audit (Post and Telecommunication) with request to re-assess the audit programme and plan the audit of TRAI in such a manner that Annual Report for 2004-05 is finalized and tabled in the Parliament by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005. As stated earlier the Annual Report along with the Audited Accounts and the Audit Report thereon for the year 2004-05, has since been received from TRAI and the matter is being processed for its laying.

[Ministry of Communications & IT, Department of Telecommunications O.M. No. 10/18/2003-Restg. Dated 29.11.2005]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 3.18)**

It appears that the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications) have not laid down any time schedule fixing target dates for compilation of accounts, completion of audit, approval of documents from the competent authority, completion of translation and printing and dispatch of the documents to the Ministry by TRAI and completion of formalities in the Ministry. The Committee urge that the Ministry should lay down a schedule in this regard for all the organisations under their control and ensure that the schedule is strictly adhered to by TRAI and other bodies/organisations. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

### **Reply of the Government**

As desired by the Committee the following time schedule has been prescribed in connection with various stages of laying of Annual Reports/Audited Accounts of Autonomous organizations under the control of this department.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time Schedule</b>
Compilatiion/Finalization of Annual Accounts of the organization.	30 <sup>th</sup> June of every year (i.e. within a period of 3 months after the close of financial year.
Auditing of Accounts, furnishing of replies to the audit objection, translation and printing of reports and its submission to the Department	30 <sup>th</sup> September of every year (i.e. within a period of 6months after the close of financial year.
Examination of Reports/Audited Accounts by the Department, preparation of review statement, authentication of papers and laying on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament.	31 <sup>st</sup> December of every year (i.e. within a period of 9 months after the close of financial year.

[Ministry of Communications & IT, Department of Telecommunications O.M. No. 10/18/2003-Restg. Dated 29 .11.2005]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 4.11)**

One of the oft repeated recommendations of the Committee has been that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of an organisation should always be laid together to enable the members of Parliament to have a complete picture of the performance and

activities of the organisation. The Committee regret to note that this recommendation has not been adhered to by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Elementary Education & Literacy) in respect of the National Council for Teacher Education) from the year 1999-2000 onwards. The Committee in this connection note that while a time limit of nine months has been laid down under Rule 14 of the National Council for Teacher Education Rules, 1997 for submission of Council's Annual Report, no such time limit has been laid down for submission of Audited Accounts. This is obviously a lacuna in the Rules. The Committee urge that a time limit of nine months should be laid down for submission of Audited Accounts of the Council so that the Annual Report alongwith the Audited Accounts could be laid simultaneously.

### **Reply of the Government**

Comments of the Committee have been noted. NCTE had been asked to send a proposal for the above amendment to Rule 14 of NCTE Rules, 1997 and the same has been received on 7.10.2005. Further action in the matter is being taken.

[Ministry of Human Resource Development. OM No. 19-4/2005, EE-10 dated 20.10.2005]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 4.12)**

The Committee note that though the Annual Report for the years 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 have been laid on the Table within the stipulated time, there have been delays ranging from seven to fourteen months in laying the Audited Accounts of the Council in respect of these years. The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2003-2004 which should have been laid on the Table by 31.12.2004 were not laid till the matter was considered by the Committee.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2003-04 have been laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 25.8.05 and on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 29.8.05. All efforts are being made to ensure that Annual Report and the audited Accounts of NCTE for the year 2004-05 are laid together within the stipulated period of nine months.

[Ministry of Human Resource Development. O.M. No. 19-4/2005 EE -10 dated 20.10.2005]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 4.13)**

It appears from the information furnished by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Elementary Education & Literacy) that the time taken by audit in completing their task and furnishing audit report is considerably long. Though the time taken by Audit in this regard ranges from seven to thirteen months, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Elementary Education & Literacy) do not seem to have taken up the matter with DGACR to impress upon them the need for timely completion of their task in order to avoid consequential delay in laying of the documents on the Table of the House. The Committee urge that the matter should be taken up suitably with the DGACR at the level of the Secretary, Elementary Education & Literacy and the Committee be apprised of the action taken.

### **Reply of the Government**

Direction of the Committee have been complied with and Secretary (EE & L ) in her letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2005 to DG, DGACR has impressed upon the need for timely completion of the audit task, so that laying of Audited Accounts in the Parliament is not delayed.

[Ministry of Human Resource Development, O.M. No. 19-4/2005 EE -10 dated 20.10.2005]



### **Recommendation (Para No. 4.14)**

The Committee find that another reason for delay in laying the Audited Accounts of the Council has been the unduly long time taken by the Council in completing formalities after receipt of the final audit report. The Committee note that after receipt of audit report, the Council has taken 4 to 5 months every year in completing the formalities such as getting approval of the documents, translation/printing and sending them to the Ministry for laying. The Committee feel that time taken for these tasks is within the control of the Council and delay in this regard is avoidable. The Committee, therefore, stress that the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Elementary Education & Literacy) should lay down a time schedule of indicating target dates for completion of the task at each stage involved in finalisation of the documents, viz. compilation of Annual Accounts, preparation of Annual Report, audit of Accounts, approval of the documents, translation and printing, processing in the Ministry, laying on the Table of the House and it should be ensured that the schedule is adhered to both by the Council and the Ministry. The Committee hope that with these measures, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Council could be laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated time in future.

### **Reply of the Government**

NCTE has been asked to prepare a Time-Schedule in consultation with Ministry of timely completion of each task involved in finalization of Annual Accounts and Report so that the same are laid in the Parliament, within the stipulated time.

[Ministry of Human Resource Development, O.M. No. 19-4/2005 EE-10 dated 20.10.2005]

## **APPENDIX-II**

### **STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE MADE IN THEIR FIFTH REPORT (14<sup>TH</sup> LOK SABHA)**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 1.19)**

The Committee are concerned to note that the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has been a habitual defaulter in the matter of laying of its Annual Reports and Audited Accounts in time. There were delays of 12 to 24 months in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for the years 2001-02 and 2002-03. There were also delays ranging from 12 to 20 months in laying the documents of the Sangathan for the previous years i.e. 1996-97 to 2000-01. One of the main reasons for delay in laying of the documents is stated to be the long time taken by DGACR in conducting of audit and issue of final audit Report. Having been approached by the Sangathan, the DGACR has reportedly assured that they would try to minimize the time taken in the issue of audit certificate. As any delay in completion of audit task causes consequential delay in laying of the documents on the Table of the House, the Committee urge that the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department Secondary & Higher Education) should take up the matter at Secretary's level to impress upon the C&AG the need to complete the audit task in time. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

#### **Reply of the Government**

The matter has been taken up with the office of CAG vide D.O. No. F. 9-14/2005UT-2 dated 27/4/2006.

[Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Secondary & Higher Education) F. No. 7-7/2006-UT-2 Dated 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2006 ]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 1.20)**

Another major reason for the inordinate delay in laying of the documents is stated to be the delay in taking approval of Board of Governors of the Sangathan for the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts. The Board of Governors is headed by the Minister of Human Resource Development and the delay is stated to have taken place mainly in convening the meetings of the Board. The Committee had recommended in the context of delay in laying the documents of National Institute of Homeopathy, Kolkata [(16<sup>th</sup> Report, (13<sup>th</sup> LS)] that “the question of Ministers heading Governing Bodies of various organizations under the control of their respective Ministries should be reviewed at the highest level and if the review brings out any need for corrective measures, suitable steps be taken in the light thereof.” The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of AYUSH) has intimated that the Cabinet approved their proposal to maintain status quo regarding Minister remaining the head of the Governing Body of the autonomous bodies. The present Minister of Health & Family Welfare is taking steps to conduct the meetings of the Governing Bodies periodically by deputing the Minister of State or the Secretary (AYUSH) to chair these meetings as per schedule.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Annual General Body of the KVS in its meeting held on 22.2.2005 has approved the proposal to amend the Memorandum of Association (MOA) and Rules of the Sangathan to the effect that the meeting of the Sangathan shall be held at least once in a year at such time, date and place as may be determined by the Chairman to consider the Annual Report certified accounts and Audit Reports of the Sangathan. Annual General Body of KVS has also approved to provide that the Board of Governors shall meet as often as may be necessary to transact its business but there shall not be a gap of more than six months between the two meetings.

[Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Ayush) F. No. 7-7/2006-UT-2  
Dated 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2006 ]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 1.21)**

The Committee, therefore, recommend in order that to avoid delay in taking approval of the Board of Governors of the Sangathan, the Ministry of Human Resource Development may also consider to conduct the meetings of the Board periodically, and if necessary, by deputing the Minister of State or the Secretary to chair the meeting as may be required.

(AYUSH) to chair these meetings as per schedule.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Annual General Body of KVS in its meeting held on 22/2/2005 has approved the amendment has Memorandum of Association (MOA) and Rules of the Sangathan to provide that the Board of Governors shall meet as often as may be necessary to transact its business but there shall not be a gap of more than six months between the two meetings.

[Ministry of Human Resources Development F. No. 7-7/2006-UT-2 Dated 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 1.22)**

It appears that no time schedule has been laid down by the Ministry indicating the target dates for completion of each stage involved in finalisation of the documents, viz. finalisation/compilation of annual accounts and report, auditing of accounts, approval of documents for the competent authority, translation & printing, processing in the Ministry for being laid on the Table. The Committee recommend that Ministry should take immediate necessary action to put in place a time schedule and monitoring mechanism to ensure timely finalisation of the documents and laying of the same on the Table of the House.

## Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has already suggested the following time schedule to KVS for various activities as under:-

Annual Accounts	
(i) Consolidation of Annual Accounts	Mid of June
(ii) Submission of Consolidated Annual Account to DGACR for Audit	First week of July
(iii) Commencement of Audit by DGACR	First week of July
(iv) Completion of Audit from DGACR	31 <sup>st</sup> August
(v) Receipt of Draft Audit Report by DGACR	30 <sup>th</sup> September
(vi) Reply of Draft Audit Report from KVS to DGACR	15 <sup>th</sup> October
(vii) Receipt of Final Audit Report (FAR) from DGACR (English & Hindi Version)	31 <sup>st</sup> October
(viii) Approval by the Finance Committee	15 <sup>th</sup> November
(ix) Approval by BOG	30 <sup>th</sup> November
(x) Printing & Submission of Printed Certified Annual Accounts alongwith Audit Report to MHRD, Deptt of SE & HE	15 December
Laying in both the Houses of Parliament	31 <sup>st</sup> December
Annual Report	
(i) Calling for data/material through ROs	30 <sup>th</sup> April
(ii) Scrutiny of data and its compilation at ROs	15 <sup>th</sup> May
(iii) Submission of data to the Sangathan	30 <sup>th</sup> June
(iv) Scrutiny & consolidation of data at HQs and preparation of Annual Report	31 <sup>st</sup> July
(v) Printing of Annual Report	30 <sup>th</sup> Sept.
(vi) Obtaining approval of HRM & sending it to MHRD	30 <sup>th</sup> Nov.
(vii) Laying of Annual Report with Review by MHRD	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec.

[Ministry of Human Resources Development F. No. 7-7/2006-UT-2 Dated 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2006 ]

### Recommendation (Para No. 1.23)

The Department of Secondary & Higher Education have made a plea for increase in the time limit laid down by the Committee for laying of the documents on the Table of the House. The time limit sought for is 12 months instead of 9 months. The Committee would like to point out that the time limit of 9 months has been laid down after due

consideration of all aspects involved in the matter. In the age of computerization, the case could be for reduction in the time limit rather than for increase. The Committee in this connection note that the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has computerized its accounts from April, 2002. Steps have also reportedly been taken to interlink the Vidyalayas, regional offices and Head Quarters. The Committee urge that this task should be completed expeditiously. The Committee hope that completion of the task would enable electronic transfer of data and curtail delay in compilation of accounts of the Sangathan.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Ministry of Human Resource Development will make efforts to ensure timely compilation of accounts of the KVS with a view to avoid delay in laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of KVS on the Table of the House.

[Ministry of Human Resources Development F. No. 7-7/2006-UT-2 Dated 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2006 ]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 1.24)**

One of the oft-repeated recommendations of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table has been that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of autonomous organizations should be laid together to enable the House to have a complete picture of the working of that body. The Committee regret to find that in the case of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, the recommendation of the Committee has not been complied with in respect of the documents pertaining to the year 1998-99 to 1999-2000. The Committee stress that it should always be ensured that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the organisation are laid together.

## **Reply of the Government**

The Ministry of HRD has noted for compliance the recommendations of the Committee for laying the Annual Accounts and Audit Report and Annual Report together on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament.

[Ministry of Human Resource Development F. No. 7-7/2006-UT-2 Dated 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2006  
]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.15)**

The Committee are unhappy to note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Sports Authority of India, the apex sports body of the country, have not been laid in time even once during the last seven years. The extent of delay in laying the documents of the Authority ranges from 11 months to 48 months in respect of every year during the period from 1996-97 to 2002-03. The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2003-04, which should have been laid on the Table by 31.12.2004, were not laid till this report was considered by the Committee.

