

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2011-2012)**

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

NINTH REPORT

**[Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations made by the
Committee in their First, Sixth and Seventh Reports (Fifteenth Lok Sabha)]**

(Presented on 10th May, 2012)



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

10 May, 2012/20 Vaisakha, 1934(Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(2011-2012)

Shri Harin Pathak

- Chairman

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3. Shri Ambica Banerjee
4. Shri Tarachand Bhagora
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11. Shri E.G. Sugavanam
12. Shri Manicka Tagore
13. Shri P. Viswanathan
14. Vacant
15. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri C.V. Gadgil - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Shiv Kumar - Director
3. Smt. Maya Lingi - Deputy Secretary

*Shri Ram Singh Kaswan has been nominated as a Member of the Committee and Prof. (Dr.) Ram Shankar Katheria has vacated the Membership from the Committee vide Bulletin Part –II Para No. 3630 dated 03.02.2012.

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 Ninth Report on the action taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the First, Sixth and Seventh Reports (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee.

2. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 3rd May, 2012.

3. For facility of reference, observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold type in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI
03 May, 2012
13 Vaisakha, 1934 (Saka)

HARIN PATHAK,
Chairman
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

REPORT

This Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in their First, Sixth and Seventh Reports (15th Lok Sabha) which were presented to Lok Sabha on 22.04.2010, 18.08.2011 and 25.8.2011 respectively.

2. The First Report dealt with delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of (i) Employees Provident Fund Organization, New Delhi and (ii) Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Ltd. Thiruvananthapuram.

3. The Sixth Report dealt with Delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of (i) Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA), Bhubaneswar; and (ii) Jammu and Kashmir Agro Industries Corporation Limited.

4. The Seventh Report dealt with Delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of (i) Nagaland University, Lumami; and (ii) Indian Museum, Kolkata.

5. The Action Taken Notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the recommendations/observations contained in the aforesaid three Reports. Accordingly, the Statements showing the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the First, Sixth and Seventh Reports (15th Lok Sabha) are given in Appendix-I, II & III respectively.

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

(i) Employees Provident Fund Organization

7. In paragraph 1.17 (1st Report, 15th Lok Sabha) relating to delay in laying of the documents of Employees Provident Fund Organization the Committee had recommended as under:

“The Committee are surprised to note that in the time schedule suggested by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to the EPFO, the date of submission of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts has been shown as 20th December. In this regard, the Committee would like to point out that before laying the documents in the House, the Ministry have to complete certain formalities viz. preparation of Review on performance and activities of the EPFO, authentication of the documents from their Minister and sending the documents to Parliament for laying. Further, the Winter Session of Parliament normally concludes by the end of third week of December every year. Therefore, it would almost be impossible in case of the documents received around 20 December to lay those on the Table during the Winter Session of Parliament or within 9 months of close of the financial year as prescribed by the Committee. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Labour and Employment should prepare the time schedule afresh to facilitate receipt of all the requisite documents in the Ministry latest by the first week of November every year positively so that

these could be processed for being laid on the Table of the House during Winter Session in November/December.”

8. In their Action Taken Note, the Ministry of Labour & Employment have stated :-

“The Concern of the Committee on the present time schedule and the suggestion to prepare time schedule afresh has been considered. The following remedial action have been taken during the year 2009-2010 and proposed to be taken by EPFO with regard to preparation of Annual Report for the year 2009-2010 :-

- (i) *New decentralized procedure for collection of information; In the new procedure adopted during 2009-2010, the field offices will send the data to the Additional CPFC of the Zone and the Additional CPFC will consolidate it for the whole Zone under their supervision and will certify that the data is correct and will then forward the Returns electronically which will avoid the entry and compilation of the data for field offices at the Headquarters level. Now only data for 10 zones would be received and compiled at Headquarters. ”*
- (ii) *Revised Schedule for preparation of Annual Report for the year 2009-2010 : The revised schedule is as under.”*

<i>Collection of the data from zonal offices</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>By July end.</i>
<i>Collection of material for inclusion in the report from the various Divisions at the Headquarters</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>By July end</i>
<i>Compilation of Data at the Headquarters Level and draft report</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>By mid August</i>
<i>Circulation Draft Annual Report to the Divisions in the Headquarters for ratification and suggestion if any</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>By September end</i>
<i>Translation of final draft in Hindi</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>By September end</i>
<i>Draft copies for circulation among Members of CBT</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>By October end</i>
<i>Placement of Draft Report before the CBT</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>By mid November</i>
<i>Forwarding approved Annual Report with Audit Report to the Ministry of Labour</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>By 10th of November</i>

9. **Taking a serious note of the persistent delays in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts separately of the Employment Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi for the years 2001-2002 to 2007-2008, the Committee in their 1st Report (15th Lok Sabha) had suggested to lay down the time schedule afresh to facilitate receipt of all the requisite documents in the Ministry by the first week of November every year positively so that these could be processed for being laid on the Table of the House during Winter Session. In their Action Taken notes, the Ministry of Labour and Employment have furnished the revised schedule for preparation of Annual Report of the Organisation only for the year 2009-10. However, it has also been submitted that the procedure for laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Organisation is not a one time activity. It needs to be ensured regularly year after year. The Committee take strong exception to this submission made by the Ministry and accordingly reiterate their earlier recommendation whereby the Ministry were urged to formulate a time schedule for all times giving target dates for various activities like compilation of Accounts, appointment of auditors, auditing of accounts, approval of the**

audited accounts from the Competent Authority, translation & printing of the documents and dispatch of documents to the Ministry and processing of the documents by the Ministry, which should be monitored regularly at the senior level in the Organisation so as to ensure timely laying of the documents on the Table of the House. The Committee thus, would like to be apprised of the fresh time schedule drawn up by the Ministry in this regard within a period of three months from the presentation of the Report to the House.

(ii) Jammu & Kashmir State Agro Industries Corporation, Srinagar

10. In paragraph 2.21 (6th Report, 15th Lok Sabha) relating to delay in laying of the documents of Jammu & Kashmir State Agro Industries Corporation, the Committee had recommended as follows :-

“The Committee observes that there is a huge backlog of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Corporation to be laid on the Table of the House. The Committee urges that the backlog of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Corporation should be cleared in a time-bound manner for laying of the documents in Parliament. The Committee urges the concerned Ministry to evolve a mechanism to monitor the progress in this regard. Further, a strict time schedule should also be drawn and scrupulously followed for timely completion at each stage involved in the finalization of the documents, viz. Compilation of Accounts, appointment of auditors, auditing of accounts, approval of the document from the Competent Authority, translation & printing of the documents, dispatch of documents to the Ministry and processing the documents by the Ministry. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard within three months of presentation of this Report to the House.”

