

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (1969-70)

HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH REPORT

(FOURTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES

Action taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Sixty-ninth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the erstwhile Ministry of Education—National Archives of India



सत्यमेव जयते

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE	(iii)
COMPOSITION OF THE STUDY GROUP 'B'	(v)
INTRODUCTION	(vii)
CHAPTER I - Report	I
CHAPTER III- Recommendations which have been accepted by Government	3
CHAPTER III - Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply.	21
CHAPTER IV - Recommendations in respect of which replies have not been accepted by the Committee	26
APPENDIX : Analysis of action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 69th Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha).	29

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

(1969-70)

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3. Shri S. A. Agadi
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5. Shri R. S. Arumugam
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SECRETARIAT

Shri B. B. Tewari—*Deputy Secretary.*

Shri Y. Sahai —*Under Secretary.*

*Elected w. e. f. 22-12-69 vice Shri G. G. Swell resigned.

STUDY GROUP 'B'
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

(1969-70)

CONVENER

Shri Arangil Sreedharan

MEMBERS

2. Shri S. A. Agadi
3. Shri R. S. Arumugam
4. Shri Bedabrata Barua
5. Shri Brijraj Singh Kotah
6. Shri Bhanudas Ramchandra Kavade
7. Shri Zulfiquar Ali Khan*
8. Shri Samarendra Kundu
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12. Shri Ramavatar Shastri
13. Shri Gunanand Thakur
14. Shri Tula Ram
15. Shri Ramesh Chandra Vyas.

SECRETARIAT

Shri B. B. Tewari—*Deputy Secretary*

Shri Y. Sahai—*Under Secretary.*

*Elected w.e.f. 22-12-1959 vice Shri G. G. Swall resigned.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee, having been authorised by the Committee present this Hundred and Eleventh Report of the Estimates Committee on the Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty-ninth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the erstwhile Ministry of Education—National Archives of India.

2. The Sixty-ninth Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on the 14th March, 1969. Government furnished their replies indicating the action taken on the recommendations contained in this Report between 11th September, 1969 and 10th December, 1969. The replies were examined by the Study Group 'E' of the Estimates Committee at their sitting held on the 30th January, 1970. The draft Report was adopted by the Committee on the 23rd February, 1970.

3. The Report has been divided into the following Chapters :—

I Report.

II Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government.

III Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply.

IV Recommendations in respect of which replies have not been accepted by the Committee.

4. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty-ninth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix. It would be observed therefrom that out of 37 recommendations made in the Report, 29 recommendations, *i.e.*, 78 per cent, have been accepted by Government and the Committee do not desire to pursue 5 recommendations, *i.e.*, 14 per cent, in view of Government's reply. Replies of Government in respect of the remaining 3 recommendations, *i.e.*, 8 per cent, have not been accepted by the Committee.

NEW DELHI ;
26th February, 1970

7th Phalguna, 1891 (S).

M. THIRUMALA RAO,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

CHAPTER I

THE ANTIQUITIES (EXPORT CONTROL) ACT, 1947

Recommendation (Serial No. 6, para No. 1.41)

The Committee had, in para 1.41 of their 69th Report on the Ministry of Education—National Archives of India, noted that Government had not been able to implement the recommendation made by the Committee on Archival Legislation in 1960 to amend the Antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947 to prevent migration and unauthorised export of private archives. Noting also the failure of the Government in having allowed the Amending Bill on the subject to lapse (it was introduced in Lok Sabha in 1965) on account of dissolution of the House in March, 1967, the Committee had expressed the hope that in pursuance of the assurance given to the Committee, Government would bring forward a comprehensive Amending Bill on the subject at least during the Budget Session in 1969.

2. In their reply Government have stated that they have already accepted in principle the recommendation to prevent the migration and unauthorised export of private archives and are making efforts to bring forward, as early as possible, a comprehensive Amending Bill on the subject.

3. The Committee note with regret that the Bill to amend Antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947 has not been introduced in Parliament so far in spite of the fact that the Committee in their original Report had expressed the hope that in pursuance of the assurance given to the Committee, Government would bring forward a comprehensive Amending Bill on the subject during the Budget Session in 1969. The Committee cannot over-emphasise the importance of bringing forward this piece of legislation at an early date as in the absence of it valuable records and materials, which are our cultural heritage and are of immense historical value, are being exported from the country. The Committee take a serious view of the vacillation on the part of Government and urge that at least during the ensuing Budget Session, Government should bring forward a comprehensive Amending Bill on the subject.

BUILDING

Recommendation (Serial Nos. 9-10, paras 2.18 & 2.19)

4. The Committee, in para 2.18 of their 69th Report on the Ministry of Education—National Archives of India, noted that Government had not been able to construct an Annexe to the present building of the National Archives which was mooted as far back as 1945. The Committee had felt that this delay had adversely affected the smooth and efficient working of the National Archives and its programme of accession and acquisition of non-current records of the Government of India and had also resulted in increase in the estimated cost of construction from about Rs. 45 lakhs to about Rs. 70 lakhs then.

The Committee had, in para 2.19 of their Report, also noted that the Government had agreed to earmark a plot in Hauz Khas, which was at a distance of more than 10 miles from present building, for the construction of the Annexe. The Committee, stressing the need of concentrating the activities of the National Archives at one place, had suggested that the Annexe, as far as possible, be constructed adjacent to the present building where space was stated to be available for the purpose or, in case that was not possible, the feasibility of transferring all the activities of the National Archives from the present site of Hauz Khas might be considered.

5. Government in their reply to both these recommendations on 11-9-1969 had stated that they have noted them. However, in the additional information furnished to the Committee on 10-12-69, Ministry of Education have pointed out that the Ministry of Health, Family Planning, Works, Housing and Urban Development have been asked to take immediate decision on the question whether the Annexe of the National Archives of India is to be allowed to be constructed by the side of the present building of the National Archives of India or not. In the mean time, a provision of Rs. 10 lakhs has been suggested in the works budget in 1970-71.

