

**SEVENTY-FOURTH REPORT**  
**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**  
**(1986-87)**

(EIGHTH LOK SABHA)

**EXCESSIVE PROCUREMENT OF CAMERAS---**  
**INADEQUATE UTILISATION**

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**



सत्यमेव जयते

*Presented in Lok Sabha on 9 April, 1987*

*Laid in Rajya Sabha on 15 April, 1987*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

*April, 1987/Chaitra, 1909 (Saka)*

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## PART II\*

Minutes of the Sitzings of the Public Accounts Committee held on :

- (i) 17 November, 1986 (AN)
- (ii) 19 March, 1987 (AN).

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\*Not printed. One cyclostyled copy laid on the Table of the House and 5 copies placed in Parliament Library.

**COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE  
(1986-87)**

**CHAIRMAN**

**Shri E. Ayyapu Reddy**

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3. Shri Amal Datta
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18. Shri Ghulam Rasool Kar
19. Shri A. K. Antony
20. Shri Nirmal Chatterjee
21. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy
22. Shri Virendra Verma

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri K. H. Chhaya—*Joint Secretary.*
2. Shri S. M. Mehta—*Senior Financial Committee Officer.*

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, as authorised by the Committee do present on their behalf this 74th Report of the Committee on paragraph 26 of the Report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1983-84, Union Government (Civil) on Excessive Procurement of Cameras—Inadequate Utilisation.

2. The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1983-84, Union Government (Civil) was laid on the Table of the House on 16 May, 1985.

3. The Committee in this Report have noted that the prestigious assignment of photo coverage of the international sports event of a magnitude and importance unparalleled in the history of the nation both in black and white and in colour of the IX Asiad, 1982 at 18 different venues at Delhi, Bombay and Jaipur for Press publicity and historical records was entrusted in May 1980 to the Photo Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting with the expectation that the quality of work should conform to the highest international standards. Such a high level of efficiency expected of the Division necessitated meticulous planning. The Photo Division was not able to rise to the occasion.

4. The Committee have observed that the Photo Division who are supposed to be the premier institution, ought to have anticipated the inadequacy of photographic personnel and the calibre required and it ought to have planned for the required personnel even at the time when it placed orders for sophisticated foreign cameras, had no idea of the type of personnel required for the occasion.

5. Another consequence of this failure is that out of 90 cameras imported by the Photo Division on the eve of Asiad 82 only 27 cameras could really be put to use. Thus, 63 imported cameras costing Rs. 14.82 lakhs could not be put to use for the purpose for which these had been imported. The photographers engaged for the job preferred to make use of their own cameras. The number of cameras to be imported could have been reduced to the minimum, had the right type of photographers been engaged in the beginning.

6. The Committee have recommended that Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Photo Division should have adequate personnel who are thoroughly trained and equipped to handle the most sophisticated cameras available and expertise in photography in all fields. The Government must also consider the possibilities of developing an indigenous manufacture of cameras and other photographic equipment.

7. The Public Accocunts Committee examined this Paragraph at their sitting held on 17 November, 1986. The Committee considered and finalised this Report at their sitting held on 19 March, 1987. Minutes of the sittings form Part II of the Report.

8. For reference facility and convenience, observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in a statement form in Appendix to the Report.

9. The Committee place on record their appreciation of the assistance rendered to them in the examination of this paragraph by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

10. The Committee would also like to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the cooperation extended by them in giving information to the Committee.

NEW DELHI;

April 3, 1987

Chaitra 13, 1909 (Saka)

E. AYYAPU REDDY,

Chairman,

Public Accounts Committee.

## REPORT

### EXCESSIVE PROCUREMENT OF CAMERAS—INADEQUATE UTILISATION

#### *Audit Paragraph*

The Photo Division of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was entrusted with Photo coverage of 'Asiad 1982' and Rs. 22.25 lakhs were sanctioned by the Ministry of Education and Culture and placed at the disposal of the Photo Division to meet the expenditure on salaries, equipments, consumable stores, etc.

