

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2021-2022)**

77

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

SEVENTY SEVENTH REPORT

[Action-taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in the Twenty-Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS), Lucknow]

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 16.03.2022)



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

March, 2022/ Phalguna, 1943(Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2021-2022)

Shri Ritesh Pandey - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

2. Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq
3. Shri Margani Bharat
4. Dr. A. Chella Kumar
5. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
6. Shri Chowdhury Mohan Jatua
7. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
8. Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe
9. Shri Raja Amareshwara Naik
10. Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal
11. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
12. Shri T.N. Prathapan
13. Shri S. Ramalingam
14. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
15. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Suman Arora - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Munish Kumar Rewari - Additional Director
3. Smt. Manjinder Pubbi - Under Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Seventy Seventh Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee in the Twenty-Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS), Lucknow.

2. The Twenty-Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 23.09.2020. The Ministry of Civil Aviation furnished their replies on 24.12.2020 indicating action-taken on the observations/ recommendations contained in the Twenty-Sixth Report. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 20 December, 2021.

3. The Committee place on record their appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

4. The Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters at the end of the Report.

NEW DELHI
08 February, 2022
19 Magha, 1943 (Saka)

Ritesh Pandey
Chairperson
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

REPORT

This Report of the Committee deals with the Action--Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in their Twenty-Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Commission of Railway Safety(CRS), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, which was presented to Lok Sabha on 23.09.2020.

2. The Action-Taken Notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the recommendations/observations contained in the aforesaid report. Accordingly, the statement showing the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Twenty-Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) are given in Appendix.

3. The Committee in their Twenty-Sixth Report had pointed out that it is desirable that a suitable provision is incorporated in the parent Act to lay the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts together, within nine months of closure of the financial year. In their reply in this regard, the Ministry stated that there are no provisions for laying of the separate Audited Accounts of the Commission under the stipulated provisions of the Railway Act, 1989 and the Metro Railways (O&M) Act, 2002 and that the audited account reports of the commission are laid along with the audited account reports of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. As annual budget of the Commission is to the tune of Rs. 15 Cr (out of which Rs. 13 Cr are only for salary) only which is a very meager amount for having a separate audit. Hence, it is done with the audit of MoCA accounts under which budget to the Commission is allocated. The Committee recommend again that a suitable provision is incorporated in the parent Act to lay the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts together, within nine months of closure of the financial year.

4. The Committee in their Twenty-Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) had pointed out the failure of the Ministry of Civil Aviation in timely laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Organisation since the year 2013-2014 and recommended that the documents of the CRS, Lucknow should be laid within the stipulated time in future.

5. The Committee appreciate that the Government has accepted all the recommendations of the Committee made in the said report and has also taken steps for their implementation. The Annual Reports of the CRS, Lucknow for the years 2013-2014 to 2015-2016 were laid with delays ranging from 01 to 25 months and for the year 2016-2017 were laid on the Table of the House almost within stipulated time period i.e. with the delay of 3 days. The Committee also note that the documents for the years 2017-18 and 2018-2019 which were required to be laid on the Table of the House within nine months from the closure of the respective financial years were laid on 25.07.2019 and 11.02.2021 with delays of 06 months 25 days and 13 months 11 days, respectively. The Ministry reduced the delay in laying of the documents for the year 2019-20 which were laid on 25.03.2021 with the delay of 02 months 25 days. The Committee expect that the Ministry and the CRS, Lucknow shall continue to make concerted efforts to ensure timely laying of the documents of the CRS, Lucknow, in future.

NEW DELHI
20 December, 2021
29 Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

Ritesh Pandey
Chairperson
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

APPENDIX-I
(Vide Para 2 of the Report)

STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATION/CONCLUSION CONTAINED IN THIS TWENTY SIXTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Commission of Railway Safety(CRS), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

(Recommendation Serial No. 12)

The Committee were apprised that the reasons for the delay in the laying of Annual Report of the Commission of Railway Safety, Lucknow for the year 2012-13 to 2014-15 were mainly due to delay in the compilation of the Annual Report of the Commission of Railway Safety, due to completion of procedural formalities, viz., the Report analyzes and comments on the working and functioning of the Indian Railways, the views / comments of Ministry of Railways were to be sought and incorporated in some Chapters of the Report. The Committee further note that inter-ministerial correspondence and reconciliation becomes inescapable. The stipulated time for submitting the Final Accident Inquiry Report is six month from the date of the accident, some of which gets even further delayed due to certain constraints like police cases, legal issues, court cases etc. After the Accident reports are finalised the same is forwarded to the Ministry of Railway for their comments and Action Taken Report which takes some time. Further, the Accident occurred in a particular financial year is to be reflected in the Annual Report of that financial year, hence the delay. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Commission of Railway Safety, Lucknow needs to evolve an effective monitoring mechanism to overcome the procedural delay of laying of the documents.

Reply of the Government

Commission is grateful to the Committee for recognising the various issues faced by the Commission in preparing Annual Report. It is further submitted that compilation of some of the chapters is solely depend on data from Railways i.e. response on accident inquiry reports. Issue becomes more complicated as only serious accidents, which are mere 8-10% of Railway accidents, are inquired by the Commissioners and balance 85%-90% accidents are analysed by the Railway administration at appropriate level. Railways seldom submit its inquiry report (90% cases) to the Commissioners. Further, Railways never give any feedback regarding the recommendations made in their enquiry report. Therefore, status of recommendations accepted/rejected is not made available to Commission. Railway are normally very evasive in submitting their reply regarding the Action Taken Report on the recommendations made by the Commission in its report. Invariably, Commission has to depute its officers to the Railway Board to impress upon them to submit the Action Taken Note on these recommendations. A number of inter-ministerial meetings has been held to solve this problem in past but did not result in any commensurate benefit as far as Commission is concerned.