6. From the reply of the Government the Committee note that they have not taken any decision so far about the construction of the Annexe to the National Archives or shifting it to Hauz Khas, while at the time of factual verification of the original Report in December, 1968, the Committee were given to understand that the Annexe was likely to be constructed adjacent to the present building. The Committee are constrained to note that the proposal for construction of additional accommodation for the National Archives of India, which has been pending since 1945 is still hanging fire. The Committee would like to reiterate that the question of constructing Annexe to the present building should be accorded priority and the work started without losing any further time.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 1, Para 1.12)

The Committee consider it unfortunate that it has not been possible for the Government to enact necessary archival legislation so far even though the Committee on Archival legislation which was specifically appointed to advise the Government regarding the desirability or otherwise of making a law applicable to the archives of India, had recommended its imperative need as far back as 1960. The Committee see little justification for the inordinate delay of eight years in this regard. It is normally expected of the Government that the recommendations of the Committees of experts, appointed by them, which are accepted, should be implemented without delay otherwise the very purpose of appointing expert committees is defeated. The Committee is unhappy at the vacillation in this matter, and would urge Government to bring forward necessary archival legislation at an early date.

Reply of Government

Government have noted the recommendation and will make every effort to expedite Archival Legislation covering Central Government's Records. Government regret the delay that has occurred in this matter. Apart from examining the legal, constitutional, financial, administrative implications, Government have been considering the question of providing in advance concurrent facilities to meet the obligations which the proposed Archival Legislation will impose on the National Archives of India.

The examination of the Report and consultation with various authorities concerned have now reached an advanced stage and it is hoped that a final decision would be taken soon.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No.8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 3, Para 1.25)

The Committee note that out of 25 recommendations made by the Indian Historical Records Commission at its 37th Session held in Delhi in October, 1966, 22 were accepted and 3 were rejected by Government. Out of these, only 12 recommendations have actually been implemented so far. Again out of the 16 recommendations made at the 38th Session held at Calcutta in November, 1967 only 2 have been accepted and implemented. In the circumstances, the Committee are constrained to conclude that the recommendations of the Indian Historical Records Commission are not given due importance. The Committee suggest that until such time as the Indian Archival Council is constituted a small Standing Committee from amongst the members of the Indian Historical Records Commission be appointed to periodically review the action taken by Government on the recommen-

dations of the Indian Historical Records Commission and suggest ways and means for their speedy implementation.

Reply of Government

The implementation of the recommendation of the Indian Historical Records Commission made at the 37th and the 38th Session rests with several agencies. In so far as the Government of India are concerned, decisions have already been taken on all the recommendations made at these two Sessions and those which have been accepted are in the process of implementation. Since implementation of these recommendations would depend on several considerations, administrative and financial, it is not possible to set any time limit for their implementation. The position about implementation of the recommendations of the Indian Historical Records Commission made at any particular session is placed before them and reviewed by the Commission at its succeeding sessions. It is always open to I.H.R.C. to set up a Sub-Committee or standing Committee for this or any other purpose. However, a suggestion is being made to the I.H.R.C. to set up a Sub Committee for the purpose.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S.O.M.No.8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 5, Para 1.36)

The Committee agree with the Secretary of the Ministry of Education that only one meeting of the National Committee of Archivists just before the meeting of the Indian Historical Records Commission is sufficient for its purposes and that there is no need to have two meetings of this Committee in a year.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M.No.8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 7, Para 2.12)

The Committee are not at all convinced by the reasons advanced by Government for postponing decision on the recommendations of the Committee on Archival Legislation (1960) relating to the reorganisation of the set up of the National Archives of India and the system or recruitment of staff there. That no decision has been taken on this important matter during the last 8 years for one reason or the other, indicates that the Government have not shown a sense of urgency in improving the working of the National Archives. The efficiency of an organisation depends largely on its staff and structural soundness. The Committee consider that most of the defects in the working of the National Archives of India, which have been referred to in the various paragraphs of this Report and have been admitted by the Ministry of Education, are partly due to its organisational and staffing weaknesses. The Committee cannot too strongly emphasise the need for an early decision in this matter. They hope that with the improvement in the organisational set-up of the National Archives and the staffing pattern, its working will be put on a proper footing.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI (2) dated 11-9-1969]

Additional Information

The Director of Archives was asked to send comments/proposals for the reorganisation of the set up of N.A.I. in the light of the recommendations of the Tara Chand Committee bringing out in detail financial, administrative and other implications of the proposed reorganisation. The new Director of Archives who joined the Department on 27-9-1969 asked for time to send his proposals/comments. These proposals/comments have now been received in this Ministry recently and are under examination.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. F.8-9/69-CAI (2) dt. 10-12-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 8; Para 2.13)

The Committee are surprised to note that while on the one hand, the National Archives of India is complaining about the shortage of staff to carry on its various activities, the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance which went into the working of this organisation thoroughly, found a large number of staff surplus to its requirements. The Committee are therefore unable to agree with the statement that "the proposed heavy reduction in the staff recommended by the Staff Inspection Unit would have adverse effect on the present tempo of activity, let alone implementing the major schemes in a big way". On the other hand this indicates that while the existing staff in the National Archives is not being gainfully utilised, a number of its activities are not being properly attended to. The Committee urge that effective measure be immediately taken in this direction by properly distributing the work among the existing staff and by fixing norms of work for them.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI (2) dated 11-9-1969.]

