

17

**STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(2011-2012)**

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report
(15th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of
External Affairs for the year 2012-13]

SEVENTEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 2012/Bhadrapada, 1934 (Saka)

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(15th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of
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Presented to Lok Sabha on 30th August, 2012

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 30th August, 2012



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
August, 2012/Bhadrapada, 1934 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2011-2012)**

Shri Ananth Kumar - Chairman

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

Sl.No	Name
2.	Shri Anandrao Adsul
3.	Shri S. Alagiri
4.	Shri Anto Antony
5.	Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq
6.	Shri Bhudeo Choudhary
7.	Shri T.K.S. Elangovan
8.	Shri P. Karunakaran
9.	Shri Pradeep Majhi
10.	Shri Inder Singh Namdhari
11.	Shri Zafar Ali Naqvi
12.	Shri Rajendrasinh Rana
13.	Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao*
14.	Shri Takam Sanjoy
15.	Dr. Bhola Singh
16.	Shri Janardhana Swamy
17.	Dr. Shashi Tharoor
18.	Vacant #
19.	Vacant
20.	Vacant
21.	Vacant

RAJYA SABHA

22.	Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya
23.	Shri A.W. Rabi Bernard
24.	Shri Murli Deora
25.	Shri H.K. Dua
26.	Dr. Najma A. Heptulla @
27.	Dr. K.P. Ramalingam
28.	Dr. Bharatkumar Raut
29.	Dr. Karan Singh \$
30.	Shri Shivanand Tiwari
31.	Shri Tarun Vijay

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri U.S. Saxena	-	Joint Secretary
2.	Dr. Ram Raj Rai	-	Additional Director
3.	Shri A. Sivanandam	-	Under Secretary
4.	Ms. Kiran Bhargava	-	Executive Assistant

* Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao nominated to the Committee on External Affairs w.e.f. 25.11.2011.

\$ Ceased to be the Member of the Committee due to expiry of term of Dr. Karan Singh, Member, Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 27.01.12 and re-nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 02.02.2012.

@ Shri Sreegopal Vyas, Member Rajya Sabha ceased to be the Member of the Committee due to expiry of his term w.e.f. 02.04.12 and Smt. Najma Heptulla nominated to the Committee on External Affairs w.e.f. 04.05.2012.

Smt. Sushila Saroj ceased to be the Member of the Committee on External Affairs due to change of her nomination to Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment w.e.f. 13.7.12.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on External Affairs (2011-12) having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this 17th Report (15th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 14th Report (15th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2012-13.

2. The 14th Report was presented on 8th May, 2012. The Action Taken Replies of the Government on all the recommendations/observations contained in the Report were received on 6th August, 2012.

3. The Committee considered and adopted this Action Taken Report at their sitting held on 28th August, 2012. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee have been given at Appendix-I to the Report.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 14th Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (15th Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI
28 August, 2012
Bhadrapada 06, 1934 (Saka)

ANANTH KUMAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on External Affairs

CHAPTER – I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs deals with the Action Taken by Government on the observations/recommendations contained in their Fourteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2012-13) of the Ministry of External Affairs which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 8th May, 2012.

2. The Action taken notes have been received from the Ministry of External Affairs on all the 28 observations/recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorized as follows: -

(i) Recommendations/Observations, which have been accepted by the Government.

Recommendation Nos. 2,3,7,8,10-12, and 15-28.

Total-21

(ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government replies.

Recommendation No. 4.

Total-01

(iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration.

Recommendation No. 5.

Total- 01

(iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.

Recommendation Nos. 1,6,9,13 and 14

Total-05

3. **The Committee desire that final replies to the recommendations/observations for which only interim replies have been given by the Government and also the recommendations/observations on which the Committee have made their comments should be furnished within three months of the presentation of this Report.**

4. The Committee will now deal with some of the replies received from the Government, which need reiteration or merit comments.

(Recommendation No.1)

5. The Committee had expressed their concern at the serious under-resourcing of the Ministry of External Affairs, whose staff and budget did not commensurate with the scale and range of India's external challenges and obligations in an increasingly globalized 21st century world. The Committee were not satisfied with the slow pace of implementation of the authorized expansion of the personnel of the Ministry and had called upon the Ministry to recruit external applicants with relevant expertise for lateral entry into the Ministry upto and including the Joint Secretary level. In addition, the Committee had also expressed their concern that the requested level of resources required for the Ministry's operations, especially in its Embassies and Missions abroad, had not been provided and therefore, had called upon the Ministry of Finance to enhance the Ministry's allocations so as to equip it to fulfil its global responsibilities.

6. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of External Affairs have stated as under:

"This Ministry agrees that given India's expanding global role, there is need for a matching human resource base so as to carry this mandate effectively. The Government of India and the Ministry of External Affairs have been working hard to address this issue for quite some time. An important outcome of these efforts was the approval of the Union Cabinet for a medium term Expansion Plan for the Indian Foreign Service spanning over ten years from 2008 to 2018, adding a total of 514 new positions, a majority of them being at the diplomatic level. Four tranches of this expansion have already materialized and we are currently in the process of seeking approvals for the fifth tranche. Additionally, we have also succeeded in getting approvals for a major expansion of the IFS[B] Cadre with a net addition of some 380 new posts, many of which would also be at the diplomatic level. These efforts would surely bear fruits over the coming years and the results would soon be visible.

The Ministry has always been fully conscious of the requirement for domain expertise in some specialized fields. Therefore, most of our large Missions abroad have a long tradition of having officers from various line Ministries/Departments and Organizations. The number of these experts is fairly substantial. This need has grown with India's expanding development partnerships with other developing countries. Precisely because of this, the IFS Expansion Plan kept a fairly large quota for lateral entry of experts, which would eventually reach a total of 120 additional dedicated positions. Under this Plan, the Ministry already has taken an additional strength of over 25 officers from specialized services to work at the Headquarters through lateral entry. The Ministry has also taken in expertise by way of hiring Consultants in specialized fields. This number is expected to grow.

Given the nature of our functions, while majority of the non-IFS officers at the Headquarters and the Missions/Posts abroad are up to the level of Director but we certainly operate a reasonable number of these posts (around 13) at the level of Joint Secretary, purely in keeping with our functional needs.

The expanding responsibilities and cadre strength also needs a matching enhancement of financial resources. The Ministry of External Affairs has been trying to introduce a series of cost effective measures and management tools as also projecting its budgetary needs in keeping with these changing realities.”

7. The Committee note that though the Ministry of External Affairs has agreed to the observation made by the Committee about under-resourcing of the Ministry both in terms of budget and manpower but has not shown its desired level of seriousness and determination to chalk out any expansion plan in tandem with the future role being envisaged for the Ministry especially in view of India’s ever expanding role at the global level in various and diversified arenas. Since the Committee were not satisfied with the pace of ongoing efforts being made by the Ministry in the form of ‘medium term expansion plan’ for the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) spanning over ten years, the Committee had asked the Ministry to consider more lateral recruitments of external applicants with relevant expertise especially in Embassies and Missions. In Committee’s view, such a long term plan is not going to serve the purpose because there is an immediate need of matching human resource base to carry the mandate of the Ministry effectively. Moreover, the Ministry has not pronounced any clear cut assessment policy and commitment towards an early expansion and lateral entry of officers/staff at various levels to enhance the overall efficiency of the Ministry. Therefore, the

Committee desire that the Ministry should appropriately assess the requirement and review the existing plans for expansion and infuse the envisioned expansion plans with scope for lateral entries of experienced manpower, both officers and staff with area specific expertise. At the same time, the Committee also reiterate that the Ministry should strive to enhance its budgetary allocations.

(Recommendation No. 5)

8. The Committee had observed that the aim of Passport Seva Project while replacing the existing system of Passport Offices, District Passport Cells and Speed Post Centres with the network of Passport Seva Kendra had been envisaged to make timely and efficient delivery of passport services. However, the Committee had noted that there was no improvement in the situation faced during implementation of the Pilot Project and the citizens had been facing tough time in seeking basic information, getting appointments and tracking their applications in the newly established Passport Seva Project in different parts of the country. All the systems for providing guidance or support to the passport seekers had been suddenly withdrawn leaving them in limbo. In that transitional phase, such chaos had been defeating the basic purpose of embarking upon the ambitious project. The Committee had, therefore, desired that the Ministry should adopt urgent measures to resolve the problems arising at the newly established Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs). They had desired that the shifting should be done in phased manner and old arrangements to assist/facilitate citizens should be retained for some more time with necessary riders.

9. The Ministry of External Affairs have furnished the following in their action taken reply:

“(i) The Ministry would like to submit that it is constantly striving to improve information systems, response mechanism and service delivery level. The Ministry would like to assure the Hon’ble Committee that all the systems for guidance of the applicants are in place. The Passport Portal provides comprehensive and latest

information on passport services as well as status of an application, thus enabling anytime-anywhere access. An email based helpdesk facility and a 24x7 call center has been set up to provide requisite information to citizens in local language. The Postal System (India Post) has been integrated with PSP System to check the delivery status of the Passport. As soon as passport is dispatched, a SMS/e-mail alert is also sent to the applicant informing the Passport Dispatch status.

- (ii) As regards delays in getting appointments, it is submitted that as per the serving capacity of each Passport Seva Kendra (PSK), online appointment slots are opened on daily basis. However, in cases, where applicants are not able to obtain online appointments at PSKs, they may visit concerned Regional Passport Office (RPO) in their area. Such applicants are required to fill-up the application online, generate 'Application Reference Number' and visit RPO along with printed 'ARN Sheet'. RPOs consider such cases and give staggered appointments keeping in view the load/capacity at the respective PSK under their jurisdiction. Tatkaal and other urgency applications are given preference in allotting appointments. Applicants having confirmed appointments and who are unable to visit PSK due to some reason, are advised to reschedule/cancel their appointments at-least 15 hours prior to the scheduled date/time, so that these appointments may be released to other applicants in queue. In case of 'no show' of the applicant on the scheduled day & time, the data captured for that applicant is deleted from the system including ARN number and such applicants are required to fill-up the 'data' again for obtaining fresh appointments. Since 2nd April 2012, a window of 15 days has been opened to obtain appointments. An advisory to this effect has been posted on the Passport Portal.
- (iii) The Ministry would also like to assure that transition from the old system to the new system is done gradually. Online appointments in the new system are gradually increased. Both the systems run concurrently till the new system is able to take full load of passport applicants. There is no sudden cut off from the old system. The data from the old system is migrated to the new system. Pendency is also cleared side by side."

10. The Committee take note of the assurance given by the Ministry that all the systems of guidance for the Passport applicants are in place but they find a different ground reality wherein the new system still has serious problems and loopholes. From the available media reports and feedback of citizens, Ministry's efforts to inform public and create awareness through various channels regarding the new

procedure to be followed by the applicants while depositing the passport applications in the new system has fallen short. Moreover, the process of seeking online appointment which is the backbone in achieving the objective of making the passport issuance system more transparent and efficient, has itself come under a lot of stress as a result of procedural and technical hurdles. The PSKs are experiencing as much as about 30% 'no show cases' on every functional day. There is no improvement in lessening the on-line hassles and there is still a dearth of appointments with RPOs. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should vigilantly probe into the reasons including any kind of nexus behind the huge number of "no show cases' experienced by most of the PSKs and RPOs and work towards a solution for making the system friendly, guidable, easy and straight forward for applying, testifying and obtaining the Indian Passport.

The Committee further stress upon the need to evolve proper protocol by the Ministry for cohesive and consistent communication/dissemination of information etc. amongst the Regional Passport Offices/Passport Offices and Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and regular updating of the status of application on the Passport Seva Portal for transparency of the system.

(Recommendation No. 6)

11. The Committee had been making regular observations in their previous Reports regarding the delay in implementation of e-passport project for the general category, which was a step to check the misuse of passports in the current format and also to make it less cumbersome for the citizens of the country to obtain it in electronic format. The Committee had expressed their concern over the doubtful background of the French

Company M/s GEMALTO which was selected to supply the chips for e-passports. The agents of the Company as vendor were associated with supply of smart cards to Pakistan and on the basis of IB reports matter was pending with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Committee had, however, noted that the matter had been taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs and MEA had been pursuing the matter with other concerned Ministries and Departments. The Committee had expressed their hope that such inter-Ministerial consultation would help in arriving at a concrete decision with due care from all angles. The Committee had urged the Ministry to continue the efforts to arrive at a final decision especially security aspects. The Committee had further desired the Ministry to monitor the project and furnish quarterly progress of the same to the Committee.

12. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of External Affairs has stated as under:

“The Ministry of External Affairs, on continuing basis provides information about e-passport to the Standing Committee during the Parliamentary meetings and briefing meetings. However, as directed, Ministry will continue to monitor the project and furnish quarterly report to the Committee.”

13. The Committee are dismayed to note that the Ministry has not even found it necessary to provide the present status or progress/report regarding long pending e-passport project. The Committee are now of the considered view that this project can not be unjustifiably deferred indefinitely for want of security clearance to the specific bidder company. Since the inter-ministerial consultations so far have not enabled the Government to arrive at the final decision about permission to the international company selected for chip supplying for the e-Passport Project, the Committee, therefore, strongly urge the Government to either finalize the fate of the selected company considering the security concerns or explore the possibility

of selecting any other company by discarding the current bidder and thereby inviting fresh tenders for supplying the electronic chip for the e-passport project in a specific time-bound manner so that the project takes off at the earliest. The Committee, however, expect that the e-passport issuance system would be free from the technical glitches that are being experienced in the new on-line passport issuance system.

(Recommendation No.9)

14. The Committee had noted that the MEA's proposed outlay for the Twelfth Five Year Plan was ₹ 52956.14 crore which was substantially enhanced from the last Five Year Plan due to seven new hydro-electric projects in Bhutan. The Committee had welcomed the departure from the earlier funding pattern of inter-governmental agreement model where Government of India's funding commitment was 100%. In four Projects, modalities were under negotiation for Joint Venture model which would reduce Government of India's share and outline the obligations of both the Governments. To ensure better conception and implementation of the projects, Ministry had also created a Development Partnership Administration (DPA). The Committee had, therefore, hoped that the Ministry would now be able to get sufficient plan allocation by convincing Planning Commission through realistic projections and changes in investment and monitoring pattern of the proposed projects in Bhutan. The Committee had desired to be informed about the actual allocation made by the Planning Commission and also about the initiatives being taken by the Ministry for handling these projects starting from drawing board to its execution.

15. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

“Government of India (GoI) and the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) signed an umbrella agreement on cooperation in the hydropower sector under which India committed to import 10,000 MW hydropower from Bhutan

by 2020. Ten HEPs with an estimated capacity of 11,576 MW were identified to meet the target. Of the ten projects, the following four projects have been identified for execution in the Joint Venture (JV) mode,

1. Chamkharchhu-I (670 MW)
2. Bunakha (180 MW)
3. Kholongchhu (486 MW)
4. Wangchhu (600 MW)

Negotiations for which are currently under way between Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) and respective Indian Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). Five Indian CPSUs – NTPC, NHPC, THDC, SJVNL and WAPCOS – have been entrusted with the task of preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the projects and later assist in the implementation of the same as Consultants.

It was decided that for the JV projects, an Inter-Governmental MoU, common to all JV projects, would be signed laying down the broad obligations of the two Governments. The detailed Shareholder's Agreement could then be signed between the JV partners, which would elaborate precepts mutually agreed to in the MoU. The JV partners were directed to expedite the finalization of the MoU. In this regard a meeting was held between SJVN Limited, NHPC and DGPC in Thimpu on 4th and 5th June to finalise the MoU.

Both the sides discussed elaborately on the following issues:

- a) Royalty Energy to be provided to Royal Government of Bhutan
- b) Management structure of the Joint Venture Company
- c) Dividend Policy
- d) Terms of reversion of Project

During the meeting, both the sides committed to finalize the MoU as early as possible. If MoU is finalized, it is expected to reduce the financial burden of GOI with respect to HEP in Bhutan.

As far as financial allocation for the HEPs in Bhutan, the Ministry takes necessary actions to get the sufficient allocation. In inter-Ministerial meetings held in PMO to review progress of our cooperation agenda with Bhutan in the hydropower sector MEA has been drawing attention to the fact that allocation of Plan funds for HEPs in Bhutan had been consistently lower than projected requirements. MEA has been requesting for enhancement of this allocation vide regular correspondence with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. The Plan funds requirement for FY 2012-13 for India-assisted HEPs in Bhutan is ₹2185 crore. This has been conveyed to the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission as part of MEA's proposal for Budget Estimates 2012-13.

The fund allocated and utilized with respect to HEPs under planned expenditure for Eleventh FYP is described below

(₹ in crore)

FY	Funds requested	BE	RE	Actual utilization
2011-12	1664.27	680.00	1030.00	1030.00
2010-11	1479.17	594.00	723.00	723.31
2009-10	1053.43	401.00	619.00	635.00
2008-09	413.13	413.00	351.00	349.65
2007-08	460.92	290.91	201.00	199.96

The Ministry thankfully acknowledges the appreciation of the Hon'ble Committee for its efforts to reduce financial burden on Govt. of India vis-à-vis the new Hydroelectric Power Projects (HEPs) to be taken up for implementation in Bhutan. Preliminary meetings have already been held in the Ministry with the representatives of the EXIM Bank and some PSU banks to explore the possibility of raising funds from the Indian capital market for the HEPs proposed under the Joint Venture model. Further, the matter has been discussed in detail in a meeting of the Empowered Joint Group (EJG) of India and Bhutan held in Thimphu on 11-12 June 2012.

