

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2009-2010)

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

THIRD REPORT

[Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in their Sixteenth and Seventeenth Reports (Fourteenth Lok Sabha)]

(Presented on 25.8.2010)

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

August, 2010/ Sravana, 1932 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(2009-2010)

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1. Shri A.Louis Martin - Joint Secretary
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4. Ms. Maya Lingi - Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

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

2. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 11.8.2010.

NEW DELHI
August, 2010
Sravana, 1932 (Saka)

HARIN PATHAK,
Chairman,
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

REPORT

This Report of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in their Sixteenth and Seventeenth Reports (14th Lok Sabha) which were presented to Lok Sabha on 22.04.2008 and 30.04.2008 respectively.

2. The Sixteenth Report dealt with delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of (i) North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala; and (ii) National Institute of Open Schooling, Delhi.

3. The Seventeenth Report dealt with delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of (i) Motilal Nehru Institute of Technology, Allahabad; and (ii) Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee.

4. Action Taken Notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the recommendations/observations contained in the above two Reports. Accordingly, statements showing the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Reports (14th Lok Sabha) are given in Appendix-I & II respectively.

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

6. The Committee in paragraph Nos. 1.13 and 1.16, (16th Report, 14th Lok Sabha) relating to delay in laying of the documents of North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, had recommended as under:

“1.13 The Committee observe that there have been delays ranging from 8 months to 31 months in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, during the years from 2002-03 to 2005-06. The documents for the year 2006-07 which were due by 31.12.2007 have not been laid so far. As regards the reasons for the inordinate delay, no convincing reply has been furnished by the Ministry. The Committee urge that all out efforts should be made to lay the documents within the stipulated time in future.”

1.16 Another reason for delay in laying the documents for the years 2002-03, 2004-05 and 2005-06 was delay in getting approval of documents from the Executive Board/ Governing Body which are convened with the convenience of His Excellency Governor of Punjab-cum-chairman of NZCC. To curtail delay at this stage, the Committee recommend that if convening of the meeting of Governing Body at any point of time is not possible the feasibility of getting the documents approved by circulation may be explored.”

7. The Ministry of Culture in their Action note have stated as under:

“The delays at different stages were mostly beyond the control of the North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), Patiala and the Ministry of culture. For, dates of audit of accounts of the NZCC are fixed by the Principal Accountant General (Audit), Chandigarh. The Annual Report/Annual Accounts of the NZCC have to be approved by its Governing Body/Executive Board before the same are laid on the Table of the House. The dates of meeting of the Governing Body are fixed as per the convenience of His Excellency the Governor of Punjab in his capacity as the Chairman of NZCC. The matter of laying of Annual Report/Audited Accounts of all Zonal Cultural Centres including the NZCC is monitored in the Ministry at the level of Joint Secretary /Secretary (Culture). As a result, there has been substantial improvement in reducing the delay in laying of the reports in the House. The documents for the year 2006-07 have already been laid on the Table of the House on 24th April, 2008. However, as recommended by the Committee, due care will be taken in future for timely laying of the documents on the Table of the House with in the stipulated period of 9 months of the close of the accounting year.”

“The recommendation of the Committee has been noted. In order to expedite the process of finalization of the Annual Accounts, the Governing Body/Executive Board in their meeting held on 23.4.2008 have authorized Director, NZCC to approve the accounts of NZCC in anticipation of approval of Finance Committee. With this arrangement, the delay in approval of Accounts and Audit Report would be curtailed to a large extent.”

8. The Committee take a serious view of the casual reply given by the Ministry of Culture that in most of the cases the delay at different stages were beyond the control of the Ministry. The Committee would like to point out that had the matter regarding appointment of auditors and auditing of the accounts of the Centre been taken up well in advance with the Principal Accountant General (Chandigarh), the delay at the stage of auditing of accounts could have been avoided. The Committee would also draw the attention of the Ministry that the Governing Body has authorized the Director NZCC to approve the accounts of NZCC in anticipation of approval of Finance Committee to avoid delay in getting the documents approved from the Governing Body/Executive Board. Further, the matter regarding timely laying of the documents is also monitored in the Ministry of Culture at the level of JS/Secretary. The Committee, however, regret to note that inspite of the reported efforts by the Ministry/NZCC, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for

the years 2006-2007 to 2008-2009 were laid on the Table of the House with delays of 2 to 8 months. The Committee feel that the monitoring mechanism in the Ministry is ineffective. The Committee would like the Secretary, Ministry of Culture to look into the matter personally and ensure that Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of NZCC are laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated time in future.