Additional Information

Instructions were issued to the Director of Archives to properly distribute the work among the existing staff the National Archives of India and to fix norms of work for them, keeping in view the recommendations of the Estimates Committee. The new Director of Archives, who joined the Department on 27-9-1969, has informed this Ministry that the administration and the Library Branches are generally adhering to the norms laid down by Government for these categories of staff. He has also indicated the norms of work laid down for the other branches of the National Archives of India. He is, however, of the view that there is considerable scope for revision and rationalisation of some of these norms. This was being looked into. However, the nature of work in some branches of the National Archives of India did not admit of the fixing of norms. e.g. the Research Laboratory, Research Personnel engaged in searching the records and the repairs undertaken in the workshop. The system of

progress reports at various levels is therefore being proposed for such items of work? The Director has assured that he would spare no effort to obtain the full and reasonable output of work from everybody in the Department.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI (2) dt. 10-12-1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 11; Para 2.27)

The Committee note that the number of trainees who completed their training in Archives-Keeping and were awarded Diplomas was only 6 in 1964-65, 8 in 1965-66 and 7 in 1966-67. The Committee consider this number to be very low and feel that the facilities of training offered by the National Archives are not being fully utilised. They would like the National Archives to make the training more purposeful and attractive so that more and more trainees come forward to take advantage of these facilities. Committee also suggest that the desirability of inviting Lecturers of eminence from Universities and other institutions to give lectures to the trainees may be considered.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969]

Additional Information

The number of persons trained in Archives-Keeping at the National Archives of India is no doubt small but it has to be noted that the course is being given the widest publicity, advertisements are issued both in English and regional languages and special circulars are being sent to all the Departments of India, State Governments, State Archival Repositories and learned institutions. The Government of India awards two stipends of the value of Rs. 150/- per month each to non-sponsored candidates and a special allowance of Rs. 75/- per month to six candidates sponsored by State Governments or Central Government Departments outside Delhi. So far, everyone who is considered fit to take up the training and every deputed candidate whose services are likely to be utilised in the field of Archives Management, has been accepted.

With a view to increasing demand of trained Archivists, the Department of Administrative Reforms has been requested to re-consider the decision taken earlier by Government on the recommendation of the Tara Chand Committee to the effect that departmental Records Offices should

be manned by capable and trained officials. The decision of the Department of Administrative Reforms is awaited.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2), dated 10-12-1969]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee hope that Government have considered and initiated action as regards inviting lecturers of eminence from universities and other institution to give lectures to the trainees.

Recommendation (Serial No. 13; Para 2.29)

The Committee suggest that refresher courses for the staff incharge of the record rooms of various Government offices and the archivists employed in the National Archives and State Archives should be arranged on a regular basis so as to enable these persons to preserve the records properly and scientifically according to the latest techniques.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 14; Para 2.37)

The Committee appreciate that the allocation of funds to the National Archives depends upon the availability of resources with the Government. The Committee are also aware of the difficult foreign exchange position in the country. They, however, feel concerned to note that many of the important items of work of the National Archives could not be taken up due to the paucity of funds at its disposal as indicated in para 2.31. The Committee suggest that adequate funds should be provided to the National Archives of India to enable it to discharge its basic functions.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969.]

Additional Information

The amount of foreign exchange released to meet the essential requirements of National Archives of India for imported materials and equip-

ments during 1968-69 and 1969-70 so far are much more than the amounts of foreign exchange released in the previous years. As and when proposals for release of foreign exchange are received from the National Archives of India the recommendations made by the Estimates Committee will be borne in mind and brought to the notice of the Ministry of Finance, so that adequate funds continue to be provided in future to the National Archives of India to enable it to discharge its basic functions.

[Ministry of Education & Y. S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2)
dated 10-12-1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 15; Para 2.38)

The Committee note the expansion programmes of the National Archives for the Fourth Five year Plan. They hope that it would be possible for the Planning Commission to allocate requisite funds for the purpose.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y. S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated
11-9-1969.]

Additional Information

Attention of the Planning Commission has been drawn recently to the recommendation of the Estimates Committee and they have been requested to substantially increase the allocation made for the development of National Archives of India in the Fourth Plan.

[Ministry of Education & Youth Services O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated
10-12-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 16; Para 2.41)

The Committee recommend that the Archives at Bhopal and Goa should be transferred to the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Goa, Daman and Diu respectively at an early date. They hope that after taking over the Regional Offices at Bhopal and Goa, it will be possible for the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Goa, Daman and Diu to pay due attention to the preservation conservation and maintenance of the archives at these two places.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y. S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated
11-9-1969.]

Additional Information

Orders for the transfer of Archives at Goa were issued and the transfer became effective from 1-4-1969. As regards the question of transfer

of Archives at Bhopal to the State Government, it is proposed to transfer the records of the Madhya Pradesh Government now located at the Regional Office of N.A.I. at Bhopal to the Madhya Pradesh Government as soon as the State Government has set up a Record Office. This recommendation has also been brought to the notice of the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Goa Administration for necessary action.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9 69-CAI(2) dated 10-12-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 17, Para 3.11)

The performance of the National Archives in the matter of acquisition of non-current records of Government departments which is its primary function has been poor. It is surprising that so far it has acquired the records of only about 20 out of more than 500 Central Offices. The Committee note that even the acquisition of records of these 20 Offices is far from complete and upto date. They regret that even after the Committee on Archival Legislation (1960) focussed attention on this problem and emphasised the need for immediate action in this regard, nothing concrete appears to have been done so far in the matter. According to Departments' own admission, there has been no large scale acquisition of official records in the National Archives during the last 20 years. That neither the concerned Ministry nor the National Archives took any effective measures to improve the position in this regard is regrettable. The Committee need hardly point out that if the problem of acquisition of Government records is not tackled speedily and in right earnest, it will become more and more difficult with the passage of time as the volume of records created by Governmental agencies is increasing tremendously year by year. Moreover the non-acquisition of records by National Archives which have along since become due for retirement exposes these records to the risk of damage by insects and vagaries of temperature and humidity in Government record rooms where adequate facilities for their scientific preservation may not be available. It also results in depriving the research scholars from using them for their research work. The Committee would therefore stress the imperative need of taking effective measures for the acquisition of the Government to draw up a phased programme so as to ensure systematic acquisition of these records by the National Archives. In this connection, the Committee suggest that the National Archives should acquire those records on a priority basis which have been thrown open to the public but have not been transferred to the National Archives so far.