As the condition of the then existing 171 cameras was not considered upto the mark for use for the Asian Games, the Division procured 90 cameras (60 from its funds and 30 out of Asian Games funds) at a cost of Rs. 21.49 lakhs. Only 27 cameras out of 90 purchased on the eve of Asian Games, were used during the Asian Games. Consequently, 63 cameras costing Rs. 14.82 lakhs imported by the Division could not be used for the purpose for which they were purchased.

The Division stated (December 1984) that 27 cameras out of 90 purchased on the eve of Asian Games had been distributed among its photographers for their daily use. It was also stated that out of 236 cameras (includes 90 cameras purchased for Asiad) available with the Division on 31st October, 1984, 85 cameras had been issued to the officers, 24 had been loaned to different Government departments, 82 were lying unused and 45 were lying unserviceable. Ministry stated that the surplus cameras would be utilised for future expansion of its activities.

[Para 26 of Report of the C&AG of India for the year 1983-84,  
Union Government (Civil)]

2. Explaining the background of the procurement of cameras vis-a-vis non-availability of trained photographers with requisite expertise for coverage of Asian Games, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have stated in a note to the Committee as follows:—

"Photo Division was required to provide selective photo coverage, both in black and white and colour, of the 9th

Asiad, 82 at 18 different venues at Delhi, Bombay and Jaipur. The arrivals/departures of the visiting delegates and other ceremonial functions were also to be covered. It was the expert opinion of the Division that a minimum of 50 photographers would be required to handle the job. The Division already had 16 photographers, (including two Deputy Directors) in position. The minimum additional requirement of photographers was, therefore, 34. However, in order to ensure that there is sufficient staff available to meet an unforeseen demand, 38 additional posts of photographers were created to meet the overall requirements.

Each photographer is normally to be provided with at least two sets of cameras with the combination of 4 to 6 lenses for effective coverage of sports events. The Division had in stock 18 numbers of 35 mm still cameras. For 54 photographers, to cover and each photographer with two cameras sets, import, of additional 90 numbers of 35 mm still cameras with a combination of lenses was considered necessary.

It was expected that additional posts created for coverage of IX Asiad 1982 could be filled up by utilising the services of qualified staff working in other Central Government/ State Government Departments on deputation basis. The professional satisfaction of covering such a prestigious International sports event was considered sufficient inducement to the prospective deputationists for offering their services to the Division for a limited period of 3 months for which the posts were created. However, the efforts made to fill up these posts on deputation basis did not yield any positive result.

The Division accordingly issued an open advertisement inviting applications from open market from suitable candidates for appointment to the additional 38 posts of photographers created in connection with Asiad. A number of applications were received but before any action could be taken to invite them for interview, the Special Organising Committee took a view in the meeting held on 5th September, 1982 with the officers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting that the Photo Division did not possess expertise to provide international standard sports coverage of such a prestigious event. It was

because of this last minute change made at the behest of the Special Organising Committee that outside professional photographers having experience of covering sports should be engaged that no action was taken to fill up the additional posts of photographers created for coverage of Asiad."

3. Reacting to the Audit Para on the subject, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have in a note stated as under:

"There is, of course, no denying the fact that a sizeable number of cameras imported for the photo coverage of Asiad 1982, as planned and approved by Government, were not ultimately used for the occasion. The reasons for this are not perhaps too far to seek. It will be appreciated that Asiad 1982 was in itself an international sports event of a magnitude and importance unparalleled in the history of the nation. The demands of such an event placed on a professional institution like Photo Division can be well imagined. The complete photo coverage both in black and white and in colour of this international event had been entrusted to the Photo Division with the expectations that the quality of work should necessarily conform to the highest standards. Such a high level of efficiency expected of the Division necessitated meticulous planning which had to be done within a short time available. Utmost care had also to be taken that nothing is left to chance and all possible sources of weakness/defects in the planning are detected in time and eliminated.