## **Reply of the Government**

The Fifth Report of the Committee on papers laid on the Table itself incorporated the reasons for delay for laying the Reports for the years 1998-1999 to 2002-03 in its para 2.3. The Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for the year 2003-04 has been laid on the Table of the House (Lok Sabha) on 26.7.2006 along with the Delay Statement.

[Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports O.M. No. H. 11016/19/2006-Desk (SAI) dated the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.16)**

The Committee have emphasised in the past that if for any reason the Annual Report and Audited Accounts cannot be laid within the stipulated time 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 a later, a statement explaining the reasons why the report and accounts could not be laid. The Committee regret to note that no such statement has been laid for any of the years from 1996-97 to 2002-03 in respect of SAI. The Committee hope that the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports have taken note of the said recommendation for compliance in future.

### **Reply of the Government**

During evidence on 7.2.2005 before the Committee, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has regretted for lapses (not laying a statement within 30 days) occurred and ensured that these thing will not happen in future. An internal committee has been constituted by Director General, SAI on 19.12.2003 for monitoring the progress and to take remedial action for ensuring timely submission of the Report in Parliament. The following time schedule for laying the Annual Audited Account of Sports Authority of India before the Parliament has also been prepared to check up the delay. Accordingly, the Ministry seeks the extension of time for the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for submission of the said Reports from time to time in case of any delay occurs for the same.

	Item of work	Target date
1.	Finalisation of accounts by the Centre/Unit and submission of the same to the Head Office	15 <sup>th</sup> May
2.	Examination of the accounts thus received by the Head Office	30 <sup>th</sup> June
3.	Rectification of discrepancies by Centres and submission of revised accounts.	31 <sup>st</sup> July



4.	Consolidation of accounts at the Head Office	31 <sup>st</sup> August
5.	Submission of the Annual Accounts to the DGACR for Audit	By 1 <sup>st</sup> week of September
6.	Conduct of Audit and compliance of Audit objections if any by SAI	31 <sup>st</sup> October
7.	Final Audit Report from DGACR	15 <sup>th</sup> November
8.	Hindi translation of Annual Accounts and Audit Report	25 <sup>th</sup> November

[Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports O.M. No. H.11016/19/2006-Desk (SAI) dated the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.17 of Fifth Report)**

The Committee also find that the time taken by SAI before handing over the accounts (1998-99 to 2002-03) to audit ranges from 6 to 12 months as against the prescribed period of 3 months. The Ministry's explanation that the accounts have to be collected from over 90 Accounting Centres spread across the country is hardly convincing. The Committee feel that the contention of the Ministry is untenable in the era of computerisation with the facility for electronic transfer of data. It has been stated that computerisation has been undertaken in all the Accounting Centres and it has been decided to collect accounts from various Centres on quarterly basis. The Committee hope that with this measure, it would be possible to compile the accounts of SAI in time in future.

### **Reply of the Government**

During evidence on 7.2.2005 before the Committee, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has regretted for lapses. A few steps have been taken like computerization of accounts. Till the level of regional centers, they have computerized and even all accounting centers have been computerized, the second thing is that we

have decided that we are going to collect the accounts for each quarter during the year itself so that the work which piles up at the end of the year will not pile up. The first three quarters' accounts will be finalized during the last quarter and so, only the last quarter would remain to be finalized.

[Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports O.M. No. H.11016/19/2006-Desk (SAI) dated the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.18)**

The Committee further note that the audit has taken over two years for completing its task in respect of accounts for the year 1998-99 and 2001-02 and one year in respect of accounts for the year 1999-2000 and 2002-03. The time taken by SAI in replying to the points raised by audit has not been furnished to the Committee in respect of the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-02. It appears that SAI has taken unduly long time in this regard. The Committee urge SAI to accord top priority to replying to the points raised by audit and ensure timely completion of audit task in order to avoid consequential delay in laying of the documents of SAI before Parliament.

### **Reply of the Government**

During evidence on 7.2.2005 before the Committee, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has regretted for lapses occurred and ensured that these things will not happen in future. A time schedule indicating target dates for completion of each stage of finalization of the documents has been drawn. An internal committee has been constituted by Director General, SAI on 19.12.2003 for monitoring the progress and to take remedial action for ensuring timely submission of the Report in Parliament. The Ministry has been reminding SAI orally and well as in writing for expediting the Reports. In case of any delay, the Ministry seeks extension of time from Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for submission of the said reports from time to time.

[Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports O.M. No. H.11016/19/2006-Desk (SAI) dated the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.19)**

Yet another factor which caused delay in laying the documents of the Authority is the undue time taken in getting translation & printing of the documents. After receipt of final audit reports, the Authority have taken 12 months for the year 1998-99 and 29 months for the year 1999-2000 in translation & printing of the documents. However, the delay at the stage of translation & printing has diminished in finalisation of the documents for the subsequent years reportedly due to advance action taken for translation of the documents before receipt of final report from DGACR. It is needless to say that these factors are well within the control of the Authority and delay, if any, on this account reflect poorly on the management of the Authority. The Committee note from the information furnished by the Ministry that in order to avoid delay in printing of the documents an alternate arrangement to get the documents printed from a government approved agency has been made. The Committee hope that the Authority/Ministry would ensure that no delay takes place at the stage of translation & printing in future.

### **Reply of the Government**

During evidence 7.2.2005 before the Committee, Secretary Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has regretted for lapses. We have also decided to outsource translation work because staff sometimes is not available for translation, which could delay the matter. Printing is another area which has been responsible for delay. The Government Press was over worked and they were not able to give back to us timely and they took lot of time. To avert delay at the stage of printing of the documents at Government Press, the Ministry have stated (O.M. dated 7.2.2005) that alternative arrangements to get the report printing from National Consumer Cooperative Federation, a Government approved agency have been made. An internal committee has been constituted by Director General, SAI on 19.12.2003 for monitoring the progress and to take remedial action for ensuring timely submission of the Report in Parliament. The Ministry has

been reminding SAI orally and well as in writing for expediting the Reports. As already indicated the Ministry seeks extension of time from Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for submission of the reports if any such delay occurs.

[Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports O.M. No. H.11016/19/2006-Desk (SAI) dated the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.20)**

The Committee further recommend the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports must draw up a time schedule indicating target dates for completion of various stages involved in the finalisation of documents viz. finalisation/compilation of annual accounts and report, auditing of accounts, approval of documents from the competent authority, translation & printing, processing in the Ministry for being laid on the Table. A Senior Officer both in the Ministry and the Authority should be entrusted with the task to ensure that the time schedule so laid down is strictly adhered to right from compilation of accounts to laying of the documents before Parliament. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

### **Reply of the Government**

During evidence on 7.2.2005 before the Committee, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has regretted for lapses. Another area which used to take time was the written part of the Annual Report. Now we have set up a system by which we are now getting the written part of the Annual report ready. As and when we received the audited accounts from the AG, we incorporate it and we go ahead for approval and printing. An internal committee has been constituted by Director General, SAI on 19.12.2003 for monitoring the progress and to take remedial action for ensuring timely submission of the Report in Parliament. The Ministry has been reminding SAI orally and well as in writing for expediting the Reports. In case of deviation from the time scheduled proposed for laying reports, SAI is reminded to expedite the matter, besides seeking an extension of time from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, for submission of the report.

[Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports O.M. No. H.11016/19/2006-Desk (SAI) dated the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006]

### Recommendation (Para No 3.15)

The Committee regret to note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy (CCRYN), New Delhi have not been laid in time even once since 1998-99. The delay in laying the documents of the Council for the years 1998-99 to 2003-04 ranged from 4 months to 16 months.

### Reply of the Government

The year wise delay in laying of Annual report and reasons thereof are given as under:-

Year	Due Date	Laid on	Delay	Reasons for Delay
1998-99	31.12.1999	16.5.2000	4 months 15 days	(i) Delay in receipt of Audited Accounts & Audit Certificate from the office of the Director General of Audit, Central Revenues (DGACR). The Audit Certificate was received on 28.3.2000. (ii) Delay in obtaining the approval of the Governing Body of the Council as the 14 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Body of the Council was held on 4.4.2000 in which the Annual Report 1998-99 was approved along with the audited accounts.
1999-2000	31.12.2000	20.8.2001	7 months and 19 days	i) Delay in compilation of Annual Report due to non-receipt of work done report from the grantee institutes; ii) Belated receipt of Audit Certificate from the office of the DGACR. iii) Non-availability of the approval of the Governing Body (GB) as no meeting was held in year 2000, after completion of the Annual Report. iv) There was no regular Director in the Council, which, to a certain extent, also contributed for delay.

2000-01	31.12.2001	29.4.2002	3 months and 28 days	<p>i) Delay in compilation of Annual Report due to non-receipt of work done report from the grantee institutes;</p> <p>ii) Belated receipt of Audit Certificate from the office of the DGACR.</p> <p>iii) There was no regular Director in the Council which, to a certain extent, also contributed for delay.</p>
2001-02	31.12.2002	19.8.2003	7 months and 18 days	<p>i) Delay in compilation of Annual Report due to non-receipt of work done report from the grantee institutes;</p> <p>ii) Belated receipt of Audit Certificate from the office of the DGACR.</p> <p>iii) There was no regular Director in the Council which, to a certain extent, also contributed for delay.</p>
2002-03	31.12.2003	19.4.2005	One year 3 months and 28 days	<p>Belated receipt of Audit Certificate from the office of the DGACR. The office of DGACR refused to issue necessary Audit Certificate on the contention that the Account of the Council was not having the approval of the Governing Body. This was in deviation of previous practice when the accounts were being audited by the DGACR without insisting on the prior approval of the GB.</p> <p>The GB meets once in a year. In the year 2003, the meeting of GB had already been held on 10.07.2003 i.e. before the finalisation of the Annual Accounts. It was not feasible to hold another meeting only for obtaining the approval of Annual Accounts. Hence, approval of SFC was taken and communicated to the office of DGACR. The office of DGACR did not agree to this and insisted for the approval of the GB. The next meeting of GB was held on 23.9.2004 and the Annual Accounts were approved. Finally the Audit Certificate was received on 2.12.2004. Hence the delay.</p>

2003-2004	31.12.2004	13.5.2005	4 months 12 days	The delay is mostly due to belated receipt of Audit Certificate from the office of DGACR. The unaudited accounts were sent to that office on 15.6.2004. As already explained above, the accounts were not approved by the office of DGACR for want of approval of GB. But the audit certificate had been received on 9.2.2005 i.e. after a lapse of 4 months 16 days from the date of approval by the GB.
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[R-15015/8/2005-Y&N Dated 2.3.2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No 3.16)**

From the information furnished by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Department of AYUSH), the Committee find that the delay in finalisation of the documents for the years 2000-01 to 2003-04 is mainly on account of delay in compilation of accounts, getting approval of the documents from the Governing Body of the Council and undue time taken by the DGACR in auditing of accounts and issue of audit certificate to the Council. As regards delay in auditing of accounts by DGACR, the Committee note that prior to 2002-03, the Director of the Council used to approve the unaudited accounts and submit it to the DGACR for audit. However, the insistence of DGACR since 2002-2003 for approval of the Governing Body to the unaudited accounts before issuing the requisite certificate by them has resulted in delay. The Committee note that to avoid such delay, the Ministry have reportedly inserted specific provisions in the bye-laws of the Council authorising the Director of the Council to approve the unaudited accounts and submit the same to the office of DGACR for audit. The Committee hope that with the change effected in bye-laws, the delay being caused in auditing of accounts and issuing of audit certificate by DGACR would be avoided.

### **Reply of the Government**

In order to avoid the delay, an amendment has been incorporated in the Memorandum of Association of the council to empower the Director, CCRYN to submit the unaudited accounts to the office of the DGACR, which was approved in the meeting of Governing Body held on 23.09.2004. This provision has expedited the process of compiling and laying of the Annual Report. As a matter of fact, the report for the year 2004-05 was sent to both the Houses of Parliament on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2005 and the same has been laid in Rajya Sabha on 23/12/2005 i.e. well within the Schedule time

[R-15015/8/2005-Y & N Dated 2.3.2006.]

### **Recommendation (Para No 3.17)**

Another reason cited for delay in finalisation of the document is the undue time taken by the Council in getting approval of the documents from its Governing Body. The Committee feel that the reasons of this nature are within the control of the management of the Council and thus avoidable. The Committee urge that approval of documents from the Governing Body should be obtained as soon as the documents are finalised to avoid any consequential delay. The Committee may also be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry/Council to avert such delays in future.

### **Reply of the Government**

As stated in para 3.16, now the powers have been delegated to the Director of CCRYN to submit the unaudited accounts to the office of the DGACR which was approved in the Meeting of Governing Body held on 23.09.2004. This provision has expedited the entire process of compiling and laying of the Annual Report. As a matter



of fact, the report for the year 2004-05 has been sent to both the Houses of Parliament on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2005 and the same has been laid in Rajya Sabha on 23/12/2005 i.e. well within the Scheduled time.

[R-15015/8/2005-Y & N Dated 2.3.2006.]

