

28

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
(2007-2008)**

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

DIRECTORATE OF PRINTING

*[Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained
in the Twenty Second Report of the Standing Committee on
Urban Development (Fourteenth Lok Sabha)]*

TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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Presented to Lok Sabha on

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
URBAN DEVELOPMENT (2007-2008)

Mohd. Salim — *Chairman*

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4. Smt. Anita B. Panda — *Deputy Secretary*
5. Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora — *Committee Officer*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Urban Development (2007-08) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Twenty-Eighth Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-Second Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development on the subject "Directorate of Printing" of the Ministry of Urban Development.

2. The Twenty-Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 14th May, 2007. The replies of the Government to 13 recommendations contained in the Report were received on 27th August, 2007.

3. The replies of the Government were examined and the Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 28th December, 2007.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-Second Report. (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI;
3 January, 2008

13 Pausa, 1929 (Saka)

MOHD. SALIM,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Urban Development.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Urban Development (2007-08) deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-Second Report on the subject "Directorate of Printing" of the Ministry of Urban Development which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 14th May, 2007.

2. Action taken notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the 13 recommendations which have been categorized as follows:—

(i) Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Para Nos. 2.6, 2.7, 2.15, 3.13, 3.14, 3.15, 4.23, 4.25 and 4.26

(ii) Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies:

Para Nos. 3.12

(iii) Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Para Nos. 1.17, 4.24 and 5.6

(iv) Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:

Para No. Nil

3. The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of these recommendations in the succeeding paragraphs.

Need to Review the Allocation of Business Rules in respect of Directorate of Printing

Recommendation (Para No. 1.17)

4. The Committee had noted as below:—

"The Committee note that the Directorate of Printing had been under the administrative control of the Ministry of Works and

Housing, which has been renamed as the Ministry of Urban Development for many decades. The Committee feel that the allocation of work relating to the Directorate of Printing to the Ministry of Urban Development does not appear to be quite appropriate and based on very sound principles. The Committee also feel that the Ministry of Urban Development was unable to devote adequate time to monitor and supervise the work of the Directorate of Printing as the Ministry had been engaged in more or less tasks of carrying out the urban development all over the country. Since urban development was the focus area of the Ministry of Urban Development, the work relating to the Directorate of Printing and the Government of India Printing Presses remained neglected for many years and the subject did not receive the required attention unless it was a pressing problem. The Committee, therefore, recommend that due attention should be given to the works relating to the Directorate of Printing by the Ministry of Urban Development."

5. The Government have replied as below:—

"The Directorate of Printing caters to the printing needs of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India. This job has been categorized as 'Work' and hence this Directorate is functioning for a very long time under what was earlier called the Ministry of Works & Housing and now renamed as Ministry of Urban Development.

Ministry of Urban Development is devoting appropriate time to monitor and supervise the issues relating to the Directorate of Printing. Necessary instructions/guidelines are being issued to all concerned from time to time for attending to all problems being faced by the Directorate so that the overall performance of the Presses, quality-wise and capacity-wise are constantly improved."

6. The Committee, in their original recommendation, had felt that the Ministry of Urban Development was unable to devote adequate time to monitor and supervise the work of Directorate of Printing and the allocation of work relating to the Directorate of Printing did not appear to be based on sound principles. They were of the opinion that the focus of the Ministry was more or less on the tasks of carrying out the urban development and thus, the work relating to the Directorate of Printing and the Government of India Printing Presses had remained neglected for many years. The Ministry, in their Action Taken Reply, have sought to justify the

functioning of Directorate of Printing under the Ministry of Urban Development by stating that the printing job has been categorized as 'Work' and the Ministry, which was earlier named as the Ministry of Works and Housing, has traditionally been associated with it. It has further been stated that the Ministry is devoting appropriate time to monitor and supervise the issues relating to the Directorate of Printing. The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Ministry, which obviously misses the basic point raised in their recommendation. The Committee had desired the Ministry to revisit the allocation of Business Rules in respect of the Directorate of Printing so that its functioning does not get overshadowed by the main focus of the Ministry *i.e.* Urban Development. This, they feel, is more important in view of the fact, that in the present scheme of things, transferring the Directorate of Printing to some other Ministry may, perhaps, be difficult. Though the Committee agree that the main focus of the Ministry of Urban Development would remain on the massive problems that have emerged as a result of rapid urban growth in the country, they still feel that the Directorate of Printing, being one of its entities, needs revitalization. They therefore, reiterate that the Ministry may take a fresh look into its functioning and strive to get it optimally utilized for the printing needs of the Government.