It was in these circumstances that the import of 90 cameras for the photo coverage of Asiad-82 was considered irreducibly minimum. The manner, these cameras would be actually used, had also been worked out after a considerable thought was given to the issue. These plans would have well materialised in actuality but for the fact that despite all efforts made by the Government to recruit personnel for short periods of time to man these cameras, the personnel of required expertise were not forthcoming. Such an eventuality could indeed not be anticipated. It was, therefore, decided specifically almost at the last minute to utilise the services of outside professional photographers of repute on daily-wage basis at



an expenditure which could not exceed the budget provisions earmarked for recruitment of personnel envisaged earlier in addition to Photo Officers of Photo Division.

The deal for the import of 90 cameras was initiated two years before the start of the games i.e. sometimes in 1980. As a lot of formalities were involved in the import, the physical procurement of the cameras was obtained in April 1982 whereas the decision for engaging professional photographers of repute was taken by the Government in the Month of September 1982, in view of the changed circumstances. The decision for engagement of outside photographers was taken by the Government at high level.

Photographers of Photo Division normally use 3 cameras separately for black and white films (colour negative films and colour transparency films for covering an event. Thus, as on 7-4-1986 out of 90 cameras, 37 cameras are in use in the Division. With a view to ensuring that the cameras available with the Division do not remain unutilized, the Division sent a circular to the publicity departments of State/Central Governments requesting them to intimate their requirements of the same to the Photo Division. The response has been encouraging. The Division has already effected the transfer on payment basis of as many as 29 cameras to the different departments. Requests for transfer of as many as 16 cameras are under active consideration of the Division. Once these cameras are transferred, the Division will be left with 8 cameras out of 90 cameras procured for Asiad, 82. It would be the endeavour of the Division to arrange transfer of these cameras also on payment basis as quickly as possible.

In addition to the 90 cameras procured for Asiad, 1982, there are 145 cameras in the stock of the Division as on 7-4-1986. Their present deployment is as under:

(i) Number of cameras actually in use of present . . . . .	50
(ii) Number of cameras approved for condemnation . . . . .	31
(iii) Number of cameras sparingly in use due to outdated technology . . . . .	33
(iv) Number of cameras issued to other departments on loan basis . . . . .	22
(v) In stock . . . . .	9

4. As regards the position of 9 cameras which were in stock of Photo Division on 7-4-1986, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in a note have explained:

"These cameras are kept for being issued to photographic Officers to be appointed against 8 vacant posts in the Division. These can also be used for replacement of defective cameras as and when such eventualities may arise. The Division shall not procure any cameras for implementation of its approved VII Plan Schemes unless all the surplus cameras available with it, have been utilised."

5. In regard to the position of disposal of remaining cameras left with Photo Division out of cameras procured for Asiad, the Ministry in their note dated 13 March, 1987 have intimated that "all the remaining cameras have been disposed of by the Photo Division."

6. The Committee enquired why timely action was not taken for disposal of surplus cameras imported for Asiad when the matter was brought to their notice in October 1984, the Ministry in reply dated the 10th December, 1986 have conceded that "there was an initial delay in disposal of surplus cameras. However, subsequently vigorous efforts were made as a result of which majority of surplus cameras have been disposed of by now."

7. The Committee enquired the basis of decision for import of 90 cameras, under whose order that figure 90 was arrived at and whether any expert was consulted before placing orders for these cameras. To this, the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting stated:

"Photo Division was entrusted a certain job by the SOC at a point of time.

Once a job was entrusted to the Photo Division by the Special Organising Committee, about the events that were to be covered, in what number, they the SOC made out the charts which brought them to a figure of the import of 90 cameras.

It was a joint decision of the Ministry and the Division."

8. Clarifying the position, the Secretary, of the Ministry stated that "at that point of time the Special Organising Committee was entrusted with great authority. In this particular case, I would

not say anything because I was not there but I presume that the approval of the SOC was there."