11. Responding to the aforesaid recommendations of the Committee, in their Action Taken Note, the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and co-operation) have stated :-

“The Ministry in close coordination with the Corporation has been endeavoring for adequate measures to ensure that the process of compilation and finalization of all pending annual accounts is completed in a time bound manner.

The Ministry have also laid down a time schedule for finalization of Annual Reports wherein it has been desired that the Corporation may compile its annual accounts within three months from the closing of the financial year so that sufficient time can be made available for statutory auditor and Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) to examine and offer their comments. The Corporation has also been advised to convene the Annual General Meeting (AGM) suitably for adopting the accounts within six months of closing of financial year.

The Corporation has assured that effort will be made to clear pending Annual Reports and Audited Accounts in a speedy and time bound manner.”

12. **The Committee regret to note that the action taken reply given by the Government on the recommendations contained in para 2.21 of 6th Report (15 Lok Sabha) is not satisfactory as the details of completion of task at various stages of finalisation of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts have not been furnished by the Ministry in the time schedule laid down by**

them. The Committee fail to understand that in the absence of detailed time schedule, how would the Ministry ensure timely laying of the documents on the Table of the House. The Committee, therefore, urge that the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation) should lay down a time schedule indicating target dates for completion of the task at each stage involved in finalisation of the documents, viz. compilation of Annual Accounts, preparation of Annual Report, audit of Accounts, approval of these documents by the Competent Authority, translation and printing, processing of the documents in the Ministry and also laying of the documents on the Table of the House. It should be ensured without fail that the schedule is strictly adhered to both by the Corporation and also the Ministry. The Committee hope that with these measures, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Corporation could be laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated time in future.”

(iii) Indian Museum, Kolkata

13. In paragraph 2.16 of their 7th Report (15th Lok Sabha) relating to delay in laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Indian Museum, Kolkata, the Committee had recommended :-

“The Committee find that while the delay is partly attributable to the long time taken in auditing of accounts, the main reason for delay has been on the part of the Museum in submission of Annual Accounts to the audit Authorities, getting the documents approved from the Competent Authority also getting them translated, printed and sending of the same to the Ministry for laying them on the Table of the House. The Committee find that the Museum took 8 to 20 months for submission of the Annual Accounts to audit Authorities for auditing for the years 2003-04 to 2005-06. The Museum also took 3 to 15 months getting the documents approved from the competent Authority, getting them translated, printed and sending the same to the Ministry. The Committee are hardly convinced with the reasons advanced by the Ministry in regard to delay in laying the Annual Accounts such as CBI enquiry during 2005-06, seizure of records by CBI, suspension of both the Administrative Officer and the Accounts Officer alongwith other officer of the Museum, absence of a regular Director in the Museum and non-receipt of Audited Accounts from the Audit Authorities with in the prescribed time limit. The committee feel that the inordinate delay on the part of the Ministry was within the control of the Museum and thus avoidable. The Committee, therefore, stress that the time schedule drawn up by the Ministry for completion of various activities concerning the Annual Report and Annual Audited Accounts should strictly be adhered to and the Ministry should strengthen their monitoring mechanism to ensure that delays in laying the documents do not occur in the future. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.”

14. On this issue, in their action taken note, the Ministry of Culture have stated :-

“Indian Museum have carefully noted the observations of the Committee and all efforts would be made to submit Annual Accounts to the audit authorities as early as possible. Annual Reports along with Annual Statement of Accounts for the year from 2006-07 to

2009-10 have since been laid on the Table of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha in November, 2011.”

15. In their 7th Report (15 Lok Sabha), the Committee were concerned to note the recurring delays in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Indian Museum for the years 1998-1999 to 2005-2006.. The Committee had accordingly urged upon the Ministry to ensure that the requisite documents of the Museum be laid before Parliament within the stipulated period of nine months from the close of the Accounting Year. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee, corrective steps were taken by the Ministry which resulted in considerable systemic improvement entailing curtailment of delay in laying the documents for the subsequent period. While appreciating the progress made so far, the Committee desire that concerted efforts should be made by the Organisation in future as well to sustain the initiative of completely eliminating delays in laying the documents before Parliament within the stipulated time.

03 May, 2012
13 Vaisakha, 1934 (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 CONTAINED IN
THEIR FIRST REPORT (15TH LOK SABHA)**

Employees Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi.

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 1.13)

As per the recommendation of the Committee contained in their 1st Report (15th Lok Sabha) the Annual Report and Audited Accounts should always be laid together on the Table of the House within nine months of the close of respective accounting year so as to give a complete picture of working of that organization. Further, the “Delay Statement” if any, laid by the Government should invariably indicate in chronological order (para 1.20, 10th Report, 6th Lok Sabha) the dates of finalization of reports and accounts, their submission to audit, issue of inspection report, date of final replies given on points raised in the report, date of final receipt of audit report from the audit authorities, the time taken in translation and printing and getting approval of the documents from the competent authority so that the Committee may identify the stages at which the delay has occurred and to what extent, so that remedial measures could be suggested therefor. The Committee regret to note that their earlier recommendation for laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts together has not been followed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and urge the Ministry to take note of it for future compliance.

Reply by the Government

The concern of the Committee is on placing the Annual Audit Accounts and Annual Report together, furnishing of delay statement with chronological dates. Regarding the placing of the reports together, the organisation is required to place both Annual Audit Accounts and Annual Report before the Central Board of Trustees, Employees’ Provident Fund, CBT (EPF) for approval. Regarding the concern on delay, it is stated that the delay is attributable at two stages. First at the level of Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation and then at the time of getting the audit certificate from the CAG. The Ministry had presented an oral evidence before the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table regarding delay in laying of the Annual Accounts and Annual Report of the EPFO on 04.11.2008, whereby the Committee had directed to follow the time schedule given under para 74 of the EPF Scheme, 1952. Accordingly in order to finalise the Accounts and obtain Audit Report/Certificate from the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the EPFO was requested for strict compliance of time schedule and a D.O. letter from then Secretary (L&E)

had been sent to CAG for auditing the Accounts of EPFO in time so that the accounts could be submitted to the Parliament in time. Subsequently, the accounts for the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 have been submitted to the Parliament in time.