### **Recommendation (Para No 3.18)**

The Committee note that they had earlier examined the delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Council during the years 1987-88 and 1995-96 and recommended in their 17<sup>th</sup> Report (8<sup>th</sup> LS) and 20<sup>th</sup> Report (10<sup>th</sup> LS) the need to draw up a time bound schedule to ensure finalisation and laying of the documents on the Table of the House within the prescribed period. The Committee are unhappy to note that although the Ministry in their action taken reply had agreed to lay down a time schedule to overcome delays, the persisting delays observed in laying the documents during the years 1998-99 to 2003-04 clearly indicate that either the Ministry had not laid down any time schedule or not cared to monitor the time schedule, if any, periodically to prevent time overruns. The Committee deplore such a casual and complacent attitude of the Ministry towards their recommendations on the need for timely laying of the requisite documents. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry that the time schedule now laid down by them should be followed by the Council and monitored by the Ministry in letter and spirit to prevent recurrence of delays in future.

### **Reply of the Government**

As suggested by the Committee, the time schedule was laid down as under:

S.No.	Schedule	Due Date
1.	Compilation of unaudited accounts	31 <sup>st</sup> May
2.	Submission of un-audited accounts to Audit Party	15 <sup>th</sup> June
3.	Compilation of draft Annual Report	31 <sup>st</sup> July
4.	Finalisation of Annual Report	31 <sup>st</sup> August

5.	Translation of Annual Report	30 <sup>th</sup> September
6.	Finalisation of Audited Accounts	31 <sup>st</sup> October
7.	Printing of Annual Report and Audited Accounts	15 <sup>th</sup> November
8.	Submission of copies of Annual Report and Audited Accounts to the Department of AYUSH.	20 <sup>th</sup> November
9.	Laying in the Parliament	31 <sup>st</sup> December

However, there were two major factors inherent in the system which made it difficult to comply with these time lines, one, the insistence by office of DGACR for prior approval of Accounts by Governing Body (GB) before conduction of audit; and second, the item involved in taking approval of GB due to its infrequent meetings. Now the delegation of power to Director for approval of unaudited accounts has taken care of both the problems and as a result the report due for preceding year, 2004-05, has been laid well in time. Strict monitoring at Secretary level is also being done.

[R-15015/8/2005-Y & N Dated 2.3.2006.]

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 4.12)**

There has been delay ranging from 3 months to 12 months in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) for the years 2000-01 to 2003-04. The Committee regret to note that no 'delay statement' in respect of any of the above said years was laid within 30 days of the expiry of prescribed period as recommended by the Committee in para 3.5 of their First Report (5<sup>th</sup> LS). The Committee reiterate that in case of any delay beyond the prescribed period of 9 months after close of the accounting year, a delay statement should be laid within 30 days of expiry of the stipulated date explaining the reasons for delay in laying the documents.

#### **Reply of the Government**

Noted for compliance in future. .

[Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation OM No. 1-14012/24/2004-H.II dated Friday, 13 January 2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 4.13)**

The Committee's examination of the reasons for 12 months delay in laying the documents for the year 2002-03 reveals that after receipt of the documents in the Ministry on 20.02.04, some discrepancies were found in the figures of cumulative achievements of HUDCO in respect of dwelling units sanctioned up to 2002-03 and it took 10 months for the Ministry to get the discrepancies rectified and place the documents on the Table of the House. The Committee feel that the Ministry have not taken due care to resolve the discrepancies expeditiously. The Committee deprecate casual and complacent attitude of the Ministry in this regard and urge them to be more vigilant in matters relating to laying of documents before Parliament in future.

### **Reply of the Government**

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Report and Audited Accounts (bilingual) of Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) for the year 2004-05 have been laid on the Table of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on December 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 respectively.

[Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation OM No. 1-14012/24/2004-H.II dated Friday, 13 January 2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 4.14)**

The Committee note that another reason for delay in laying the document for the years 2001-02 to 2003-04 is stated to be delay in holding the Annual General Meetings to approve the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts. In terms of Section 166 of the Companies Act, 1956, the AGM of HUDCO which should have been held within 6 months of the close of the relevant accounting year, has actually been held in the extended period. The Committee understand that any extension beyond the period of six months after close of the accounting year in holding the AGM should be availed only in exceptional circumstances for justified reasons and not in a routine manner. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation

as well as HUDCO to be cautious so as to avoid recurrence of delay in holding AGMs in future and also not to put forward such reasons as an excuse for delay in laying the documents in Parliament within the prescribed period.

### **Reply of the Government**

Noted for compliance in future.

[Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation OM No. 1-14012/24/2004-H.II dated Friday, 13 January 2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 4.15)**

As regards the time schedule indicating target dates for completion of each stage of the finalisation of the documents, the Committee has been informed that the Ministry have drawn up the schedule and the Joint Secretary (Housing) in the Ministry and Director (Finance) in HUDCO have been assigned the job of monitoring the process of finalisation of the documents. The Committee stress that the time schedule so prepared must be adhered to and monitored at each and every stage so that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of HUDCO are laid before Parliament in time in future. The Committee would like to be apprised of the time schedule prepared in this regard.

### **Reply of the Government**

HUDCO will, as far as possible take approval of Audit Committee/Board of Directors of annual accounts and also obtain Audit Report by end of August so as to enable holding of the AGM by September after close of the financial year. After that action for printing of annual accounts and Hindi version will be completed by end of November.

[Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation OM No. 1-14012/24/2004-H.II dated Friday, 13 January 2006]

### **APPENDIX-III**

#### **STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE MADE IN THEIR SIXTH REPORT (14<sup>TH</sup> LOK SABHA)**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 1.12)**

One of the oft-repeated recommendations of the Committee has been that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of an organisation should always be laid simultaneously to enable members of Parliament to have a complete picture of the performance and activities of the organisation. The Committee note that though the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) for the year 2000-01 have been laid together with a delay of 2 months, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Board in respect of the years 2001-02 and 2002-03 were laid separately with delays ranging from 7 to 19 months. Further, these documents for the year 2003-04 which were due for laying before Parliament by 31.12.04 have not been laid till this report was considered by the Committee.