As regards paucity of space, the Committee have already recommended the construction of additional accommodation for the National Archives in paras 2.18 and 2.19 of the Report.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O. M. No. 8-9 69-CAI(2) dt. 10-9-69]

Additional Information

In order to step up the Records Management Programme of the National Archives of India, additional staff has recently been sanctioned. Provision for further addition to the staff has been included in the budget for the next year. Increased allocation in the Fourth Five Year Plan have also been asked for implementation of the Records Management and Appraisal Programme of National Archives of India.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 10-12-1969]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee hope that Government would appreciate the magnitude of the task and take concerted action to complete the job in the earliest possible time.

Recommendation (Serial No. 18, Para 3.12)

The Committee recommended that till such time as the National Archives is in a position to acquire all the records of the Central Government offices, it should be ensured by the Ministries concerned that the permanent records in possession of the various offices are properly housed and well preserved. The feasibility of creating record facilities in the Ministries concerned for the interim upkeep and maintenance of the records may also be examined with a view to keep them in a sound state of preservation pending their retirement to the National Archives.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969]

Additional Information

The recommendations of the Estimates Committee on this subject have already been brought to the notice of all the Ministries, Departments etc. for necessary action, so that the permanent records in their possession are properly housed, preserved and maintained till they retire to the National Archives of India.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 10-12-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 19, Para 3.20)

The Committee are constrained to observe that no progress has been made so far in the programme of Record Management, Record Survey and Appraisal. They regret to note that even though the Government accepted the recommendation made by the Committee on Archival Legislation (1960) in this regard, they have failed to take effective measures to implement the same. The small token unit which was set up in 1962 for this work, has not been able to achieve anything, as it has been busy with the appraisal of records already in the custody of the National Archives. It is unfortunate that neither the Government sanctioned the staff demanded by the National Archives for this purpose from time to time, nor the National

Archives itself tried to find requisite staff for this work from out of their existing strength which was subsequently found to be under-utilised by the Staff Inspection Unit and out of which 54 posts were declared surplus. It appears that both the Ministry and the National Archives did not attach to this matter the importance that it deserved. Considering the voluminous records requiring appraisal which are estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 240 linear miles, it is necessary that a phased programme for the completion of this work over a period of time should be prepared as early as possible and necessary staff deployed for the purpose. The Committee need hardly point out that appraisal of records in time is essential for proper record management as it serves a twofold purpose it helps in the weeding of unwanted papers resulting in saving of space on the one hand, and in the proper preservation of permanent valuable records on the other. The Committee urge that no further time should be lost in drawing up a phased programme for appraisal as suggested above and implementing the same in right earnest.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969.]

Additional Information

The National Archives of India has already drawn up a phased programme for appraisal of records. During the Fourth Plan period, the National Archives of India proposes to take up appraisal of post 1860 files transferred to the National Archives of India without appraisal in past years estimated at 18 lakhs of files. This work is expected to take 10 years to complete. It also proposes to take up appraisal of records with the main Ministries and Departments only as required under Rule 114 of the Manual of the Office Procedure. Much of the progress on this would depend upon the outcome of the enquiry constituted by the Department of Administrative Reforms and the steps taken by the several Government offices to improve the system of Records Management. The National Archives has also drawn up a programme for the maintenance of liaison with all the Central Government offices with a view to co-ordinate Archival activities better and offer necessary guidance and assistance. These programmes will require additional staff and a total estimated expenditure of Rs. 24.82 lakhs during the Fourth Plan period. The Planning Commission has been requested to agree to this increased allocation.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. F. 8-9/69. CAI(2)dated 10-12-1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 20; Para 3.28)

The Committee are glad that Government have accepted in principle the recommendations made by the Committee on Archival Legislation regarding private archives and historical manuscripts in private custody. They, however, feel that the steps so far taken in the matter of their salvage and preservation are inadequate keeping in view their urgency and im-

portance. This is evident from the fact that a meagre amount of Rs. 5,000 was sanctioned for the purchase of private archives during 1965-66. While no provision whatsoever was made during 1966-67 and 1967-68. The Committee apprehend that in case appropriate and timely measures are not taken to stop the dispersal and destruction of private papers of historical importance and to ensure their continued preservation, these may be dismembered or lost altogether with the result that the vacuum in our history caused by this loss will be difficult to fill. The Committee agree with the observation made by the Committee on Archival Legislation that 'the safety of such collections lies primarily in the realisation of their historical value by the owners, awareness of their existence by the users and public assistance for their maintenance and preservation'. They, therefore, commend to the Government the suggestion that a climate of archive awareness be created in the country by means of publicity campaign through the All India Radio and other mass media. They would further suggest that a larger financial provision should be made for the purchase of private archives. In this connection the Committee would however like to emphasize that as far as possible only such private archives may be acquired as may throw light on important phases of modern Indian history or as may help to fill in the gaps in the existing holdings of the National Archives.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69. CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969.]

Additional Information

The question as to how for a climate of Archives awareness can be created in the country by means of publicity campaign through the All India Radio and other mass media has been taken up with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting & Communications.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 10-12-1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 22; Para 3.42)

The Committee are of the view that the Regional Records Survey Committees can be very useful in locating and salvaging records and materials of historical value in private possession. They would be of great help in rousing and sustaining public interest and also for eliciting public cooperation, which is very essential for the success of the scheme. The Committee would therefore stress the need of organising such Committees in those States where they have not been established so far.

The Committee further consider that the slow progress in the Compilation of the National Register as well as the salvaging of the private records indicates that the Regional Records Survey Committees are not functioning in an effective manner even where they have been established. The Committee would like the Government to streamline the working of the Regional Records Survey Committees, so as to make them an effective instrument in the implementation of programme of work entrusted to them and provide them with adequate financial support.

Reply of Government

Noted. The recommendation will also be brought to the notice of the State Governments with the request to set up the Regional Survey Committees where they do not exist and to make the functioning of these Committees more effective and to provide adequate funds for them, where they exist.