9. Explaining the justification for import of Cameras for sports coverage, the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting stated:

"If the point is why the cameras which are manufactured indigenously were not bought, I don't think that any camera of that standard was being manufactured indigenously at all. Even otherwise sports coverage is absolutely different from any other type of coverage. There we require cameras of very high speed so that even a very very swift movement can be taken ... To take the still photograph of a basket ball player at the time when he jumps up and puts the ball into the basket, it would require very high speed movement."

10. On the question why and how it was decided to import this particular brand of cameras, the Secretary stated:

"The Photo Division had been using very high quality imported cameras from Japan even before. At the time when the requirement was projected, they went through all the technical literature available for various cameras and came to the conclusion that pentax would be ideal so far as sports coverage was concerned."

11. In reply to another query during evidence the Secretary, Information & Broadcasting stated, that the cameras were imported not entirely because the existing cameras available with the Photo Division were not upto the mark. They were imported primarily because more number of cameras were required.

12. When pointed out that if the Photo Division had known that the people from outside were not adequate, then the requirement of cameras issued have come down substantially the Secretary observed:

"We did not know that."

13. When asked why this fundamental question was not thought of, the Secretary reported:

"All I can say is that the Director of the Photo Division thought that his Division would be able to deliver the goods; that is why he undertook the responsibility. At a

particular point of time only he was told that the customers, if I may use the term, who wanted services fulfilled did not have the requisite confidence in the Photo Division. Therefore, he wanted photographers to be employed from outside."

14. The Committee enquired why the Ministry could not anticipate the non-availability of trained photographers with the required expertise in their Photo Division and what were the difficulties in recruiting personnel having required expertise from outside for short periods at the time when the action to import the cameras was initiated in 1980. The Ministry in a note dated 10th July, 1986 have informed the Committee that the prestigious assignment of covering the Asian Games for Press publicity and historical records was assigned to the Photo Division by the Special Organising Committee (SOC), Asian Games. As intimated by the SOC, the total number of games to be played during the ASIAD was 22 which were further subdivided according to age group, sex, etc. The duration of each event varied between two to ten days. These events were scheduled to take place in 16 different stadia of Delhi, Bombay and Jaipur at different times, from early morning till late evening. Other than these events, Photo Division was required to cover the various cultural programmes at Games Villages and arrival and departure of the VIPs|Teams|Delegates at Palam Airport.

Moreover, the SOC desired to have coverage in black and white and in colour also. It means that for covering one event, two Photographic Officers were necessary.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has stated that keeping in view the number of events, it was considered that a complement of 15 Photographic Officers in the Photo Division was quite inadequate for the coverages. As such, at that time, it was proposed to recruit 38 Photographic Officers and 16 Technical Assistants for covering the Games, for a short period of 3 months, along with 91 supporting darkroom and administrative staff. These posts were created in the Photo Division for 3 to 6 months period.

The Ministry has stated further that for quite sometime earlier, before the creation of these posts, various Central and State Publicity Information Departments were requested to nominate their experienced Photographic Officers for covering the Asian Games vide Photo Division's circular No. A12024|1|81-Est. dated 21-8-1981. Photographic Officers were offered to opt either the pay scale of the sanctioned post (Rs. 650-1200) or draw pay and allowances admissi-

ble to officers on deputation as per Government rules. But there was no response. This was perhaps due to the short period of deputation and the concerned Departments were busy in their own assignments. The newly created posts of Photographic Officers and Technical Assistants were widely advertised in the newspaper. The Division received about 800 applications. But on scrutiny, it was found that none of the candidates were fulfilling the requisite qualifications, etc. prescribed for the posts. On further consideration, it was found that it would also not be advisable to hand over the costly cameras to the persons taken from the market without proper verification of character and antecedents, etc. Obtaining security equivalent to the cost of equipment to be handed over to them (about Rs. 50,000/-) was also a problem before the Division.