##### **Reply of the Government**

The Annual Report & Audited Accounts of the National Capital Region Planning Board for the year 2003-04 were laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 14.12.05. The Annual Report & Audited Accounts were received by the Ministry of Urban Development from the NCR Planning Board on 17.8.2005. These were processed in the Ministry and submitted to Lok Sabha Secretariat on 22.8.2005 but could not be accepted by the Lok Sabha Secretariat for laying the same on the Table of Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session due to paucity of time. In respect of delay in submission of

the Annual Report and Auditors Report by NCR Planning Board for the year 2003-04, it is stated that the Annual Accounts and Auditors Report were compiled by the NCR planning Board on 15.7.2004 and submitted to Principal Director of Audit (PDA) on 20.7.2004. The accounts were audited from 18.10.2004 to 17.12.2004 by a team from Principal Director of Audit, Economic and Service Ministries, New Delhi. The PDA made certain observations on 16.2.2005 and requested the Board to furnish the replies. The replies to the observations were sent by the NCR Planning Board on 29.3.05. Thereafter the PDA was requested by the NCR Planning Board repeatedly on 15.4.2005, 4.5.2005 and 7.6.2005 to issue the Audit Certificate so that the Audited Accounts and Auditors report could be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha. The Audit Certificate was received on 15.7.2005. As the Board meeting was not likely to take place in the near future, the Annual Accounts were got approved by Members of the Board through circulation by 16.8.2005

(No.G.20016/7/2005-DDVI dated 25.1.2006)

### **Recommendation (Para No. 1.13)**

The Committee regret to note that after close of the respective accounting year, the Board has taken 9 months for the year 2001-02 and 5 months for the year 2002-03 in getting appointment of auditors and thereafter handing over the accounts to auditors for auditing as against 3 months recommended by the Committee for this purpose. The Committee feel that such delays are well within the control of the management of the Board and, therefore, avoidable. The Committee expect the Ministry to strictly adhere to the recommendation of the Committee in this regard and ensure that the accounts of the Board are compiled and handed over to the auditors within 3 months of close of accounting year in future.

### **Reply of the Government**

With a view to finalise the Annual Accounts/Annual Report within the prescribed time, the NCR Planning Board has issued a time schedule for completion of each stage of

the Annual Accounts/Report. Action would be taken against the concerned officers by the NCR Planning Board for an delay on their part in finalization of Annual Accounts/Annual Report.

**Recommendation (Para No. 1.14)**

From the information furnished by the Ministry, the Committee also observe that another major factor which has substantially contributed towards delay has been the long time taken by auditors in completing their audit and furnishing the final audit report to the Board. The time taken was 5 months for the year 2001-02 and 15 months for the year 2002-03. The delay at the stage of auditing of accounts for the year 2002-03 was stated to be on account of the amendment made in para 33 of NCRPB Rules to the effect that accounts are to be approved and authenticated by the CEO of the Board before they could be taken up for auditing by the auditors. The auditors had earlier informed the Board that audit of accounts for the year 2001-02 was being taken up by them with the understanding that Rules would be got amended by the Board/Ministry before sending them the accounts for the subsequent years. However, the Board had sent the accounts pertaining to the year 2002-03 without amending the required rules to the Principal Director of Audit and hence he did not take up the audit. The auditors took up the audit task only after the amendments were carried out in the rules. As a result delay took place in finalisation of the documents for the year 2002-03. The Committee feel that had the Ministry/Board taken prompt action in regard to amendment of the rules, as advised by the Principal Director of Audit, much of the delay in taking up the audit by auditors could have been avoided. The Committee hope that now with the necessary provision/amendment made in the rules, the Board would send duly approved accounts to the auditors in time for auditing in future.

(No.G.20016/7/2005-DDVI dated 25.1.2006)

### **Reply of the Government**

The NCR Planning Board has informed that it will ensure timely preparation of accounts & its approval so that the Principal Director of Audit may be requested to audit the accounts within the time schedule suggested by the Committee. The progress of preparation of Accounts will also be monitored periodically.

(No.G.20016/7/2005-DDVI dated 25.1.2006)

### **Recommendation (Para No. 1.15)**

The Committee further note that after receipt of final audit report from the auditors, the Board has taken 6 months for the year 2001-02 and 10 months for the year 2002-03 in getting approval of the audited accounts from the competent authority of the Board which among others include the Chief Ministers of Haryana, Delhi, U.P. and Rajasthan besides the Union Minister for Urban Development. From the information furnished by the Ministry, the Committee find that the Annual Report pertaining to the year 2002-03 was got approved by circulation among the members of the Board. Therefore, the Committee feel that Ministry's plea that the delay in convening the meeting of the Board for getting approval of the accounts was beyond the control of the management of the Board is unacceptable. The Committee urge the Ministry of Urban Development/Board to get the approval of the audited accounts, through circulation of the accounts among the members of the Board, to avoid delay on this score in future. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the steps taken in this regard.

(No.G.20016/7/2005-DDVI dated 25.1.2006)

### **Reply of the Government**

The NCR Planning Board has informed that it will made efforts to get the approval of the Annual Accounts/Annual Report by the Members of the Board through



circulation whenever the meeting of the Board is expected to be delayed. In fact, the Annual Accounts for the year 2004-2005 have been got approved by circulation .

(No.G.20016/7/2005-DDVI dated 25.1.2006)

### **Recommendation (Para No. 1.16)**

The Committee note that no schedule indicating time limit for completion of tasks involved at each stage of finalisation of the documents by the Board has been laid down by the Ministry due to which the Board/Ministry presumably fail to keep track of the progress made at each stage. The Committee urge that this should be done forthwith and the Ministry of Urban Development should closely monitor the progress of completion of each stage involved in the preparation/finalisation of the documents to prevent recurrence of such delays in future. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard at the earliest.

### **Reply of the Government**

As mentioned in reply to Recommendation No. 1.13, the NCR Planning Board has already prepared a time schedule for completion of each stage of finalization of the documents. The Ministry shall also monitor the progress to ensure adherence to the time schedule.

### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.16, 2.17 and 2.18)**

The Committee are concerned to note that there has been delay ranging from 4 months to 19 months in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), New Delhi in respect of every year from 1994-95 to 2003-04.

From the information furnished by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Department of Health), the Committee find that the main reason for delay in finalization and laying of the document has been the undue time taken by the Academy in getting

approval of the documents from the Council and the General Body of the Academy. The Annual Report of the Academy for every year is reportedly approved by the General Body which is normally scheduled to meet only by the end of March or first week of April every year. However, the Audited Accounts relating to a year are being placed before the General Body only in the succeeding year. Thus, there had been an in-built delay in the system because of the fixed schedule of the General Body meeting. The Committee feel that had the Department of Health/Academy paid attention to the reasons for recurring delay and rescheduled the meeting of the Governing Body to seek timely approval of the audited accounts, the delay in laying the documents of the Academy could have easily been avoided. It is only on insistence of the Committee that the Academy has now agreed to prepone the meetings of the Council/General Body for getting timely approval of the documents. The Committee hope and trust that the Department of Health/NAMS would abide by the assurance given by them to the Committee and the meetings of the Council/General Body of the Academy will be convened in time so that the documents of the Academy are laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated period of nine months after close of the accounting year in future.