Training of Employees

Recommendation (Para No. 3.15)

7. The Committee had noted as below:

"The Committee note that the Directorate of Printing is setting up a "Production-cum-Training Centre" at Shimla. The Committee desire that sufficient in-built training devices are kept in this "Production-cum-Training Centre" so that the workers from all the Government of India Printing Presses can receive proper and state-of-the-art training in this Centre. Also, proper training should be imparted to the newly recruited workers under the 'Revised Recruitment Rules' in future."

8. The Government had replied as under:—

"Government of India Press, Shimla is already under the process of modernization which include restructuring/renovation of Press building, acquiring modern machines and equipment. Sanctioned staff strength of various Government of India Presses under modernization scheme has been issued to the Presses. Initial/basic

training has already been started at respective Presses to all the eligible categories of staff in the month of July, 2007. After completion of the initial/basic training in respective Presses, the final state-of-the-art training of all respective categories will be carried out in batches at "Production-cum-Training Centre" at Government of India, Faridabad and Government of India Press, Shimla."

9. In their earlier recommendation, the Committee, while noting the setting up of a "Production-cum-Training Centre" at Shimla by the Directorate of Printing, had desired that sufficient in-built training devices are kept in the proposed Training Centre for the benefit of the workers from all the Government of India Printing Presses. They had also emphasized on the proper training that would be imparted to the newly recruited workers in future. The Committee are satisfied to note from the reply of the Ministry that the Government of India Press, Shimla is already under the process of modernization, which includes acquiring modern machines and equipment. The Committee feel that as the printing technology has witnessed substantial advancements of late, it is imperative that the Directorate of printing remains aware of the latest equipment and technology in the field and interact with printing institutions abroad to familiarize themselves with the new trends. They further note that the initial/basic training course has already been started at the respective Presses and following the completion of the initial training, the final state-of-the-art training of all respective categories will be carried out in batches at the "Production-cum-Training Centre" at Government of India Press, Shimla and Government of India Press, Faridabad. The Committee hope that the training of employees would be completed within the given timeframe.

Non-Utilization of Procured Modern Machineries at Santragachi Press, Kolkata

Recommendation (Para No. 4.24)

10. The Committee had noted as below:—

"The Committee are also constrained to learn that machineries at Santragachi Press, Kolkata have been allowed to remain idle due to non-availability of funds for execution of day-to-day work order. The Committee recommend that needful corrective action be taken by the Ministry in this regard to ensure full utilization of the new printing machines."

11. The Government have replied as under:—

“At Government of India Press, Santragachi, Kolkata the machines remained idle due to non-availability of sufficient trained printing staff. The Government had in the past imposed a ban on recruitments in the Government of India Presses resulting in lack of availability of adequate and trained staff on modern machines.

Now, approval for filling up the post by direct recruitment and re-deployment under modernization scheme has been received from Ministry of Finance and accordingly instructions have also been issued to the Government of India Press at Santragachi to take necessary action to expedite recruitment of adequate and trained staff to run the machines smoothly.

As regards funds, it is submitted that adequate funds have been provided to Government of India Press, Santragachi and hence paucity of funds is no reason for idling of machinery.”

12. The Committee are dismayed to note from the reply of the Government that due to non-availability of sufficient trained printing staff at Government of India Press, Santragachi, Kolkata, the machines remained idle. They are at a loss to understand as to why the availability of trained staff could not be ensured well in time, particularly when a decision for modernization of the Government of India presses was already taken way back in August, 2002. They feel that had the Ministry initiated efforts for recruitment, redeployment and training of staff, the machines at Santragachi Press would not have remained idle so far. The Committee are of the view that this indicates laxity as well as lack of foresight and willingness on the part of the Ministry to give a fresh lease of life to Government of India presses. The Committee can only hope that at least now, the pace of things would improve to expedite the recruitment, redeployment and training of staff in Government of India press, Santragachi so that there is no further idling of expensive machinery. At the same time, the Committee would urge the Ministry to fix the responsibility for the delay in the matter. The Committee desire to know the progress in this regard at the time of submission of the final Action Taken Statement.

Need to Expand the Market Base for Government Presses

Recommendation (Para No. 4.25)

13. The Committee had noted as under:—

“The Committee observe that the Directorate of Printing along with its 16 Government of India Presses have a well laid out set up

from top to bottom but without adequate job orders. Printing is a vast area and requirements in the printing market are changing everyday. However, the Directorate with its old mind set up is not able to tap these resources to keep it fully occupied. The Committee, therefore recommend that the Directorate of Printing should make all out efforts to expand their market base and procure work orders from private parties apart from Government bodies, as mostly, the Government of India Presses are instantly involved only in printing of Government circulars, Budget papers, Reports etc. The Committee may be apprised about the action taken in the matter.”