9. In paragraph 2.15 (16th Report, 14th Lok Sabha) relating to delay in laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of National Institute of Open Schooling, New Delhi, the Committee had recommended as under :-

“The Committee note that the auditors took 13 months for 2002-03, 12 months for 2003-04, 11 months for 2004-05, 8 months for 2005-06 and 4 months for 2006-07 in forwarding the Audited Reports to the Institute. The Committee are of the opinion that had the matter been taken up with the audit authorities in time the delays year after year in auditing of the accounts could have been avoided to a large extent. However, the Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy during evidence has stated that now the procedure for entrustment of auditors has been negotiated upto 2009-10 and it will be ensured that no delay would take place on account of “entrustment” for the coming years. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry/Institute to ensure proper implementation of the new auditing system so that Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of NIOS are always laid on the Table of the House in time in future.

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

“This Ministry took up the matter for re-entrustment of audit of NIOS well before the expiry of the current entrustment and has received the approval from Ministry of Finance for re-entrustment of audit of accounts of NIOS to DGACR from 2005-06 to 2009-2010. As per the approval of re-entrustment, the Annual Accounts for the year 2006-07 of NIOS were got audited from DGACR in the month of August 2007 itself and the report was received in November 2007, and the Annual Report, the audited accounts were laid before the Houses of Parliament on 3.12.2007. NIOS has taken steps so that Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of NIOS are laid on the Table of the House in time in future also.

11. The Committee note that though, as a result of steps taken by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy)/National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the years 2006-2007 and 2007-08 were laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated time,

there was a delay of 2 months in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2008-09 which were laid on 24.02.2010. The Committee urge that the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy) and the NIOS should keep a constant vigil on the progress of work in finalisation of the documents and ensure that documents are laid on the Table within stipulated period in future.

12. The Committee had recommended in paragraph 1.20 of their 17th Report (14th Lok Sabha) relating to delay in laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology Allahabad as under:-

“The Committee also find that a time schedule indicating target dates for completion of each stage of finalisation of the documents has been drawn and a Committee consisting of the Registrar, Faculty in Charge of purchase and an Officer in Charge of Audit Report and Annual Report has been constituted to oversee the progress made at each stage of finalisation of the documents. The Committee strongly recommend that the time schedule made in this regard should be strictly adhered to and monitored regularly at each stage so that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Institute are laid on the Table of the House in time in future.”

13. In their action taken note, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) are stated as under:-

“The Committee constituted for the finalization of printing of the documents has already initiated action to printing of Annual Report and Audit Report and would finalise the same as soon as Audit Report is received.”

14. **The Committee regret to note that the reply given by the Government on the recommendation contained in Para 1.20 of 17th Report (14th Lok Sabha) is vague. The Committee had recommended that the time schedule made in regard to timely laying of the documents on the Table of the House, should be strictly adhered to and monitored regularly at each stage in future so that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Institute are laid on the Table of the House in time. However, the Committee regret to note that Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of succeeding years i.e. 2006-07 and 2007-08 were laid on the Table of the House with a delay of 11 months and 7 months respectively. Further, neither**

the documents of the year 2008-09 nor related delay statement has been laid on the Table of the House so far. The Committee deprecate the apparent absence of any effective monitoring by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) to ensure that the documents are laid within the prescribed period. The Committee feel that the Ministry have not taken the matter of timely laying of the documents seriously, with the result there has been delay in laying of documents on the Table of the House year after year. The Committee, therefore, strongly urge the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department Higher Education) to ensure that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad are laid on the Table of the House within stipulated time and if, for any reason, this is not possible, a delay statement should invariably be laid on the Table of the House within 30 days of the expiry of prescribed period or as soon as the House meets, whichever is latter.

NEW DELHI
August, 2010
Sravana, 1932 (Saka)

HARIN PATHAK,
Chairman,
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

APPENDIX – I

(Vide Para 4 of the Report)

STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE MADE IN THEIR SIXTEENTH REPORT (14TH LOK SABHA)

I North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala

Recommendation (Serial No. 1.13)

The Committee observe that there have been delays ranging from 8 months to 31 months in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, during the years from 2002-03 to 2005-06. The documents for the year 2006-07 which were due by 31.12.2007 have not been laid so far. As regards the reasons for the inordinate delay, no convincing reply has been furnished by the Ministry. The Committee urge that all out efforts should be made to lay the documents within the stipulated time in future.