15. As noted earlier, the Ministry have stated that the posts of Photographic Officers and technical assistants were widely advertised in the newspapers. The Photo Division received about 800 applications. But on scrutiny it was found that none of the candidates fulfilled the requisite qualifications prescribed for the post.

16. When asked how it was that none of the 800 applicants fulfilled the requisite qualifications, the Ministry have clarified in a note dated 13 March, 1987, as follows:—

“It was inadvertently indicated to the Audit that none of the applicants possessed the requisite qualifications. This lapse is regretted. The factual position is that out of 800 applications received by Photo Division for appointment to the newly created posts of Photo Officers and Technical Assistants, 34 applications were from the open market who possessed the minimum qualifications for the post of Photographic Officer. Thirty-one applicants who were already in Government service had also applied for the post. Secretary (I & B) also clarified this position during the course of his evidence before the Hon'ble Committee on 17-11-1986. Since it was finally decided, as per the direction of Special Organising Committee, to engage professional Photographers from outside, no further action was taken to assess the suitability or otherwise of the applicants through interview. etc.

17. The following qualifications were prescribed for the photographers sought to be recruited to cover Asiad 1982 Games:—

**Essential Qualifications**

(1) Good general education.

- (2) About 3 years experience in various branches of photography including experience in press photography in news or publicity organisation of standing with good theoretical and practical knowledge of dark room work.

*Desirable*

- (1) Diploma in photography
- (2) Experience of write ups of photographic features.
- (3) Age below 40 years.

However, in the advertisement released in the press, the upper age limit was not indicated.

18. When asked if the Photo Division were not aware of that Photographers with requisite qualifications were not available in the market, the Ministry has stated that some candidates with the requisite qualifications were available amongst the applicants. But due to the last minute directive of the Special Organising Committee that outside professional photographers may be employed to assist the officers of the Division in coverage of Asiad, no action was taken to fill up the additional posts of Photographic Officers created for the Asiad.

19. Speaking on the man-power and equipment requirement, the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting stated:

"...the whole thing was worked out in consultation with the Special Organising Committee (SOC) of ASIAD. All the events were to be covered and the photographers were required to be at the vantage points. They came to the conclusion after due consideration that they would need to import 90 more cameras, as record was to be made both in black and white and in colour. They had 18 bodies available with them. These were excellent cameras and were capable of being used. The other cameras available were not suitable for sports coverage. Therefore, they had to make a choice as to which camera they would import. Personally, I think, they should have gone in for NIKON, but after going through the drill, they found that Pentax was a little less expensive.

They worked out the staff requirement and on that basis they came to the conclusion that they would need to recruit 38 more people. The scale fixed was Rs. 650—1200. They also wrote letters to various State Governments and other

Ministries for sending people on deputation. They did not have much response. Then some time in June 1982 they invited applications in the open market for recruitment. They got 800 applications, but found only about 30 people who were qualified for the job. About the time they came to the Government for some relaxation in qualifications, a meeting of SOC took place on 5th September, 1982."

20. In their subsequent note dated 13 March, 1987 the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have clarified the position as follows:

"The Ministry was making requisite preparations to fill up these posts as per the decisions already taken. As a part of this process, the screening of the applications was completed and the constitution of a Departmental Promotion Committee was underway. Of course, it was slightly behind schedule but at the same time, it would have been possible to put in position the selected candidates well in time to ensure that they got themselves familiarised with the assignments to be given to them. The selection process was discontinued in the wake of the decision of the SOC. Further, since these were short-term vacancies, appointments could have been made on an *ad-hoc* basis which needed no clearance from UPSC."