The Ministry would inform the Hon'ble Committee of the final allocation made to it by the Planning Commission under the 12th Five Year Plan as well as keep the Committee posted, from time to time, about the progress of implementing various projects.”

16. The Committee welcome the new pattern adopted by the Government for funding of the future Hydro-electric Power Projects (HEPs) in Bhutan and are satisfied to note that the Ministry has been exploring the possibilities of raising funds from the Indian capital market for funding of the proposed new joint venture HEPs. The Committee, however, are worried about the consistent lower Plan fund allocation than the projected requirements of MEA during the entire Eleventh Five Year Plan period. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the efforts to get desired fund allocation from the Planning Commission for the Twelfth Five Year Plan for the projects in Bhutan should be pursued vigorously by the Ministry of External Affairs. Moreover, regarding efforts being made by the Ministry to raise funds

for new joint venture projects, the Committee would like to advise the Ministry to consult the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Power or any other concerned Ministry/Agency on the issue of raising funds for these new HEPs in Bhutan so that all the administrative, technical, financial and policy issues are dealt appropriately well before finalizing the funding of the projects.

(Recommendation No.10)

17. The Committee had expressed their happiness to note that MEA had finally been able to create a Development Partnership Administration (DPA) within the Ministry to take stock of the current status of all the projects and to develop Standard Operating Procedures for the Projects. The Committee had, therefore, desired that the new Division in the Ministry should be well equipped with the services of experts to make it capable to perform as per the mandate and achieve the objective to streamline the process since the inception of the idea to the actual delivery of the project. The Committee had further desired that the capacities of DPA should be augmented without any delay to ensure a time and cost-effective delivery of projects with quality of high international standards. The Committee were of the opinion that DPA should further explore the possibility of India's assisted developmental projects in other friendly and strategically important countries including from Africa and Latin-America. The Committee had also hoped that with the creation of DPA, the Ministry would be able to present more realistic projection before the Planning Commission for obtaining desired allocations and with better inter-ministerial consultations, fast tracking of the process for quicker/enhanced results would also be possible. The Committee had desired to be regularly apprised of the progress and achievements made in that direction.

18. The Ministry of External Affairs has submitted the following action taken reply:

“The Development Partnership Administration (DPA) was created in January 2012 in the Ministry of External Affairs. The DPA has started to utilise the services of experts for project implementation. Two officers from the Indian Telecom Service (ITS) have joined the DPA at Director and Deputy Secretary level, respectively. In addition, one officer from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IAAS) is in the Ministry to assist in the implementation of projects in Afghanistan. Furthermore, two officers from Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IAAS), one from Indian Railway Accounts Service and one officer from Indian Revenue Service are assisting the Ministry in implementation of the projects under the Lines of Credit extended by GOI to developing countries and implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programmes of the Ministry. The Ministry also plans to utilise the services of Consultants to assist in the implementation of projects. Currently, three consultants with expertise in the health & telecom/IT sectors are assisting the Ministry. The ongoing efforts are aimed at creating in-house, specialised technical, legal and financial skills in order to fast-track all stages of project implementation.

Over the past few years, India's development assistance has started to cover large number of countries and consequently, the projects being implemented by the Ministry have increased substantially. India's development partnership is based on the needs identified by the partner countries and the effort of the Ministry is geared towards accommodating as many of the requests received from partner countries as is technically and financially possible.

The budgetary projections for projects take into account the overall outlay and pace of implementation, which are based on the implementation schedule of the project. However, progress of projects on ground depends on several factors. While some of these factors pertain to adherence to GOI guidelines and regulations, others relate to the partner country. Efforts are made to reduce the time taken for compliance with the internal guidelines and regulations, local regulations and unforeseen developments in the country where the project is being implemented result in delay in implementation of the project. These factors are sometimes beyond the control of the contractor implementing the project. For e.g. land acquisition by the foreign Government sometimes results in opposition from affected population especially when they see the contractor mobilising equipment and labour on the site. Unplanned strikes, bandhs, stoppage of fuel supplies, delay in environmental clearance, unforeseen geological surprises etc. also contribute to delay in project implementation. The Ministry in consultation with the foreign Governments, either through the mechanism of bilateral Project Monitoring Committees or through our Missions/Posts abroad, seeks the intervention of Central and local authorities of the concerned foreign Governments to facilitate the implementation of the projects and to address impediments that arise in the course of its implementation. As a result, the financial progress foreseen at the time of the budget projections, which is about six months in advance of the financial

year, cannot be sometimes fully adhered. However, it is expected that with the induction of experts, the Ministry would be in a position to promote more realistic budgetary projections. The Ministry has been in consultations with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance in this regard.”

19. The Committee welcome the creation of Development Partnership Administration (DPA) and note that the Ministry has started to induct the experts from various fields to achieve the objective of timely implementation of projects. The Committee, however, are not convinced with the justification furnished by the Ministry regarding non-adherence to budget projections on some occasions. The Committee anticipate that with further strengthening of DPA, the involvement of experts from various fields and participation of the independent experts, the Division will be able to project realistic figures based on factual evaluation and ground reality making pragmatic and realistic budgetary proposals to convince the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for obtaining adequate and enhanced budgetary requirements. The Committee are of the view that the Government must ensure the timely and thorough audit of all developmental assistance expenditures in order to ensure that appropriated funds are properly spent. The Committee would further like to stress upon the need for floating the idea of collaborative projects with friendly countries in Asia, Africa and Latin American region and consider their views and share expertise to identify appropriate projects and ensure their early delivery so that India becomes a collaborative developmental partner leading to intensifying the ties with the countries of these regions.

(Recommendation No.13)

20. India had been engaged in construction of three Hydro-Electric Power Projects in Bhutan. The Committee were concerned to note that for the Punatsangchhu HEP Project, as against the demand of ₹1000 crore only ₹ 500 crore had been allocated. Similarly, for Punatsangchhu HEP-II only ₹ 160 crore had been allocated against the demand of ₹969.67 crore. In all likelihood the funds would be exhausted by the second quarter itself and even if the Ministry got some additional allocation in Supplementary Demands for Grants, it would certainly going to slow down the pace of implementation causing delay to the project. The Committee had taken a serious note of this issue and had urged that such situations should be avoided and sufficient funds must be provided atleast to the projects which were in full swing of implementation. The Committee had expressed that since India had plans for more Projects in Bhutan and that too under Joint-Venture mode, it was all the more pertinent for the Government to ensure timely arrangement of adequate funds as such situation not only lead to time and cost overrun.

21. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

“During the last Financial Year, allocation of Plan funds was less than half of the requested amount. Over 70% of the allocated Plan funds were exhausted in the first two quarters of that financial year. The situation was duly reported to the Planning Commission through EAM’s letter to the Deputy Planning Commission Chairman. Moreover the allocation for these projects were exhausted by October 2011 and the Ministry of Finance had provided some additional funds of ₹350 crore at the R.E stage in January 2012, which was too late to ensure adherence to the schedule. Finance Ministry has been duly sensitized about this shortage of funds through EAM’s letter to the FM on March 15, 2012.

Again for the annual plan 2012-13, against the projected requirement of ₹3483 crore, only ₹1500 crore have been allocated. The utilization of funds on major HEPs in Bhutan for the Current financial year has been described below:

Projects	Approved BE (₹ in crore)	Actual Expenditure (up to June 15, 2012) (₹ in crore)	Percentage of allocation exhausted
Punatsangchhu I	500.00	204.50	40.9%
Punatsangchhu -II	478.00	155.50	32.5%
Mangdechhu	160.00	110.00	68.7%

It could be seen from the table that under Mangdechhu , more than 68% of the allocation has been exhausted before the expiry of the first quarter. For other two projects also substantive allocation has been utilized.

The Ministry will take appropriate steps this year also to sensitise the Finance Ministry and Planning Commission requesting allocation of sufficient funds to the projects so that their smooth implementation is not hindered and adequate funds are available.”

22. The Committee had taken a serious note of the issue of insufficient budgetary allocation to the Ministry of External Affairs for construction of three Hydro-electric Power Projects in Bhutan and exhaustion of funds in the middle of the year. The Committee are further dismayed to note that similar experience is being felt wherein 68% of the allocation of Mangdechhu Project has exhausted before the expiry of the first quarter and similar situation is likely to arise in other two projects. Therefore, the Committee strongly reiterate that the Ministry of External Affairs should sturdily pursue the issue of sufficient fund allocation at the stage of Supplementary Demands for Grants with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission for the ongoing projects in Bhutan so that such embarrassing condition may not arise again.

(Recommendation No.14)

23. The Committee had observed that as against the projection of ₹ 448.33 crore, only ₹ 220 crore had been allocated by the Planning Commission for the Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Project in Myanmar. The Committee were surprised to note that MEA had submitted the enhanced demand for the Project without Cabinet approval. As had been rightly pointed out by Planning Commission before moving for an enhanced allocation, MEA should have obtained the Cabinet approval. The Committee had desired that the Ministry should approach the Cabinet at the earliest for further approval of the additional required funds for the project, so that, additional resources might be augmented during the Supplementary Demands for Grants in order to avoid any constraint in the progress of such an important project. The Committee had also taken note of the other projects undertaken/under consideration in the region. The Committee had desired the Ministry to expedite the process for preparation of Detailed Project Report for the trilateral highway project to improve access to ASEAN countries directly from India by road. The Committee had also urged the Ministry to identify such other projects to enhance connectivity with the Eastern neighbours.

24. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

“The Detailed Project Report for the road segment of the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Project is currently under preparation by IRCON. Cabinet has approved total outlay of ₹535.91 crore for the project. Of this, upto FY 2011-12, an amount of ₹72.38 crore has been spent. On completion of the Detailed Project Report of the road segment, clearer cost estimates for the road segment of the project would be available, on the basis of which the Ministry of External Affairs would seek Cabinet approval for additional funds.

During the Prime Minister’s visit to Myanmar in May 2012, Government of India’s assistance was announced for the upgradation of the Kalewa-Yargyi road segment of the Trilateral Highway to highway standard. This project would help in establishing trilateral connectivity from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand via Myanmar. The pre-feasibility report on the Kalewa - Yargyi- Monywa road has been obtained from the Myanmar side with a view to finalizing the DPR for the Kalewa-Yargyi road. Besides, during the visit of the Prime Minister, an Air Service Agreement was signed between the two

sides which would enhance direct air connectivity and facilitate business interaction, tourism and people-to people exchanges. Both sides also agreed to set up a Joint Working Group on Railways to determine the technical and commercial feasibility of cross-border rail links between the two countries.”

25. The Committee have been stressing upon the need to enhance regional cooperation and increasing the arenas of developmental engagement in the region and are particularly interested in the timely implementation of Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Project in Myanmar. While taking note of the Ministry’s proposals for seeking Cabinet approval for additional funds for the envisaged projects in Myanmar, the Committee also welcome the announcements made by the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Myanmar for expanding the areas of cooperation between the two countries which would also have an overall impact of establishing connectivity and intensifying ties within the region. The Committee, however, urge the Ministry to take all initiatives for an early approval of additional funds after preparation of DPR for the road segment of Kaladan Multi-model Project so that there is no short fall in resources and budget relating to such an important project. Moreover, the Government should take similar initiatives for completion of the newly announced projects during the visit of the Hon’ble P.M. to Myanmar in a time-bound manner.

(Recommendation No.20)

26. SAARC University had been envisaged as an institution of academic and intellectual engagement to forge a sense of South-Asian consciousness in the future generation of the South-Asians and was meant to bridge the knowledge gap in the subcontinent. It was anticipated that such courses

would be introduced that might carve out South-Asian identity and build upon the knowledge and linkages among the people of South-Asia. However, after going through the launched academic programmes, the Committee had felt that the authorities had been in a hurry in launching the University without properly looking into the standards and quality of curricula to be catered to the targeted group. The Committee had, therefore, desired that the courses should be offered keeping in mind the ideals of the University and focused to address the particular concerns of the region and come out with indigenous models and solutions. The Committee were dismayed to note, that SAARC University was yet to have its own Campus, hostel and a standardized curriculum in place, library and books for issuance to students. The Committee were unhappy about the pace of construction of SAARC University which had forced the University to function from two temporary campuses at Akbar Bhavan and the Jawaharlal Nehru University with the Centaur Hotel as their Hostel. Since, the major portion of allotted land for the University was in possession, the Committee had urged the Ministry to expeditiously work upon the construction so that the University could shift to its own campus with all its academic programmes and intake of students could be increased fulfilling the objectives of the setting up of a dream Institution with new benchmarks.

27. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

“With regard to the expansion and the pace of inaugurating academic programme, it is noted that all academic programmes introduced so far at the South Asian University (SAU) have been drawn from the **SAU Academic Structure**, a document evolved jointly by all eight SAARC Member States through the mechanisms of an Inter-Governmental Task Force and the Inter-Governmental Steering Committee of the SAU. The document was duly approved, by the SAARC Standing Committee and by the SAARC Summit.

At present, the following academic programmes are being offered by the SAU:

MA (Development Economics) Introduced in July 2010
Master in Computer Applications (MCA) Introduced in July 2010
M.Sc. (Biotechnology) Introduced in July 2011
M.Sc. (Computer Science) Introduced in July 2011

MA (International Relations) Introduced in July 2011
MA (Sociology) Introduced in July 2011
Master of Laws (LLM) Introduced in July 2011
M.Sc. (Applied Mathematics) to start in July 2012

The first three programmes were approved by the SAU Steering Committee in October 2009. Academic programmes at Sl. No. 4 to 7 were approved by the first Governing Board meeting of SAU held in March 2011 in New Delhi. The last programme, in Applied Mathematics, was suggested by the SAU Advisory Committee, which comprised academics from Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India. This programme was later approved by the Academic Council of SAU (established in 2011), with members from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka and later by the second meeting of the Governing Board of SAU held in New Delhi in March 2012.

In all cases, Course content was drawn up by international experts keeping in mind the focus on South Asia. The pace of expansion of the academic programmes and the selection of courses, is therefore a matter over which all eight SAARC Member States have reached a collective decision. The course contents of all SAU academic programmes have unique features designed to enhance a shared sense of South Asian identity. These include:

MA Sociology: This course has two special courses of 4 credits each entitled “**Sociology of South Asia I and II**” in the first and second semesters of MA Sociology programme.

MA (International Relations): A 4 credit course entitled “**International Relations in South Asia**” has been especially introduced in the second semester.

Master of Laws (LLM): A four credit course entitled “**Comparative Constitutional Law of SAARC Countries**” is an essential constituent of the programme.

MA (Development Economics): A compulsory course entitled “**South Asian Economic Development**” has been introduced in the third semester.

- Science programmes are by nature not regional in character. Nonetheless, in all science programmes, special care has been taken to ensure that the students from all SAARC countries are exposed to important technologies so that those who finally pass out of SAU are able to help in the development of their respective countries. For instance, a special compulsory course entitled “**Research Methodology**” has been introduced in M.Sc. Biotechnology programme which is unique. It has been evolved to provide hands-on training to students from all SAARC countries, to apply research technologies to the specific needs of their respective countries. Further, keeping the interests of students from many SAARC countries in mind, especially from those characterized by dominance of agriculture in their economy, additional emphasis has been given to teaching on **Agricultural Biotechnology and Crop Improvement**.

- All Master level programmes have a prominent research component. Research topics are picked jointly by the students and the supervisor, keeping in mind the specific needs of the South Asian Region.
- All SAU students, irrespective of the course they pursue, will soon be required to undertake a two-credit course in “**Introduction to South Asia**”; the course contents are being finalized.

As regards the references to the process of constructing SAU's permanent campus at Maidan Garhi, DDA has been able to hand over a total of 93.68 acres (85.32 acres of land in February 2010 and 8.36 acres in August 2011), out of the 100 acres allocated for the SAU campus project. This 93.68 acres was handed over to the South Asian University by MEA in September 2011 for it to use in accordance with the terms of allotment by DDA. Thereafter, a No Objection Certificate has been issued by DDA for construction, but this applies only to 83.10 acres; the rest of the land is, unfortunately, under three separate litigation processes. The Hon'ble High Court had given a stay on the allocation of these plots in 2010 and October, 2011.

The pockets of land under stay orders are located within the boundary of the SAU, which prevents SAU from initiating construction of the campus project in the remainder of the land. It also poses security risks to the safety and integrity of the prospective campus and its installations.

MEA is taking necessary steps in consultation with SAU, DDA and its lawyers appointed to defend Gol by Ministry of Law & Justice.

A Progress Report on the construction of the Campus at Maidan Garhi – as on June 4, 2012 obtained from the South Asian University. Salient points are:

- Appointment of Project Management Consultant (PMC) is expected to be done by early July. Bids for PMC services have been received and are under scrutiny.
- Layout plans were submitted by SAU for approval of MCD on February 23, 2012. The President, SAU, has met Chief Secretary of the Government of Delhi on 28th March, 2012, to impress upon the need to secure expeditious approvals.
- SAU is working on the scrutiny of preliminary designs of the individual buildings which will be submitted for approval of Building Works Committee in mid-August.
- Submission of tender documents is planned in mid September 2012. The award of contracts will be done on receipt of MCD approval.”