14. The Government have replied as under:—

“It is submitted that the Directorate of Printing is very much alive to the changing environment towards market economy and the consequent need to compete in open market. The Directorate has accordingly been taking efforts to reorient the entire functioning of the Government of India Presses through various measures like introduction of commercial accounting, procurement of modern equipments and state-of-the-art training to the staff etc. to enhance their printing skill and quality of output.

D.O. letters from Joint Secretary (UD) were issued on 01.05.2007 to State Governments of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir to entrust large number of printing jobs to Government of India Presses for execution.

Directorate of Printing has also approached Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore for printing their publications. In response thereto, Central Institute of Indian Languages has allotted 12 books in Tamil Language for execution by the Directorate of Printing.”

15. The Committee appreciate that the Directorate of Printing has been making several efforts to re-orient the entire functioning of the Government of India Presses through various measures in view of the changing market scenario. The Ministry have approached various State Governments and the Central Institute of Indian Languages to entrust substantial printing jobs to the Government of India Presses for execution. The Committee further desire that the Ministry should also open a dedicated cell in the Directorate of Printing for designing and executing a well-laid out strategy for continuous liaisoning with various Central Ministries, State

Government, PSUs and Private Sector entities to obtain printing jobs for Government of India Presses so as to ensure a self-sufficient, sustainable and financially viable status for the same.

Government of India Text Book Presses not to be Privatized

Recommendation (Para No. 5.6)

16. The Committee had noted as below:—

“The three Text Book printing presses of Mysore, Bhubaneswar and Chandigarh have a historical background of being linked to our educational system. The Committee, therefore, strongly feel that these Government of India Text Book Presses should not have been chosen for privatization. The Committee are given to understand that in accordance with the proposal of UNESCO, the German Government had gifted the requisite machinery to these three Text Book printing presses. The Committee further note the important fact that there is a constant printing demand from NCERT and other agencies and these Text Book printing presses cater very well to the printing needs of the Government of India in the Eastern and North-Eastern Regions. The Committee need hardly emphasize that these presses have been functional. In such a situation, the Committee desire that the Ministry should take a fresh look into their decision relating to privatization of these three printing presses. The Committee look forward to a positive response from the Government.”

17. The Government have replied as under:—

“The Government of India Text Book Presses at Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh and Mysore were not getting printing jobs for text books from the respective State Governments. However, the suggestion of the Committee to have a fresh look into decision relating to privatization of the three Text Book Printing Presses is being examined.”

18. The Committee while expressing concern over the decision taken by the Government for privatization of the three Text Book Presses, had desired that the Ministry should take a fresh look into it. The Ministry, in their Action Taken reply, have informed the Committee that the Government of India Text Book Presses at Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh and Mysore were not getting printing jobs for Text Books from the respective State Governments and that the suggestion of the Committee to have a fresh look into the decision

relating to privatization of these three Text Book Presses is being examined. The Committee expect that sincere efforts would be made by the Government to revitalize these presses in their existing form.

From the fact that these three Text Book Presses were not getting printing jobs for Text Books from the respective State Governments, the Committee are inclined to conclude that an effective market strategy is required on the part of the Government to procure jobs for these presses in today's competitive market scenario. They feel that instead of remaining solely dependent on getting orders from the respective State Governments, the Ministry should devise a suitable plan to expand the activities of these Text Book Presses by exploring for orders from various other educational institutions in the fields of administration, management, computers etc., IITs and other recognized regional Universities which have come up in the recent past. The Committee further desire that for expanding the clientele of Government of India Presses, the Ministry should ensure availability of adequate funds for their publicity and advertisement.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No. 2.6)

Budgetary Support to the Government Printing Presses

The Committee find that the Directorate of Printing had started earmarking funds for renewal and replacement of machinery and equipment in the Government of India Presses only from the year 2003-04. It has been observed that in the year 2003-04, Rs. 21.93 crore was earmarked for the renewal and replacement of machinery and thereafter the allocation for this item has come down to Rs. 5 crore only in the year 2006-07. The Committee also find that over the years, the Directorate of Printing had accumulated Depreciation Reserve Fund of Rs. 28 crore. In spite of the availability of adequate funds for the modernization of the Presses, there was no adequate justification given for the lethargic attitude of the Government in expediting the process of modernization. Even after enumerating Rs. 21.93 crore in 2003-04, the actual expenditure incurred was only Rs. 15.07 crore under the modernization programme. The Committee are not happy with such sluggish pace of utilization of funds by the Directorate of Printing for executing their modernization programme and desire that a definite time-frame should be fixed for various stages of modernization of all the Printing Presses and Government should endeavour to complete the modernization work within that time-frame.