21. In this context, the Secretary, Information and Broadcasting read out to the Committee, the following extract from the Minutes of the SOC meeting of the 5th September, 1982:

"The meeting then reviewed the still photographers. It was pointed out that Photo Division do not have expert sport photographers. The SOC needed international quality sport photographers for its official publications, consequently, with its present competence in sport photographs. Photo Division would not be up to the mark in this particular specialised field. However, it was decided to contact the best professional sport photographers in India and try to induce them to work along with Photo Division. However, if their terms were not acceptable, the Ministry of I & B would suggest to them to work with the SOC directly and also be paid by the SOC. It was emphasised that in sport photographs, the stress should be on showing swift motions, or skill or dramatic facial expression and stress. There should be more use of tele-

photo lenses. The meeting was of the view that the mere hiring of private photographers to supplement Photo Division could not be a guarantee that quality sport photographs would be produced. The I & B Minister agreed that he would contact top sports photographers irrespective of their teams both in India and abroad. Those who would not be absorbed by the Ministry could be requisitioned by the SOC...."

22. The Secretary noted in reply to audit query that so far as the decision regarding the number of cameras and the type of cameras to be imported was a joint decision of the Ministry and the Division in close association of SOC, "at a later time SOC felt that the Photo Division did not have that kind of an expertise in photography, which would enable them to bring about photos of international standards. Then they decided that the coverage would be done by other professional photographers outside that Division. Those photographers had their own cameras they were, however, not interested in using the cameras imported by Photo Division. There were in all 19 such private photographers."

23. Giving details of requirement of Photo Officers, the Secretary of the Ministry stated :

"They went with the premise that they would need a total cache of 108 cameras and they would utilise 54 people in all, utilising two cameras each. They had 18 cameras. They imported 90. The total was 108. As the rate of two bodies per person, it came to 54. They had already 16 of them. Thus it came down to 38."

24. Explaining why 38 posts of photographers had been advertised when ultimately only 19 were employed, the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, stated:

"If I may submit, actually in the very beginning when it was projected that they required photographs of each and every aspect of the Asian Games, on that basis he had worked out what talent was available with us, and we had only 16 photographers. That was not sufficient to cover the whole Asian Games. So many disciplines were there, men, women, singles, doubles, & many were happening simultaneously. Whatever was given to us, on that basis we worked out and we thought that 38 additional photographers would be required. We had sixteen already making a total 54 and 54 multiplied by two will be



108 assigning two cameras to each. So, we imported 90 cameras. Earlier, we were asked to cover each and everything. Later on, we were told that only a selective coverage of the semi-finals and finals should be done."

25. When asked as to who took decision on the Rs. 650 Scale to be offered to the Photographers to be employed from outside, the Secretary stated that decision was taken by the Photo Division who went by their own Scales on which their own staff photographers were working.

26. Regarding the qualification prescribed, the source and procedure adopted for engagement of private photographers the Ministry have stated as follows:

"The professional photographers employed by the Division for the coverage have a long standing reputation in the field. This was considered sufficient qualification.

The Division in consultation with Press Information Bureau identified reputed Photographers all over the country. PIB is the authority that accords accreditation to photo-journalists who are stationed in Delhi. PIB is also involved in releasing photographs to the Press for use in the newspapers. After the exercise of the Division was completed in consultation with PIB, Director, Photo Division, himself personally interviewed the interested and available photographers amongst them. The PIB, before granting accreditation requires the applicant to produce clippings of his/her dispatches circulator or produced by the media organisation on whose behalf accreditation is sought. This provides a fairly reasonable assessment of the capabilities of the concerned camera-man.

The private photographers engaged for coverage of Asiad were paid their remuneration on day to day basis."

27. In reply to a question whether the private Photographers actually used their cameras for covering the Asian Games or they used cameras imported for the coverage of ASIAD, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in their written note have confirmed that private photographers did not use the equipment of the Photo Division.