[Ministry of Education & Y. S. O. M. No. F. 8-9/69-CAI (2) dated 11-9-1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 23; Para : 3.50)

The Committee realise the importance of acquisition of micro film copies of records and documents of Indian interest available in foreign repositories and their utility to the research scholars. They commend the work done by the National Archives in this behalf inspite of the difficulty in the availability of foreign exchange for this purpose. They are surprised that no foreign exchange whatsoever was made available for microfilm copies during the last 3 years. In view of the difficult foreign exchange position of the country, the Committee would suggest that efforts should be made to acquire microfilm copies of materials of Indian interest from abroad on a gift or on an exchange basis. Apart from the help of the Indian Missions, it may be worthwhile to explore the possibilities of getting assistance from archival repositories as well as cultural and historical societies abroad in the matter. At the same time the Committee feel that it should be possible for Government to place some foreign exchange at the disposal of the National Archives for the purpose.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y. S. O. M. No. 8-9/769-CAI (2) dated 11-9-1969]

Additional Information

The attention of the Ministry of Finance has been drawn to this recommendation of the Estimates Committee so as to secure allotment of more foreign exchange. The matter is still under discussion with that Ministry.

[Ministry of Education & Y. S. O. M. No. 8-9/69-CAI (2) dated 10-12-1969]

Comments of the Committee

While appreciating the efforts being made to secure more foreign exchange for microfilm copies the Committee would like to stress that Government should also make efforts to acquire microfilm copies of materials of Indian interest from abroad on a gift or an exchange basis.

Recommendation (Serial No. 24; Para : 3.57)

The Committee consider that serious attention has not been paid by Government towards production of preservative and repair materials re-

quired by the National Archives indigenously. In view of the continuing difficulty of foreign exchange and the need to conserve it to the fullest extent possible, Government should endeavour to explore all avenues for the production of the repair materials in the country which are required not only by the National Archives but by other organisations as well. The Committee have no doubt that tissue paper and acetate foil which are at present being imported, can be produced indigenously which would meet the requirements not only of the National Archives but other similar organisations engaged in the preservation of records. The Committee urge that concerted efforts should be made to pursue the matter regarding the production of tissue paper by the Paper Research Institute, Poona and the acetate foil by the factory in Mysore. At the same time Director General Technical Development should also be approached to explore other sources for the production of these materials.

Reply of Government

Noted. The matter has been taken up with the Director-General Technical Development and Ministry of Industrial Development, Internal Trade and Company Affairs.

[Ministry of Education & Y. S. O. M. No. F 8-9/69-CAI (2) dated 11-9-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 25; Para: 3.67)

The Committee are glad to learn that the laboratory has been coordinating its activities with other institutions in the field and is sharing the results of its research with the concerned organisations. The Committee need hardly emphasise that such cooperation and coordination should not only be maintained but should be strengthened and placed on a proper footing.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y. S. O. M. No. 8-9/1969-CAI (2) dated 11-9-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 26; Para : 3.68)

The Committee note that the Laboratory is not equipped properly for conducting research. They consider that a well-equipped and well-staffed Laboratory is an important adjunct for an Organisation engaged in the preservation of records. The Committee urge that the requirements of the Laboratory may be assessed objectively and necessary steps taken to remove the present deficiencies.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y. S. O. M. No. 8-9/69-CAI (2) dated 11-9-1969]

Additional Information

Government have accepted in principle this recommendation and suggestions have been invited from the Director of Archives for augmenting the existing laboratory facilities. Proposals for expansion of the laboratory and augmentation of the existing facilities have necessarily to wait for the construction of the new Annexure which will provide adequate accommodation for it.

[Ministry of Education & Y. S. O. M. No. 8-9/69, CAI (2) dated 10-12-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 27; Para 4.15)

The Committee are glad that following the liberalisation of rules governing access to records since Independence there has been a considerable increase in the number of scholars visiting the National Archives for consulting the original sources available there. They also note that enquiries from scholars and institutions are also showing a steady increase, which is an index of greater awareness of the records and their value.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-99/69 CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 28, Para 4.16)

The Committee are concerned to note that there is considerable variation in the rules governing admittance to the Archive among the several Ministries. They feel that the rules governing access to records should be uniform in all the Ministries. The Committee recommend that the Ministry of Education would make efforts to liberalise rules in consultation with the various record relating agencies and evolve an integrated policy in this behalf.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11.9.69]

Additional Information

In order to liberalise Research Rules and to evolve an integrated policy in this behalf, the Ministry of Education took up the matter in May, 1968 with the Central Ministries and Department requesting them to fall in line with the practice laid down by the Ministry of Home Affairs in this behalf, namely:

- (i) All records of an earlier date than 1946 should be thrown open to research without any restriction.

- (ii) All records of post-1945 date similarly be made available for study as soon as they become 30 years old.
- (iii) The Director of Archives should be authorised to make all records of the open period in his custody available for study to any person at his discretion subject only to such restrictions as may be necessary in the interest of their proper maintenance and safety.
- (iv) He should likewise be authorised to furnish any person extracts from, and transcripts (in any form, photographic, microfilm, or typed, copied) of the open records in his custody).