Reply of the Government

Civil and Electrical work in 11 Government of India Presses under modernization have already been completed. The civil and electrical work in respect of Government of India Press, Shimla to convert it into a "Production-cum-Training Centre" is under progress. 75% civil work on the shop floor in respect of Government of India Press, Shimla has been completed and remaining work is under execution on war footing basis.

2. Out of Rs. 21.93 crore earmarked for modernization of the Presses, orders worth Rs. 20.82 crore have already been placed for 11 Government of India Presses under modernization and out of

additional Rs. 2.19 crore subsequently earmarked for modernization of Government of India Presses, Shimla, orders worth Rs. 1.22 crore have already been placed for some machines and equipments. Procurement of balance machines is likely to be completed by November/December, 2007.

3. Details of the equipment/machinery procured/to be procured under modernization scheme is given below:—

1. Total Nos. of equipment/machinery to be procured under modernization programme	280 Nos.
2. Total Nos. of equipment/machinery has been purchased.	219 Nos.
3. Total Nos. of equipment/machinery supply completed and installed	201 Nos.
4. Supply awaited	18 Nos.
5. Yet to be procured	61 Nos.

4. Regarding procurement of the remaining 61 items under the modernization programme, it has been decided by the Ministry of Finance to procure through e-procurement *w.e.f.* 1st July, 2007. The matter has been taken up with the DGS&D, New Delhi to provide the facility of e-procurement. Accordingly a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has already been signed on 10.08.2007. The e-procurement process will start immediately.

[Ministry of Urban Development O.M. No. G-20015/3/2006-B&A
Dated: 27th August, 2007]

Recommendation (Para No. 2.7)

Need for a better accounting system in Government of India Presses

On the question of the 'Accounting System' followed by the Government of Indian Printing Presses, the Committee are concerned to note that since the inception of the Directorate of Printing till date, the old accounting system of 'Proforma Accounting' is still being followed by the GOIPs. The Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development has also admitted during the oral-evidence before the Committee that it is high time that the old system of accounting and financing is reviewed in view of the modernization programme. Competitiveness of the Presses is to be ensured so as to steer them towards a self-sustaining mechanism. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a

suitable and effective accounting system needs to be adopted by all the presses so as to ensure better financial management of the printing units.

Reply of the Government

To ensure better financial management of the Printing Presses and to make Presses self sustaining, Ministry of Urban Development has decided to switchover from present Government Accounting System to computer software based Commercial Accounting System and evolve and also to develop a costing system and instant billing system in the Government of India Presses. To meet the requirements, Ministry has also decided to avail the services of Consultant to help Directorate of Printing to switchover completely to the commercial system of accounting by inviting tenders from the financial institutions/firms. Action for appointment of the Consultant has been initiated.

[Ministry of Urban Development O.M. No. G-20015/3/2006-B&A
Dated: 27th August, 2007]

Recommendation (Para No. 2.15)

Recovery of Outstanding Dues

The Committee note that as on date bills to the tune of Rs. 300 crore are pending for payment against various indenting Departments. The Committee find that the dues have accumulated over the years because of the billing procedure that has been followed all these years. The Committee note that Presses raise the bills in two stages— (i) provisional bills and (ii) supplementary bills. Provisional bills are preferred immediately after the printing jobs are over. Thereafter, the supplementary bill/final bill is preferred after the completion of Proforma Accounts of the relevant year in which the job is executed. Since the final bill could be given to the indenting Departments only after the close of the financial year, the budgetary grants already available for the job indented in the previous year lapsed and these indenting Departments were not able to fulfill the monetary obligations towards the Directorate of Printing. The Committee are unhappy to find the Directorate of Printing wanting in their efforts to recover the dues in the past 25 to 30 years. They, however, note that an Arrear Recovery Cell has now been created within the Directorate of Printing to monitor the old bills and also current bills. The meeting of Arrear Recovery Cell is now being called by the Head of the Department every week to monitor the progress and instructions are being given to the Government of India Presses on development matters. The

Committee have been informed that the response of the Government Departments in setting their old bills is not very encouraging. In this regard, the Directorate of Printing has suggested that the Ministry of Finance should be approached to effect the recovery of printing charges from the budget grants of the defaulting Government Departments. The Committee recommend that this option proposed by the Directorate of Printing should be given a serious consideration so that a definite way is found to settle the matter of arrears of printing charges.