28 The following fees was fixed for Photographers on contract

basis in the Photo Division of this Ministry for the photo coverage of Asian Games provided they used their own camera equipment:—

(1) Top Notch Photographer (Delhi based)	. . .	Rs. 1,000.00	per day
(2) Top Notch Photographer (Out-stationed)	. . .	Rs. 1,500.00	„ „
(3) Free-lance Photographer (Delhi based)	. . .	Rs. 400.00	„ „
(4) Free-lance Photographer (Out-stationed)	. . .	Rs. 500.00	„ „

29. The Committee were informed that an expenditure of Rs. 1,41,400/- had been incurred on engagement of private photographers for coverage of ASIAD. On the other hand, the Government would have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 1,82,500/- on recruitment of Photographers and Technical Assistants, excluding supporting staff of 91 persons. In addition an expenditure of Rs. 5397 had been incurred on the release of advertisement in question. However, four newspapers had not yet preferred their bills.

30. As regards the quality of coverage of Asian Games, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have stated in a note as under:

“As the SOC has since been wound up, it is not possible to obtain any formal confirmation about the qualitative aspects of the photographic coverage. However, these photographs were extensively used by the Press Information Bureau for release to the Press. The SOC also brought out a calendar and an official report in which these photographs were used. These photographs were also used for exhibition purposes. Taking these things into account, it can be inferred that the photographs were of a high quality.”

31. The prestigious assignment of photo coverage of the international sports event of a magnitude and importance unparalleled in the history of the nation both in black and white and in colour of the IX Asiad, 1982 at 18 different venues at Delhi, Bombay and Jaipur for Press publicity and historical records was entrusted in May, 1980 to the Photo Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting with the expectation that the quality of work would conform to the highest international standards. Such a high level of efficiency expected of the Division necessitated meticulous planning. The Committee regret to observe that the Photo Division was not able to rise to the occasion.

32. After taking into consideration the availability of manpower and equipment, the Photo Division estimated that they would need

54 photographers and 108 cameras. As sixteen photographers and 18 cameras were available with the Division they decided to recruit 38 additional Photographic Officers and to import 90 cameras. Proposals to this effect were brought forward in December, 1980. A feeble effort was made in August, 1981 when the Photo Division requested the Central/State Publicity|Information Departments to nominate their experienced Photographic Officers for the occasion for a period of three months on deputation basis. This was soon given up as it failed to secure a positive response. It was then sought to recruit the photographers from the open market through advertisement. However, neither the qualification prescribed nor the remuneration offered could attract the competent photographic personnel. It was then only that Special Organising Committee (SOC) realised that the Photo Division did not possess expertise to provide coverage required for the ASIAD. A fresh attempt was made and 19 Top Notch Photographers were engaged on contractual basis. It is, therefore, surprising that the Photo Division who are supposed to be the premier institution, ought to have anticipated the inadequacy of photographic personnel and the calibre required and it ought to have planned for the required personnel even at the time when it placed orders for sophisticated foreign cameras, had no idea of the type of personnel required for the occasion. It is clear in retrospect that with a little more careful planning and by offering a more attractive remuneration by way of a package as was done at the last moment it should have been possible to engage the right kind of sport photographers and in adequate number in the very beginning. Had this been done it would have been possible to cover each and every event adequately as was originally planned. On account of this failure only selected events of the semi-finals and finals of Asiad '82 were covered.

33. Another consequence of this failure and with which the Audit objection is more directly related is that out of 90 cameras imported by the Photo Division on the eve of Asiad '82 only 27 cameras could really be put to use. Thus, 63 imported cameras costing Rs. 14.82 lakhs could not be put to use for the purpose for which these had been imported. The photographers engaged for the job preferred to make use of their own cameras. The number of cameras to be imported could have been reduced to the minimum had the right type of photographers been engaged in the beginning.

34. As regards the disposal of 90 imported cameras the Committee have been informed that as on 7 April, 1986 out of 90 cameras, 37 cameras are in use in the Photo Division, and as many as 29 have

been transferred to other departments on payment. Requests for transfer of remaining cameras which were stated to have been received from other departments were being examined. Though the disposal of these cameras has been considerably delayed, the Committee are now informed that all the remaining cameras have since been disposed of by the Photo Division.