**PROPOSED REVISED TIME SCHEDULE FOR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
(UPTO FINALISATION OF TENDERS) AS APPROVED BY BWC**

1. BUILDINGS

Activity	Time Schedule	Remarks / Action by
(i) Submission of Layout Plans for approval of MCD	23 rd February 2012	Submitted on 23/2/2012. In process of scrutiny by MCD. *Note: To expedite the process of approval, the President, the Vice-President, the Registrar and the Advisor (Infrastructure) met the Chief Secretary of the Govt. of NCT Delhi on 28/03/2012 who promised the help of Government to secure expeditious approvals.
(ii) Scrutiny of Preliminary designs of individual buildings	20 th May 2012	The Preliminary designs submitted by the Architects are under scrutiny by SAU. Comments / observations on Faculty residences & hostel blocks furnished on 26 th March 2012. Architects will submit revised details based on the comments / observations.
(iii) Submission of final detailed drawings & designs of individual buildings	20 th June 2012	Architects
(iv) Scrutiny of final detailed drawings, detailed estimate	End July 2012	PMC
(v) Approval of final detailed drawings / estimates	Mid-August 2012	Building Works Committee
(vi) Submission of tender documents for various buildings	Mid – September 2012	Architects
(vii) Scrutiny of tender documents	End September 2012	PMC
(viii) Issue of tender notice for invitation of tenders	1 st Week of October 2012	SAU
(ix) Receipt of tenders	3 rd Week of October 2012	SAU

Annexure 1

(x) Scrutiny of tenders, submission of scrutiny report	Mid - November 2012	Architect / PMC
(xi) Award of contracts	As soon as statutory MCD Approval is obtained	

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

1. It is expected that by early July 2012, the appointment of the Project Management Consultant (PMC) will be completed. The Expression of interest (EOI) & Request For Proposal (RFP) documents for invitation of bids for PMC are expected to be approved by the Building Works Committee on 19th April 2012.
2. The detailed structural designs of buildings to be prepared by the Architects will be got proof checked by IIT, Delhi.
3. Proof Checking of designs / details for MEP (Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing) services will be done by the PMC as per terms of their contract.
4. All actions upto the stage of final award of contract for works will be completed by the time the statutory approvals are obtained.
5. Assuming that there will not be any major changes in the approved layout plans, Architects will take parallel action to prepare detailed drawings of individual buildings for submission for MCD approval soon after MCD's layout approval is obtained.
6. **The time schedule of construction activities will be reviewed after the PMC is appointed. The PMC will prepare detailed time schedule based on work break down schedule in consultation with the Architects and to be approved by SAU.**

UPDATE AFTER THE BUILDING WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19TH April 2012.

(I) Approval of Layout Plans by MCD :-

Preliminary observations by the MCD, South zone on SAU plans have been attended to by SAU. The Town Planning Deptt. has completed the site checking by carrying out their own survey. The Scrutiny Committee of the MCD South zone is expected to meet by mid June 2012 to consider the Layout Plans.

(II) Appointment of PMC :-

Bids for PMC services have been received and are under scrutiny.

28. The Committee take note of the academic progress made under the aegis of the South Asian University and welcome the introduction of new credit courses with specific thrust on the region and its dynamics. However, the Committee would like to reemphasize the need for introduction of more courses that cater to the particular requirements of the region. The Committee also desire that specific courses relating to heritage, performing arts and major languages of SAARC countries should also be introduced on priority basis. Further, the Committee reiterate their concern over the lack of campus infrastructure and academic facilities in the University, especially for international and female students and would like to be informed about the anticipated timelines for their establishment. The Committee desire to be acquainted with the outcome of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of the MCD (South Zone) regarding consideration of the layout plan scheduled in June 2012 and would also like to know as to whether the timelines are being followed for scrutiny and approval of final detailed drawings and designs and approval of estimates etc. The Committee desire that the time schedule fixed for construction activities should be strictly adhered to and the process of establishment of this University is expedited so that it attains full functionality with maximum academic activities at the earliest. The Committee may be apprised of the developments in regular manner.

(Recommendation No.22)

29. ICCR had been playing an important role through various endeavors of cultural diplomacy and also through administering and offering various scholarships. The Committee had, however, observed that ICCR was not

able to serve to its capability and mandate for the want of funds. The Committee had observed that during the last three years the ICCR had been allocated almost the same fund of ₹150 crore against their demand ranging from ₹166 crore to ₹252 crore this year. The Committee were convinced that with such insufficient fund allocation ICCR would not be able to achieve the objectives of cultural diplomacy. The Committee had, therefore, strongly recommended that MEA should make all possible efforts to get allocation of the desired fund of ₹252 crore to ICCR at the Revised Estimates stage.

The Committee had felt that for exploring the huge potential for building long term bridges with the future generation of various countries, the ICCR should enhance the number of scholarships across the regions. At the same time, the Committee had also desired that ICCR should start special scholarships and allot special slots to neighbouring countries as well as countries in the ASEAN region. Special slots should also be dedicated to the students from Latin America. The Committee had understood that the cost of administering scholarships had been increasing over the years. The Committee had, therefore, strongly recommended that the ICCR's allocation should be enhanced considerably, so that the amount of scholarship was in tune with the requirement of the students/scholars as well as ICCR should have enough fund to support other activities relating to cultural diplomacy.

The Committee had also expressed displeasure over long pendency of opening up of Indian Cultural Centre at Washington and had desired that Ministry should make sincere efforts to identify the land/space for setting up of this long pending Centre.

30. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have responded as under:

“The ICCR administers a large number of scholarships for students from all over the world. In order to build long term bridges with the future generations of various countries, the Council is at present, administering about 3000 scholarships which include Council's scholarships and scholarships administered as agency work. These scholarships include

some special scholarship schemes for neighbouring countries as well as some ASEAN countries. The decision to increase Ministries/agency scholarships is decided by the parent department, for which ICCR is the implementing agency, and therefore does not fall within the purview of the ICCR. The Council is unable to increase the number of scholarships it provides at present since its budget has been reduced by 40% compared to its projected budget requirement. Increase in numbers will be considered as and when the budgetary situation improves.

Regarding the opening of the Indian Cultural Centre at Washington, the Indian Mission in Washington in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi is in the process to buy a property. Once the deal is finalized, ICCR will take further appropriate steps to operationalize the centre.

The Ministry has taken up the ICCRs' requirement of increase in funds allocated for the F/y 2012-13. The BE & RE is approved by the Financial Committee, General Assembly & Governing Body wherein AS &FA of MEA, the funds recommending authority in MEA, is a regular member of all the three bodies. The AS&FA/MEA is apprised of the financial crises at different level from time to time.

The BE/RE for F/y2011-12 & BE for F/y2012-13 (prepared in consultation with AS&FA) and allocation thereof has been as under:

F/y	Projection	Allocation
2011-12	BE ₹ 219.56 Cr	₹ 121.00 Cr
	RE ₹ 197.02 Cr	₹ 140.00 Cr
2012-13	BE ₹ 252.00 Cr	₹ 150.00 Cr

Apart from interventions with the Ministry of Finance by the Ministry, the Finance Minister and Prime Minister have also been apprised of the financial crunch by the President, ICCR and the DG, ICCR as well.”

31. The Committee are anguished to note that almost no enhancement of the budget for ICCR has taken place so far despite their regular recommendations for enhancement of budgetary allocation for ICCR in view of its mandate and increased arena of activities and areas of engagement. The Committee appreciate the extraordinary efforts being made by the authorities of ICCR in taking up the matter of enhanced budgetary allocation with the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister and hope that the desired budgetary allocation for ICCR will be obtained to enable ICCR to fulfil its mandate of cultural diplomacy and increase in the number and amount of scholarships. However, the Committee urge the Ministry to consistently pursue the matter with Ministry of Finance to obtain the desired allocation at the stage of Supplementary Demands for Grants.

(Recommendation No.24)

32. The Committee were dismayed to observe the lack of progress regarding Nalanda University Project. The Committee had noted that during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the allocation sought by Ministry for the project was grossly inappropriate as compared to the actual ground reality. The proposed outlay for the year 2012-13 was ₹ 598.95 crore while the actual allocation of ₹15 crore had been made under the Plan Head. The Committee was not at all convinced by the Ministry's justification in making such huge projections for the year 2012-13 when in all practicality, the University was yet to embark on the Global Designs Competition. The Committee had also felt that the time and cost estimate as per the draft DPR prepared by EdCIL. needed to be reviewed and revised in accordance with the ground realities. The Committee had recommended that the Ministry must expedite the process of construction of actual physical infrastructure of this University.

33. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of External Affairs have stated as under:

“The Ministry shares the Committee's concern regarding delay in the Nalanda University project. Unfortunately, confusion has arisen regarding the funds sought for 2012-13. This confusion stems from when the actual construction on the ground level would begin. The year termed “zero year” in EdCIL's Detailed Project Report (DPR) is more likely to be 2013-14, and not the current financial year. This is explained below.

At the request of the government of Bihar, a DPR was prepared by EdCIL in 2007. That report however pertained to the establishment of a state university, and did not envisage setting up Nalanda University as an international institution. It was, therefore, considered necessary to have a revised DPR, taking into consideration the objective of creating an international institution.

EdCIL's draft DPR projected expenditure of ₹589.11 crore as the capital cost for the “zero year” i.e., the “Development Year” or the year before the commencement of classes. It was earlier estimated that this will be 2012-13, but now it seems more likely that the “zero year” will be spread over two years, namely 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Based on EdCIL's draft DPR, the University had earlier indicated that the requirement of funds for the “Development Year” (capital cost) would be to ₹589.11 crore. But after a review of the timeline for the “Development Year,” this estimate has been revised in EdCIL's final DPR. It is estimated that capital expenditure on the establishment of the University (including the pre-academic phase, or the “zero year”) will be ₹2154.35 crore, spread over the period 2010-11 to 2020-21.

During 2012-13 expenditure on running the office, construction of the boundary wall and conduct of the Global Design Competition etc. is expected to be around ₹20 crore. This is ₹4 crore more than requested by the University in the BE for 2012-13. The additional sum is required for the completion of the boundary wall, on which only a partial amount of ₹4 crore was spent in 2011-12.

The capital expenditure for development of infrastructure will be required in phases, starting from 2013-14. As per EdCIL's final DPR, the requirement of capital expenditure during 2013-14 will be ₹524.25 crore.

It is the University's endeavour to develop the campus at the earliest, keeping rules, regulations and the need for transparency in view.

The University is working towards the launch of the Global Design Competition, leading to construction of the campus. Organizing the Global Design Competition is a technical matter. The University has been in touch with prominent architects, both national and international, with a view to seeking their advice on the modalities of conducting such a competition, and preparing the necessary documents.

With this in view, on the advice of a Steering Committee of senior and prominent architects, the University has engaged a Professional Advisor to prepare the bid documents, and help the University run the Competition. It is estimated that the Competition will be concluded during 2012-2013, and actual construction will begin in 2013-14.

However, the University would like to mention that the following steps need to be taken before actual construction can begin:

- Announcement of the Global Design Competition
- Receipt of entries and shortlisting of finalists who will submit final entries for the Competition
- Arranging site visits by the short-listed competitors
- Submission and presentation of final entries, including proposed models
- Selection of the winning entry by a jury, and its announcement
- Detailed drawings of prominent buildings on the campus to be submitted by the winner
- Cost estimate of construction activities to be undertaken on the campus
- Hiring a project management company to supervise the construction
- Floating a construction tender
- Selection of the construction company/ contractor and award of work
- Begin construction

It is envisaged that this process will be completed within a period of 9-10 months, after which the construction will begin.

34. The Committee are disappointed to note that the prestigious project of Nalanda University is yet to be cleared on the basic issues like the 'zero year' and the prevailing state of confusion in the Ministry regarding the various aspects of construction of the campus of the University. Despite its repeated recommendations for expedition of construction of basic infrastructure of the University, the Committee are dismayed to learn that the Ministry is still working towards the launch of Global Design Competition. In view of the progress made so far and Ministry's own admission that the basic process before actual construction to begin will be completed within a period of 9-10 months, the Committee are not convinced with the projection of requirement of capital expenditure of Rs. 524.25 crores during 2013-14 as per EdCil's final DPR. The Committee would like to reiterate the need to accelerate the basic process of construction of the campus infrastructure in the University in a specific time-bound manner for an early beginning of academic activities of the University. The Committee desire to be updated on the recent developments taking place in the matter especially with reference to the other concerned agencies such as the Nalanda Mentor Group, Planning Commission and the Government of Bihar.

(Recommendation No.25)

35. The Committee had noted that though the Ministry had planned to have a School of International Studies of the proposed Nalanda University in Delhi along with a Project Office in same city, the financial projections for same had not been made in the draft DPR. The Committee were not at all convinced with the reasons furnished by the Ministry regarding location of the School and Project Office in Delhi. The Committee had strongly felt that

both these ideas will defeat the very purpose of setting up of the Nalanda University and were against the spirit of the idea of setting up of the University at the ancient place of knowledge. The Ministry might review at the decision to establish School of International Studies at Delhi. The Committee had, therefore, desired that the responsibility to develop this Institution should be given to those who were devoted, genuine and committed to make selfless efforts for development of this prime Institution while sitting at the location of the institution and certainly not in Delhi. The Committee had recommended that the School of International Studies under the Nalanda University should be set up at the main University Campus and having capacity to carve out a unique identity for itself and focus upon the issues of cultural diplomacy and cultural engagement so as to imbibe, build upon and advocate the diplomatic and cultural traditions of the region and should endeavour to be a unique and one of its kind which is highly specialized in subjects that were not replicated or stereotyped by other academic institutions or organization.

36. The Ministry of External Affairs in their action taken reply have stated as under:

”The University has stated that it plans to establish seven schools, including a School of International Relations. It is committed to establishing all the seven schools at its campus in Rajgir. It has further stated that, since it is not planned to have the School of International Relations in New Delhi, no provision for it has been made in the DPR. However, the University will need an office in New Delhi to co-ordinate its activities, and occasionally hold public events.

The University has stated that its team is fully committed to the creation of a world class university in Rajgir, and the development of the area around Rajgir and Nalanda. It has further stated that the University team has worked diligently to secure the foundations of the University.”

37. The Committee are satisfied to note that the authorities of Nalanda University have shown their commitment to establish all the seven Schools including School of International Studies at its campus in Rajgir. The need being felt by the authorities to have a coordinating office in Delhi may be accepted having limited role and to serve functional purposes only. The Committee, however, desire that the centre at Delhi should work only as a facilitation centre to help the international and out station students in seeking admissions to the University.

CHAPTER – II

RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

(Recommendation No.2)

The Committee observe that even after an unusual experience of shortage of funds in the middle of the year 2011-12 for a very important project being implemented in Bhutan, the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance have provided insufficient Budgetary Allocation of ₹9661.97 crore only against the projection of ₹14426.81 crore. The insufficient allocation is certainly going to create the same situation before the Ministry when due to paucity of funds, the projects being implemented in Bhutan and other countries were adversely affected causing cost and time overrun. The Committee take a serious note of insufficient Budgetary Allocation almost every year especially, in the light of India's increased international engagement and Indian endeavour to emerge as one of the major non-traditional donors in terms of providing aid and loans to developing countries and also through various measures of technical cooperation. The Committee, therefore strongly recommend that the Budgetary Allocation of the Ministry should be substantially enhanced, so that, its developmental engagements can intensify with not only the neighbouring countries, but the horizon of developmental aid is extended to the other countries of Latin America and Africa. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should sensitize the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission about the insufficient Budgetary Allocation and if required, it should be taken at the highest level i.e. the Hon. Prime Minister, who is also the Chairman of the Planning Commission.

Reply of the Government

The aid to Bhutan is provided from this Ministry's Budget, which is substantial. As observed by the committee, the allocations have been falling short of the projected requirements. It hampers smooth flow of funds for developmental schemes and projects in Bhutan that have been committed at high political levels. The issue has been reported to Planning Commission and Department of Expenditure at various point of time. But the Ministry received insufficient fund. For instance, ₹1644 crore was projected under the plan expenditure for Bhutan in the FY 2011-12, but was given only ₹1030 crore. Against the request of non-plan expenditure of ₹1477 crore, only ₹1000 crore was allotted. For the Current Financial Year also, against the projected ₹2185 crore under the planned expenditure, only ₹1138 crore have been allocated.

The funds required for India to provide assistance to hydropower projects in Bhutan are allocated by the Planning Commission under the Plan component of the 'Aid to Bhutan' head of Ministry's budget. The regular meetings convened in PMO to discuss India's bilateral cooperation

with Bhutan in the hydropower sector have repeatedly taken note of the importance of the Planning Commission allocating adequate funds to Bhutan in a timely and smooth manner for efficient and cost-effective implementation of projects.

The funds requirement for 2011-12 was projected by MEA in October 2010 at the RE 2010-11/BE 2011-12 stage. Pursuant to the PMO meeting of October 15, 2010, the issue was also taken up at the level of the EAM, who wrote to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on November 30, 2010. This information was shared with all concerned through the status note circulated by us before the March 2011 PMO meeting. Finance Secretary has written to Principal Secretary to PM. on March 28, 2011 expressing concern that the inadequate provisioning of funds would force Ministry of Finance to make good the deficiencies through the supplementaries.

EAM wrote to Finance Minister on March 15, 2012 in which he specifically mentioned that the three on going HEP in Bhutan will be affected if the fund allocation under the annual plan is not increased from the ₹1500 crore now allocated to at least ₹2500 crore for MEA.

Keeping in view of the increased demand for the current FY, Ministry will reiterate its demand with Finance Ministry and Planning Commission for the increased allocation. As advised by the Committee, the issue will be taken to the highest level i.e. at appropriate time for the smooth flow of funds for the development works in Bhutan.