Reply of the Government

In response to Ministry of Urban Development's proposal for effecting recovery of outstanding printing charges from various Ministries/Departments through budget allocation of defaulting Ministry/Departments, Ministry of Finance has suggested that the matter of recovery of printing charges may be pursued as per provision of Government Accounting Rules 1990 in consultation with Financial Adviser/Chief Controller of Accounts of the Ministry. Accordingly Directorate of Printing had requested the Controller of Accounts to suggest suitable action in this regard. In reply, Chief Controller of Accounts has suggested that a mechanism of recovery of dues through raising 'Debit Notes' against Pay & Accounts Office (Sectt.) of indenting Ministries through "A" Category Cheques be devised.

2. Accordingly, Directorate of Printing had requested the Chief Controller of Accounts to provide detailed procedure for raising debit notes on Pay & Accounts Office (Secretariat) of the various Ministries for Inter Governmental Settlement through 'A' category cheques to enable to Presses to raise debit notes for settlement of printing charges bills. On receipt of the procedure from the Chief Controller of Accounts necessary instructions will be issued to the Presses for raising of debit notes.

3. In order to peg down the huge pendency of printing charges pending against various Ministries/Departments, all the Managers/Officer-in-Charges of the Presses have been directed to make serious efforts for recovery of printing charges as per the target set by the Ministry of Urban Development, as under:—

Target:

- (a) April, 2007 to June, 2007—15% of the total outstanding amount as on 1.4.2007
- (b) July, 2007 to Sept., 2007—10% of the total outstanding amount as on 1.4.2007

(c) Oct., 2007 to Dec., 2007—10% of the total outstanding amount as on 1.4.2007

(d) Jan, 2008 to March, 2008—15% of the total outstanding amount as on 1.4.2007

4. Presses have also been advised to provide details of bills to the indenting Departments and depute officials to facilitate speedy settlement of printing charges bills.

5. Progress of the recovery of printing charges is being monitored through Fortnightly Report and instructions are issued to Government of India Presses from time to time to improve their performance and achieve targeted recovery.

6. During the financial year 2007-08, upto 31st July, 2007, Rs. 64.92 crore has been recovered by the Presses from the various indenting Ministries/Departments.

[Ministry of Urban Development O.M. No. G-20015/3/2006-B&A
Dated: 27th August, 2007]

Recommendation (Para No. 3.13)

Lifting of Ban on Recruitment of Staff

The Committee note that due to the ban in the recruitment of workers since 1985, there has been a continuous and steep decline in the available staff strength in the Directorate of Printing as well as in the 16 Government of India Printing Presses (GOIPs). The Committee need hardly emphasize that the aforesaid ban in employing adequate staff in the printing presses has had an adverse impact on the efficiency and working of the Government of India Printing Presses. The Committee are concerned about the damaging effects of such bans *i.e.* increasing frustration, a constant sense of dissatisfaction, confusion and uncertainty among the existing staff leading to lowering of morale. The Committee, therefore, strongly feel that sincere efforts have to be made by the Ministry in exploring the possibilities of lifting up the ban and employing and recruiting adequate workforce in the Government of India Printing Presses in the near future. The Committee recommend that the matter of revival of 464 vacant posts should be taken up immediately with the authorities concerned. The Committee may be apprised about the action taken in this direction at the earliest possible.

Reply of the Government

The Government had in the past imposed a ban on recruitment in the Government of India Presses. However, now, after modernization, revised sanctioned strengths of various cadres of Government of India Presses/Directorate of Printing have been fixed in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. Office Orders in this regard has already been issued on 18.05.2007. Based on this, Government of India Presses are taking action to fill up the vacant posts. This process is likely to be completed by December, 2007.

[Ministry of Urban Development O.M. No. G-20015/3/2006-B&A
Dated: 27th August, 2007]

Recommendation (Para No. 3.14)

Recruitments under 'Revised Recruitment Rules'

The Committee are informed that most of the Government Presses have been working on "Letter Press Technology" and they have to be upgraded by use of 'offset technology' by employing the latest equipment like web-offset machines in which computer based application is predominantly used. This change of technology requires personnel with superior technical skills. The Committee are, however, constrained to note that the existing staff, which had been recruited decades ago, is not conversant with the modern operating system. The Committee are also informed that about 578 employees will be re-designated after they acquire higher skill as per the "Revised Recruitment Rules" of the Directorate of Printing for which higher pay scales have been proposed. However, approval for re-designation of 578 workers is awaited from Ministry of Finance. Apart from the above, recruitment for 115 posts under the Revised Recruitment Rules have been proposed in different Presses for which approval is still awaited from the Ministry of Finance. The Committee, therefore, recommend that all out measures must be taken to impart the State-of-the-Art training to all the 578 workers so as to be re-designated them under the 'Revised Recruitment Rules' after which they can be put on the job expeditiously. The Committee also recommend that the Government must take concerted efforts to fill the 115 posts under the Directorate as per the revised recruitment rules and the services of the work force must be effectively utilized at the Printing Presses, thereby, making these Printing presses viable units.