(Ministry of Labour & Employment O.M. No. 11013/4/10-SS.II dated 23.08.2010)

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 1.14)

The Committee are distressed to find that there has been inordinate delays ranging from 2 to 14 months in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the EPFO from the year 2000-2001 to 2007-2008. As per Ministry's submission one of the reasons for delay was at the stage of compilation of accounts due to delayed receipt of accounts from 46 centres/offices which are scattered in the length and breadth of this Country. Another reason for delay in compilation of the accounts was stated to be lack of software application in EPFO in an integrated manner to facilitate speedy and timely compilation of accounts. In this regard, the Ministry of Labour & Employment has stated that a new system has been put in place from December, 2005 which will help to maintain the entire accounting system for presenting to the auditors. Further, a "Modernization project" is being introduced in EPFO to reduce the time taken in compilation of the receipts of the regional offices. The Committee desire that the task of "Modernization project" should be completed without delay and it should be ensured that there is no delay in compilation of accounts in future.

Reply by the Government

Regarding completion of the "Modernisation Project" of EPFO, it is state that the project has been implemented in 28 offices of EPFO. The implementation of the project in the remaining offices will be completed by 31st March, 2011.

(Ministry of Labour & Employment O.M. No. 11013/4/10-SS.II dated 23.08.2010)

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 1.15)

The Committee further note that another reason for delay in laying the documents is the long time taken by the C&AG in completing the audit and issuing of audit certificate to the EPFO. The auditors took 4 to 12 months in auditing the accounts and furnishing their final Audit Report to the EPFO for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07. The Committee observe that the Ministry of Labour and Employment have now proposed to take steps to bring about better coordination with C&AG so that such delays do not recur. The Committee are of the opinion that the issue should have been taken up with the audit authorities much earlier. The Committee, therefore, recommend that in future the Ministry, after submitting the accounts to the audit authorities, should pursue vigorously with them to complete their task in time to avoid consequential delay in laying of the documents in Parliament. EPFO should also extend full co-operation to the Audit Authorities in this regard.

Reply by the Government

In order to finalize the accounts and obtain audit report/certificate from the office of the Comptroller and Audit General of India, the EPFO was requested for strict compliance of time schedule and a D.O. letter from then Secretary (L&E) had been sent to CAG for auditing the accounts of EPFO in time so that the accounts could be submitted to the Parliament in time. Subsequently, the accounts for the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 have been submitted to the Parliament in time.

(Ministry of Labour & Employment O.M. No. 11013/4/10-SS.II dated 23.08.2010)

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 1.16)

The Committee further note that after receipt of the Audited Accounts from the auditors, the EPFO took 5 and 8 months for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively in getting approval of the documents from the Competent Authorities and sending them to the Ministry. The Committee firmly believe that the delay at this stage has been due to lack of concern on the part of EPFO and the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry may strengthen its monitoring mechanism at each stage to ensure that inordinate delays in laying the documents do not occur in future.

Reply by the Government

The Committee has observed that EPFO should extend full cooperation to the Audit Authorities. In this regard, it is submitted that full cooperation is being extended to the Audit by the EPFO and EPFO is monitoring at each stage so that the delays in laying the documents do not occur in future.

(Ministry of Labour & Employment O.M. No. 11013/4/10-SS.II dated 23.08.2010)

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 1.17)

The Committee are surprised to note that in the time schedule suggested by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to the EPFO, the date of submission of the annual reports and audited accounts has been shown as 20th December. In this regard, the Committee would like to point out that before laying the documents in the House, the Ministry has to complete certain formalities viz. preparation of Review on performance and activities of the EPFO, authentication of the documents from their Minister and sending the documents to Parliament for laying. Further, the Winter Session of Parliament normally concludes by the end of third week of December every year. Therefore, it would be almost impossible for the documents received around 20 December to be laid on the Table during the Winter Session of Parliament or within 9 months of close of the financial year as prescribed by the Committee. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Labour and Employment should prepare the time schedule afresh to facilitate receipt of all the requisite documents in the Ministry latest by the first week of November every year positively so that these

could be processed for being laid on the Table of the House during Winter Session in November/December.

Reply by the Government

The Concern of the Committee on the present time schedule and the suggestion to prepare time schedule afresh has been considered. The following remedial action have been taken during the year 2009-2010 and proposed to be taken by EPFO with regard to preparation of Annual Report for the year 2009-2010 :-

- (iii) New decentralized procedure for collection of information ; In the new procedure adopted during 2009-2010, the field offices will send the data to the Additional CPFC of the Zone and the Additional CPFC will consolidate it for the whole Zone under their supervision and will certify that the data is correct and will then forward the Returns electronically which will avoid the entry and compilation of the data for field offices at the Headquarters level. Now only data for 10 zones would be received and compiled at Headquarters. ”
- (iv) Revised Schedule for preparation of Annual Report for the year 2009-2010 : The revised schedule is as under.

Collection of the data from zonal offices	:	By July end.
Collection of material for inclusion in the report from the various Divisions at the Headquarters	:	By July end
Compilation of Data at the Headquarters Level and draft report	:	By mid August
Circulation Draft Annual Report to the Divisions in the Headquarters for ratification and suggestion if any	:	By September end
Translation of final draft in Hindi	:	By September end
Draft copies for circulation among Members of CBT	:	By October end
Placement of Draft Report before the CBT	:	By mid November
Forwarding approved Annual Report with Audit Report to the Ministry of Labour	:	By 10 th of November

(Ministry of Labour & Employment O.M. No. 11013/4/10-SS.II dated 23.08.2010)

Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 2.23)

The Committee are distressed to note that there has been inordinate delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the years 2000-01 to 2003-04 of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited (KAIC) operating under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation). A scrutiny of these documents revealed that the delay in laying the same ranged from about 50 to 64 months in respect of each accounting year. What is further disquieting to note is the fact that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the KAIC for the years 2004-05 to 2008-09 which should have been laid by 31st December of the respective accounting years have not been laid so far. Evidently, the administrative Ministry have miserably failed to comply with the statutory provisions and specific recommendation of the Committee in timely laying the requisite documents of the KAIC before

Parliament for the past eight years. The Committee consider it as a grave irregularity on the part of the administrative Ministry/KAIC which certainly amounts to abdication of Parliamentary responsibility and can hardly be overlooked. Notwithstanding the reasons adduced for the abysmal delay, the Committee cannot but conclude that an atmosphere of non-accountability is prevalent in the Ministry/ KAIC insofar as fulfilling the obligatory responsibility towards Parliament is concerned. In the given circumstances, the Committee only trust that the pending documents of the KAIC pertaining to the period from 2004-05 to 2008-09 should be finalised expeditiously and laid before the House at the earliest in compliance with the assurance given to the Committee so as to enable the Ministry to lay the documents for the subsequent years within the stipulated period. The Committee would like to be informed about the concrete measures taken in this regard including results achieved thereof.