The Ministry thankfully acknowledges the concerns expressed by the Hon'ble Committee on the insufficient budgetary allocation made available to the Ministry of External Affairs in BE 2012-13. The Ministry had taken up the issue at the Ministerial level. The Minister of External Affairs had written to the Minister of Finance in this regard. The Minister of Finance had suggested to include the additional fund requirements in the proposals of MEA at RE stage. As desired by the Committee, the Ministry will endeavour for getting additional funds allocated at the RE stage as well as for enhancement of allocation in the BE 2013-14.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No.3)

The Committee in their 4th Report (15th L.S.) had made note of the issue of variations in the figures contained in various documents prepared by the Ministry and had also reiterated that Ministry should exercise due caution in future while presenting information to the Committee and the Parliament. However, the Committee are dismayed to note that there were a large number of discrepancies in the Budget documents and even the figure variations within the same documents. The Committee also note that few figures were not furnished in the Outcome Budget, though, later the Ministry has submitted corrected figures to the Committee. The Committee,

therefore, would like to caution the Ministry that due care should be exercised henceforth so that the documents/information presented to the Committee are complete and flawless.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of External Affairs sincerely regrets submission of materials to the Hon'ble Committee that had some errors. Adequate caution will be exercised by the Ministry hereafter to ensure that the information presented to the Committee is free from errors.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No.7)

The Committee observe that in view of the Ministry's presence and permanent diplomatic engagement with almost all the countries of the world, it would be important for the Ministry to observe economy and reduce rental liabilities of the Ministry and acquire/purchase buildings for Office space abroad. Due to the issue of cost and quality of acquisition, cost escalation and time overrun in the renovation projects, the Committee had been stressing upon the need to improve property management. The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry has taken several initiatives for better evaluation of the projects at initial stage to avoid the modifications at execution stage. This will certainly help in timely and cost effective execution of the projects. The Committee are hopeful that with due expertise, the Ministry would be able to make judicious decisions to ensure maximum utilization of allocated resources. The Committee expect that the newly established Technical Cell in the Projects Division should be strengthened by adding more technical experts having requisite experience in project management to ensure proper monitoring and timely evaluation and thorough review of all the proposals under consideration and implementation in the various parts of the world. The Committee would also like to reiterate their earlier recommendation that sincere and concerted efforts should be made to acquire/purchase maximum properties utilizing the opportune time of low property prices world-wide.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry has taken note of the observations of the Committee relating to the Technical Cell under the Projects Division of the Ministry and has taken necessary action to strengthen the Technical Cell with the induction of two additional Executive Engineers having requisite experience in project management. In this connection, nominations have been sought from the Central Public Works Department for deputation of two Executive Engineers to this Ministry for the Technical Cell.

The Ministry has also taken note of the recommendation of the Standing Committee relating to acquisition/purchase of properties. The Ministry is making concerted efforts to acquire plots of land/built-up properties taking advantage of the opportune time of low property prices

world-wide. In the current financial year, approval has been accorded for purchase of built-up properties in Atlanta (Chancery) and Toronto (CG's Residence) and plots of land in Colombo for construction of Indian Cultural Centre and residences of India-based officials and in Bangkok for construction of residences of India-based officials. In addition, proposals for acquisition of built-up properties in Ashgabat, Hamburg, Port Moresby and Washington are under active consideration.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No.8)

The Committee have noted that in the past years, particularly during Eleventh Five Year Plan period, there have been several instances when inadequate allocations were made by the Planning Commission. The Committee feel that inappropriate projections made by the Ministry before the Planning Commission and the performance and requirement of the Projects has significantly contributed in the lower allocation by the Planning Commission. The Committee urge the Ministry to streamline the existing Budgetary process and instill techniques and other budgetary instruments for arriving at near realistic proposals/projections and present the demand strongly before the Planning Commission, particularly the projects that are under implementation. The Committee suggest that if need be, services of the financial/budgeting/project experts as well as expertise from the recipient countries may be utilized for the purpose. Factual evaluation coupled with actual monitoring of the progress of the project should be carried out and budgetary demands made by PIAs or consultants should be thoroughly examined and counter-checked before submitting the proposals for Budgetary Allocation from the Planning Commission.

Reply of the Government

The fund requirements of projects being implemented abroad by the Ministry of External Affairs are discussed threadbare with the concerned Territorial Divisions, Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) and representatives of the foreign governments. The budgetary demands of PIAs are evaluated in the Ministry on the basis of the ground level progress. It is hoped that with the creation of the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) in this Ministry, a nodal agency responsible for implementation of all projects abroad, the project related budgeting exercise as well as projection of fund-requirements would become more realistic.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No.10)

The Ministry has time and again mooted the idea of creating an agency for ensuring speedy and efficient implementation of India's external assistance programme in the form of India International Development Cooperation Agency (IIDCA), and later, revising it to Indian Agency for Partnership and Development (IAPD). The Committee are happy to note that MEA has finally been able to create a Development Partnership

Administration (DPA) within the Ministry to take stock of the current status of all the projects and to develop Standard Operating Procedures for the Projects. The Committee, therefore, desire that the new Division in the Ministry should be well equipped with the services of experts to make it capable to perform as per the mandate and achieve the objective to streamline the process since the inception of the idea to the actual delivery of the project. The Committee further desire that the capacities of DPA should be augmented without any delay to ensure a time and cost-effective delivery of projects with quality of high international standards. The Committee are of the opinion that DPA should further explore the possibility of India's assisted developmental projects in other friendly and strategically important countries including from Africa and Latin-America. The Committee also hope that with the creation of DPA, the Ministry will be able to present more realistic projection before the Planning Commission for obtaining desired allocations and with better inter-ministerial consultations, fast tracking of the process for quicker/enhanced results will also be possible. The Committee should regularly be apprised of the progress and achievements made in this direction.

Reply of the Government

The Development Partnership Administration (DPA) was created in January 2012 in the Ministry of External Affairs. The DPA has started to utilise the services of experts for project implementation. Two officers from the Indian Telecom Service (ITS) have joined the DPA at Director and Deputy Secretary level, respectively. In addition, one officer from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IAAS) is in the Ministry to assist in the implementation of projects in Afghanistan. Furthermore, two officers from Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IAAS), one from Indian Railway Accounts Service and one officer from Indian Revenue Service are assisting the Ministry in implementation of the projects under the Lines of Credit extended by GOI to developing countries and implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programmes of the Ministry. The Ministry also plans to utilise the services of Consultants to assist in the implementation of projects. Currently, three consultants with expertise in the health & telecom/IT sectors are assisting the Ministry. The ongoing efforts are aimed at creating in-house, specialised technical, legal and financial skills in order to fast-track all stages of project implementation.

Over the past few years, India's development assistance has started to cover large number of countries and consequently, the projects being implemented by the Ministry have increased substantially. India's development partnership is based on the needs identified by the partner countries and the effort of the Ministry is geared towards accommodating as many of the requests received from partner countries as is technically and financially possible.

The budgetary projections for projects take into account the overall outlay and pace of implementation, which are based on the implementation schedule of the project. However, progress of projects on ground depends on several factors. While some of these factors pertain to adherence to GOI

guidelines and regulations, others relate to the partner country. Efforts are made to reduce the time taken for compliance with the internal guidelines and regulations, local regulations and unforeseen developments in the country where the project is being implemented result in delay in implementation of the project. These factors are sometimes beyond the control of the contractor implementing the project. For e.g. land acquisition by the foreign Government sometimes results in opposition from affected population especially when they see the contractor mobilising equipment and labour on the site. Unplanned strikes, bandhs, stoppage of fuel supplies, delay in environmental clearance, unforeseen geological surprises etc. also contribute to delay in project implementation. The Ministry in consultation with the foreign Governments, either through the mechanism of bilateral Project Monitoring Committees or through our Missions/Posts abroad, seeks the intervention of Central and local authorities of the concerned foreign Governments to facilitate the implementation of the projects and to address impediments that arise in the course of its implementation. As a result, the financial progress foreseen at the time of the budget projections, which is about six months in advance of the financial year, cannot be sometimes fully adhered. However, it is expected that with the induction of experts, the Ministry would be in a position to promote more realistic budgetary projections. The Ministry has been in consultations with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance in this regard.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No.11)

The Committee are happy to note that India has emerged as a significant developmental partner in Afghanistan and has invested more than \$1.5 billion in developmental and infrastructure works there for building roads, hospitals, schools and the Afghan Parliament building etc. which won international appreciation for the Indian policy of winning hearts and minds of the people of Afghanistan. The Committee appreciates various initiatives undertaken by the Government and completion of Pul-e-Khumri Project ahead of schedule despite various constraints. But, the Committee are dismayed to note the slow progress in the construction of Afghanistan's Parliament Building and therefore, recommend that the process should be expedited to ensure the timely completion of the Project. At the same time, the Committee would also like to stress upon the timely delivery of other Projects being undertaken in Afghanistan in a cost-efficient manner.

Reply of the Government

The construction of Afghanistan's Parliament building commenced in 2009 following approval of the Cabinet in November 2008, with an approved cost of ₹710 crore. The stipulated time frame for completion of the project was thirty six (36 months) viz., by December 2011. The project is being executed by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD). The project is now expected to be completed by June 2013.

The delay in the construction of the Parliament building is largely attributable to delays in handing over of site, change in layout and design, supply of cladding material, etc. Initially, in January 2006, CPWD had submitted preliminary cost estimate of the project at ₹296.45 crore in accordance with their standard guidelines. The Ministry of Finance in May 2006, recommended the project for approval by Cabinet at an estimated expenditure of ₹296.45 crore.

However, in July - August 2006, the Government of Afghanistan gave certain new requirements for the proposed Afghan Parliament Building and also suggested some basic changes in the concept plans. The Master Plan and the architectural drawings for the Parliament Building had to be accordingly modified taking into the account the additional requirements and changes as suggested by the Government of Afghanistan. The Government of Afghanistan approved the modified plans in December 2006. In January 2007, CPWD re-worked the preliminary cost estimate of the project to ₹337.58 crore based on the modified drawings and incorporating the extra cost implications on account of additional requirements and changes as relevant to the scope of work of the Parliament Building. The Cabinet in January 2008 approved and allowed CPWD to proceed with the tendering process for the construction of Afghanistan's Parliament Building in Kabul, and asked to revert to the Cabinet for approval of the firm estimates after opening of the tenders. MEA obtained the approval of the Cabinet for the tendered cost for ₹710 crore in December 2008 after the opening of the tenders for the project.

The progress of work at the site as of June 2012 is approx. 40%. The reasons for the delays are thus largely due to delay in the handing over of site to the agency for construction; due to change in layout plan of the entire complex to accommodate the requirement of the Government of Afghanistan to match the centre line of Parliament building with Dar-ul-Aman Palace; changes in architectural drawings desired by the Afghan authorities in July 2010, March 2011 & June 2011 and subsequent approval of revised architectural drawings by the Afghan authorities in January 2012; short supply of local samangan marble for external cladding, transportation of materials from Karachi port, etc.

It is expected that with the establishment of Development Partnership Administration (DPA) closer monitoring and interaction with CPWD and Afghan authorities would help in making faster progress in implementation and overcome difficulties encountered during implementation of the project. Meanwhile, all efforts are being made towards ensuring that other projects in Afghanistan are implemented a timely and cost efficient manner.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No.12)

Government of India has expanded its ambit of aid to Bangladesh to incorporate projects to enhance connectivity between the two countries. Akhaura- Agartala Rail Link is an important initiative to establish railway

infrastructure at border points between India and Bangladesh to enhance mutual transit arrangements for trade and commerce. The Committee feel that the initiative of Government of India can provide impetus to inter-regional and intraregional trade within each country and enhance trade activities across the region. The Committee desire that the Ministry should take up all the related issues of the project with Government of Bangladesh and also establish proper coordination mechanism with the Ministry of Railways to carry out the project on the Indian side. The Committee further desire that the Ministry should explore the possibility of cooperating in hydro-power project and energy sector with Bangladesh to rebuild a forward looking relationship with Bangladesh.

Reply of the Government

The Government of India has been keen to enhance connectivity and trade links with Bangladesh. Bangladesh has also positively responded to our efforts to enhancing railway and transport linkages which would be crucial for the enhancement of trade links and also in development of our North-Eastern region. The MOU on Akhaura-Agartala rail link is under discussion between the two sides. MEA has been in regular touch with the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for the purpose of coordination.

India-Bangladesh cooperation in the power sector has been proceeding satisfactorily. The Government of India has welcomed the participation of Bangladesh in upcoming power projects especially in the North-Eastern states. The issue is being discussed at the Joint Working Group [at the level of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power] and Steering Committee Meeting [at the level of Secretary, Ministry of Power] which are regularly held with the Bangladesh side. India and Bangladesh have also signed an MOU on Renewable Energy during the visit of the Prime Minister to Bangladesh in September 2011. A JWG to implement cooperation in renewable energy has also been constituted.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No. 15)

The Committee are aware that the Government of India is spending substantial amount on rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons in Sri Lanka by way of constructing houses, schools, hospitals, roads etc. The Committee in their 10th Report (15th L.S.) had commented that rehabilitation and resettlement projects in Sri Lanka have already been delayed and therefore had desired that all the proposed projects including building of 50,000 houses should be completed in specific timeline. However, the Committee observe that no timeline is being followed in any of the proposed projects perhaps due to bureaucratic delays and lack of cooperation. The Committee further observe the difficulties like non-availability of sites etc. is also being faced by the Government in execution of Pilot Project of constructing houses. The Committee are very interested

in knowing the progress being made in the implementation of all its Projects in Sri Lanka and also desire to be updated by the Ministry on this account on regular basis. The Committee reiterate that in order to fulfil its commitment and requirement of the people of affected areas, the Government must strive and expedite the construction of remaining houses in a time bound manner. Moreover, the Committee also desire that the Government should ensure that every assistance being provided by the Indian Government in any form reaches to the needy and affected persons only.

Reply of the Government

GOI is implementing a number of projects in Sri Lanka particularly, for the resettlement and rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). These projects have a specific timeline for completion and the Ministry as well as the High Commission in Sri Lanka have been closely monitoring the progress of work on a regular basis to ensure that these are completed in a time bound manner. Representatives from the High Commission of India, Colombo and the Consulate General, Jaffna have also been undertaking site visits to oversee the progress of the various projects

2. Most of these projects focus on providing assistance in the resettlement and rehabilitation process of IDPs in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. GoSL has to ensure that the sites for these projects are de-mined and cleared of jungles before execution of work can begin. However, in projects like the Housing Pilot project, there have been delays in the handing over of work sites by GoSL. Further, lack of necessary support infrastructure like electricity, water, access roads, internal roads, etc., have also hampered time bound implementation. In some cases there have been delays in the selection of beneficiaries by the Sri Lankan Government.

3. The above mentioned issues have been repeatedly taken up with concerned authorities by the High Commission of India. In case of the Housing Pilot project, all the sites have now been handed over and as per the progress report dated 31 May 2012, 765 houses are fully complete and a further 188 houses have been completed up to the roof level. The External Affairs Minister handed over the first lot of 48 completed houses on 18 Jan 2012 at Ariyalai, Jaffna. Another, 500 houses were handed over during the visit of the Parliamentary delegation to Sri Lanka in April 2012. With respect to the construction of the remaining 49,000 houses, a Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of 49,000 houses was signed with the Government of Sri Lanka during the visit of the External Affairs Minister on 17 January 2012. The process of selection of Implementing Agencies for the construction of 43,000 under the Owner driven model is complete and terms of the agreements to be signed with these agencies are being finalised. Tendering has also been initiated to select the agencies for executing the work of construction of 6000 houses under the Agency driven model. As per timelines projected, we would be able to roll out implementation of the Project for construction of these 49,000 houses on the ground by July 2012.

4. As far as the other major projects being implemented in Sri Lanka are concerned, the status report is enclosed.

5. Steps are being taken to ensure that the assistance reaches the needy and affected persons and the projects are implemented in a transparent manner. The lists of beneficiaries are being displayed in the website of the High Commission of India and for the second phase of the Housing project (construction of 49,000 houses) there is also a proposal to set up a grievance redressal mechanism.