Reply of the Government

The delays at different stages were mostly beyond the control of the North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), Patiala and the Ministry of culture. For, dates of audit of accounts of the NZCC are fixed by the Principal Accountant General (Audit), Chandigarh. The Annual Report/Annual Accounts of the NZCC have to be approved by its Governing Body/Executive Board before the same are laid on the Table of the House. The dates of meeting of the Governing Body are fixed as per the convenience of His Excellency the Governor of Punjab in his capacity as the Chairman of NZCC. The matter of laying of Annual Report/Audited Accounts of all Zonal Cultural Centres including the NZCC is monitored in the Ministry at the level of Joint Secretary (Culture/Secretary (Culture)). As a result, there has been substantial improvement in reducing the delay in laying of the reports in the House. The documents for the year 2006-07 have already been laid on the Table of the House on 24th April, 2008. However, as recommended by the Committee, due care will be taken in future for timely laying of the documents on the Table of the House with in the stipulated period of 9 months of the close of the accounting year.

(Ministry of Culture O.M.No.21-8/2008 dated 22.7.2008)

Recommendation (Serial No. 1.14)

As per recommendation of the Committee where the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts are not laid within the stipulated period of time (after 9 months of the accounting year), the delay statement should be laid on the Table of the House within 30 days after the expiry of the prescribed period or as soon as when the House meets, whichever is later. The Committee regret to note that the “Delay Statement” in regard to the Cultural Centre has not been laid as per requirement during the years 2002- 2003 to 2005-2006. The Committee, therefore, strongly urge the Ministry/Centre to lay a delay statement on the Table of the House within the stipulated period in future whenever the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts are not laid within 9 months of the close of the accounting year.

Reply of the Government

The above recommendation of the Committee has been noted for future. All concerted efforts will be made by the North Zone Culture Centre (NZCC), Patiala and this Ministry to lay the Annual Reports/Audited Accounts of the NZCC on the Table of House within the stipulated period. However, in case of any delay, a delay statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

(Ministry of Culture O.M.No.21-8/2008 dated 22.7.2008)

Recommendation (Serial No. 1.15)

The Committee note that one of the reasons for delay in laying the documents was the unduly long time taken by the Accountant General, Punjab in completing the audit and issue of Audit Certificate to the Centre. From the information furnished by the Ministry of Culture, the Committee observe that after receipt of the documents from the Centre for the years 2002-03 to 2005-06, the auditors took 9 to 17 months in completing the audit and furnishing the audit report. The Hindi version of the audit report was also furnished to the Centre with considerable delay. The Committee, however, notice that though the Secretary, Ministry of Culture has stated that the biggest delay in the whole process was from the side of Auditor General in furnishing the English and Hindi versions of Audit Report and issuing the Audit Certificate, there was no occasion when the centre took up this issue with the Audit Office. The Committee, therefore, urge that in future the Ministry should take up the issue of delay in completion of audit with the AG, Punjab suitably and impress upon them to complete their task in time to avoid consequential delay in laying of the documents in Parliament.

Reply of the Government

NZCC is in constant touch with the Office of Principal Accountant General (Audit), Chandigarh for expediting the audit reports/certificates for the year 2007-08 and it is hoped that the documents for the year 2007-08 will be laid on the Table of the House well in time.

(Ministry of Culture O.M.No.21-8/2008 dated 22.7.2008)

Recommendation (Serial No. 1.16)

Another reason for delay in laying the documents for the years 2002-03 , 2004-05 and 2005-06 was delay in getting approval of documents from the Executive Board/ Governing Body which are convened with the convenience of His Excellency Governor of Punjab-cum-chairman of NZCC. To curtail delay at this stage, the Committee recommend that if convening of the meeting of Governing Body at any point of time is not possible the feasibility of getting the documents approved by circulation may be explored.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted. In order to expedite the process of finalization of the Annual Accounts, the Governing Body/Executive Board in their meeting held on 23.4.2008 have authorized Director, NZCC to approve the accounts of NZCC in anticipation of approval of Finance Committee. With this arrangement, the delay in approval of Accounts and Audit Report would be curtailed to a large extent.