The Committee note that in the time schedule suggested by the Department of Health to the Academy and other autonomous organisations under their administrative control, the date of submission of the annual reports and audited accounts has been shown as 26 December. In this regard, the Committee would like to point out that after receipt of the requisite documents in the Ministry, they also require about 10-15 days to get the same authenticated and forward them to Lok Sabha Secretariat for being laid on the Table of the House. Further the Winter Session of Parliament normally concludes by the end of third week of December every year. Therefore, the documents received around 26 December can not be laid on the Table within 9 months as prescribed by the Committee. The Committee, therefore, urge the Department of Health to prepare the time schedule afresh to facilitate receipt of all the requisite documents in the Ministry by the last week of November every year positively so that they could be processed for being laid on the House during December every year. The revised schedule so prepared may be communicated to all the autonomous organizations including NAMS under the

administrative control of the Ministry which may also ensure its strict compliance. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

### **Reply of the Government**

The time-frame laid down by this Ministry has been modified and communicated to all government organizations under the administrative control of this Ministry including National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. The annual accounts and annual report of National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi for the year 2004-05 were laid on the Table of both the Houses as per following modified time-frame.

Sl.No	Schedule of Activities	Activity date
1	Submission of Accounts to Director of Audit	30 <sup>th</sup> June
2	Commencement of Audit by Director of Audit	1 <sup>st</sup> August
3	Receipt of Audit Certificate	1 <sup>st</sup> week of November
4	Approval of Governing Body	Mid November
5	Translation of Annual Report and Audited Accounts	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of November
6	Printing of papers	30 November
7	Submission of annual report and audited accounts	1 <sup>st</sup> week of December

(No.H.11021/10/2003-ME-Desk.-I)Pt.)

### **Recommendation (Para No. 3.17)**

The Committee regret to note that the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) which coordinates and determines the standards in the system of distance education in the country and ought to promote professionalism among different segments of the population through its various academic programmes has itself been a habitual defaulter in adhering to the time limit laid down by the statute for submission of its Annual Reports and Audited Accounts before Parliament. Further contrary to the recommendation of the Committee Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the University which should have been laid together, were actually laid separately year after year with inordinate delays on the plea that the Annual Reports of the University have been laid in the House without waiting for the audited accounts as delays were anticipated. The delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the University pertaining to the years 1998-99 to 2003-04 ranges from 2 months to 28 ½ months.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Activities of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) are horizontally distributed amongst the vast network of the Regional Centers/Sub-Regional Centers (64), Study Centres/programme Study Centers (over 1417) all over the country. Though every effort is made to collect the data/details of the receipts and expenditure emanating from these centers which comprise the major part of the University's accounts, the exercise has been taking time. The Study Centres are managed by Part-time functionaries drawn from the host institutions and paid honorarium for the job. It is not feasible to appoint regular staff in their place as the cost of operations will increase manifold warranting increase in fees or enhanced financial support from the Government which may result in additional burden on tax-payers. It may be submitted that IGNOU differs from the campus based conventional Universities where every transaction taken place in a particular campus and the figures/details are available daily. It may further be submitted that as per the Section 28 (3) of the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act 1985(No. 50 of 1985), a copy of the Annual Report prepared by the University shall

be submitted to the Central Govt. which shall, as soon as may be, cause the same to be laid before both the Houses of Parliament. The Annual Report for the year 2004-05 has been laid in the Lok Sabha on December 20, 2005 and in the Rajya Sabha on December 23, 2005 which is within the stipulated time.

(Ministry of HRD, Department of S&HE O.M. 5-88/2005-Desk (U) (A) dated 9.3.2006

### **Recommendation (Para No. 3.18)**

From scrutiny of reasons for delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the University for the last six years (1998-99 to 2003-04), the Committee note *inter-alia* that undue time was taken in compilation of accounts reportedly due to delay in collection of data from study centres spread over various parts of the country, auditing of accounts by DGACR and furnishing their final audit report and getting approval of the documents from the Board of Management/Finance Committee of the University. The Committee also note that the University has taken 9 months, 6 months and 10 months at the stage of compilation of their accounts for the years 1998-99 to 2003-04 respectively. The Ministry's plea that compilation of accounts takes a very long time and there is no shortcut procedure is hardly convincing particularly in the era of strides made in the computerisation of accounts and fast modes available for electronic transfer of data. The Committee find that the University reportedly makes use of modern communication technology in the delivery of its various programmes to its study centres scattered in every nook and corner of the country but it appears to have failed to collect the data and other information, by making use of modern electronic means/computer technology, required in connection with finalisation of the documents for laying before Parliament. The Committee hope that as assured during evidence IGNOU will now make proper use of electronic connectivity to get the accounts from its centres to enable them to compile these accounts at Headquarters within the prescribed time to avoid delay in future.

## **Reply of the Government**

As explained above, the work involved in IGNOU on respect of compilation of Annual Accounts is more voluminous than that of conventional Universities. Starting from the year 2004-05, the accrual basis of accounting system as against earlier on cash basis, was adopted. Although IGNOU has made use of the Tally Accounting package for compilation and preparations of Annual Accounts for 2004-05, it is still in the process of being fully established. The University is in the process of getting the Regional Centre/Study Centres staff fully acquainted with the new system of accounting and the system may take sometimes to stabilize. The University is making efforts to complete the Annual Accounts for the current financial year at the earliest. However, it may be submitted that networking at Study Centre level is financially not viable as the operational requirements of such a system at Study Centres are very limited

(Ministry of HRD, Department of S&HE O.M. 5-88/2005-Desk (U) (A) dated 9.3.2006)

### **Recommendation (Para No. 3.19)**

The Committee note that another factor, which has mainly caused delay in finaliation of the documents is the undue time taken at the stage of auditing of accounts and furnishing their final audit report by C&AG. The time taken by auditors for completing their task comes to 12 months each for the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 and 13 months for the year 2002-03. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Secondary & Higher Education) have now proposed to impress upon DGACR to see that it is not repeated. The Committee hope that the question of delay at the stage of audit of accounts and furnishing their final audit report, both English and Hindi versions, not only of IGNOU but all the other organisations under the administrative control of the Department of Secondary & Higher Education would be taken up with DGACR at the Secretary level in the Ministry so that it could be brought within time limits. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