	Name of the Project	Scope	Estimated cost	Status
1	Housing Pilot Project	Construction of 1000 houses for IDPs in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.	INR 53 crore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 765 houses have been completed • 500 houses handed over during the visit of the Parliamentary delegation on 18th April 12 at a function held in Mullaitivu <p><i>The target is to complete the remaining houses by July 2012</i></p>
2	Housing Project – 2nd Phase	Construction of 49,000 houses for IDPs and IOTs in Northern, Eastern, Central and Uva Provinces	INR 1319 crore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing Agencies for the 43,000 houses under the Owner driven model selected. • Process of tendering to select the agencies for 6,000 houses under the Agency driven model has been initiated <p><i>As per timelines projected, we would be able to roll out implementation of the Project on the ground by July 2012.</i></p>

3	Rehabilitation Of Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour	GOI will provide assistance in rehabilitation of KKS which includes a grant for hydrographic survey, wreck removal, preparation of a DPR and dredging and extending a line of credit for construction of breakwater and piers.	INR 2.8 crore (For DPR) INR 89 crore (For wreck removal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrographic survey complete • Final DPR prepared and handed over to GoSL for acceptance • Wreck removal complete • Based on the DPR, dredging will be taken up by Dredging Corporation of India
4	Setting up of Vocational Training Centres (VTCs)	The project involves setting up of VTCs at Batticaloa and Nuwara Eliya, Puttalam and Hatton to impart vocational education to students passing out from schools.	INR 26 crore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VTCs at Hatton and Puttalam established • VTCs at Batticaloa: supply of equipments complete and on job training is underway • VTC at Nuwara Eliya: equipments are being commissioned. Setting up of the VTC expected to be completed by 30 June.
5	Project for Self Employment of Women in Batticaloa	SEWA is implementing a project for self employment of war affected women in Batticaloa by providing them training in areas like garment manufacturing, ornamentation, food processing etc	INR 8.22 crore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of trainers in India complete and the training process in Batticaloa, is underway. <p><i>As per agreement signed with SEWA, expected to be completed in May 2013.</i></p>
6	Construction of 150 bed base hospital at Dickoya, Hatton	Based on a request from GoSL, construction of a 150 bed base hospital at Dickoya being taken up to benefit the	INR 42 crore	<p>Work in progress and structure for 3 floors have been completed</p> <p><i>Expected to be complete by February 2013</i></p>

		plantation community		
7	Southern Railway Project	Restore railway Lines and supply rolling stock on different routes of Southern Province under a line of credit	US \$ 167.4 million (Line of credit)	The inauguration of the completed railway track was held on 19 April, 2012 during the visit of the Parliamentary delegation.
8	Northern Railway Project	Rehabilitation of railway lines in North Sri Lanka comprising of four sectors namely, Omanthai-Pallai, Medawchchiya-Madhu, Madhu-Talaimannar and Pallai-Kankesanthurai.	US \$800 million (Line of credit)	LOC Agreement for balance credit line of US \$ 382.37 offered by EXIM bank to GOSL signed on 17 January, 2012 during the visit of EAM <i>Expected to be complete by 2013</i>

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No. 16)

The Committee observe that Varzob-I Hydro-electric Project in Tajikistan was formally launched in August 2009 and scheduled to be commissioned in June 2011 is now supposed to be commissioned by June 2012. Simultaneously, the other issues like requirement of additional expenditure for additional work and non-provision of facilities as agreed have also cropped up. The Committee, therefore, desire that all those pending issues should be resolved through consultation on priority basis so that there is no further delay in completion of the Project. The Committee have a firm opinion that completion of this Project will not only convey India's commitment to Tajikistan but also raise India's profile and presence in Central Asia region.

Reply of the Government

The Project of renovation of Varzob-I Hydro-Power Plant in Tajikistan is being implemented by the public sector undertakings NHPC Limited and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) at a cost of ₹74.20 crore. There has been some delay in commissioning of this project due to various technical reasons including delay in finalization of the design, supply of additional items of work which were not part of the original contract and supply of some new equipment from BHEL factory in Bhopal. The project is now likely to be commissioned by September/October 2012.

2. Meetings of the Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) for the Varzob-I Project are being held regularly to monitor the progress and also to take decisions on various matters connected with the project. In this connection, as recommended by the PMC meeting held on 21st December 2011, a team of experts from Central Water Commission (CWC) and Central Electricity Authority were deputed to visit Tajikistan from 28th April to 2nd May, 2012 to sort out certain technical issues connected with the project. Their findings were discussed in the PMC meeting held on 18th May 2012, and corrective measures were discussed to complete the project expeditiously. In view of the importance attached to this project in a strategically located country in our extended neighbourhood, we propose to monitor the project closely to resolve all remaining issues on priority, so that there is no further delay in completion of the project.

3. MEA agrees with the Committee that the Varzob Project will showcase India's development experience in the field of power generation and raise the profile of the Indian power sector and public sector companies.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No. 17)

The Committee welcome India's proactive participation in various multilateral initiatives undertaken at the United Nations as a Non-permanent Member of UN Security Council. The Committee are happy to note that India has been endeavoring to enhance cooperation on issue of traditional, as well as nontraditional security. However, the Committee desire that India should build up world opinion against such threats. The Committee further desire that India should holistically take up contentious global issues and strive to build global coalition to arrive at consensus and amicable solutions. The Committee would also like to reiterate that India should build coalition for reform within the structure of United Nations in the context of the changed international system with 193 countries as against 51 countries at the time of its birth especially with reference to increase in the number of permanent members in the Security Council. Though, India's bid for permanent membership of UNSC has been backed by four permanent members, India must strive hard to get permanent membership in the Security Council at the earliest. Moreover, India must take-up the issues such as categories of membership, lack of regional representation, power to veto, the size of the expanded Security Council and its modus operandi along with General Assembly and Security Council relationship etc. to reflect current day realities.

Reply of the Government

As a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, India's efforts have been directed towards enhancing international cooperation in the areas of traditional and nontraditional security, such as,

counter-terrorism, counter-piracy, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors, and the strengthening of UN peacekeeping and peace-building efforts.

India's efforts in its capacity as Chair of the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) during 2011-12 have resulted in significant progress on implementation by the Member States of their obligations under UN resolutions pertaining to counter-terrorism. Under India's leadership, the Counter-Terrorism Committee adopted an outcome document on 28 September 2011 that called for 'zero tolerance' of terrorism and of terrorist actions. India also continues to work for progress in negotiations on a draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (CCIT) and its early finalization.

India has been urging for enhanced and concerted international cooperation against the pirates off the coast of Somalia, who pose a serious threat to international maritime trade and security. India has supported the adoption of Security Council Resolutions 1976 and 2015 during 2011, which condemned the practice of hostage-taking by pirates and mandated international cooperation for securing the release of hostages as well as for effective prosecution of the pirates.

India has also maintained its traditional leadership role in the UN peacekeeping including through contribution of around 8000 troops to UN peacekeeping operations in 10 peacekeeping missions all over the world.

India is a leading votary of reform and restructuring of the United Nations, particularly expansion of its Security Council, to make it more representative and democratic, and to better reflect the current geo-political realities. India has been working along with other like-minded countries for building support among the UN Member States for a meaningful restructuring and expansion of the UN Security Council. India, in collaboration with Brazil, Japan and Germany (together known as the G-4) had tabled a comprehensive proposal on reform of the Security Council in the UN General Assembly in July 2005. They have proposed expansion of the membership of the Security Council from the present fifteen to twenty-five by adding six permanent and four non-permanent members. Their proposal included all important elements of reform, namely, the size of the expanded Security Council, categories of membership, veto rights, regional representation, and relations between the UN General Assembly and the Security Council. India along with Brazil and South Africa is also at the core of the L.69 Group which includes a number of pro-reform developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America who have also been pressing for urgent reform of the Security Council.

India, both individually as well as part of the G-4 and the L.69 Groups, has been engaged with other Member States and their groups to build support for early action on expansion of the Security Council. The G-4 countries have been undertaking sustained outreach efforts to engage other Member States to garner their support for expansion of the UN Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories of its

membership as well as for improvement in its working methods. The efforts of the G-4 and other pro-reform countries were instrumental in the commencement of text-based inter-governmental negotiations at the UN on the issue of Security Council reform in July 2010, whose recent (8th) round has been held earlier this year. At the negotiations, a significant majority of the Member States across various regions has demanded expansion of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership.

India's claim for permanent membership is based on its strong credentials such as its population, size, rising GDP, significant economic potential, rich civilizational legacy, democratic political system and substantial contribution to the activities of the UN. The Government has received support from several countries from all over the world for India's candidature for permanent membership in an expanded UN Security Council. However, the opportunity for our own membership of the Security Council will only arise after there is broad acceptance of the need to expand the Council in both categories. The Government's efforts are therefore presently focused on this aspect.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No.18)

NAM has played a historical and defining role during the past in view of the then international politics. Based upon its history and experience, India and other like minded countries should make efforts to revitalize it, despite raising a question mark by several nations over the movement's apparent irrelevance in a post cold war era and largely decolonized world. The Committee feel that inspite of presence of multiple arenas for overall multilateral engagement as well as sectoral and regional multilateral engagement, it is pertinent to have a forum where the developing countries and least developed countries can deliberate and constructively engage on the specific issues to address their concerns and needs and NAM has the potential and essential role in offering such an alternate arena. The relevance and revitalization of NAM in the current world is all the more important because of its advocacy for the United Nations reform and also for expansion of Security Council for a new global order aimed at altering the growing disparities between the developed and developing nations. In addition, the Committee are of the view that India should enhance its cooperation with different groups and networks of countries in a variety of configurations for different purposes. These include BRICS, IBSA, IOR-ARC, the Community of Democracies, the East Asian Summit and other multi-lateral groupings. In addition, India should play a prominent role in the United Nations' specialized Agencies, notably UNESCO.

Reply of the Government

India has been playing a leadership role in Non Aligned Movement (NAM) and other multilateral organizations including, G-77, BRICS, IBSA, IOR-ARC, Community of Democracies (CoD), and East Asia Summit. As a

founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), India has been emphasizing the need for revitalization of NAM through a contemporary and forward-looking approach by focusing upon those shared challenges that can be addressed through South-South cooperation. We have called for the Movement to have solidarity of purpose and commitment, and a measured, result-oriented approach. India has strongly advocated that the Movement needs to support efforts towards a more democratic, equitable, and legitimized international architecture that reflects contemporary realities and provides a qualitatively significant voice to developing countries in important global institutions. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in his statement at the last (15th) Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in July 2009 called for a greater role for NAM in addressing the global challenges of food security, energy security, environment and reform of the international institutions.

India regularly participates in NAM meetings. Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs led the Indian delegation to XVI NAM Ministerial Conference held in Bali, Indonesia from May 25-27, 2011. Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs led the Indian delegation to Ministerial level meeting held in Belgrade, Serbia on 5-6 September 2011 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first NAM Summit held in that city in 1961. MoS, Shri E. Ahamed also led the Indian delegation that participated in the NAM Ministerial Meeting held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 9–10 May 2012. India will be participating at an appropriate level at the 16th NAM Summit scheduled to be held in Tehran, Iran from 30-31 August 2012.

India attaches importance to its engagement with BRICS and has participated in all the BRICS Meetings of Foreign Ministers, Finance Ministers, Agriculture Ministers, Trade Ministers, Health Ministers, High Representatives on Security, Business Forum, Development Banks, and other sectoral meetings. India successfully hosted the Fourth BRICS Summit in New Delhi on 29 March 2012 under the overarching theme of “BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Security and Prosperity”. The Delhi Summit hosted by Hon’ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was attended by the Presidents of Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa. The Delhi Declaration issued at the end of the Summit, captured the essence of discussions and put forth common position of BRICS countries on various economic and political issues of global and regional importance.

India has been actively participating in the activities of the CoD. As a founder member of the CoD, India participates in the meeting of its Governing Council. India has also offered to host a Regional Conference on the theme of Education for Democracy in New Delhi in early 2013 in partnership with Mongolia, the current Chair of the CoD.

India has been playing a prominent role in the United Nations’ specialized Agencies, including UNESCO. As a founder member of UNESCO India plays a key role in all its core mandates and is often a bridge between developed and developing countries in its role as

negotiator, facilitator and consensus builder. India has a niche` position at UNESCO, where India's voice is heard with respect, admired for its clear stand on all the issues and is sought in all the major decisions affecting UNESCO. India's national interests have been successfully defended and promoted at UNESCO.

At the last 36th Session of the General Conference held in Paris in November 2011, the Indian delegation was led by the Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister for Human Resource Development, accompanied by a high level delegation from the Ministries of Human Resource Development, Culture, Science and Information and Broadcasting. In the field of culture, India was elected to the World Heritage Committee during the last General Conference and would be playing a key role in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. This year will also be another milestone in India –UNESCO ties, as the agreement for setting up the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Peace and Sustainable Development in New Delhi will be signed in July 2012. This will be the first UNESCO Category I Institute in the entire Asia Pacific Region.

India has intensified various elements under its "Look East Policy". The relationship with ASEAN has been at the core of this policy. Since the 7th ASEAN-India Summit in 2009, India set up an ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund of US\$50 million to support projects in implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2010-15. This was in addition to the ASEAN-India Science & Technology Fund set up in 2007 with an initial corpus of US\$ 1 million and the ASEAN-India Green Fund also established in 2007 with US\$ 5 million for funding pilot projects to promote adaptation and mitigation technologies in the field of climate change. Over US\$ 40 million worth of projects had been shared with ASEAN countries for their views and concurrence in the last one year across different sectors with the objective of capacity building and enhancing cooperation and integration between ASEAN and India. There has been an annual increase of over 20% in trade between ASEAN and India. The volume of trade increased by 30% by 2010-11 to reach US\$ 57.89 billion. The ASEAN-India Trade-in-Goods Agreement signed in August 2009 became fully operational from August 2011 when the process of ratification by all the ASEAN countries was completed. The process of intensification of ASEAN-India cooperation continues with events and meeting being planned in the run-up to the special ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit being hosted by India in December 2012. Delhi Dialogue-IV in February 2012 flagged off this commemoration of 20 years of dialogue relationship and 10 years of summit level partnership between ASEAN and India. An MoU on strengthening Tourism Cooperation was signed in January 2012. Visa on arrival facility now stands extended to 7 ASEAN countries (Lao, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines). The interface between Parliamentarians has also been strengthened through participation at the 31st General Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) in 2010 and 2011 as Observer. This would be further intensified with the forthcoming visit of an AIPA delegation into India and the invitation of the Speaker, Lok Sabha in end-July early-August 2012.

As a founder member of the East Asia Summit, India has been active in giving direction at this Leaders-led forum on broad strategic, geo-political and economic issues of common interest with the aim of promoting peace, security, stability and economic prosperity in the region. India has been supportive of the five priority areas of cooperation under EAS i.e. energy, finance, education, natural disaster management and pandemics and the two additional areas of connectivity and Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA). Given the annual reoccurrence of disasters in the East Asia region, disaster management & relief has emerged as one of the key areas of concern. India is amongst the countries which are taking initiatives in this sector. India would be hosting an “*EAS Conference 2012: Building Regional Responses*” in New Delhi in September 2012. India has also undertaken three projects in the educational sector in the EAS Education Ministers Meeting, oriented towards teacher and student mobility, regional inter-operability of national qualification networks and leadership development programmes in the higher education sector.

Another major grouping wherein India is seeking intensify its role and collaboration is the 48 member Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) bridging the EU with Asia. It brings together 60% of the world's population, 50% of global GDP and 60% of world trade. India has important and growing stakes within Asia and Europe. In recognition of this, India would be hosting the 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting in October 2013 and the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) Board of Governors Meeting on October 9-13, 2012. India also contributes US\$ 120,000 to ASEF, the only permanent institution of ASEM.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) formed in 1997 is of key strategic interest in India's Look East Policy. India hosted the 2nd BIMSTEC Summit in November 2008 during its Chairmanship from August 2006-2009. India would be a major contributor towards the setting up of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat in Dhaka. We have also taken the lead in four priority areas i.e. Transport & Communication, Tourism, Environment & Disaster Management, Counter Terrorism and Trans-National Crime. A BIMSTEC Information Centre was established in July 2007 by the Ministry of Tourism. India is working on establishing the BIMSTEC Weather & Climate Centre and the BIMSTEC Energy Centre. India had a major role in the signing of the BIMSTEC Convention on Combatting International Terrorism, Trans-National Organised Crimes and Illicit Drug Trafficking in December 2009. Since 2005, India has an ongoing scheme for 30 BIMSTEC AYUSH Scholarship besides 450 ITEC Scholarships in South and South-East Asia. India established the BIMSTEC Network of Think-Tanks in 2010.

India would be hosting the 6th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Foreign Ministerial Meeting on September 3-4, 2012 in New Delhi. It has constructed the building for the MGC Museum of Traditional Asian Textiles in Siem Riep, Cambodia at a cost of US\$1.772 million. ICCR would be taking further steps for the inauguration of the Museum and the curation of

its Permanent Exhibitions in coordination with the APSARA Authority of Cambodia and the MGC member countries. India continues its scheme initiated in 2005 of offering 50 ICCR scholarships (10 each) to the five MGC members. The scheme has been extended until 2016.

India is also participating in the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) which started in 2002 to provide an overarching framework of cooperation amongst Asian countries from all parts of the Continent. This 31 member forum deliberates collaboration in 20 areas. India is the “prime mover” in the areas of bio-technology and transportation linkages and “co-prime mover” in the area of culture. We are in the process of establishing a “Regional Centre of Bio-Technology Training & Education” with the collaboration of UNESCO in Faridabad, Haryana as a hub of expertise for the entire Asian region. India has also circulated a concept paper on transport linkages amongst the member countries for further collaboration. India hosted the 2nd ACD SOM on Cultural Cooperation in April 2012.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No. 19)

SAARC is an important forum for building bridges within the South-Asian community and the region and sharing of experience and expertise within the region. Though the Committee are appreciative of efforts like SAARC Tele- Medicine Network Project, SAARC Tele Education Project and India Endowment for Climate Change in South-Asia the Committee are concerned with the slow pace of these projects. The Committee feel that India should encourage the idea of Pan South-Asian institutes and initiatives and aim for building connectivity within the region. To enhance engagement India should come out with comprehensive proposal for establishment of trans-border infrastructure to establish linkages between the constituent nations as well as to expand physical connectivity with South-East and East-Asia. The Committee are of the opinion that at the platform of SAARC India should make endeavour for enhancing trade, investment and cooperation on issues of management of energy resources in the region as agreed upon by all the members on SAFTA. Similarly, India should also engage and build alliances and policy frameworks on intra-regional level on the issues of food security, climate change, environment protection and management of biological resources and indigenous knowledge. In the same context, the Committee also desire that through the fora of SAARC, all possibilities should be explored to develop Lumbini as an international centre for Buddhist Studies in the region.