Reply of the Government

Approval for revised staff strength of Government of India Presses has been received from Ministry of Finance. The training process for all the eligible employees has already been started and is likely to be completed by December, 2007. As regards filling up of the above mentioned 115 posts, action has already been initiated in this regard and action is likely to be completed by December, 2007 in this regard also.

[Ministry of Urban Development O.M. No. G-20015/3/2006-B&A
Dated: 27th August, 2007]

Recommendation (Para No. 3.15)

Training of Employees

The Committee note that the Directorate of Printing is setting up a "Production-cum-Training Centre" at Shimla. The Committee desire that sufficient in-built training devices are kept in this "Production-cum-Training Centre" so that the workers from all the Government of India Printing Presses can receive proper and state-of-art training in this Centre. Also, proper training should be imparted to the newly recruited workers under the 'Revised Recruitment Rules' in future.

Reply of the Government

Government of India Press, Shimla is already under the process of modernization which include restructuring/renovation of Press building, acquiring modern machines and equipment.

2. Sanctioned staff strength of various Government of India Presses under modernization scheme has been issued to the Presses. Initial/basic training has already been started at respective Presses to all the eligible categories of staff in the month of July, 2007.

3. After completion of the initial/basic training in respective Presses, the final state-of-the art training of all respective categories will be carried out in batches at "Production-cum-Training Centre" at Government of India Faridabad and Government of India Press, Shimla.

[Ministry of Urban Development O.M. No. G-20015/3/2006-B&A
Dated: 27th August, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 9 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 4.23)

Delays in Modernization of Government Printing Presses

The Committee are distressed to note that the Ministry of Urban Development has been adopting a piece meal approach to the issues of modernization and restructuring of the printing presses, procurement of machineries, power contract and skill upgradation. Instead of approaching the Finance Ministry for obtaining sanction in different phases, the Ministry should have gone in for the same in a comprehensive and time bound manner in one package. The Committee are also deeply concerned to note that inordinate delay in obtaining sanctions and the idling away of procured machineries in many of the Printing Presses. They are quite unhappy that expensive machineries have been procured for the modernization of printing presses and have been allowed to remain unutilized due to lack of trained manpower. Therefore the Committee recommend that concerted and effective steps must be taken to fully utilize the modern machinery already installed in various presses.

Reply of the Government

Approval for sanctioned staff strength of various Government of India Presses under modernization scheme has been received from Ministry of Finance. Orders for revised staff strength has been issued on 18.05.2007. Action for filling up of posts is likely to be completed by December, 2007.

2. For ensuring full utilization of modern machinery, training of staff has already been started and is likely to be completed by December, 2007.

[Ministry of Urban Development O.M. No. G-20015/3/2006-B&A
Dated: 27th August, 2007]

Recommendation (Para No. 4.25)

Need to Expand the Market Base for Government Presses

The Committee observe that the Directorate of Printing along with its 16 Government of India Presses have a well laid out set up from top to bottom but without adequate job orders. Printing is a vast area and requirements in the printing market are changing everyday. However, the Directorate with its old mind set up is not able to tap these resources to keep it fully occupied. The Committee, therefore

recommend that the Directorate of Printing should make all out efforts to expand their market base and procure work orders from private parties apart from Government bodies, as mostly, the Government of India Printing Presses are instantly involved only in printing of Government circulars, Budget papers, Reports etc. The Committee may be apprised about the action taken in the matter.

Reply of the Government

It is submitted that the Directorate of Printing is very much alive to the changing environment towards market economy and the consequent need to compete in open market. The Directorate has accordingly been taking efforts to reorient the entire functioning of the Government of India Presses through various measures like introduction of commercial accounting, procurement of modern equipments and state-of-the-art training to the staff etc. to enhance their printing skill and quality of output.

2. D.O. letters from Joint Secretary (UD) were issued on 01.05.2007 to State Governments of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir to entrust large number of printing jobs to Government of India Presses for execution.

3. Directorate of Printing has also approached Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore for printing their publications. In response thereto, Central Institute of Indian Languages has allotted 12 books in Tamil Language for execution by the Directorate of Printing.