Reply by the Government

The Ministry and Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited (KAIC) have been endeavouring for adequate measures to ensure that the process of compilation and updating the Annual Accounts for the period up to 2008-2009 is completed in a time bound manner and these can be laid before the Parliament without further delay.

As a result of the co-ordinate effort, the Annual Accounts pertaining to the period 2004-05 have already been finalized and is currently under process for laying on the table of the both the Houses of Parliament . Further, the Corporation has also finalized the Annual Accounts for the year 2005-06 and it is currently under submission for statutory audit. The statutory auditors have already commenced the process of auditing and it is expected that the Audited Accounts along with Annual Report would be made available for laying before the Parliament shortly.

Besides, the processes of compilation of Annual Accounts pertaining to the year 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 have been completed and these accounts will be handed over the Auditing once Annual Accounts of the preceding years are Audited and finalised.

The Ministry has been monitoring the whole process in close co-ordination with the corporation on a regular basis so that the preparation of the Annual Reports and subsequent laying before both Houses of the Parliaments could be effected without any further delay.

(Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation's O.M. No. 19-5/2010-M&T (A) dated 21.07.2010)

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 2.24)

In their 10th Report (Sixth Lok Sabha), the Committee had recommended that in the “statements of reasons for delay”, the Government should invariably indicate in chronological order the dates of finalisation of reports and accounts, their submission to audit, issue of inspection reports, replies given on points raised in the reports and finally the receipt of the audit report from the Audit Authorities so that the House may identify the stage and extent of delay and suggest

remedial measures therefor. The Committee have reiterated this recommendation time and again for strict compliance by the concerned bodies. What is disturbing to note is the fact that the Ministry/ KAIC even failed to comply with this requirement in the delay statement laid alongwith the documents for the years 2000-01 to 2003-04. Taking strong exception to the casual and negligent attitude of the Ministry/KAIC on this score, the Committee emphasise that steps be taken to ensure fulfillment of the prescribed requirement in future.

Reply by the Government

The Ministry would like to state that appropriate safeguard mechanisms have now been put in place to ensure that the 'statements of delay' which accompanies the Annual Report and Audited Account; invariably indicate the chronology of dates of different stages in the finalisation of Annual Report and Audited Accounts. A standard proforma in this regard has also been prepared for assisting the Corporation to collate information in requisite order. The Ministry, from now onwards, will be adhering to the prescribed requirement while laying the Annual Reports before both the Houses of the Parliament.

(Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation's O.M. No. 19-5/2010-M&T (A) dated 21.07.2010)

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 2.25)

The Committee note that the main reason for delay in laying the documents was unduly long time of 35 to 54 months, as against the prescribed three months, taken by the KAIC to finalise its Annual Accounts for the period under review. They observe that the delay got compounded due to accumulation of arrear in accounts and audit over the years. The delay in preparation of provisional accounts and audit thereof has been attributed to inadequate staff strength and poor financial position of the KAIC over the years. Regarding remedial steps taken in this regard, the committee have been informed that accounts support system has been introduced from the period 2007-08 wherein Chartered Accountant firms have been engaged in order to help timely compilation of concurrent accounts. To facilitate the system further, the KAIC is also stated to be in the process of computerising the entire accounting network. According to the Ministry, with the realization of a restructuring package for the revival of the KAIC which includes assistance for system development and office modernisation programme, the problem being faced by the KAIC at present in finalising and auditing of accounts would be eliminated. In the opinion of the Committee, it would have been wiser on the part of the KAIC to introduce such accounts support system much earlier thereby avoiding the persisting gloomy situation. The Committee, however, stress that the KAIC should strive for progressively strengthening its internal accounting system and switch over to full-fledged computerisation of

accounts at the earliest for timely submission of documents to the House. The Committee may be apprised of the progress made in this regard at an early date.

Reply by the Government

The Ministry would like to inform that although the Corporation has not yet received the expected assistance under restructuring package from Government aiming at system development and office modernisation; it has, notwithstanding, initiated appropriate measures for minimizing the delay in finalisation of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts. However, the Corporation could not commence the process of computerizing the entire accounting network due to its poor financial health.

(Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation's O.M. No. 19-5/2010-M&T (A) dated 21.07.2010)

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 2.26)

Another reason which contributed to delay relates to comparatively longer time taken by Audit to finalise accounts and issuing of requisite Audit certificates. The Committee observe that the Audit took about 8 to 16 months in completing the process for the accounts pertaining to the period 2000-01 to 2002-03. They were informed that small Chartered Accountant firms with limited infrastructure were often appointed as Statutory Auditors, who took time to deal with numerous and diverse business activity of the KAIC. Furthermore, the change of Statutory Auditors after a stipulated period also disturbs the continuing audit process and consequential delay. The Committee fully endorse the suggestion of the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture that in the case of bodies which are having accumulated arrears in accounts like the KAIC in question, the team of Statutory Auditors be appointed for a longer period till the arrears are liquidated. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the matter be appropriately taken up by the Ministry of Agriculture with the office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India at the earliest for a viable solution. The Committee may also be informed of the action taken in the matter.

Reply by the Government

The Ministry has already initiated the process of consultation with Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) for expediting and speedy disposal of issues related to Auditing of Annual Accounts of State Agro Industries Corporation.

Further, the Ministry has now laid down a time schedule for the Corporation for finalisation of Annual Reports wherein it has desired that the Corporation may compile its Annual Accounts within three (3) months from the closing of the financial year so that sufficient time can be made available for statutory auditor and CAG to examine the accounts and offer their comments. The

Corporation has been advised to convene the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for adopting the accounts within six (6) months of closing of financial year.

(Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation's O.M. No. 19-5/2010-M&T (A) dated 21.07.2010)

Recommendation Paragraph No.. 2.27)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) are charged with the primary responsibility of ensuring that the requisite documents of the KAIC are laid before Parliament within the prescribed period in consonance with the statutory provisions. They, however, observe that the role of the administrative Ministry in the instant case leaves a lot to be desired. While the KAIC defaulted year after year in laying the documents, the Ministry seem to have pursued the matter in a routine manner in the absence of any structured time schedule for completion of task at each stage and impressing upon the KAIC to adhere to the schedule. The Committee are dismayed to point out that the monitoring mechanism in place in the Ministry appears to be inadequate and needs to be strengthened. They, therefore, recommend that all necessary steps be taken to ensure that the KAIC adheres to the time schedule now provided by the Ministry for finalising the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the period 2004-05 to 2008-09 to obviate any further delay in the matter. The Committee would also like to be informed about the steps taken by the Ministry to institute a review and monitoring framework which is more accountable to the statutory requirements.

Reply by the Government

The Ministry has been coordinating with the Corporation as well as with the State Government so that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts are laid before the Parliament in a time bound manner. The Ministry has been monitoring the status of pending Reports and seeking the roadmap for financing the same from the Corporation and the State Government on a regular basis.

Further, the Central Directors on the Board of Directors of all the SAIC's have been already directed by this Ministry to be more vigilant and be in close co-ordination with the SAIC's so that a concerted efforts can be made to liquidate the arrears on a programmatic basis. As a result, Kerala Agro Industries Corporation in consultation with the Ministry has finalised a time bound programme for laying the reports for the years 2004-05 to 2008-09.

(Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation's O.M. No. 19-5/2010-M&T (A) dated 21.07.2010)

**STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE CONTAINED IN
THEIR SIXTH REPORT (15TH LOK SABHA)**

Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Bhubaneswar

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 1.14)

The Committee deeply regret that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority have not been laid in time for almost the last decade. The extent of delay in laying the documents of the Authority ranges from 07 months to 18 months in respect of every year during the period from 2000-2001 to 2008-09. The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2009-10, which should have been laid on the Table by 31.12.2010, are yet to be laid. The Committee are not convinced by the explanation of the Ministry of Human Resource Development regarding the reasons for delay in laying of the documents that the delay was mainly due to persistent delay in receipt of Reports from the State Government in complete form and also because of unreasonable time taken in processing of Reports at Ministry level. The Committee recommend that comprehensive and coordinative efforts be made by the Ministry of Human Resource Department (Department of School Education & Literacy) and the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority so as to ensure timely submission and finalisation of these Reports and laying of the Audit & Annual Reports before Parliament in time.

Reply of the Government

It is regretted that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA) from 2000-01 to 2008-09 could not be laid in time. However, this delay has been duly taken not of and the State has been advised to avoid such delay in future. The State has assured that sincere efforts are being made to submit the reports in time from 2011-12 onwards. In the meantime, the Annual Report & Audited Accounts of OPEPA for 2009-10 are in the process of being laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

MHRD duly take not of Committee's recommendation that the this Ministry alongwith OPEPA should take comprehensive and coordinated efforts for timely laying of reports and would work towards timely laying of Annual Reports in future.

**(Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy)
O.M. No. 5-29/2011-EE-3 Dated 17.02.2012)**

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 1.15)

The Committee find from the information furnished by the Ministry/Authority that while the delay is partly attributable to the long time taken in auditing of accounts, the main reason for delay has been on the part of the Authority/Ministry for the years 2005-06 to 2008-09 in submission of annual accounts to audit Authorities, getting approval of documents from competent authorities and completing other formalities like translation of the documents in Hindi and forwarding these documents to the Ministry. The Committee observe that though the annual accounts for the years 2005-2006 to 2007-2008 were compiled by them by first day of April of the respective Accounting Year, the Authority took about 3 months in submission of accounts to audit Authorities for the said period. The Authority also took 5½ to 12 months in getting approval of the documents (2005-06 to 2008-09) from the competent Authority, translation of these documents and forwarding the same to the Ministry for laying them on the Table of the House. Further after receipt of the documents for the above said period from the Authority, the Ministry took 01 to 7½ months in the process of laying these documents on the Table of the House. The Committee feel that the inordinate delay on part of the Ministry/Authority was totally within the control of the Authority/Ministry and thus avoidable. The Committee also believe that delay has been due to utter failure of the Ministry to oversee the working of the Authority. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the time schedule laid down by the Ministry indicating target dates for completion of the task at each stage involved in finalisation of the documents, should be strictly adhered to ensure timely laying of the documents in future. The Ministry/Authority may also consider suitable action on the official responsible for the delay in future.

Reply of the Government

The State has informed that there were no accounts personnel at Village Education Committee level, it was therefore, difficult for District Project Coordinators to collect the utilization certificate from Village Education Committee and to finalise the accounts on time. It resulted in delay in submission of Audit records of relevant years to the audit authorities. Steps have now been taken to appoint accounts personnel for timely finalisation of accounts and submission of the report from the year 2011-12. Regarding timely printing of Hindi and English version of reports State has informed that steps are being taken to complete the assignment in a time bound manner.

The State has been advised to ensure completion of audit process and lay report on the table of House in designated time-frame. To strengthen audit work, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) norms have been amended to provide for a Accountant at each block level.

MHRD will also ensure that adequate coordination is being maintained with the States to obtain relevant Reports in time and process them without delay for laying on the Table of House.

**(Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy)
O.M. No. 5-29/2011-EE-3 Dated 17.02.2012)**

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 1.16)

The Committee also note that the time taken in auditing of accounts and furnishing the audit report ranges from 5 to 7 months for the years from 2005-2006 to 2008-2009. The reasons for taking such a long time for completing the audit report are not clear. The Committee urge the Ministry of Human Resource Development to take up with audit authorities the issue of timely completion of audit to avoid consequential delay in laying the documents before the Parliament. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard within 3 months of presentation of this Report to the House.

Reply of the Government

As stated in reply against Para 1.15 the State has informed that there were no accounts personnel at Village Education Committee level, it was therefore, difficult for them to collect the utilization certificate from Village Education Committee and to finalise the accounts on time. Steps have been taken to appoint additional accounts personnel for timely finalisation of accounts and submission of report from the year 2011-12 onwards.

**(Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy)
O.M. No. 5-29/2011-EE-3 Dated 17.02.2012)**

Jammu and Kashmir Agro Industries Corporation Ltd.