Reply of the Government

The SAARC Tele-medicine network, the SAARC Tele-education project, and the India Endowment for Climate Change in South Asia are among a few of the several SAARC initiatives announced by India unilaterally, aimed at enhancing engagement, interaction and eventually integration of the economies of the eight South Asian nations.

Since the Tele-medicine network and the Tele-medicine project are intended to be established in cooperation with interested institutions in the other seven SAARC States, they are being implemented at a pace with which the other SAARC States are comfortable. The Tele-medicine network project has already established linkages between super-speciality hospitals in India and target hospitals in Kabul (Afghanistan), Thimphu (Bhutan) and Pattan (Nepal). A beginning has also been made with the Tele-education project, with a linkage between the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and the Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu. Efforts are on to expand Tele-education projects to the remaining six SAARC countries, based on their willingness and interest in the projects and in the training courses offered by India.

The India Endowment for Climate Change in South Asia is similarly a unilateral Indian initiative. It is aimed at assisting SAARC States in enhancing capacity to adapt to the challenges of climate change. Like the Tele-medicine and Tele-education projects, it too is based on a demand-driven approach in which South Asian Member-States take ownership of climate change projects that will run on Indian funding. Efforts are nonetheless ongoing to help relevant South Asian States develop projects that fit within the rubric of the IECC-SA.

In keeping with the objective of developing pan South Asian Institutes and initiatives, India has been promoting the development of a South Asian University, headquartered in New Delhi. India is meeting all the costs of constructing the campus of the University. Similarly, India has unilaterally provided US\$ 100 million to the SAARC Development Fund, based at Thimphu, to fund deserving socio-economic developmental projects across the region. This is to enhance capacity in South Asia to deal with common developmental challenges, including projects relating to empowerment of women, enhancing the quality of teachers and so on.

Under SAARC, with regard to trans-border infrastructure India has been a proponent of efforts to promote rail, road, air and maritime connectivity across the region. Since this requires active support of each of the Member-States of SAARC, each of these projects is progressing at different speeds. For instance, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka are progressing with ADB-support to develop a project for an Ocean Ferry Service linking the three countries. Air connectivity between India and Sri Lanka and India and Nepal is excellent; whereas in other regions connectivity needs to be improved. Efforts are on to develop regional rail connectivity so that both goods and passengers can move easily from Afghanistan to Bangladesh. A draft Regional Railway Agreement is pending finalisation, with all SAARC Member States barring Pakistan having accepted the terms and conditions in the text.

The purpose of such connectivity and India's unilateral initiative to offer tariff free and quota-free trade to the five LDCs in the region is to enhance trade, investment and transportation linkages across the region. Similarly, efforts are on to develop regional and sub-regional energy

cooperation, including in renewable energy sources, hydro electric power generation and by enhancing capacity to develop regional power trading arrangements. Power Ministers and agencies in the energy sector are working to identify ways in which the region's considerable energy potential is fully harnessed.

With the intention of developing the widest possible range of areas of regional cooperation, SAARC now has structures to enable Ministerial and expert-level meetings on issues relating to cooperation in food security, climate change and environment protection as well as to deal with matters relating to culture. Given the extensive interest in enhanced cooperation in the promotion of the culture and history of the region, India is supportive of efforts within the region to develop capacity for research and study in areas of our shared history and tradition.

In this regard, given that it would be appropriate for the Government of Nepal to promote the development of Lumbini (which lies in Nepal) as a Centre for the international study of Buddhism, the Government of India will be willing to work with that country's Government to promote such an objective.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No. 20)

SAARC University was envisaged as an institution of academic and intellectual engagement to forge a sense of South-Asian consciousness in the future generation of the South-Asians and was meant to bridge the knowledge gap in the subcontinent. It was anticipated that such courses would be introduced that may carve out South-Asian identity and build upon the knowledge and linkages among the people of South-Asia. However, after going through the launched academic programmes, the Committee feel that the authorities have been in a hurry in launching the University without properly looking into the standards and quality of curricula to be catered to the targeted group. The Committee, therefore, desire that the courses should be offered keeping in mind the ideals of the University and focused to address the particular concerns of the region and come out with indigenous models and solutions. The Committee are dismayed to note, that SAARC University is yet to have its own Campus, hostel and a standardized curriculum in place, library and books for issuance to students. The Committee are unhappy about the pace of construction of SAARC University which has forced the University to function from two temporary campuses at Akbar Bhavan and the Jawaharlal Nehru University with the Centaur Hotel as their Hostel. Now, the major portion of allotted land for the University is in possession, the Committee urge the Ministry to expeditiously work upon the construction so that the University can shift to its own campus with all its academic programmes and intake of students can increase fulfilling the objectives of the setting up of a dream Institution with new benchmarks.

Reply of the Government

With regard to the expansion and the pace of inaugurating academic programme, it is noted that all academic programmes introduced so far at the South Asian University (SAU) have been drawn from the **SAU Academic Structure**, a document evolved jointly by all eight SAARC Member States through the mechanisms of an Inter-Governmental Task Force and the Inter-Governmental Steering Committee of the SAU. The document was duly approved, by the SAARC Standing Committee and by the SAARC Summit.

At present, the following academic programmes are being offered by the SAU:

- MA (Development Economics) Introduced in July 2010
- Master in Computer Applications (MCA) Introduced in July 2010
- M.Sc. (Biotechnology) Introduced July 2011
- M.Sc. (Computer Science) Introduced July 2011
- MA (International Relations) Introduced July 2011
- MA (Sociology) Introduced July 2011
- Master of Laws (LLM) Introduced July 2011
- M.Sc. (Applied Mathematics) to start in July 2012

The first three programmes were approved by the SAU Steering Committee in October 2009. Academic programmes at Sl. No. 4 to 7 were approved by the first Governing Board meeting of SAU held in March 2011 in New Delhi. The last programme, in Applied Mathematics, was suggested by the SAU Advisory Committee, which comprised academics from Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India. This programme was later approved by the Academic Council of SAU (established in 2011), with members from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka and later by the second meeting of the Governing Board of SAU held in New Delhi in March 2012.

In all cases, Course content was drawn up by international experts keeping in mind the focus on South Asia. The pace of expansion of the academic programmes and the selection of courses, is therefore a matter over which all eight SAARC Member States have reached a collective decision. The course contents of all SAU academic programmes have unique features designed to enhance a shared sense of South Asian identity. These include:

MA Sociology: This course has two special courses of 4 credits each entitled “**Sociology of South Asia I and II**” in the first and second semesters of MA Sociology programme.

MA (International Relations): A 4 credit course entitled “**International Relations in South Asia**” has been especially introduced in the second semester.

Master of Laws (LLM): A four credit course entitled “**Comparative Constitutional Law of SAARC Countries**” is an essential constituent of the programme.

MA (Development Economics): A compulsory course entitled “**South Asian Economic Development**” has been introduced in the third semester.

- Science programmes are by nature not regional in character. Nonetheless, in all science programmes, special care has been taken to ensure that the students from all SAARC countries are exposed to important technologies so that those who finally pass out of SAU are able to help in the development of their respective countries. For instance, a special compulsory course entitled “**Research Methodology**” has been introduced in M.Sc. Biotechnology programme which is unique. It has been evolved to provide hands-on training to students from all SAARC countries, to apply research technologies to the specific needs of their respective countries. Further, keeping the interests of students from many SAARC countries in mind, especially from those characterized by dominance of agriculture in their economy, additional emphasis has been given to teaching on **Agricultural Biotechnology and Crop Improvement**.
- All Master level programmes have a prominent research component. Research topics are picked jointly by the students and the supervisor, keeping in mind the specific needs of the South Asian Region.
- All SAU students, irrespective of the course they pursue, will soon be required to undertake a two-credit course in “**Introduction to South Asia**”; the course contents are being finalized.

As regards the references to the process of constructing SAU's permanent campus at Maidan Garhi, DDA has been able to hand over a total of 93.68 acres (85.32 acres of land in February 2010 and 8.36 acres in August 2011), out of the 100 acres allocated for the SAU campus project. This 93.68 acres was handed over to the South Asian University by MEA in September 2011 for it to use in accordance with the terms of allotment by DDA. Thereafter, a No Objection Certificate has been issued by DDA for construction, but this applies only to 83.10 acres; the rest of the land is, unfortunately, under three separate litigation processes. The Hon'ble High Court had given a stay on the allocation of these plots in 2010 and October, 2011.

The pockets of land under stay orders are located within the boundary of the SAU, which prevents SAU from initiating construction of the campus project in the remainder of the land. It also poses security risks to the safety and integrity of the prospective campus and its installations.

MEA is taking necessary steps in consultation with SAU, DDA and its lawyers appointed to defend Gol by Ministry of Law & Justice.

A Progress Report on the construction of the Campus at Maidan Garhi – as on June 4, 2012 obtained from the South Asian University. Salient points are:

- Appointment of Project Management Consultant (PMC) is expected to be done by early July. Bids for PMC services have been received and are under scrutiny.
- Layout plans were submitted by SAU for approval of MCD on February 23, 2012. The President, SAU, has met Chief Secretary of the Government of Delhi on 28th March, 2012, to impress upon the need to secure expeditious approvals.
- SAU is working on the scrutiny of preliminary designs of the individual buildings which will be submitted for approval of Building Works Committee in mid-August.
- Submission of tender documents is planned in mid September 2012. The award of contracts will be done on receipt of MCD approval.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

**PROPOSED REVISED TIME SCHEDULE FOR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
(UPTO FINALISATION OF TENDERS) AS APPROVED BY BWC**

1. BUILDINGS

Activity	Time Schedule	Remarks / Action by
(i) Submission of Layout Plans for approval of MCD	23 rd February 2012	Submitted on 23/2/2012. In process of scrutiny by MCD. *Note: To expedite the process of approval, the President, the Vice-President, the Registrar and the Advisor (Infrastructure) met the Chief Secretary of the Govt. of NCT Delhi on 28/03/2012 who promised the help of Government to secure expeditious approvals.
(ii) Scrutiny of Preliminary designs of individual buildings	20 th May 2012	The Preliminary designs submitted by the Architects are under scrutiny by SAU. Comments / observations on Faculty residences & hostel blocks furnished on 26 th March 2012. Architects will submit revised details based on the comments / observations.
(iii) Submission of final detailed drawings & designs of individual buildings	20 th June 2012	Architects
(iv) Scrutiny of final detailed drawings, detailed estimate	End July 2012	PMC
(v) Approval of final detailed drawings / estimates	Mid-August 2012	Building Works Committee
(vi) Submission of tender documents for various buildings	Mid – September 2012	Architects
(vii) Scrutiny of tender documents	End September 2012	PMC
(viii) Issue of tender notice for invitation of tenders	1 st Week of October 2012	SAU
(ix) Receipt of tenders	3 rd Week of October 2012	SAU

Annexure 1

(x) Scrutiny of tenders, submission of scrutiny report	Mid - November 2012	Architect / PMC
(xi) Award of contracts	As soon as statutory MCD Approval is obtained	

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

1. It is expected that by early July 2012, the appointment of the Project Management Consultant (PMC) will be completed. The Expression of interest (EOI) & Request For Proposal (RFP) documents for invitation of bids for PMC are expected to be approved by the Building Works Committee on 19th April 2012.
2. The detailed structural designs of buildings to be prepared by the Architects will be got proof checked by IIT, Delhi.
3. Proof Checking of designs / details for MEP (Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing) services will be done by the PMC as per terms of their contract.
4. All actions upto the stage of final award of contract for works will be completed by the time the statutory approvals are obtained.
5. Assuming that there will not be any major changes in the approved layout plans, Architects will take parallel action to prepare detailed drawings of individual buildings for submission for MCD approval soon after MCD's layout approval is obtained.
6. **The time schedule of construction activities will be reviewed after the PMC is appointed. The PMC will prepare detailed time schedule based on work break down schedule in consultation with the Architects and to be approved by SAU.**

UPDATE AFTER THE BUILDING WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19TH April 2012.

(I) Approval of Layout Plans by MCD :-

Preliminary observations by the MCD, South zone on SAU plans have been attended to by SAU. The Town Planning Deptt. has completed the site checking by carrying out their own survey. The Scrutiny Committee of the MCD South zone is expected to meet by mid June 2012 to consider the Layout Plans.

(II) Appointment of PMC :-

Bids for PMC services have been received and are under scrutiny.

(Recommendation No. 21)

The Committee take note of multi-dimensional engagement with Africa and the various efforts and initiatives taken by the Government in African Continent on a regional as well as bilateral level. However, the Committee express their concern over the tardy implementation of the decisions taken during India Africa Forum Summit-I (IAFS-I). The Committee desire that the process of setting up various institutes and the initiatives to strengthen the commercial partnership with Africa should be expedited. The Committee hope that with the setting up of Development Partnership Administration (DPA), the pace of setting up/implementation of such and other projects will improve considerably. The Committee are of the opinion that India should simultaneously enhance its bilateral engagement with the countries of the region and extend technical and economic assistance and developmental aid as per their indigenous requirements

Reply of the Government

India's multi-dimensional engagement with Africa under the rubric of the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) is in the nature of a partnership wherein all major decisions are arrived at in consultation with the concerned authorities of the African Union.

2. While it is true that the first India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) took place in April 2008, the final **Plan of Action for India-Africa Framework of Cooperation** could be launched only in March 2010. Further, the location of 19 capacity building institutions to be established under IAFS-I were to be decided by the AU. This was done by the AU in December 2010. The progress in this regard needs to be evaluated in this context.

3. Capacity building training programmes under IAFS have been running successfully. In the field of short term training positions, as against the target of training 1500 African nationals during 2011-14, nearly 1200 African candidates have been trained from over 40 African countries in the last two years. Similarly, the enhanced slots under ICCR (long-term) and ITEC (short-term) scholarships are also being well utilized.

4. The preparatory work with regard to the institutions to be set up under the second Africa India Forum Summit is fully underway. E&SA Division of MEA has been regularly convening inter-Ministerial meetings in order to hasten the implementation process. Our Missions and Posts in Africa have been coordinating with host countries in Africa. Several of the Departments/Ministries have selected implementing agencies and preliminary visits have started taking place.

5. It is relevant to point out that while India is prepared to share its expertise etc. the necessary physical infrastructure (land, building) is to be provided by the African nations. This has often been the cause of delay in

project implementation. One illustration of this could be seen in establishment of Vocational Training Centres (VTCs). Ten (10) VTCs are to be established in Africa under IAFS-I. As pointed out earlier, the location for these VTCs was decided in December 2010. Since then, the implementing agency, National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) has undertaken preparatory visits and prepared DPRs for 8 of these Centres with the exception of Burkina Faso and Libya. However, only three countries have committed to fulfill their obligations (i.e., provision of land, building and recurring costs) viz., Mozambique, Burundi and Ethiopia. Agreement between MEA and NSIC with regard to these three VTCs has been signed and parts of payment released to NSIC. These three VTCs are well on track for completion by the end of 2012.

6. Experience sharing through conferences/seminars/workshops is a crucial element of the IAFS process. As planned various conferences were organized in the last FY including India- Africa Workshop on Traditional Medicines, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Air Services Negotiation Conference (ICAN Conference), LOC Conference, Workshop on Sharing of Experience in the field of mobilization of Domestic Savings, India-Africa Business Partnership Summit, and Regional Economic Communities Conference, India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference etc.

7. Bilateral relations with African countries have been suitably augmented both within and outside the framework of IAFS. Whether it is the establishment of capacity building institutions or training of personnel or provision of grants-in-aid more and more African nations are being covered. India-Africa trade has gone up to US\$ 62 billion and the earlier trade target of US\$ 70 billion by 2015 has been revised to US\$ 90 billion. High level official visits between India and the African countries, both incoming and outgoing, have gone up.

8. As the Development Partnership Administration in the MEA is gearing towards meeting its mandate, it is expected that effective and efficient handling of all our aid projects from the stages of concept, launch, execution and completion would result in timely implementation of projects, in close cooperation with the concerned territorial divisions in MEA and with the support and facilitation of the partner countries.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No. 22)

ICCR has been playing an important role through various endeavors of cultural diplomacy and also through administering and offering various scholarships. The Committee, however, observe that ICCR is not able to serve to its capability and mandate for the want of funds. The Committee observe that during the last three years the ICCR has been allocated almost the same fund of ₹150 crore against their demand ranging from ₹166 crore to ₹252 crore this year. The Committee are convinced that with such insufficient fund allocation ICCR will not be able to achieve the objectives of

cultural diplomacy. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that MEA should make all possible efforts to get allocation of the desired fund of ₹252 crore to ICCR at the Revised Estimates stage. The Committee feel that for exploring the huge potential for building long term bridges with the future generation of various countries, the ICCR should enhance the number of scholarships across the regions. At the same time, the Committee also desire that ICCR should start special scholarships and allot special slots to neighbouring countries as well as countries in the ASEAN region. Special slots should also be dedicated to the students from Latin America. The Committee understand that the cost of administering scholarships has been increasing over the years. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the ICCR's allocation should be enhanced considerably, so that the amount of scholarship is in tune with the requirement of the students/scholars as well as ICCR should have enough fund to support other activities relating to cultural diplomacy. The Committee also express displeasure over long pendency of opening up of Indian Cultural Centre at Washington and desire that Ministry should make sincere efforts to identify the land/space for setting up of this long pending Centre.