[Ministry of Urban Development O.M. No. G-20015/3/2006-B&A
Dated: 27th August, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 15 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 4.26)

Completion of the Modernization Process as Targeted

The Committee note that the Government of India and the Directorate of Printing are committed to complete the entire process of modernization of Government of India Presses by 31.01.2007. The Committee hope and trust that the modernization process is completed as assured to them. In addition, the Committee also desire that concerted efforts should be made to restructure and renovate the

Directorate of Printing to meet the new demands in printing technology and make it more competitive at par with the private printing presses. The latest position may be apprised to the Committee in the matter.

Reply of the Government

Vigorous and sustained efforts are being taken by the Directorate of Printing and the Ministry of Urban Development to speed up the entire process of modernization of the Government of India Presses.

2. Latest position in this regard is as under:—

- (i) The Ministry of Finance's concurrence for overall staff strength for modernization of Government of India Presses has since been obtained and orders issued on 18.5.2007. Action has been initiated to fill up all the vacant posts in accordance with the aforesaid staff strength. This action is likely to be completed by December, 2007;
- (ii) Training of staff in the modern equipment/technology has already started and is likely to be completed by December, 2007;
- (iii) Civil and Electrical works of 11 Government of India Presses under modernization have been completed;
- (iv) Action to convert the Government of India Press, Shimla into Production-cum-Training Centre is under progress on war footing;
- (v) 95% of the supply orders of modern machine equipments for these Presses has already been placed. Procurement of balance machines is likely to be completed by December, 2007;
- (vi) Commercial Accounting System is under process of finalization;
- (vii) Efforts are being made to procure more jobs for the Presses from NCERT, Central Institute of Indian and Foreign Languages, Mysore etc.

[Ministry of Urban Development O.M. No. G-20015/3/2006-B&A
Dated: 27th August, 2007]

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

Recommendation (Para No. 3.12)

Need to Fill up Vacancies of Posts of Director/Senior Officials

The Committee are surprised to note that the posts of the highest level *i.e.* of Director in both the Directorate of Printing as well as the Government of India Stationery Office are laying vacant since August, 2003. The absence of the heads of these institutions for such a long time reflects the lack of concern on the part of the Ministry of Urban Development in ensuring the efficient and effective functioning of the Directorate of Printing and the Government of India Printing Presses (GOIPs). The Committee are of the firm view that the keeping of senior managerial level posts vacant for long periods slackens the decision making process in any Institution or Organization. The fact that the Directorate of Printing remained without a head of the Institution, has certainly acted as a major deterrent factor in the smooth functioning of this Institution leaving it direction-less. The Committee take a serious note of this and recommend the Ministry to take up the matter on priority basis to fill up these vacant posts in both the Directorate of Printing as well as in the Government of India Stationery Office. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard within two months of the presentation of the Report to the House.

Reply of the Government

First two efforts to fill the post of Director of Printing through UPSC could not materialize due to non-availability of suitable candidates. However, the post was last circulated on 15.09.2006 and published in the Employment News dated 30.12.2006 and 05.01.2007. In response thereto, eight persons have applied for the post, out of which three applicants were found eligible. The proposal for selection for the post has already been referred to UPSC on 03.05.2007. It is expected that the post is likely to be filled shortly.

2. As regards filling up the post of Controller of Stationery in Government of India Stationery Office, it is stated that revision of

Recruitment Rules for the post of Controller of Stationery is in process. After Recruitment Rules are notified, approval of Ministry of Finance would be obtained for revival of the post of Controller of Stationery as the post is currently under 'deemed abolition'. Thereafter process of filling up the post of Controller of Stationery would start. At present a senior officer has been assigned the additional charge of the post of Controller of Stationery.

[Ministry of Urban Development O.M. No. G-20015/3/2006-B&A
Dated: 27th August, 2007]

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation (Para No. 1.17)

Need to Review the Allocation of Business Rules in respect of Directorate of Printing

The Committee note that the Directorate of Printing had been under the administrative control of the Ministry of Works and Housing, which has been renamed as the Ministry of Urban Development for many decades. The Committee feel that the allocation of work relating to the Directorate of Printing to the Ministry of Urban Development does not appear to be quite appropriate and based on very sound principles. The Committee also feel that the Ministry of Urban Development was unable to devote adequate time to monitor and supervise the work of the Directorate of Printing as the Ministry had been engaged in more or less tasks of carrying out the urban development all over the country. Since urban development was the focus area of the Ministry of Urban Development, the work relating to the Directorate of Printing and the Government of India Printing Presses remained neglected for many years and the subject did not receive the required attention unless it was a pressing problem. The Committee, therefore, recommend that due attention should be given to the works relating to the Directorate of Printing by the Ministry of Urban Development.

Reply of the Government

The Directorate of Printing caters to the printing needs to various Ministries/Departments of Government of India. This job has been categorized as 'Work' and hence this Directorate is functioning for a very long time under what was earlier called the Ministry of Works & Housing and now renamed as Ministry of Urban Development.