(Ministry of Culture O.M.No.21-8/2008 dated 22.7.2008)

Recommendation (Serial No. 1.17)

The Committee further note that the Ministry/Centre has laid down a time schedule for completion of each stage regarding finalization of accounts, which include compilation of annual Report, completion of audit, approval of documents from the Competent Authority, completion of translation and printing, dispatching of papers to the ministry and completion of formalities in the Ministry etc. However, it has been noticed that the time schedule is not being adhered to. The Committee, therefore, desire that the time schedule should be strictly adhered to and monitored at each stage by the Ministry/Centre so that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Centre are laid in time in future.

Reply of the Government

The matter of laying of Annual Report/Audited Accounts of all Zonal Cultural Centres including NZCC is monitored in the Ministry at the level of Joint Secretary (Culture)/Secretary(Culture). As recommended by the Committee, in future the time schedule would be monitored more closely so that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Centre are laid in time.

(Ministry of Culture O.M.No.21-8/2008 dated 22.7.2008)

II. National Institute of Open Schooling, Delhi

Recommendation (Serial No. 2.14)

The Committee regret to note that there have been continuous delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of National Institute of Open Schooling during the years from 2002-03 to 2005-06. The delay in laying the documents ranged from 8 to 27 months. The Committee also note that during the year 2002-03 when the delay in laying was the maximum i.e. 27 months, the documents were approved by the General Body after a gap of 9 months of the approval of the same by the Executive body. The position improved gradually thereafter and the delay in laying the documents was 8 months during the year 2005-06. The documents for the year 2006-07 were laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated period of time i.e. on 04 December 2007 after the subject was taken up for examination by the Committee. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to ensure that the documents are laid within the stipulated period in future also.

Reply of the Government

NIOS has already taken corrective measures and accordingly prepared the Annual Accounts for 2006-07 well in time i.e. by 15.6.2007 and sent the same to DGACR on 31.7.2007 for audit of accounts after getting the approval of Finance committee and Executive Board. DGACR submitted the draft report on 1.10.2007 and the final report was received on 21.11.2007 from DGACR. The report was approved from Finance Committee, the Executive board and the General Body of NIOS. Thereafter the Annual Report and the Audited Accounts were placed in Parliament on 3.12.2007. All efforts are being made to ensure that the documents are laid before the Houses of Parliament within the stipulated time in future also.

F.No.2-54/2007-Sch.6(Vol.II) dated 18.7.2008

Recommendation (Serial No. 2.15)

The Committee note that the auditors took 13 months for 2002-03, 12 months for 2003-04, 11 months for 2004-05, 8 months for 2005-06 and 4 months for 2006-07 in forwarding the Audited Reports to the Institute. The Committee are of the opinion that had the matter been taken up with the audit authorities in time the delays year after year in auditing of the accounts could have been avoided to a large extent. However, the Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy during evidence has stated that now the procedure for entrustment of auditors has been negotiated upto 2009-10 and it will be ensured that no delay would take place on account of “entrustment” for the coming years. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry/Institute to ensure proper implementation of the new auditing system so that Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of NIOS are always laid on the Table of the House in time in future.

Reply of the Government

This Ministry took up the matter for re-entrustment of audit of NIOS well before the expiry of the current entrustment and has received the approval from Ministry of Finance for re-entrustment of audit of accounts of NIOS to DGACR from 2005-06 to 2009-2010. As per the approval of re-entrustment, the Annual Accounts for the year 2006-07 of NIOS were got audited from DGACR in the month of August 2007 itself and the report was received in November 2007, and the Annual Report, the audited accounts were laid before the Houses of Parliament on 3.12.2007. NIOS has taken steps so that Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of NIOS are laid on the Table of the House in time in future also.

F.No.2-54/2007-Sch.6(Vol.II) dated 18.7.2008

APPENDIX – II

STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE MADE IN THEIR SEVENTEENTH REPORT (14TH LOK SABHA)

Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad

Recommendation (Serial No. 1.16)

The Committee regret to note that there have been inordinate delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad. The delay in laying the documents ranged from 11 months to 31 months for the years from 2002-03 to 2005-06. Further, the documents for the year 2006-07 which were due for laying by 31.12.2007 have not been laid so far. The Committee urge that it should be ensured that the documents are laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated time in future.

Reply of the Government

Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Institute for the year 2006-07 has been received in the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 13.6.2008. Same will be laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament during the Monsoon session, 2008. The Audit of the Annual Accounts for the year 2007-08 has been started by the AGUP and it is likely to complete by 31.07.2008. the institute is hopeful to get the Audited Accounts/Audit Report from AGUP by the end of August which is within the stipulated time and there after the Institute will be able to submit the same within the time schedule so that it is laid on the Table of Parliament as per schedule.