With the exception of a few Ministries who have either not given any comments so far or have not accepted the proposals in full, the Ministries and Departments have, by and large agreed, to fall in line with the decision of the Ministry of Home Affairs in this matter. It is hoped that the remaining Ministries/Departments will also agree to fall in line in the near future.-

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69. CAI(2). dated 10-12-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 29, Para 4.17)

The Committee also suggest that periodical circulars and press notes should be issued by the National Archives about the fresh acquisitions and related matters so that interested persons and institutions could take advantage therefrom.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y. S. O. M. No. 8-9/59. CAI (2) dated 11-9-69]

Additional Information

The recommendation has been accepted and instructions have been issued to the National Archives to implement it.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 10-12-69]

Recommendation (Serial No. 30, Para 4.22)

The Committee cannot over-emphasise the importance of security and safe custody of old records, which depict India's cultural and historical heritage and are so essential for the posterity. Any loss of these records will be a national loss. The Committee would, therefore, like the Government to ensure that the security and fire-fighting arrangements at the National Archives are quite upto the mark.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969]

Additional Information

The Director of Archives has been requested to send concrete proposals giving financial and other implications in order to implement this recommendation. The suggestions and proposals from the new Director of Archives are awaited.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 10-12-69]

Recommendation (Serial No. 31, Para 4.27)

The Committee are aware of the paucity of accommodation with the National Archives. With the increase in the number of research scholars using the National Archives, the problem has naturally worsened. The Committee hope that adequate research room facilities will be provided in the proposed Annexe of the National Archives. The Committee also expect the National Archives to ensure that the micro-film readers are in good working condition and are sufficient in number to meet the demands of the research scholars.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. F. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-69]

Additional Information

The hope expressed by the Estimates Committee that adequate research facilities will be provided in the proposed Annexe of the National Archives of India is confirmed.

The National Archives of India has already got 10 Microfilm-readers out of which 5 were purchased only in 1957. 3 more micro film-readers have been sanctioned for the Department.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. F. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 10-12-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 32, Para. 5.12)

The Committee are concerned to note that so far check-lists, summary inventories and systematic inventories have been prepared only in respect of 58 per cent of the records in the custody of the National Archives. They are surprised to learn that it will take as many as 75 years to complete the work in respect of the remaining records with the present staff. All this is indicative of the casual manner in which this important work is being handled by the National Archives. The Committee also regret to note that even where the lists have been prepared, it has not been possible to publish them due to printing difficulties. The Committee feel that high priority should have been given to the preparation of lists, etc. from the very beginning especially because they serve two useful functions—firstly they are of the immense use to the research scholars and secondly they enable the National Archives to exercise effective control over records and detect the missing records. The Committee need hardly point out that if immediate steps are not taken to complete this work speedily, it may later become a gigantic task as voluminous records are being created every day. It is a pity that the Director of National Archives was not able to carry conviction with the staff Inspection Unit about his requirement of additional staff for this and for other project. The Committee cannot too strongly stress upon the Government the need to look into the task of preparation of lists, etc. by the National Archives and to devise suitable measures to ensure that the backlog of arrears in this regard is cleared within a specified period. They would like that this job is accorded a high priority.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. F. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11.9.69]

Additional Information

In order to complete this work within a period of 10 years, proposals for additional staff are under consideration. Additional plan allocation for this purpose has also been asked for. Proposals for making necessary budget provision for this purpose for the next year have also been made.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 10-12-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 33, Para. 5.15)

The Committee are unhappy at the slow progress made in the preparation of the "Comprehensive Guide to all Public Records upto 1947" for which a decision was taken in 1958. Very little work appears to have been done in this regard after the publication of Part I (Introductory) in 1959. This is yet another example where the National Archives has not planned its work properly. The Committee are not convinced that the

completion of Part II & III volumes would take 10 years or 5 years if additional staff was provided for this work. The stock plea of shortage of staff is untenable in the face of the findings of the Staff Inspection Unit as regards the man-power of the Department. The Committee would like the Government to examine this matter and ensure that the remaining volumes i.e. Part II and III are completed as early as possible.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. F. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969]

Additional Information

The Director of Archives, who was asked to implement the recommendations of the Committee has desired that one additional post of Archivist should be sanctioned for this work exclusively. This is under consideration.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 10-12-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 34, Para. 5.20)

The Committee are glad that the microfilm unit of the National Archives is meeting the demands of documentary transcripts from the scholars and other institutions and is thus rendering a useful service. They, however note that the micro-film unit is facing difficulties in getting adequate supply of raw-film owing to difficult foreign exchange position of the country. The Committee feel that it should be possible for the Hindustan Photo Films Limited to undertake the manufacture of raw micro-films. They, therefore, suggest that the question of their production at the Hindustan Photo Films Limited may be taken up by the Ministry of Education in right earnest with the Ministry of Industrial Development and Company Affairs.

Reply of Government

The matter was taken up with the Ministry of Industrial Development, Internal Trade and Company Affairs. That Ministry have informed that "Micro films" is not included in the materials covered by the present collaboration agreement. However, Hindustan Photo Films Ltd. have advised that they have taken due note of the Estimates Committee's suggestions regarding production of micro-films at Hindustan Photo Films and they are taking steps to study the market for this material as well as technical feasibility of producing it in the plant at Ootacamund so that it may be included in their production programme in due course.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. F. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 355, Para. 5.28)

The Committee note that the National Archives of India is engaged in the publication of 'Selections from the Educational Records of the Government of India.' Judging from details of the volumes to be published, it is evident that this work is outside the purview of the normal activities of National Archives. The Committee do not feel convinced by reasons put forward by the Ministry of Education for not withdrawing this work from the National Archives of India as recommended by the committee on Archival Legislation (1960). The Committee feel that the National Archives of India, whose working even in its own sphere of activities leaves much to be desired, should not be burdened with any extraneous work. They would like the Government to reconsider whether it will not be in the interest of National Archives to withdraw this work from it and entrust the same to some other appropriate agency of the Government of India.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been accepted in principle.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-69]

Recommendation (Serial No. 37, Para. 5.44)

The Committee are not satisfied with the present system of evaluation of the working of the National Archives. They would like the Government to consider the feasibility of inviting two or three Members of the Indian Historical Records Commission, resident at Delhi, at least once a year, to go into the working of the National Archives and submit their report to Government suggesting ways and means of improving it, so as to ensure that the results are commensurate with the expenditure involved.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969]

Additional Information

This recommendation has been accepted in principle by the Government and its details are being worked out in consultation with the Director of Archives.

[[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 10-12-69.]