2. Ministry of Urban Development is devoting appropriate time to monitor and supervise the issues relating to the Directorate of Printing. Necessary instructions/guidelines are based issued to all concerned

from time to for attending to all problems being faced by the Directorate so that the overall performance of the Presses, quality-wise and capacity-wise are constantly improved.

[Ministry of Urban Development O.M. No. G-20015/3/2006-B&A
Dated: 27th August, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

(Please *see* Paragraph No. 6 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 4.24)

Non-Utilization of Procured Modern Machineries at Santragachi Press, Kolkata

The Committee are also constrained to learn that machineries at Santragachi Press, Kolkata have been allowed to remain idle due to non-availability of funds for execution of day-to-day work order. The Committee recommend that needful corrective action be taken by the Ministry in this regard to ensure full utilization of the new printing machines.

Reply of the Government

At Government of India Press, Santragachi, Kolkata the machines remained idle due to non-availability of sufficient trained printing staff. The Government had in the past imposed a ban on recruitments in the Government of India Presses resulting in lack of availability of adequate and trained staff on modern machines.

2. Now, approval for filling up the post by direct recruitment and re-deployment under modernization scheme has been received from Ministry of Finance and accordingly instructions have also been issued to the Government of India Press at Santragachi to take necessary action to expedite recruitment of adequate and trained staff to run the machines smoothly.

3. As regards funds, it is submitted that adequate funds have been provided to Government of India Press, Santragachi and hence paucity of funds is no reason for idling of machinery.

[Ministry of Urban Development O.M. No. G-20015/3/2006-B&A
Dated: 27th August, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

(Please *see* Paragraph No. 12 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 5.6)

Government of India Text Book Presses not to be Privatized

The three Text Book printing presses of Mysore, Bhubaneswar and Chandigarh have a historical background of being linked to our educational system. The Committee, therefore, strongly feel that these Government of India Text Book Presses should not have been chosen for privatization. The Committee are given to understand that in accordance with the proposal of UNESCO, the German Government had gifted the requisite machinery to these three Text Book printing presses. The Committee further note the important fact that there is a constant printing demand from NCERT and other agencies and these Text Book printing presses cater very well to the printing needs of the Government of India in the Eastern and North-Eastern Regions. The Committee need hardly emphasize that these presses have been functional. In such a situation, the Committee desire that the Ministry should take a fresh look into their decision relating to privatization of these three printing presses. The Committee look forward to a positive response from the Government.

Reply of the Government

The Government of India Text Book Presses at Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh and Mysore were not getting printing jobs for text books from the respective State Governments. However, the suggestion of the Committee to have a fresh look into decision relating to privatization of three Text Book Printing Presses is being examined.

[Ministry of Urban Development O.M. No. G-20015/3/2006-B&A
Dated: 27th August, 2007]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 18 of Chapter-I of the Report)

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES
OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

-NIL-

NEW DELHI;
3 January, 2008
13 Pausa, 1929 (Saka)

MOHD. SALIM,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Urban Development.

APPENDIX I

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT (2007-2008)

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE
HELD ON FRIDAY, 28TH DECEMBER, 2007

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs. in Room No. '62',
Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Mohd. Salim—*Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi
3. Shri Sharanjit Singh Dhillon
4. Shri Anant Gudhe
5. Shri Sajjan Kumar
6. Shri Shripad Yesso Naik
7. Shri Sudhangshu Seal
8. Kunwar Sarv Raj Singh
9. Kunwar Devendra Singh Yadav
10. Shri Suresh Ganpatrao Waghmare

Rajya Sabha

11. Shri B.K. Hariprasad
12. Shri Surendra Moti Lal Patel
13. Shri Krishan Lal Balmiki
14. Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari
15. Shri Mukul Roy

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Smt. Anita B. Panda | — | <i>Deputy Secretary (UD)</i> |
| 2. Shri Harchain | — | <i>Deputy Secretary-II (UD)</i> |

APPENDIX II

[*vide* para 4 of the Introduction]

ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE TWENTY SECOND REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT (FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

I. Total number of recommendations	13
II. Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:	09
Para Nos. 2.6, 2.7, 2.15, 3.13, 3.14, 3.15, 4.23, 4.25 and 4.26	
Percentage to total recommendations	(69.23%)
III. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies:	01
Para No. 3.12	
Percentage to total recommendations	(7.69%)
IV. Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:	3
Para No. 1.17, 4.24 and 5.6	
Percentage to total recommendations	(23.08%)
V. Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:	Nil
Para No. Nil	
Percentage to total recommendations	(0%)