(Ministry of Human Resource Development O.M.No.2-8/2008-T.S.III dated 12.8.2008)

Recommendation (Serial No. 1.17)

The Committee note that the Institute took 6 ½ and 7 ½ months respectively at the stage of compilation of accounts for the years 2003-04 and 2004-05. One of the reasons for delay in compilation of accounts was stated to be due to lack of computerization in accounting activities. The Committee further note that computerization of accounts has been taken up in the Institute and is expected to be completed soon. The Secretary of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) has stated during evidence that with the help of computerization, delay in compilation of accounts would be minimized. The Committee desire that the task of computerization should be completed without delay and it should be ensured that there is no delay in compilation of accounts in future.

Reply of the Government

Computerization of Account Section of the Institute is being initiated. However, there is no delay in compilation of accounts as the Institute completed the compilation of accounts by 31st May 2008 which is within the stipulated time.

(Ministry of Human Resource Development O.M.No.2-8/2008-T.S.III dated 12.8.2008)

Recommendation (Serial No. 1.18)

The Committee further note that another reason for delay in laying the documents is the unduly long time taken by the office of AG, UP in completing their audit and issuing of audit certificate to the Institute. The auditors took 6 to 17 months in auditing the accounts and furnishing their final Audit Report to the Institute for the years 2002-03 to 2005-06. The Committee observe that the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) have now proposed to take steps to bring about better coordination with AGUP so that such delay is not repeated. The Committee are of the opinion that the issue should have been taken up with the audit authorities much earlier. The Committee therefore, urge that in future the

Ministry should take up the issue with the AGUP immediately after submitting the accounts to them and impress upon them to complete their task in time to avoid consequential delay in laying of the documents in Parliament.

Reply of the Government

The Institute is in direct touch with the concerned officials of AG Office to get the final audit report and is hope to get it by the end of August, 2008.

(Ministry of Human Resource Development O.M.No.2-8/2008-T.S.III dated 12.8.2008)

Recommendation (Serial No. 1.19)

The Committee further note that after receipt of the Audited Accounts from the auditors, the Institute took 2 to 7 months for the years 2002-03 to 2005-06 in getting approval of documents from the Finance Committee/Board of Governors. The reason for delay in this regard is stated to be that once the accounts were passed by the Board of Governors, the minutes of the meeting were reconfirmed in the next meeting which used to take place after 3 months. In order to avoid delay, the Secretary, Department of Higher Education has stated during evidence that they have now started to reconfirm the minutes through circulation. The Committee hope that with these remedial measures, the delay in getting approval of documents by the Board of Governors will be curtailed.

Reply of the Government

The Institute has adopted a method for confirmation of Minutes of Finance Committee/Board of Governors through circulation and with this process minutes are confirmed after 15 days of approval of minutes. The next meeting of the finance committee/Board of Governors of the Institute is scheduled for September, 2008 in which it is expected to get the Audited Accounts for the year 2007-08 approved.

(Ministry of Human Resource Development O.M.No.2-8/2008-T.S.III dated 12.8.2008)

Recommendation (Serial No. 1.20)

The Committee also find that a time schedule indicating target dates for completion of each stage of finalisation of the documents has been drawn and a Committee consisting of the Registrar, Faculty in Charge of purchase and an Officer in Charge of Audited Report and Annual Report has been constituted to oversee the progress made at each stage of finalisation of the documents. The Committee strongly recommend that the time schedule made in this regard should be strictly adhered to and monitored regularly at each stage so that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Institute are laid on the Table of the House in time in future.

Reply of the Government

The Committee constituted for the finalization of printing of the documents has already initiated action to printing of Annual Report and Audit Report and would finalise the same as soon as Audit Report is received.

(Ministry of Human Resource Development O.M.No.2-8/2008-T.S.III dated 12.8.2008)

Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

Recommendation (Serial No. 2.14)

One of the oft-repeated recommendations of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table is that Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of an autonomous organization should be laid in Lok Sabha together to enable the House to have a complete picture of the working of that body. The Committee are disappointed to find that in the case of Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, this recommendation of the committee has not been strictly adhered to. The Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Institute have been laid separately every year since 2001-2002. The Committee urge that the Ministry should pay serious attention to the recommendation of the Committee and ensure that in future Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Institute are laid together on the Table of the House within the stipulated period.