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 2; Para 1.24)

The Committee are not convinced by the reasons advanced by Government for not accepting the recommendations of the Committee on Archival Legislation regarding the replacement of the existing advisory bodies like the Indian Historical Records Commission etc. by the Indian Archival Council. In the opinion of the Committee an institution like the Indian Historical Records Commission need not be continued simply because it has a long tradition and its abolition would be resented by the historians. The real test of an institution is its utility and the fulfilment of its objectives. The Committee consider that the Indian Historical Records Commission, as constituted at present, is an unwieldy body and does not appear to be a suitable organisation for discharging the functions proposed for the Indian Archival Council recommended by the Committee on Archival Legislation. The very fact that it did not meet for over 5 years *i.e.*, between February, 1961 and October, 1966 seems to indicate that it has not been very effective. The Committee would therefore like the Government to reconsider the recommendation made by the Committee on Archival Legislation for the setting up of the Indian Archival Council.

Reply of Government

The recommendation of the Committee on Archival Legislation in this regard was not accepted for the reasons mentioned below:—

- (a) The functions which were proposed to be given and which could possibly be given to the Archival Council could be performed by the Indian Historical Records Commission as reconstituted and the National Committee of Archivists (which consists of Director of Archives, Government of India and the Director of Archives of States, having Central Records Offices) put together.
- (b) Archives is a State subject. The Tara Chand Committee had recommended that in order that there may be one single law affecting both the Centre and the State Archives, the present Constitution of India should be amended to include Archives in the Concurrent List. They had also suggested that pending the amendment, the Archival Council may be set up through a Presidential Order. The State Governments were generally against any step to whittle down their power in respect of State Archives. They had, however, no objection to the constitution of a purely advisory council under a Presidential Order. In these circumstances, the Indian Archival Council, if set up, would have been a purely advisory body lacking the status which statutory council would enjoy.

- (c) The proposed Archival Council would have an overwhelming majority of official Members whereas the I.H.R.C. had a majority of non-official members hailing from universities, learned institutions and persons from public life.
- (d) The proposed Archival Council would only add to the number of Committees and bodies already set up by this Ministry and would involve avoidable expenditure of the order of over Rs. 2 lakhs per annum.

The Government have re-examined this matter and feel that the original decisions may not be reversed.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969]

Comments of the Committee

While accepting the explanation of the Government regarding their inability to constitute the Indian Archival Council, the Committee would like to stress the need of activating the Indian Historical Records Commission and for holding its meeting frequently.

Recommendation (Serial No. 4, Para 1.35)

The Committee note that only 3 members attended the 22nd meeting of the National Committee of Archivists. They would like the Government to take appropriate steps to make the National Committee of Archivists a useful and effective forum so that the archivists could take advantage of the ideas and experiences exchanged during its meetings in dealing with their day to day problems. The Committee have no doubt that with the establishment of the Indian Archival Council, the scope, functions and composition of this Committee would be redefined.

Reply of Government

Since the recommendation of the Committee on Archival Legislation for setting up an Indian Archival Council has not been agreed to, the question of redefining the scope and functions of the National Committee of Archivists would not seem to arise. The Committee is meeting regularly and is fulfilling useful role.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. F. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 12, Para 2.28)

The Committee would like Government to consider the desirability of including a course in Archives-Keeping in the curriculum of various Universities in India in consultation with the University Grants Commission.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted and has been taken up with the University Grants Commission.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969]

Additional Information

The University Grants Commission has recommended that the Course in Archives- Keeping should be profitably conducted by the National Archives of India, New Delhi. If, however, a University was able to make use of the facilities in this regard available in the National Archives or other similar centres, possibilities could be explored for providing such a course at a University. The Commission has also recommended that book preservation which was an important aspect of Archives-Keeping be included as an integral part of B. Library Science Course.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 10-12-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 21, Para 3.37)

The Committee consider that the progress made in the implementation of the National Register Programme is unsatisfactory.

The efforts made so far are hardly commensurate with the magnitude of the problem. In order to make the project a success, the first requirement is that a careful study should be made of the country's archival wealth in private possession. Without the knowledge of the location, it is not possible to take any measures for their protection and preservation. They regret to note that the States are not evincing sufficient interest in the implementation of the Programme as is evident from the meagre expenditure incurred by some of them during the year 1966-67. The Committee urge that immediate corrective steps be taken to implement the National Register Programme speedily by giving more financial assistance to the States who should be prevailed upon to accelerate the tempo of survey work. They would also suggest that the Central Cell in the National Archives should be strengthened in the interest of better coordination and quick and efficient disposal of work.

Reply of Government

Since 1959 the Central Government have been giving grants-in-aid to the State Governments to meet the expenditure incurred by States on the survey of Archives for the compilation of National Register of Historical documents in private custody. The ceiling for the grant was fixed at Rs. 3,000/- per year. Of these State Governments, six have set up Regional Survey Committees for this purpose and five are doing the work through their Departments of Archives. The National Archives of India has also set up a Central Cell for the coordination of the activities of State Governments in this direction and for scrutinising of the information received from State Governments and thereafter compiling a National Register of Record of Historical documents in private custody.

As a result of the decisions taken at the National Development Council to reduce the number of centrally sponsored schemes to the minimum, the Scheme of the National Register of Records which was continuing as a Centrally sponsored scheme of Ministry of Education, has been shifted

to the State Sector in the Fourth Five-Year Plan. In the pursuance of this decision, the State Governments were requested in February, 1969, to include in their State Plans a provision for development of Archives in the States (including the scheme of the National Register of Records). Some of the State Governments like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Mysore, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have included a provision for the development of State Archives in their Fourth Five Year Plan. But it is not known whether provision for the National Register of Records has been included in their respective State Plans or not.