## **Reply of the Government**

There have been delay in audit of the accounts by the Statutory Auditors. This Ministry, at the level of Education Secretary, had taken up the matter with the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on 11.8.2005 and has since finalized a time frame for completion of Audited Annual Accounts with the approval of C & AG. The Vice-Chancellors of all the Central Universities have been requested by this Ministry, vide DO letter No. 6-7/2005-Desk(U) dated 4.10.2005, for strictly complying with the time schedule duly approved by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India. As per the revised time schedule the Universities would be able to compile their accounts by 15<sup>th</sup> June of succeeding year and to submit the same to audit by 30<sup>th</sup> June. Audit will commence in the month of June itself and SAR (English) will be issued by 31<sup>st</sup> October and SAR (Hindi) by 15<sup>th</sup> November. After completing all formalities, the University will submit the Annual Accounts and Audit Report to the Ministry for laying on 1<sup>st</sup> December. The Office of C&AG has also directed its field offices to look into the various stages of delay in audit and to ensure completion of audit job in time. The Central Universities have also been asked to submit their Annual Accounts in the new standard format prepared by the Ministry of Finance. IGNOU has assured that University would do its best to finalise and submit the accounts to the audit as per the schedule. The University has constituted a Committee headed by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor with the Registrar and the Finance Officer as members, to monitor the activities relating to finalisation of the Annual Report and Accounts of the University and to ensure timely submission of these documents.

**(Ministry of HRD, Department of S&HE O.M. 5-88/2005-Desk (U)(A) dated 9.3.2006)**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 3.20)**

Furthermore, the time taken by the University in getting approval of the documents from the Board of Management/Finance Committee, printing and completing

other formalities involved in the process of laying of the documents ranged from 3 months to 15 months for the years 2001-02 to 2002-03. The Committee feel that the inordinate delay on the part of the University in this regard is within the control of the University and thus avoidable. In order to obviate delay in future in getting approval of the documents from the competent authority the University has proposed to hold special meetings of the Finance Committee and Board of Management. The Committee hope that as assured the steps will be taken in right earnest to ensure that there is no avoidable delay on the part of the University at this stage of finalisation of the documents.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Committee constituted by the Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU for the purpose will make every efforts to ensure that the approval of the authorities, namely the Board of Management and the Finance Committee are obtained soon after the Annual Report & Annual Accounts and the final Audit Reports of the DACR are ready. In the current year the accounts considered by the Finance Committee were approved by the Board of Management in the meeting held on the very next day. The University has assured that every effort will be made to cut short the delays occurring in translation. Printing and approval of these document and the documents will be laid in the Parliament according to the prescribed time table.

(Ministry of HRD, Department of S&HE O.M. 5-88/2005-Desk (U) (A) dated 9.3.2006)

### **Recommendation (Para No. 3.21)**

The Committee also find that a time schedule indicating target dates for completion of each stage of the finalisation of the documents has been drawn and a Committee under the chairmanship of Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University has been constituted to oversee the progress made at each stage of finalisation of the documents. The Committee urge that the time schedule made in this regard should be adhered to and



monitored regularly to prevent recurrence of delays in finalisation and laying of requisite documents on the Table of the House in future.

### **Reply of the Government**

The concern shown by the Committee on Papers laid on the table about the delays taking place in the submission of the Annual Report and Annual Accounts of the University have been noted. Efforts are being made in the right earnest to ensure the submission of the documents as per time prescribed in this regard, this year and in future.

[Ministry of HRD, Deptt. of S&HE O.M. No. 5-88/2005-Desk (U) (A)dated 9.3.2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 4.11)**

The Committee regret to note that there were inordinate delays in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi year after year. The delay ranged from 8 months to 16 months in laying the documents pertaining to the years 1998-99 to 2002-03. The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2003-04 which were due for laying by 31.12.2004 were not laid till this report was considered by the Committee.

### **Reply of the Government**

The delay was mainly on account of the time taken for the conduct of audit and receipt of audit certificate from DGACR. The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2003-2004 was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 21.12.2005 and Rajya Sabha on 23.12.2005. The matter has been taken up with the Akademies and the DGACR. As a result, the delays have been reduced.

[Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Department of Culture O.M. No. 8-15/2005-US (academies) dated 12.06.2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 4.12)**

The Committee are unhappy to note that the requirement of laying of 'delay statement' within 30 days of expiry of the prescribed period as recommended in para 3.5 of the First Report (5<sup>th</sup> LS) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table has not been adhered to in respect of any of the year from 1998-99 to 2002-03 and the Members of the Parliament have been deprived of timely information. This should be complied with in future, if a need so arises.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Ministry regrets non-adherence to the relevant Rule. It would be complied with in future. This was due to delay in receipt of Audit Certificate from the DGACR. [Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Department of Culture O.M. No. 8-15/2005-US (academies) dated 12.06.2006]

[Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Department of Culture O.M. No. 8-15/2005-US (academies) dated 12.06.2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 4.13)**

The Committee note that the main reason for delay in laying the documents was the unduly long time taken by auditors in auditing the accounts of the Akademi. From the information furnished by the Ministry of Culture, the Committee observe that after receipt of documents for the last three years viz. 2000-01 to 2002-03, the auditors have taken 15 months each in completing the audit and furnishing the audit report particularly, the Hindi version of the audit report to the Akademi. The Ministry of Culture have also stated that the biggest delay in the whole process is the delay from the side of the Auditor General in furnishing the English & Hindi versions of Audit Reports along with audit certificate. The Ministry of Culture have now assured to hold a high level meeting with Audit Authorities to address the issue. The Committee, therefore, urge that the Ministry of Culture expeditiously take up the delay at the stage of auditing of accounts, not only of Sahitya Akademi but also of all the other organisations under its

administrative control with C&AG where such delays exist. The Committee also stress that the Ministry of Culture may also involve Ministry of Finance, wherever needed, to sort out the delay in auditing and to ensure timely completion of audit task so that Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of all the organisations under the control of the Ministry are laid in time in future. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Department of Culture addressed a letter each to DGACR and the Ministry of Finance regarding completion of audit in respect of autonomous organizations within the stipulated period of nine months from the closing of the financial year.

[Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Department of Culture O.M. No. 8-15/2005-US (academies) dated 12.06.2006]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 4.14)**

The Committee note that a time schedule has been formulated indicating target dates for completion of each stage involved in preparation of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Sahitya Akademi which needs to be adhered to in letter and spirit. The Ministry of Culture also assured the Committee during evidence that they would impress on the organisation to gear up the schedule to ensure that the documents are laid within nine months after close of the accounting year in future. The Committee hope that remedial action would be taken by the Ministry and the Akademi as assured before the Committee.

### **Reply of the Government**

Remedial action is being taken by the Department of Culture and Sahitya Akademi as per assurance given before the Committee so that these documents are laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament within 9 months after the closure of the financial year.

[Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Department of Culture O.M. No. 8-15/2005-US (academies) dated 12.06.2006]