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 2.16)

The Committee notes with displeasure that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir Agro Industries Corporation Ltd. were laid on the Table with delays ranging from 14 to 17 years for the period from 1987-1988 to 1992-93. The documents for the years 1993-94 to 2009-2010 which were required to be laid by 31 December of respective Accounting year have not been laid so far. However, further, as recommended by the Committee, the statements explaining the reasons for not laying the documents within the stipulated period of 9 months, were not laid in the House within 30 days after the expiry of the prescribed period or as soon as the House met, whichever was later. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the Ministry/Corporation should make vigorous efforts to ensure the timely laying of the Audited Accounts and Annual Reports. Further, a delay statement should invariably be laid 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 Corporation has taken several measures for up gradation and early compilation of pending accounts from the year 1993-94 onwards. Noteworthy among them is initiation of computerization of accounts from financial year 1998-99 onwards.

Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, has also been liaising closely with the Corporation on regular interval and devised a proforma for collating and monitoring crucial dates of various stages of Accounting / Auditing processes. As a result, the Ministry has been able to lay delay statement pertaining to pending Annual Reports and Accounts, before both the Houses of the Parliament, during Monsoon Session, 2011.

[Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No. F.19-15/2011-M&T(A) dated 11.11.2011].

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 2.17)

In their 10th Report (Sixth Lok Sabha), the Committee had recommended that in the “statements of reasons for delay”, the Government should invariably indicate in chronological order the dates of finalization of Reports and Accounts, their submission to audit, issue of inspection reports, replies given on points raised in the reports and finally the receipt of the Audit Report from the audit Authorities so that the House may identify the stage and extent of delay and suggest remedial measures therefore. The Committee has reiterated this recommendation time and again for strict compliance by the concerned bodies. The Committee fail to understand that the Ministry/Corporation have not complied with this requirement in the delay statement laid along with the documents for the years 1987-1988 to 1991-1992. Taking strong exception to the casual and negligent attitude of the Ministry/Corporation on this score, the Committee emphasize that steps be taken to ensure fulfillment of the prescribed requirement in future.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, would like to state that an appropriate safeguarding mechanism has now been put in place to ensure that the ‘statement of delay’ indicating chronology of dates of different stages in the finalization of annual report and audited accounts, invariably accompanies all pending Annual Report and Audited Accounts. A standard proforma in this regard has also been prepared for assisting the Corporation to collate information in a requisite order.

The Ministry while laying Annual Reports for the year 1992-93 during Budget Session, 2011 has also complied with the prescribed requirement of enclosing delay statement.

[Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No. F.19-15/2011-M&T(A) dated 11.11.2011].

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 2.18)

The Committee also note in particular that one of the reasons advanced by the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation) for the inordinate delay in laying the documents of the Corporation had been the disturbed conditions in the Valley. However, this excuse does not seem to be convincing. The turbulence in Valley appears to have manifested only in the 90s. The fact that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Corporation for the years 1988-89 and 1989-90, laid after the stipulated period with delays of 16 and 15 years respectively shows that there has been some thing inherently wrong in ensuring due compliance of procedures and lack of accountability of the Corporation. The Committee would urge the Government to pay due attention and look into the affairs of the Corporation including its financial condition seriously to ensure that the Corporation discharges its accountability to Parliament every year within the laid down time frame.

Reply of the Government

The Corporation has stated that its Annual Accounts remained in arrears since its inception primarily because accounts staff were not adequately trained in commercial accounting and were on deputation from the State Government. As a result, Annual Accounts for the year 1978-79 could only be finalized in 1989-90. Further, disturbed conditions in the valley thereafter led to displacement of staff and auditors resulting in irregular office functioning, delay in compilation of accounts and addition to backlogs. However, owing to sincere efforts on the part of the Corporation as well as Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, process of compilation of Annual Accounts was again resumed and it is now expected that finalization of pending annual accounts will be on a more expeditious manner.

Further, the Ministry of Agriculture would like to inform that it is coordinating with the Corporation closely for ensuring timely compilation of its Annual Accounts. The Corporation has also computerized its accounts, from the year 1998-99 onwards for speedy compilation. Further, many activities in the compilation process have also been outsourced for its early completion. The corporation has also appointed Statutory Auditors upto 2010-2011, for a longer term, thereby eliminating future delay in the selection process.

With all these measures in place, it is hoped that the process of finalization of annual reports will be expedited and timely laying of annual reports before the Parliament will be ensured.

[Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M.No.F. 19-15/2011-M&T(A) dated 11.11.2011].

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 2.19)

Another reason for delay in laying of documents was delay on account of compilation of Annual Accounts of the Corporation for the years 1987-1988 to 1991-1992. The Corporation took 12 to 14 years at the stage of compilation of Annual Accounts for the above said years. The Committee have also been informed that there have been delays in appointment of Chairman and there have also been procedural delays in the Government in regard to reconstitution of the Board of Directors which resulted delays in getting approval of the documents from the competent Authorities for these years. The Committee feels that the inordinate delay in compilation of Accounts and getting approval of documents from the Board were within the control of the Corporation/Government and thus avoidable. The Committee desires that all the necessary steps in this regard should be taken in right earnest to ensure that there is no delay at the stage of finalization of Accounts and getting approval of documents. The Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome within three months.

Reply of the Government

The Corporation has stated that while finalizing the accounts, most of the time is being consumed in reconciliation of books of accounts, drawing of the trial balances and balance sheet etc. Further, the accounts of the Corporation before 1998-99 were prepared manually resulting in further delay in the compilation of accounts. To address this problem and to speed up the process of compilation, accounts for the period 1998-99 and onwards have been computerized. Further, the State Govt. of J&K has reconstituted its Board of Directors of the Corporation so that it can take up the matters in a more expeditious manner.

Ministry of Agriculture has also been advising the Central Director on the Board of the Corporation to remain more vigilant and be in close co-ordination so that a concerted effort can be made to avoid any possible delay at the stage of finalization of Accounts and getting its approval by the Board of Directors.

With all these measures in place, it is now expected that, the process of finalization and adoption of accounts and its laying before Parliament will be expedited significantly.

[Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No. F.19-15/2011-M&T(A) dated 11.11.2011].

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 2.20)

From the information furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation) the Committee observes that unduly long time was taken by the auditors in completing the audit and issuing of the Audit Certificate to the Corporation. After receipt of the Accounts from the Corporation for the years 1987-88 to 1991-1992, the auditors took 13 to 22 months in completing the audit and furnishing the Audit Report. The Committee are of the opinion

that had the matter been taken up by the Ministry/Corporation with Audit Authorities at higher level the delays could have been minimized. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation) should take up the issue with Audit Authorities, immediately after submission of the Accounts to them, impressing upon them to complete the audit of accounts expeditiously.