Reply of the Government

The ICCR administers a large number of scholarships for students from all over the world. In order to build long term bridges with the future generations of various countries, the Council is at present, administering about 3000 scholarships which include Council's scholarships and scholarships administered as agency work. These scholarships include some special scholarship schemes for neighbouring countries as well as some ASEAN countries. The decision to increase Ministries/agency scholarships is decided by the parent department, for which ICCR is the implementing agency, and therefore does not fall within the purview of the ICCR. The Council is unable to increase the number of scholarships it provides at present since its budget has been reduced by 40% compared to its projected budget requirement. Increase in numbers will be considered as and when the budgetary situation improves.

Regarding the opening of the Indian Cultural Centre at Washington, the Indian Mission in Washington in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi is in the process to buy a property. Once the deal is finalized, ICCR will take further appropriate steps to operationalize the centre.

The Ministry has taken up the ICCRs' requirement of increase in funds allocated for the F/y 2012-13. The BE & RE is approved by the Financial Committee, General Assembly & Governing Body wherein AS & FA of MEA, the funds recommending authority in MEA, is a regular member of all the three bodies. The AS&FA/MEA is apprised of the financial crises at different level from time to time.

The BE/RE for F/y2011-12 & BE for F/y2012-13 (prepared in consultation with AS&FA) and allocation thereof has been as under:

F/y	Projection	Allocation
2011-12	BE ₹ 219.56 Cr	₹ 121.00 Cr
	RE ₹ 197.02 Cr	₹ 140.00 Cr
2012-13	BE ₹ 252.00 Cr	₹ 150.00 Cr

Apart from interventions with the Ministry of Finance by the Ministry, the Finance Minister & Prime Minister have also been apprised of the financial crunch by the President, ICCR and the DG, ICCR as well.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No. 23)

The Committee are appreciative of various research and associated activities carried by ICWA through seminars and symposium and are happy to note that the requests are being received from the foreign scholars seeking visiting fellowship of ICWA. The Committee feel that ICWA should further enhance such engagement and more provisions should be made for grant of such fellowships, though, due criteria should be evolved for grant of such scholarships. The Committee are of the view that ICWA should intensify its engagement with Indian as well International think tanks through conducting more such seminars and symposium on the subjects of vital importance. The Committee desire that the ICWA should further build upon its in-house research capacities and capabilities to be able to come out with larger number of qualitative research oriented publications so as to play a role of facilitator in influencing the conduct of India's foreign policy.

Reply of the Government

1. Criteria have been evolved to grant scholarships and fellowships to intending scholars.
2. ICWA organised 61 seminars, conferences, symposiums, lectures by foreign dignitaries, interactions etc with Indian as well as international think tanks on the subjects of vital importance to India during the year 2011-12.
3. ICWA Research Fellows are mainly working on India's neighbourhood, including China, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Central Asia, West Asia and South East Asia, as well as Africa. They are regularly bringing out Viewpoints, Briefs and Policy Briefs which are circulated among the policy makers as well as put on our website. To strengthen research activities, ICWA recruited four Research Fellows this year raising the total strength of ICWA Research Wing to thirteen, excluding Director (Research) and short term Research Interns. It is planned to increase the size of the Research faculty to 19 academics in 2013 to add coverage of Latin America and Caribbean, EU, USA and North Americas as well as Global Commons Issues.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No. 24)

The Committee are dismayed to observe the lack of progress regarding Nalanda University Project. The Committee note that during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the allocation sought by Ministry for the project was grossly inappropriate as compared to the actual ground reality. The proposed outlay for the year 2012-13 was ₹598.95 crore while the actual allocation of ₹15 crore has been made under the Plan Head. The Committee are not at all convinced by the Ministry's justification in making such huge projections for the year 2012-13 when in all practicality, the University is yet to embark on the Global Designs Competition. The Committee also feel that the time and cost estimate as per the draft DPR prepared by EdCIL needs to be reviewed and revised in accordance with the ground realities. The Committee recommend that the Ministry must expedite the process of construction of actual physical infrastructure of this University.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry shares the Committee's concern regarding delay in the Nalanda University project. Unfortunately, confusion has arisen regarding the funds sought for 2012-2013. This confusion stems from when the actual construction on the ground level would begin. The year termed "zero year" in EdCIL's Detailed Project Report (DPR) is more likely to be 2013-14, and not the current financial year. This is explained below.

At the request of the government of Bihar, a DPR was prepared by EdCIL in 2007. That report however pertained to the establishment of a state university, and did not envisage setting up Nalanda University as an international institution. It was, therefore, considered necessary to have a revised DPR, taking into consideration the objective of creating an international institution.

EdCIL's draft DPR projected expenditure of ₹589.11 crore as the capital cost for the "zero year" i.e., the "Development Year" or the year before the commencement of classes. It was earlier estimated that this will be 2012-13, but now it seems more likely that the "zero year" will be spread over two year, namely 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Based on EdCIL's draft DPR, the University had earlier indicated that the requirement of funds for the "Development Year" (capital cost) would be to ₹589.11 crore. But after a review of the timeline for the "Development Year," this estimate has been revised in EdCIL's final DPR. It is estimated that capital expenditure on the establishment of the University (including the pre-academic phase, or the "zero year") will be ₹2154.35 crore, spread over the period 2010-11 to 2020-21.

During 2012-13 expenditure on running the office, construction of the boundary wall and conduct of the Global Design Competition etc. is expected to be around ₹20 crore. This is ₹4 crore more than requested by

the University in the BE for 2012-2013. The additional sum is required for the completion of the boundary wall, on which only a partial amount of ₹4 crore was spent in 2011-2012.

The capital expenditure for development of infrastructure will be required in phases, starting from 2013-14. As per EdCIL's final DPR, the requirement of capital expenditure during 2013-14 will be ₹524.25 crore.

It is the University's endeavour to develop the campus at the earliest, keeping rules, regulations and the need for transparency in view.

The University is working towards the launch of the Global Design Competition, leading to construction of the campus. Organizing the Global Design Competition is a technical matter. The University has been in touch with prominent architects, both national and international, with a view to seeking their advice on the modalities of conducting such a competition, and preparing the necessary documents.

With this in view, on the advice of a Steering Committee of senior and prominent architects, the University has engaged a Professional Advisor to prepare the bid documents, and help the University run the Competition. It is estimated that the Competition will be concluded during 2012-2013, and actual construction will begin in 2013-2014.

However, the University would like to mention that the following steps need to be taken before actual construction can begin:

- Announcement of the Global Design Competition
- Receipt of entries and shortlisting of finalists who will submit final entries for the Competition
- Arranging site visits by the short-listed competitors
- Submission and presentation of final entries, including proposed models
- Selection of the winning entry by a jury, and its announcement
- Detailed drawings of prominent buildings on the campus to be submitted by the winner
- Cost estimate of construction activities to be undertaken on the campus
- Hiring a project management company to supervise the construction
- Floating a construction tender
- Selection of the construction company/ contractor and award of work
- Begin construction

It is envisaged that this process will be completed within a period of 9-10 months, after which the construction will begin.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No. 25)

The Committee note that though the Ministry plans to have a School of International Studies in Delhi along with a Project Office in same city, the financial projections for same has not been made in the draft DPR. The Committee are not at all convinced with the reasons furnished by the Ministry regarding location of the School and Project Office in Delhi. The Committee strongly feel that both these ideas will defeat the very purpose of setting up of the Nalanda University and are against the spirit of the idea of setting up of the University at the ancient place of knowledge. The Ministry may review at the decision to establish School of International Studies at Delhi. The Committee, therefore, desire that the responsibility to develop this Institution should be given to those who are devoted, genuine and committed to make selfless efforts for development of this prime Institution while sitting at the location of the institution and certainly not in Delhi. The Committee recommend that the School of International Studies under the Nalanda University should be set up at the main University Campus and having capacity to carve out a unique identity for itself and focus upon the issues of cultural diplomacy and cultural engagement so as to imbibe, build upon and advocate the diplomatic and cultural traditions of the region and should endeavour to be a unique and one of its kind which is highly specialized in subjects that are not replicated or stereotyped by other academic institutions or organization.

Reply of the Government

The University has stated that it plans to establish seven schools, including a School of International Relations. It is committed to establishing all the seven schools at its campus in Rajgir. It has further stated that, since it is not planned to have the School of International Relations in New Delhi, no provision for it has been made in the DPR. However, the University will need an office in New Delhi to co-ordinate its activities, and occasionally hold public events.

The University has stated that its team is fully committed to the creation of a world class university in Rajgir, and the development of the area around Rajgir and Nalanda. It has further stated that the University team has worked diligently to secure the foundations of the University.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No. 26)

The Committee are very concerned about the contents of the curriculum and the standards and quality of the academic courses to be introduced in the Nalanda University. The Committee feel that the course-content, academic-structure as well as faculty for the Nalanda University should be in consonance with the unique identity and academic character of the University that it is envisaged to be and should be able to live up to the founding philosophy and ideas behind the establishment of this University. The Committee feel that the University should emerge as a valuable resource for promotion of studies and research in oriental cultures, literary

tradition and languages and civilization based on the native knowledge systems and it should act as a living repository of cultural and literary traditions of the region. This University should strengthen and build upon the cultural capital and carry forward the thread of identity and consciousness within the South-East Asian Countries. The Ministry should endeavour to attain the aim of achieving highest intellectual and academic standards of international quality through this University. The Committee further express their desire that the Ministry should also be a part of all such endeavours being made by the international community in this regard in a proactive manner.

Reply of the Government

Both the Joint Press Statement issued by the EAS member states at the 4th East Asia Summit, held at Hua Hin, Thailand on October 24-25, 2009, and the Nalanda University Act, 2010 encourage networking and collaboration between Nalanda University and existing centers of excellence in the EAS participating countries. This is designed to build a community of learning where students, scholars, researchers and academicians can work together, embodying the spirituality that unites mankind.

The construction of the campus is under way, starting with construction of the boundary wall. The University has been simultaneously working on academic planning. Special attention has been paid to networking and collaboration with existing centers of excellence in the EAS region and outside. Nalanda had layers of knowledge systems, and the University plans to benefit from ancient Nalanda's rich intellectual heritage and create its own unique academic programmes. The endeavour at all times is to translate the Nalanda tradition into a model of the University that is truly an Asian University. With Nalanda we have a unique opportunity to create new paradigms of higher education that will flow out from India to Asia, and to the rest of the world. It must always be remembered that the Nalanda tradition was about high levels of specialization, without insularity.

The concept notes on the Schools of Historical Studies and Ecology and Environment Studies - the first two schools to be established – have been developed by the University. These were approved by the Governing Board at its meeting in Beijing in October, 2011. The central philosophy of both the schools, with which the University plans to begin its academic programmes, is to harmonize and work closely both with the local populace and the regional concerns of the area.

The academic plan of the School of Historical Studies is being developed, with special emphasis on trans-regional history, the history of East Asia, the cultural history of Buddhism in the Asian context, archaeology, epigraphy and the economic history of Asia. It will be a language-intensive programme, with a focus on Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Persian and classical Chinese, among other languages.

Discussions are on with Ritsumeikan and Kyoto Universities in Japan, and Peking University in China, for tie-ups. The University

participated in a Workshop on “Historical and Cultural Interaction Between China and India,” organized in Beijing in October, 2011. It co-sponsored a “Conference on Revival of Buddhism in Asia” at Singapore in December, 2011.

The University has held substantive discussions with Yale University’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies on the latter’s future collaboration with Nalanda University’s School of Ecology and Environment Studies. Meetings with the Dean of the School at Yale, to concretize plans, are scheduled for mid-August, 2012. The University is also in discussions on collaboration with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) in Mexico, and its South Asian Institute, the Borlaug Institute of South Asia (BISA). BISA will actively support the scientific component of the School of Ecology and Environment at Nalanda.

With this in view, University officials have undertaken a number of tours abroad to EAS member states, and even outside, to hold discussions on tie-ups with officials of key institutions. They have participated in a number of conferences/seminars to create global awareness about Nalanda University.

The academic planning for the other schools will be undertaken in phases, in keeping with the scheduled start. The University will endeavour to develop the course content and academic structures, in keeping with its vision and unique identity. It will also strive to develop a valuable resource for promotion of studies and research in oriental cultures, as well as the literary traditions, languages and civilizations of South East Asia.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No. 27)

The Committee observe that the Energy Security Unit was set up in 2007 within existing ITP Division in the Ministry which was upgraded as a Division with effect from April 2009. In tune with the mandate of the Division for international energy diplomacy Ministry should engage with other countries across the region in association with the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and should explore the possibility for acquisition of energy assets abroad and for diversification of supply sources both traditional as well as non-traditional energy sources. The Committee strongly urge the Government to expedite the pace of ongoing energy supply project and particularly focus upon proactive engagement with neighbouring countries on the issue of energy. The Committee are of the opinion that Ministry should also facilitate the Government to enter in energy dialogues at various multi-lateral forums regarding the policy issues related to international oil market.

Reply of the Government

The Energy Security Division, in accordance with its mandate, is pursuing a strategy which is in line with the recommendations of the

Standing committee. It involves dialogues with energy rich countries, diversification of supply sources, strengthening energy relationships with neighbouring countries and participation in international forums on energy where policies with respect to energy are discussed and formulated.

With respect to International Energy Diplomacy with other countries across the regions we are engaged in structured energy dialogues with countries and regions such as USA, Australia, Germany, Japan and EU in which the line Ministries such as the Ministries of Petroleum & Natural Gas; Coal; Power; New and Renewable Energy etc. are always involved. In addition, bilateral Joint Working Groups / Joint Commissions are active with Algeria, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela. Apart from these structured dialogues, energy issues are also taken up during bilateral consultations and enjoy a high priority in discussions with energy rich countries.

The Energy Security Division assisted the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in organizing the 3rd India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference 2011 held on 9-10 December 2011 in New Delhi.

For acquisition of petroleum and natural gas assets abroad, MEA and its Missions are in continuous contact with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and provide the Ministry and Oil & Gas PSUs information with respect to various opportunities that arise in the respective jurisdictions of the concerned Missions. MEA and its Missions actively assist various entities like ONGC Videsh, ICVL and other energy sector PSUs and also companies in the private sector, in acquisitions of energy assets abroad. We also pursue the acquisition issues with the local governments.

MEA has encouraged diversification of supplies in the traditional as well as non-traditional sectors of energy. As part of diversification of supply sources away from the middle-east, MEA is pursuing the stakeholders to increase energy supplies from North America [US-Gas & Coal and Canada – Oil, Gas & Coal], South America [Venezuela – Oil, Colombia – Oil, Brazil – Oil and Trinidad & Tobago – Gas] and Africa [Nigeria – Oil, Angola – Oil, Tanzania – Coal and Mozambique – Gas & Coal]. MEA is also promoting partnership in non-conventional sources like Shale gas, Coal-Bed Methane and Gas hydrates and in renewable energy and energy efficiency. In order to diversify the sources of supply of natural gas, the government is pursuing the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India [TAPI] Pipeline Project.

With respect to neighbouring countries, there is active bilateral cooperation with Bangladesh [sale of electricity and inter-grid connectivity], Bhutan [construction of hydro-power projects and purchase of electricity], Myanmar [assistance in development of its hydro potential], Nepal [assistance in development of its hydro potential] and Sri Lanka [inter-grid connectivity]. Talks are also underway for supply of refined petroleum products to Pakistan.

For policy issues related to international oil and energy markets, MEA actively takes part in various multilateral fora like the International Energy Forum [IEF], the Joint Organizations Data Initiative [JODI], the International Renewable Energy Agency [IRENA], International Partnership

for Energy Efficiency and Cooperation [IPEEC], the Clean Energy Ministerial [CEM]. The government has also enhanced its cooperation with the International Energy Agency [IEA].

The existing mechanisms will be further strengthened as per the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No. 28)

The Committee have been taking note of the various Reports and adverse comments and observations made by the C&AG on various issues of property management as well as various activities undertaken by the Ministry or the organization/institution under it. The Committee are dismayed to note that there have been several instances of pending C&AG Audit Paras. The Committee take note of the setting up of a Standing Audit Committee (SAC) to function as the nodal agency of the Ministry to monitor and review. The Committee hope that the Ministry uses due diligence in its expenditure and should have effective monitoring mechanism in place so as to avoid C&AG's adverse observations. Further, the Committee desire that SAC/Ministry should ensure timely and accurate furnishing of replies to C&AG.