Reply of the Government

The Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee is the successor of the University of Roorkee and is the oldest institution of the country. Nurtured as a premier institution by the state of Uttar Pradesh, first, and by Uttaranchal later, the University was declared as an institute of national importance and converted into the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee by an Act of Parliament with effect from September 21, 2001. Accounts for the F.Y. 2001-2002 of the Institute were finalized on 14.2.2003 and submitted to AG Uttaranchal on 17.2.2003. During the initial years, in the process of conversion from University to IIT setup, a lot of changes took place which resulted in delay in the preparation of Annual Accounts. As far as Annual Report of the Institute is concerned, it is under the internal control of the Institute, so Institute always tried to submit the annual report within time without waiting for the Audited Annual Accounts of the Institute for the same financial year. After clearing the separate Audit Report replies for the F.Y. 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, which were pending during the University of Roorkee period, for the first time the audit Certificates of the Institute for three financial years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 were received on 24.2.2006 after a tremendous effort by the Institute. The audit certificate for the F.Y. 2006-07 was received in the Institute on 4.3.2008 within eleven months and with the approval of Chairman BOG was sent to this Ministry on 19.3.2008. The annual Report for the F.Y. 2006-07 had already been received from the Institute in December 2007. Since last two years i.e. F.Y. 2005-06 and F.Y. 2006-07 the annual Accounts were finalized by the Institute on 17.6.2006 and 31.5.2007 respectively and submitted to Accountant General Uttaranchal for audit on 23.6.2006 and 12.6.2007 respectively, the last day of submission of Annual Accounts to audit being 30th June of every year. The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2006-07 was laid on 28th April, 2008. The Annual Report and Audited Accounts 2007-08 of IIT Roorkee were received in time on 24.11.2008 and 16.12.2008 respectively. These documents could not be laid in the winter session due to the early adjournment of Parliament. These documents will now be laid the coming session of Parliament.

Ministry of Human Resource Development Department of Higher Education O.M.No.7-14/2008 dated 03.02.2009

Recommendation (Serial No. 2.15)

The Annual Reports for the years from 2001-2002 to 2005-2006 (except for the years 2001-02 and 2003-04) were laid on the Table of the House within stipulated period but the Audited Accounts for these years were laid on the Table of the House with huge delay ranging from 11 months to 43 months. The main reasons for delay in laying the documents for these years were stated to be the delay in auditing the accounts and issuing of final Audit Report. Though the Department of Higher Education took up the matter with the Accountant General but it seems that no improvement in this regard could be achieved. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department of Higher Education should take up the issue with AG office immediately after submitting the accounts to them at the highest level and impress upon them to complete their task in time to avoid consequential delay in laying of the documents before the Parliament. The Committee also note that there is no internal audit mechanism in the institute. The Committee therefore recommend that an internal auditing mechanism should be set up in the institute to resolve audit queries promptly.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation of the Committee to take up the issue of delay in auditing the accounts and issuing of final Audit Report, with Accountant general, will be complied with. In view of strengthening the internal accounting mechanism, efforts are being made to establish a separate internal audit section by the Institute on priority basis. In future all efforts will be made to lay the Annual Audited Accounts in time. The Annual Report and Audited Accounts 2007-08 of IIT Roorkee were received in time on 24.11.2008 and 16.12.2008 respectively. These documents could not be laid in the winter session due to the early adjournment of Parliament. These documents will now be laid in the coming session of the Parliament.

Recommendation (Serial No. 2.16)

The Committee note that no time schedule indicating the completion of various tasks involved at each stage of finalization of the documents by the Institute has been laid down by the Ministry. The Committee recommend that this should be done forthwith. The time schedule must be laid down indicating the target dates for finalization of accounts, completion of audit, approval of reports and audited accounts, translation & printing of documents, dispatch to the Ministry, processing by Ministry and laying of the documents on the Table of Lok Sabha. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) should closely monitor the progress of completion of the task at each stage involved in the processing of the documents and ensure that the time schedule must be strictly adhered to in future.

Reply of the Government

The Committee's recommendation is being complied with. The Institute has been instructed to adhere to the target dates stipulated by this Ministry with regard to Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Institute, as a result of which the Annual Report and Audited Accounts 2007-08 of IIT Roorkee were received in time on 24.11.2008 and 16.12.2008 respectively. These documents could not be laid in the winter session due to the early adjournment of Parliament. These documents will now be laid in the coming session of the Parliament.

Ministry of Human Resource Development Department of Higher Education O.M.No.7-14/2008 dated 03.02.2009