Reply of the Government

The Corporation stated that in order to minimize time for audit, records of different divisions have been made available to the Statutory Auditors at one place so that auditing can be conducted in an expeditious manner. Besides, the Corporation has also appointed Statutory Auditors for a longer term, upto financial year 2010-2011 in one go, for eliminating delays in intermediate selection process.

The Ministry is also in constant touch with the Corporation as well as Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) so that relevant issues can be taken up appropriately for expediting and ensuring speedy disposal.

[Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No. F.19-15/2011-M&T(A) dated 11.11.2011].

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 2.21)

The Committee observes that there is a huge backlog of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Corporation to be laid on the Table of the House. The Committee urges that the backlog of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Corporation should be cleared in a time-bound manner for laying of the documents in Parliament. The Committee urges the concerned Ministry to evolve a mechanism to monitor the progress in this regard. Further, a strict time schedule should also be drawn and scrupulously followed for timely completion at each stage involved in the finalization of the documents, viz. Compilation of Accounts, appointment of auditors, auditing of accounts, approval of the document from the Competent Authority, translation & printing of the documents, dispatch of documents to the Ministry and processing the documents by the Ministry. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard within three months of presentation of this Report to the House.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry in close coordination with the Corporation has been endeavoring for adequate measures to ensure that the process of compilation and finalization of all pending annual accounts is completed in a time bound manner.

The Ministry has also laid down a time schedule for finalization of Annual Reports wherein it has been desired that the Corporation may compile its annual accounts within three months from the closing of the financial year so that sufficient time can be made available for statutory auditor and Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) to examine and offer their comments. The Corporation has also been advised to convene the Annual General Meeting (AGM) suitably for adopting the accounts within six months of closing of financial year.

The Corporation has assured that effort will be made to clear pending Annual Reports and Audited Accounts in a speedy and time bound manner.

[Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No. F.19-15/2011-M&T(A) dated 11.11.2011].

**STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE CONTAINED IN
THEIR SEVENTH REPORT (15TH LOK SABHA)**

Nagaland University, Lumami

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 1.19)

The Committee are constrained to note that there has been inordinate delay in laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Nagaland University. The Committee also note that the University has received Grants-in-aid from Government of India, State Government, University Grants Commission and Indian Council of Agricultural Research. However the University has failed in timely laying of documents on the Table of the House since 2003-04. The Committee further note that Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the University were not being laid together since 2003-04 to till date. The Committee would like to draw the attention to the recommendation of the Committee contained in their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) that all Autonomous Organizations which receive Grants-in-aid from the Government of India, are required to lay their Annual Reports and Audited Accounts together to enable the Parliament to have a complete picture of the performance and activities of the Organization. Further, if for any reason the Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Audit Report thereon cannot be laid within the stipulated period of nine months from the closing of the financial year, the Ministry should lay within 30 days of expiry of the prescribed period or as soon as the House meets, whichever is later, a statement explaining the reasons for not laying the documents on the Table of the House. The Committee regret to note that even the prescribed procedures have not been adhered to by the University for these years. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the mandatory requirement of laying of the both Annual Reports and Audited Statement on the Table of the House within stipulated time should strictly be adhered to in future.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry is taking all the necessary steps so that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts along with the Audit Report thereon in respect of Central Universities are laid on the table of both Houses of Parliament as per schedule. Whenever these reports are laid in Parliament, a delay statement accompanies the reports and is laid on the Table of the House along with the Annual Report and Audited Accounts. The Ministry will take all necessary steps so that these documents are laid on the table of both the Houses of Parliament adhering to the time schedule henceforth. In case of failure, a statement explaining the reasons for not laying the documents on the Table of the House will be placed as per the mandatory requirement.

(Ministry of Human Resource Development OM No. 11-9/2011 dated 17 January, 2012)

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 1.20)

The Committee further note that the Annual Reports of the University for the years 2003-04 to 2009-10 were laid on the Table of the House with delays ranging from 3 to 17 months. The Audited Accounts of the University for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08 were laid on the Table of the House with delays of 16 to 43 months. The Audited Accounts of the University for the years 2008-09* and 2009-10; which are required to be laid by 31 December of respective Accounting Year are yet to be laid. From the information furnished by the Ministry/University, the Committee find that the main reasons for delay in laying of the documents on the Table of the House were attributed to delay in receipt of the requisite information from 31 University Departments, 5 Schools located at four different campuses and 51 colleges affiliated to the University, auditing of accounts by A.G. Nagaland and furnishing their Final Audit Report, getting approval of the documents from the Finance Committee and Executive Council of the University. The Committee note that the University took 7 to 8 months each in respect of the years 2003-04 to 2007-08 at the stage of compilation of Annual Accounts and even after compilation of the Annual Accounts for the years (2004-05 to 2007-08), the University took 3 to 8 months at the stage of approval of accounts from the Finance Committee/Executive Council. The Committee feel that the inordinate delay on the part of the University in compilation of Annual Accounts, and getting approval from the Competent Authorities was within control of the University and thus avoidable. Therefore, the reasons put forth by the Ministry/University are not tenable and hence cannot be accepted. The Committee are of the view that the delay has been due to utter failure of the Ministry to oversee the working of the University. The Committee also note that in order to avoid delay at the stage of compilation of Annual Accounts, the University has appointed persons having knowledge of computers, an internal Audit Officer and a Chartered Accountant and for according approval to the Annual Accounts by the Finance Committee and Executive Council, the Ministry are taking steps to conduct the meetings of the Competent Authorities two to three times every year. The Committee hope that with the remedial measures being taken up by the University it would curtail the delay in near future.

* laid on the Table of the House on 3.8.2011

Reply of the Government

The Ministry reminds the Central Universities on regular basis to take necessary action so that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of these universities are laid before both Houses of Parliament in time. The Audited Accounts for the year 2009-10 in respect of Nagaland University has been laid on the table of Lok Sabha on 7/9/2011. The University has intimated that the audited accounts for 2010-11 has been delayed mainly due to shifting of the University's headquarter in April-May, 2010 from Kohima to Lumami which derailed normal operation for more than four months. The University has further intimated that from 2011-12 onwards, it has decided to finalize the accounts on quarterly basis so that the finalization would be completed on or before 31st May of

every year. The University has further requested to accept their regret for the delay in submitting its Annual report and Audited Accounts which was mostly beyond their control and have conveyed their assurance for future compliance in respect of timely finalization of the University's accounts.