Reply of the Government

Giving due attention to the Committee's recommendations and directions, the Ministry has been regularly holding meetings of the Standing Audit Committee (SAC). The last SAC meeting was held on 21.02.2012. The Ministry has taken a pro-active stand with the objective of exercising due diligence in its expenditure and effective monitoring and review of C&AG paras. The SAC, in its last meeting also, impressed upon the respective Divisions/Departments of the Ministry, the need for timely and expeditious submission of pending ATNs to C&AG.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

CHAPTER – III

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

(Recommendation No. 4)

The Committee in their previous Reports have taken note of the situation arising out of non-availability of interpretation facility from Hindi to foreign languages and *vice versa*. The Committee also observe that the officers in Missions/Posts having working knowledge of Hindi are either not available or are not competent enough to handle the job of interpreter during the meetings/deliberations of the visiting VIPs/dignitaries. The Committee would, therefore, like to reiterate that the necessary steps should be taken to develop a cadre of interpreters for interpretation from Hindi language to foreign languages and vice-versa and such facilities should be provided by local Mission/Embassy to the visiting parliamentary or other high level delegations from India.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry does have an in-house capacity of interpretation from Hindi to various other foreign languages and vice versa. This support is rendered by a fairly large number of Hindi speaking officers with training in a whole range of foreign languages as part of their compulsory foreign language training. Some of the officers belonging to the specialized Interpreters' Cadre of the Ministry are also able to provide this facility both at the Headquarters and Missions/Posts abroad. Many of our Missions have people of Indian origin but settled abroad working against local cadre posts. These officials can provide interpretation facilities from the concerned foreign language not only to Hindi but also to some other Indian languages and vice versa. Missions/Posts also maintain contacts with members of the Indian diaspora in their respective territories, who could render these services, as and when required. The Ministry regularly emphasizes on the need for improving these services and would continue to do so with greater vigour.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

CHAPTER – IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND REQUIRE REITERATION

(Recommendation No. 5)

The Committee observe that the aim of Passport Seva Project while replacing the existing system of Passport Offices, District Passport Cells and Speed Post Centres with the network of Passport Seva Kendra was envisaged to make timely and efficient delivery of passport services. However, the Committee note that there is no improvement in the situation faced during implementation of the Pilot Project and still the citizens are facing tough time in seeking basic information, getting appointments and tracking their applications in the newly established Passport Seva Project in different parts of the country. All the systems for providing guidance or support to the passport seekers have been suddenly withdrawn leaving them in limbo. In this transitional phase, such chaos defeats the basic purpose of embarking upon this ambitious project. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should adopt urgent measures to resolve the problems arising at the newly established Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs). The shifting should be done in phased manner and old arrangements to assist/facilitate citizens should be retained for some more time with necessary riders.

Reply of the Government

(i) The Ministry would like to submit that it is constantly striving to improve information systems, response mechanism and service delivery level. The Ministry would like to assure the Hon'ble Committee that all the systems for guidance of the applicants are in place. The Passport Portal provides comprehensive and latest information on passport services as well as status of an application, thus enabling anytime-anywhere access. An email based helpdesk facility and a 24x7 call center has been set up to provide requisite information to citizens in local language. The Postal System (India Post) has been integrated with PSP System to check the delivery status of the Passport. As soon as passport is dispatched, a SMS/e-mail alert is also sent to the applicant informing the Passport Dispatch status.

(ii) As regards delays in getting appointments, it is submitted that as per the serving capacity of each Passport Seva Kendra (PSK), online appointment slots are opened on daily basis. However, in cases, where applicants are not able to obtain online appointments at PSKs, they may visit concerned Regional Passport Office (RPO) in their area. Such applicants are required to fill-up the application online, generate 'Application Reference Number' and visit RPO along with printed 'ARN Sheet'. RPOs consider such cases and give staggered appointments keeping in view the load/capacity at the respective PSK under their jurisdiction. Tatkaal and

other urgency applications are given preference in allotting appointments. Applicants having confirmed appointments and who are unable to visit PSK due to some reason, are advised to reschedule/cancel their appointments at-least 15 hours prior to the scheduled date/time, so that these appointments may be released to other applicants in queue. In case of 'no show' of the applicant on the scheduled day & time, the data captured for that applicant is deleted from the system including ARN number and such applicants are required to fill-up the 'data' again for obtaining fresh appointments. Since 2nd April 2012, a window of 15 days has been opened to obtain appointments. An advisory to this effect has been posted on the Passport Portal.

(iii) The Ministry would also like to assure that transition from the old system to the new system is done gradually. Online appointments in the new system are gradually increased. Both the systems run concurrently till the new system is able to take full load of passport applicants. There is no sudden cut off from the old system. The data from the old system is migrated to the new system. Pendency is also cleared side by side.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

CHAPTER – V

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

(Recommendation No.1)

The Committee express concern at the serious under-resourcing of the Ministry of External Affairs, whose staff and budget are not commensurate with the scale and range of India's external challenges and obligations in an increasingly globalized 21st century world. The Committee are not satisfied with the slow pace of implementation of the authorized expansion of the personnel of the Ministry and call upon the Ministry to recruit external applicants with relevant expertise for lateral entry into the Ministry upto and including the Joint Secretary level. In addition, the Committee are concerned that the requested level of resources required for the Ministry's operations, especially in its Embassies and Missions abroad, have not been provided and calls upon the Ministry of Finance to enhance the Ministry's allocations so as to equip it to fulfil its global responsibilities.

Reply of the Government

This Ministry agrees that given India's expanding global role, there is need for a matching human resource base so as to carry this mandate effectively. The Government of India and the Ministry of External Affairs have been working hard to address this issue for quite some time. An important outcome of these efforts was the approval of the Union Cabinet for a medium term Expansion Plan for the Indian Foreign Service spanning over ten years from 2008 to 2018, adding a total of 514 new positions, a majority of them being at the diplomatic level. Four tranches of this expansion have already materialized and we are currently in the process of seeking approvals for the fifth tranche. Additionally, we have also succeeded in getting approvals for a major expansion of the IFS[B] Cadre with a net addition of some 380 new posts, many of which would also be at the diplomatic level. These efforts would surely bear fruits over the coming years and the results would soon be visible.

The Ministry has always been fully conscious of the requirement for domain expertise in some specialized fields. Therefore, most of our large Missions abroad have a long tradition of having officers from various line Ministries/Departments and Organizations. The number of these experts is fairly substantial. This need has grown with India's expanding development partnerships with other developing countries. Precisely because of this, the IFS Expansion Plan kept a fairly large quota for lateral entry of experts, which would eventually reach a total of 120 additional dedicated positions. Under this Plan, the Ministry already has taken an additional strength of over 25 officers from specialized services to work at the Headquarters through lateral entry. The Ministry has also taken in expertise by way of hiring Consultants in specialized fields. This number is expected to grow.

Given the nature of our functions, while majority of the non-IFS officers at the Headquarters and the Missions/Posts abroad are up to the level of Director but we certainly operate a reasonable number of these posts (around 13) at the level of Joint Secretary, purely in keeping with our functional needs.

The expanding responsibilities and cadre strength also needs a matching enhancement of financial resources. The Ministry of External Affairs has been trying to introduce a series of cost effective measures and management tools as also projecting its budgetary needs in keeping with these changing realities.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No. 6)

The Committee have been making regular observations in their previous Reports regarding the delay in implementation of e-passport project for the general category, which has been a step to check the misuse of passports in the current format and also to make it less cumbersome for the citizens of the country to obtain it in electronic format. The Committee express their concern over the doubtful background of the French Company M/s GEMALTO selected to supply the chips for e-passports. The agents of the Company as vendor are associated with supply of smart cards to Pakistan and on the basis of IB reports matter is pending with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Committee, however, note that the matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs and MEA has been pursuing the matter with other concerned Ministries and Departments. The Committee are hopeful that such inter-Ministerial consultation will help in arriving at a concrete decision with due care from all angles. The Committee urge the Ministry to continue the efforts to arrive at a final decision especially security aspects. The Committee further desire the Ministry to monitor the project and furnish quarterly progress of the same to the Committee.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of External Affairs, on continuing basis provides information about e-passport to the Standing Committee during the Parliamentary meetings and briefing meetings. However, as directed, Ministry will continue to monitor the project and furnish quarterly report to the Committee.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No.9)

The Committee note that the MEA's proposed outlay for the Twelfth Five Year Plan is ₹52956.14 crore which is substantially enhanced from the last Five Year Plan due to seven new hydro-electric projects in Bhutan. The Committee welcome the departure from the earlier funding pattern of inter-governmental agreement model where Government of India's funding commitment was 100%. Now, in four Projects, modalities are under

negotiation for Joint Venture model which will reduce Government of India's share and outline the obligations of both the Governments. To ensure better conception and implementation of the projects, Ministry has also created a Development Partnership Administration (DPA). The Committee, therefore, hope that the Ministry will be able to get sufficient plan allocation by convincing Planning Commission through realistic projections and changes in investment and monitoring pattern of the proposed projects in Bhutan. The Committee would like to be informed about the actual allocation made by the Planning Commission and also about the initiatives being taken by the Ministry for handling these projects starting from drawing board to its execution.

Reply of the Government

Government of India (GoI) and the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) signed an umbrella agreement on cooperation in the hydropower sector under which India committed to import 10,000 MW hydropower from Bhutan by 2020. Ten HEPs with an estimated capacity of 11,576 MW were identified to meet the target. Of the ten projects, the following four projects have been identified for execution in the Joint Venture (JV) mode,

1. Chamkharchhu-I (670 MW)
2. Bunakha (180 MW)
3. Kholongchhu (486 MW)
4. Wangchhu (600 MW)

Negotiations for which are currently under way between Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) and respective Indian Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). Five Indian CPSUs – NTPC, NHPC, THDC, SJVNL and WAPCOS – have been entrusted with the task of preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the projects and later assist in the implementation of the same as Consultants.

It was decided that for the JV projects, an Inter-Governmental MoU, common to all JV projects, would be signed laying down the broad obligations of the two Governments. The detailed Shareholder's Agreement could then be signed between the JV partners, which would elaborate precepts mutually agreed to in the MoU. The JV partners were directed to expedite the finalization of the MoU. In this regard a meeting was held between SJVN Limited, NHPC and DGPC in Thimpu on 4th and 5th June to finalise the MoU.

Both the sides discussed elaborately on the following issues:

- e) Royalty Energy to be provided to Royal Government of Bhutan
- f) Management structure of the Joint Venture Company
- g) Dividend Policy
- h) Terms of reversion of Project

During the meeting, both the sides committed to finalize the MoU as early as possible. If MoU is finalized, it is expected to reduce the financial burden of GOI with respect to HEP in Bhutan.

As far as financial allocation for the HEPs in Bhutan, the Ministry takes necessary actions to get the sufficient allocation. In inter-Ministerial meetings held in PMO to review progress of our cooperation agenda with Bhutan in the hydropower sector MEA has been drawing attention to the fact that allocation of Plan funds for HEPs in Bhutan had been consistently lower than projected requirements. MEA has been requesting for enhancement of this allocation vide regular correspondence with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. The Plan funds requirement for FY 2012-13 for India-assisted HEPs in Bhutan is ₹2185 crore. This has been conveyed to the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission as part of MEA's proposal for Budget Estimates 2012-13.

The fund allocated and utilized with respect to HEPs under planned expenditure for Eleventh FYP is described below

(₹

in crore)

FY	Funds requested	BE	RE	Actual utilization
2011-12	1664.27	680.00	1030.00	1030.00
2010-11	1479.17	594.00	723.00	723.31
2009-10	1053.43	401.00	619.00	635.00
2008-09	413.13	413.00	351.00	349.65
2007-08	460.92	290.91	201.00	199.96

The Ministry thankfully acknowledges the appreciation of the Hon'ble Committee for its efforts to reduce financial burden on Govt. of India vis-à-vis the new Hydroelectric Power Projects (HEPs) to be taken up for implementation in Bhutan. Preliminary meetings have already been held in the Ministry with the representatives of the EXIM Bank and some PSU banks to explore the possibility of raising funds from the Indian capital market for the HEPs proposed under the Joint Venture model. Further, the matter has been discussed in detail in a meeting of the Empowered Joint Group (EJG) of India and Bhutan held in Thimphu on 11-12 June 2012.

The Ministry would inform the Hon'ble Committee of the final allocation made to it by the Planning Commission under the 12th Five Year Plan as well as keep the Committee posted, from time to time, about the progress of implementing various projects.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No.13)

India is currently engaged in construction of three Hydro-Electric Power Projects in Bhutan. The Committee are concerned to note that for the Punatsangchhu HEP Project, as against the demand of ₹1000 crore only ₹500 crore have been allocated. Similarly, for Punatsangchhu HEP-II only

₹160 crore have been allocated against the demand of ₹969.67 crore. In all likelihood the funds will be exhausted by the second quarter itself and even if the Ministry gets some additional allocation in Supplementary Demands for Grants, it is certainly going to slow down the pace of implementation causing delay to the project. The Committee take a serious note of this issue and urge that such situations should be avoided and sufficient funds must be provided atleast to the projects which are in full swing of implementation. The Committee think that since India has plans for more Projects in Bhutan and that too under Joint-Venture mode, it is all the more pertinent for the Government to ensure timely arrangement of adequate funds as such situation not only leads to time and cost overrun.

Reply of the Government

During the last Financial Year, allocation of Plan funds was less than half of the requested amount. Over 70% of the allocated Plan funds were exhausted in the first two quarters of that financial year. The situation was duly reported to the Planning commission through EAM's letter to the Deputy Planning Commission Chairman. Moreover the allocation for these projects were exhausted by October 2011 and the Ministry of Finance had provided some additional funds of ₹350 crore at the R.E stage in January 2012, which was too late to ensure adherence to the schedule. Finance Ministry has been duly sensitized about this shortage of funds through EAM's letter to the FM on March 15, 2012.

Again for the annual plan 2012-13, against the projected requirement of ₹3483 crore, only ₹1500 crore have been allocated. The utilization of funds on major HEPs in Bhutan for the Current financial year has been described below

Projects	Approved BE (₹ in crore)	Actual Expenditure (up to June 15, 2012) (₹ in crore)	Percentage of allocation exhausted
Punatsangchhu I	500.00	204.50	40.9%
Punatsanchhu -II	478.00	155.50	32.5%
Mangdechhu	160.00	110.00	68.7%

It could be seen from the table that under Mangdechhu , more than 68% of the allocation has been exhausted before the expiry of the first quarter. For other two projects also substantive allocation has been utilized.

The Ministry will take appropriate steps this year also to sensitise the Finance Ministry and Planning Commission requesting allocation of sufficient funds to the projects so that their smooth implementation is not hindered and adequate funds are available.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

(Recommendation No. 14)

Kaladan Multi-model Transit Project is one of the important ambitious project undertaken by the Government of India in Myanmar. The Committee observe that as against the projection of ₹448.33 crore, only ₹220 crore have been allocated by the Planning Commission. The Committee are surprised to note that MEA submitted the enhanced demand for the Project without Cabinet approval. As rightly pointed out by Planning Commission before moving for an enhanced allocation, MEA should have obtained the Cabinet approval. The Committee desire that the Ministry should approach the Cabinet at the earliest for further approval of the additional required funds for the project, so that, additional resources may be augmented during the Supplementary Demands for Grants in order to avoid any constraint in the progress of such an important project. The Committee also take note of the other projects undertaken/under consideration in the region. The Committee desire the Ministry to expedite the process for preparation of Detailed Project Report for the trilateral highway project to improve access to ASEAN countries directly from India by road. The Committee also urge the Ministry to identify such other projects to enhance connectivity with the Eastern neighbours.

Reply of the Government

The Detailed Project Report for the road segment of the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Project is currently under preparation by IRCON. Cabinet has approved total outlay of ₹535.91 crore for the project. Of this, upto FY 2011-12, an amount of ₹72.38 crore has been spent. On completion of the Detailed Project Report of the road segment, clearer cost estimates for the road segment of the project would be available, on the basis of which the Ministry of External Affairs would seek Cabinet approval for additional funds.

During the Prime Minister's visit to Myanmar in May 2012, Government of India's assistance was announced for the upgradation of the Kalewa-Yargyi road segment of the Trilateral Highway to highway standard. This project would help in establishing trilateral connectivity from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand via Myanmar. The pre-feasibility report on the Kalewa -Yargyi- Monywa road has been obtained from the Myanmar side with a view to finalizing the DPR for the Kalewa-Yargyi road. Besides, during the visit of the Prime Minister, an Air Service Agreement was signed between the two sides which would enhance direct air connectivity and facilitate business interaction, tourism and people-to people exchanges. Both sides also agreed to set up a Joint Working Group on Railways to determine the technical and commercial feasibility of cross-border rail links between the two countries.

(File No. AA/PARL/125/125/2012)

NEW DELHI
28 August, 2012
Bhadrapada 06, 1934 (Saka)

ANANTH KUMAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on External Affairs

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SITTING OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HELD ON 28TH AUGUST, 2012**

The Committee sat from 1600 hrs. to 1630 hrs. in Committee Room 'E',
Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Ananth Kumar – Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Anandrao Adsul
3. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri Inder Singh Namdhari
5. Shri Zafar Ali Naqvi
6. Dr. Bholu Singh
7. Dr. Shashi Tharoor,

RAJYA SABHA

8. Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya
9. Dr. Bharatkumar B. Raut
10. Dr. Karan Singh
11. Shri Shivanand Tiwari
12. Shri Tarun Vijay

SECRETARIAT

Dr. Ram Raj Rai - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed Members to the sitting of the Committee.

3. The Committee then took up for consideration the draft Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 14th Report (15th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2012-13. The Chairman invited the Members to offer their suggestions, if any, for incorporation in the draft Report. The Members suggested some minor modifications.

5. The Committee then adopted the draft Report and authorized the Chairman to finalize the Action Taken Report incorporating the suggestions made by the Members and present the same to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of Report)

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE
FOURTEENTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (15TH LOK SABHA)**

- | | | |
|--------------|--|---------------------------|
| (i) | Total Number of Recommendations | 28 |
| (ii) | Recommendations/Observations, which have been accepted by the Government. | |
| | Recommendation Nos. 2,3,7,8,10-12, and 15-28. | |
| | | Total-21 |
| | | Percentage: 75% |
| (iii) | Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government replies. | |
| | Recommendation Nos. 4. | |
| | | Total-01 |
| | | Percentage: 03.57% |
| (v) | Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration. | |
| | Recommendation Nos. 5. | |
| | | Total- 01 |
| | | Percentage: 03.57% |
| (vi) | Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited. | |
| | Recommendation Nos. 1,6,9,13 and 14 | |
| | | Total-05 |
| | | Percentage: 17.86% |