The scheme for strengthening the Central Cell in the National Archives of India for coordination of work relating to the programme of National Register of Records has been included in the development plans of National Archives during the Fourth Five Year Plan. This provision includes expenditure on printing and publication of the National Register.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. F. 8-9/69-CAI (2) dated 11-9-1969]

Recommendation (Serial No. 36, Para 5.40)

The Committee are concerned to note that the Library of the National Archives of India has not been functioning properly for the last so many years. They are distressed to learn that out of 1,90,000 books available with the Library, it has been possible so far to prepare lists of one lakh books only. The Committee need hardly point out that in the absence of up-to-date lists of books, it is not possible to detect whether any books are missing or not as the books cannot be physically verified. In the circumstances, the Committee cannot but deprecate the inaction on the part of government for not taking any steps to streamline the working of the Library even when 'Audit' stressed eight years back that the books must be physically verified. The Committee need hardly stress that the Library must be maintained properly if at all it is necessary for the National Archives to have such a huge library. They would, therefore, like the Government to take immediate steps to assess the needs of the Library for staff and equipment on a realistic basis so that all the books in the possession of the Library are properly listed and accessioned. They would also stress the desirability of physically verifying the books at least once in every five years.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. F.8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 11-9-1969]

Additional Information

The question of creation of additional staff for the Library to clear arrears was taken up first with the SIU of Ministry of Finance and has recently been taken up with the Work Study Unit of this Ministry.

The Report of the Work Study Unit is awaited. In the Meantime, necessary provision for this purpose has been included in the budget for 1970-71. The Director of Archives has been asked to submit proposals for purchase of the essential Library equipment needed by the Archives Library.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S. O.M. No. F. 8-9/69. CAI (2)
dated 10-12-69]

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 6; Para 1.41)

The Committee note that Government have not as yet been able to implement the recommendation made by the Committee on Archival Legislation in 1960 to amend the Antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947 to prevent migration and unauthorised export of private archives. It is regrettable that an Amending Bill which took the Government about 4½ years to introduce in the Lok Sabha in 1965 lapsed on account of the dissolution of the House in March, 1967. Two more years have elapsed since then and yet Government are not in a position to bring in an amending Bill comprehensive enough to suit the purpose in view. The Committee would like it to be realised that in the absence of the Amendment Bill, valuable records and materials which are our cultural heritage and are of immense historical value, are being exported from the country. They hope that in pursuance of the assurance given to the Committee the Government would bring forward a comprehensive Amendment Bill on the subject at least during the current Budget Session.

Reply of Government

Government have already accepted in principle the recommendation to prevent migration and unauthorised export of private archives which have been in existence for not less than 75 years. Government are making efforts to bring forward as early as possible a comprehensive Amendment Bill on the subject.

[Ministry of Education & Y.S., O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2), dated 11-9-1969]

Comment of the Committee

Please see Paras 1—3 of the Report (Chapter 1).

Recommendation (Serial No. 9; Para 2.18)

The Committee note that the proposal to construct an Annexe to the present building of the National Archives was mooted as far back as 1945, but its construction has not even been started. The Committee feel that the delay in this matter has adversely affected the efficient and smooth functioning of the National Archives. This indecision on the part of Government has, apart from resulting in increase in the estimated cost of construction from about Rs. 45 lakhs in 1958 to about Rs. 70 lakhs now, has brought about a lull in the programme of accession and acquisition of the noncurrent records of the Government of India by the National Archives. The Committee would urge that construction of the Annexe should be started and completed without further loss of time and with a sense of urgency.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Y. S., O. M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2), dated 11-9-1969.]

Additional Information

The Ministry of Health, Family Planning, Works, Housing and Urban Development has been asked to take an immediate decision on the question whether the Annexe of the National Archives of India is to be allowed to be constructed by the side of the present building of the N.A.I. or not. For this purpose the Specialist Advisory Group for the Central Vista and Central Secretariat Complex wanted to have the blocking and design of the Annexe. The Department of Works, Housing & Urban Development who were requested to expedite it have promised to complete this work within a couple of months. That Ministry is constantly being reminded to expedite this work. In the meantime a provision of Rs. 10 lakhs has been suggested in the works budget for 1970-71.

[Ministry of Education & Y. S., O. M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2) dated 10-12-1969.]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 4—6 of the report (Chapter I).

Recommendation (Serial No. 10 Para 2.19)

The Committee note that Government have now agreed to earmark a plot in Hauz Khas, which is at a distance of more than 10 miles from the present building, for the construction of the Annexe. They need hardly point out that the construction of the Annexe at Hauz Khas would create administrative difficulties for the institution and would be inconvenient to the scholars as well as researchers. The splitting of the activities of the National Archives at two places, so far distant from one another would also be uneconomical. The Committee, therefore suggest that the Annexe should, as far as possible, be constructed adjacent to the present building where space is stated to be available for the purpose. In case it is not found practicable to do so, then the feasibility of transferring all the activities of the National Archives from the present site to the Hauz Khas may be considered. In either case, the Committee would like to stress that all the activities of the National Archives should be concentrated at one place.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted.

[Ministry of Education & Youth Services, O.M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2), dated 11.9.1969.]

Additional Information

A decision on this recommendation of the Committee can be taken only after a decision has been taken by the Specialist Advisory Group for Central Secretariat Complex and Central Vista regarding the location of the Annexe of the National Archives of India.

[Ministry of Education Y. S., O. M. No. 8-9/69-CAI(2), dated 10.12.1969.]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 4—6 of the report (Chapter I).

NEW DELHI;
26th February, 1970.
7th Phalguna 1891. (Saka).

M. THIRUMALA RAO,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

APPENDIX

(*Vide* Introduction)

Analysis of the action taken by the Government on The recommendations contained in the Sixty-ninth Report of the Estimates Committee

(*Fourth Lok Sabha*)

I. Total number of recommendations	37
II. Recommendations which have been accepted by Government (<i>vide</i> recommendations at S. Nos. 1, 3, 5, 11, 13--20, 22--35 and 37)	
Number	29
Percentage to total	78
III. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply (<i>vide</i> recommendations at S. Nos. 2, 4, 12, 21 and 36)	
Number	5
Percentage to total	14
IV. Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee (<i>vide</i> recommendations at S. Nos. 6, 9 and 10)	
Number	3
Percentage to total	8

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