(Ministry of Human Resource Development OM No. 11-9/2011 dated 17 January, 2012)

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 1.21)

The Committee note that another factor, which has mainly caused delay in finalization of the documents is the undue time taken at the stage of auditing of accounts and furnishing of their Final Audit Report by the Accountant General, Nagaland. The time taken by auditors for completing their task comes to 16 to 34 months for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08. The Committee hope that the question of delay at the stage of audit of accounts and furnishing of their Final Audit Reports of Nagaland University, Nagaland would be taken up with the Accountant General, Nagaland at the Secretary level in the Ministry so that same could be brought within the prescribed time limits. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development has written a D.O. letter to Accountant General, Nagaland, conveying the concern of the Committee as regards the undue time taken in completing the Audit and finalizing the SAR of Annual Accounts of Nagaland University. He has also been requested to take necessary action to complete the audit of the Annual Accounts of Nagaland University and to furnish the SAR in time so that Audited Accounts are laid before both the Houses of Parliament before 31 December of the accounting year.

(Ministry of Human Resource Development OM No. 11-9/2011 dated 17 January, 2012)

(Recommendation (Paragraph No. 1.22)

The Committee note that the time schedule indicating target dates for completion of various stages involved in finalization of Annual Report and Audited Accounts have been laid down by the Ministry. The Committee urge that the time schedule should be strictly adhered to and monitored at each and every stage in future so that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of University are laid in time.

Reply of the Government

The University has intimated that from 2011-12 onwards it has decided to finalize its accounts on a quarterly basis so that the finalization of accounts is completed on or before 31st May of every year. Nagaland University has also requested to accept its regret for the delay in submission of Annual Report and Audited Annual Accounts which was mostly beyond their control and have conveyed their assurance for future compliance as regards timely finalization of accounts.

The Ministry also assures that it will take all the steps so that Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Nagaland University are laid in time, in future.

(Ministry of Human Resource Development OM No. 11-9/2011 dated 17 January, 2012)

Indian Museum, Kolkata

(Recommendation (Paragraph No. 2.15))

The committee regret to note the Indian Museum, Kolkata under the Administrative control of the Ministry of Culture has been a habitual defaulter so far as timely laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts is concerned. A Scrutiny of the dates of laying of these document of the Museum pertaining to the years from 1998-1999 to 2005-06 shows that the delay in laying the document ranges from 04 to 40 months in respect of these years. The document for the years 2006-07 to 2009-10 which should have been laid by 31 December of their respective Accounting years have not been laid as yet. The delay in laying the Museum's document by the Ministry's document by the Ministry is not of recent origin. The Committee had as early as in their 12th Report (10th Lok Sabha) brought out the Ministry's failure to adhere to the time schedule of laying Museum's document. The Committee are of view that no serious efforts have been made by the Ministry of culture to ensure timely submission of the documents of the Museums for laying in the House. The matter of flaying of the document in the House seems to have taken as routine matter. The Committee, therefore strongly recommended the Ministry and the Museum again to take immediate corrective measures in order to avoid delays in future.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry has directed the organization on various occasions to get the audit relating to accounts of the previous year completed by October so that it can be laid in Parliament before 31st December i.e. within 9 months of the closing of the financial year. Indian Museum have taken immediate measures to gear up finalization of accounts and complete the same without inordinate delay.

(Ministry of Culture O.M. No.17-29/2011-M.II Dated 3.2.12)

Recommendation (Paragraph No.2.16)

The Committee find that while that the delay is partly attributable to the long time taken in auditing of accounts, the main reason for delay has been on the part of the Museum in submission of Annual Accounts to the audit Authorities, getting the documents approved from the Competent Authority also getting them translated, printed and sending of the same to the Ministry for laying them on the Table of the House. The Committee find that the Museum took 8 to 20 months for submission of the Annual Accounts to audit Authorities for auditing for the years 2003-04 to 2005-06. The Museum also took 3 to 15 months getting the documents approved from the competent

Authority, getting them translated, printed and sending the same to the Ministry. The Committee are hardly convinced with the reasons advanced by the Ministry in regard to delay in laying the Annual Accounts such as CBI enquiry during 2005-06, seizure of records by CBI, suspension of both the Administrative Officer and the Accounts Officer alongwith other officer of the Museum, absence of a regular Director in the Museum and non-receipt of Audited Accounts from the Audit Authorities with in the prescribed time limit. The committee feel that the inordinate delay on the part of the Ministry was within the control of the Museum and thus avoidable. The Committee, therefore, stress that the time schedule drawn up by the Ministry for completion of various activities concerning the Annual Report and Annual Audited Accounts should strictly be adhered to and the Ministry should strengthen their monitoring mechanism to ensure that delays in laying the documents do not occur in the future. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Indian Museum have carefully noted the observations of the Committee and all efforts would be made to submit Annual Accounts to the audit authorities as early as possible. Annual Reports along with Annual Statement of Accounts for the year from 2006-07 to 2009-10 have since been laid on the Table of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha in November, 2011.

(Ministry of Culture O.M. No.17-29/2011-M.II Dated 3.2.12)

Recommendation (Paragraph No.2.17)

The Committee also note that the time taken in auditing of Annual Accounts and furnishing the Audit Reports for the years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006 ranges from 4 to 10 months. The reason for taking such a long time for completing the Audit Report are not clear. The Committee would like to the Ministry of Culture to take up the matter with Principal Director of Audit, Central Kolkata, to ensure timely completion of audit so as to avoid the consequential delay in laying the documents before the Parliament.

Reply of the Government

As per recommendation of the Committee, Ministry of Culture has requested to the Office of Pr. Director of Audit to complete the audit and to issue audit report within a reasonable time in order to print out the Annual Report along with the Annual Statement of Accounts for submission to the Parliament within the stipulated time.

(Ministry of Culture O.M. No.17-29/2011-M.II Dated 3.2.12)

Recommendation (Paragraph No.2.18)

The Committee wonder why the Ministry had taken 4 to 5 months for processing and laying these document after receiving them from the Museum. The Committee feel that if the Ministry themselves show an apathetic and indifferent attitude to the significance of timely laying of documents ,no better results can be expected from the organization and bodies which look towards the Ministry for guidance in such matters. The Committee therefore, strongly recommend the Ministry to avoid such delays in future.

Reply of the Government

The Audited Accounts and Annual Reports submitted by the Indian Museum were examined in the Ministry and sent back for correction of factual errors etc. to the Museum. After finalization of the Report, documents have been laid on the Table of the House in the month of November,2011.

(Ministry of Culture O.M. No.17-29/2011-M.II Dated 03.2.2012)