35. For the future, the Committee would like the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Photo Division to have adequate personnel who are thoroughly trained and equipped to handle the most sophisticated cameras available and expertise in photography in all fields. Incidentally, the Government must also consider the possibility of developing indigenous manufacture of cameras and other photographic equipment.

NEW DELHI;  
April 3, 1987  
Chaitra 13, 1909 (S)

E. AYYAPU REDDY,  
*Chairman,*  
*Public Accounts Committee.*

## APPENDIX

### Statement of Observations/Recommendations

Sl. No.	Para No.	Ministry Concerned	Observation/Recommendation
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1	2	3	4
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1.	31	Information and Broadcasting	
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The prestigious assignment of photo coverage of the international sports event of a magnitude and importance unparalleled in the history of the nation both in black and white and in colour of the IX Asiad, 1982 at 18 different venues at Delhi, Bombay and Jaipur for Press publicity and historical records was entrusted in May, 1980 to the Photo Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting with the expectation that the quality of work would conform to the highest international standards. Such a high level of efficiency expected of the Division necessitated meticulous planning. The Committee regret to observe that the Photo Division was not able to rise to the occasion.

32. After taking into consideration the availability of manpower and equipment, the Photo Division estimated that they would need 54 photographers and 108 cameras. As sixteen photographers and 18 cameras were available with the Division they decided to recruit 38 additional Photographic Officers and to import 90 cameras. Proposals to this effect were sought forward in December, 1980. A feeble effort was made in August 1981, when the Photo Division requested the Central|State Publicity|Information Departments to nominate their experienced Photographic Officers for the occasion for a period of three months on deputation basis. This was soon given up as it failed to secure a positive response. It was then sought to recruit the photographers from the open market through advertisement. However, neither the qualification prescribed nor the remuneration offered could attract the competent photographic personnel. It was then only that Special Organising Committee (SOC) realised that the Photo Division did not possess expertise to provide coverage required for the ASIAD. A fresh attempt was made and 19 Top Notch Photographers were engaged on contractual basis. It is, therefore, surprising that the Photo Division who are supposed to be the premier institution, ought to have anticipated the inadequacy of photographic personnel and the calibre required and it ought to have planned for the required personnel even at the time when it placed orders for sophisticated foreign cameras, had no idea of the type of personnel required for the occasion. It is clear in retrospect that with a little more careful planning and by offering a more attractive remuneration by way of a package as was done at the last moment it

should have been possible to engage the right kind of sport photographers and in adequate number in the very beginning. Had this been done it would have been possible to cover each and every event adequately as was originally planned. On account of this failure only selected events of the semi-finals and finals of Asiad '82 were covered.

3. Information and  
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Another consequence of this failure and with which the Audit objection is more directly related is that out of 90 cameras imported by the Photo Division on the eve of Asiad '82 only 27 cameras could really be put to use. Thus, 63 imported cameras costing Rs. 14.82 lakhs could not be put to use for the purpose for which these had been imported. The photographers engaged for the job preferred to make use of their own cameras. The number of cameras to be imported could have been reduced to the minimum had the right type of photographers been engaged in the beginning.

4. —do—

As regards the disposal of 90 imported cameras the Committee have been informed that as on 7 April, 1986 out of 90 cameras, 37 cameras are in use in the Photo Division, and as many as 29 have been transferred to other departments on payment. Requests for transfer of remaining cameras which were stated to have been received from other departments were being examined. Though the disposal of these cameras has been considerably delayed, the Committee are now

informed that all the remaining cameras have since been disposed of by the Photo Division.

35 —do—

5. For the future, the Committee would like the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Photo Division to have adequate personnel who are thoroughly trained and equipped to handle the most sophisticated cameras available and expertise in photography in all fields. Incidentally, the Government must also consider the possibility of developing indigenous manufacture of cameras and other photographic equipment.