This issue gets more aggravated as there are large number of vacancy in the Commission which are perpetual in nature against the sanctioned strength of more than 180 staff and hardly 60% posts are being operated. With that much vacancy it becomes very difficult to repeatedly send official to Railway Board and request the competent authority to give their Feedback on recommendations and details about

accidents inquired by them. The Railway Ministry gives least cognizance to our concern. Such attitude of Railways (like unilateral changes in rules/Regulations/Specification, delayed/no response regarding accident recommendations, non-committal attitude regarding non-serious accident information etc.) is reflected in the various reports of parliamentary standing committee of Transport, Culture and Tourism attached to Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Above are the main reasons for the delay in submitting Annual Reports in time inspite of making our best efforts. However, we assure the Committee that sincere efforts are being taking to overcome these difficulties by us. One major step taken in this direction is to shift CCRS headquarter to Delhi from Lucknow. This will greatly help in better coordination from Railway Board in getting information needed for Annual Report. Further, Secretary, Civil Aviation has also written D.O. letters to Chairman Railway Board for streamlining the flow of information and giving updates on recommendations made by the Commission.

We assure the Committee that all our efforts will be made in future to submit the reports. Further, if there is any delay due to circumstances beyond our control then the reasons for the delay shall also be intimated.

(Ministry of Civil Aviation O.M. No. H-11021/01/2018-RS Dated 24.12.2020)

(Recommendation Serial No. 13)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Commission of Railway Safety, Lucknow have not adhered to the provisions of Section 10 of the Railway Act, 1989 and Section 12, of the Metro Railways (O&M) Act, 2002. The Committee note that the Annual Report for the year 2012-13 was laid on the Table of the House on 03.08.2015 with delay of 19 months. The Committee also note that after the evidence of the Ministry of Civil Aviation held on 27th December, 2016, the Annual Reports of the Commission of Railway Safety, Lucknow for the years from 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 was laid on the Table on 09th February, 2017 with the delay of about 25 months, 13 months and 01 months respectively. Further in the Annual Report of 2016-2017 was laid on the Table of the House on 04.01.2018, with the delay of 03 days and the Annual Report for the year 2017-2018 was laid on 25.07.2019 with delay of 07 months. However, the Annual Reports and Audited Account for the year 2018-19 have not been laid on the Table of the House yet.

Reply of the Government

As explained in para -12 above, submission of Annual Report of CRS for 2018-19 also got delayed due to the similar reasons. However, report has been finalized now and is being submitted to Lok/ Rajya Sabha Secretariat for laying it before both the Houses of Parliament during ensuing session.

(Ministry of Civil Aviation O.M. No. H-11021/01/2018-RS Dated 24.12.2020)

(Recommendation Serial No. 14)

The Committee was apprised that there is no specific provision in the Railway Safety, Lucknow regarding laying of the Audited Accounts on the table of the House. The Committee consider it desirable that a suitable provision is incorporated in the parent Act to lay the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts together, within nine months of the closure of the financial year.

Reply of the Government

As explained earlier that there are no provisions for laying of the separate Audited Accounts of the Commission under the stipulated provisions of the Railway Act, 1989 and the Metro Railways (O&M) Act, 2002 and the audited account reports of the commission are laid along with the audited account reports of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. As annual budget of Commission is in the tune of 15 Cr (out of which 13 Cr are only for salary) only which is a very meager amount for having a separate audit. Hence, it is done with the audit of MoCA accounts allocates budget to Commission.

(Ministry of Civil Aviation O.M. No. H-11021/01/2018-RS Dated 24.12.2020)

(Recommendation Serial No. 15)

The Committee also impress upon the Ministry that if due to unavoidable reasons, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Railway Safety, Lucknow, could not be laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated time; a statement explaining the reasons as to why the requisite documents could not be laid within the prescribed period should be laid on the Table of the House within 30 days or as soon as the House meets, whichever is later.

Reply of the Government

As explained above in reply of para 12, submission of report gets delayed inspite of the best efforts made by the Commission. We assure the committee that required steps are being taken to streamline the process for information flow from Railways to Commission and all out efforts; are being made to submit future reports on time. Further, as directed by Committee, if there is any delay then a statement explaining the reasons for the delay shall be submitted within the prescribed timeframe.

(Ministry of Civil Aviation O.M. No. H-11021/01/2018-RS Dated 24.12.2020)

**THE EXTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF
THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2021-2022)**

The Committee sat on Monday, 20th December, 2021 from 1500 hours to 1650 hours in Committee Room "C", Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Ritesh Pandey - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

2. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
3. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
4. Shri Raja Amareshwara Naik
5. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
6. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Suman Arora - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Munish Kumar Rewari - Additional Director
3. Smt. Manjinder Pubbi - Under Secretary

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2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the sitting and apprised them about the agenda.

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration, the following four draft Reports:-

Original Reports

- i. Delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), New Delhi; and
- ii. Delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Nalanda University, Nalanda.

Action-taken Reports

- iii. Action-taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee in their Twenty-Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh; and
- iv. Action-taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee in their Twenty-Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Ujala Society), Jammu.

4. After deliberations, the Committee adopted all the Reports mentioned above without modifications. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to present these Reports to the Parliament, on the basis of the factual verification of these Reports (*original Reports only*) received from the respective Ministries.

5. to 17. XX XX XX XX

The Committee then adjourned.