

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

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

81

EIGHTY-FIRST REPORT

[Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their Fifty-Seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Population Research Centre (PRC), Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur.]

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 04.04.2022)



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April 2022/ Chaitra 1944 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

LOK SABHA

(2021-2022)

Shri Ritesh Pandey

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Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Barq
3. Shri Margani Bharat
4. Dr. A. Chellakumar
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 Uttam Chand Bharadwaj - Additional Director
3. Smt. Rajni Bhagat - 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 Eighty-First Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee in the Fifty-Seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Population Research Centre (PRC), Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur.

2. The Fifty-Seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 15.12.2021. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) furnished their replies on 28.01.2022 indicating action-taken on the observations/ recommendations contained in the Fifty-Seventh Report. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 22.03.2022.

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
28th March, 2022
7 Chaitra, 1944 (Saka)

Ritesh Pandey
Chairperson
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table
Lok Sabha

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (2021-2022), LOK SABHA

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 (2021-2022) in its Fifty-Seventh Report (17th Lok Sabha) which, dealt with the matter of the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Population Research Centre (PRC) Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur under the administrative control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 15.12.2021.

2. The Committee had made five Observations/Recommendations in its Fifty-Seventh Report (17th Lok Sabha). The action-taken replies to all the five Observations/Recommendations of the said Report were received from the Government on 28th January, 2022. Accordingly, the reply showing the action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Fifty-Seventh Report (17th Lok Sabha) is given in **Appendix-I**.

3. **The Committee note that the Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Review Statement of the Population Research Centre (PRC), Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur for the year 2020-2021 were laid together on 03.12.2021, within the stipulated time. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by both the MoHFW and the PRC, Udaipur in adhering to the recommendations made by the Committee in its original Report. The Committee expect that the PRCs will adhere to the timelines given by the MoHFW and also, that the requisite documents of all the PRCs shall be laid on time, in future also, as has been assured by the MoHFW in its action-taken reply .**

New Delhi
22 March, 2022
1 Chaitra, 1944 (Saka)

Ritesh Pandey
Chairperson
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table
Lok Sabha

Reply Showing Action Taken on the Recommendations/ Observations Contained in the Fifty-Seventh Report of the Committee on Papers on the Table (Lok Sabha), Seventeenth Lok Sabha.

Population Research Centre (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur

Recommendation Serial No. 21

From the scrutiny of the Annual Reports and audited Accounts of the Population Research Centre (PRC), Udaipur for the years 2016-17 to 2019-20, the Committee observe that the requisite documents of the PRC, Udaipur, for these years have been laid by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare) with delays ranging from 02 months to 08 months (approximately) as against the stipulated dated of 31st December of the respective years(s).

The Committee take serious note of such recurrent delays in the last four years and recommend that the Ministry and the PRC, Udaipur, should take effective steps to control this recurring period of delay and also ensure that in future, the requisite documents of the PRC, Udaipur, are timely laid before the Parliament.

Reply of the Government

Necessary steps (such as regular meetings with PRC, Udaipur and instructing/guiding the Centre) are being taken by this Ministry. As a result Udaipur submitted the Annual Report for the year 2020-21 on time and same has been laid into the table of Parliament in the Winter Session of 2021-22. (03.12.2021).

Timely submission of Annual Reports will be ensured in future as well.

(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, O.M. No.H.11021/2/2021-Stats(PRC) dated 28th January, 2022)

Recommendation Serial No. 22

The Committee further observed that the PRC is a unique case, wherein, on the one hand, the funds are provided to these PRCs by the Centre through the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare) and on the other hand, the administrative control of these PRCs lies with the host universities concerned and the Ministry does not have much say in the functioning of these PRCs.

The Committee are of the opinion that in spite of this unique administrative set up, the Ministry should be more vigilant while releasing the grants for the next year to all the PRCs, to ensure that the requisite documents of the previous year have already been furnished to the Ministry in time.

Reply of the Government

As per the recommendations/ directions of the Committee, Ministry has ensured that Annual Accounts and Utilisation Certificates for the year 2020-21 for all PRCs have been furnished within time frame and the same stand settled. Annual Reports for 2020-21 have been laid in the winter session of Parliament 2021-22.

PRC, Udaipur has also submitted all the requisite documents related to Annual Accounts and Audited Accounts 2020-21 within time and same was laid in the Parliament within stipulated time. Further, Ministry will be extra cautious and will closely monitor these matters.

It is also brought to the notice, that for restructuring and re-energizing the PRCs, a high level Committee, with VC NITI Aayog as Chairman, has approved constitution of three Committee PRC Steering Committee for looking after the overall functioning of PRCs, PRC Scientific and Advisory Committee (PSAC) to review the progress of studies conducted by PRCs and to screen proposals and suggest topic and Programme Management Unit (PMU) for continuous monitoring of research studies conducted by the PRCs and dissemination of research finding. Orders to this effect have already been issued by the Ministry.

(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, O.M. No. H.11021/2/2021-Stats(PRC) dated 28th January, 2022)

Recommendation Serial No. 23

The Committee also note that the accounts of all the PRCs, including PRC, Udaipur, are audited by the private auditor of the concerned host university and not by the auditors of the C&AG. The Ministry has stated that the Utilisation Certificate (UC) alongwith the accounts are, thereafter, sent to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare). These Audited Accounts are further audited by the C&AG in the Ministry.

The Committee recommend that for all the years for which the Audited Accounts of all the PRCs, including the PRC Udaipur, had not been laid before the Parliament, the Audit certificates from the C&AG should be laid before the Parliament, at the earliest.

The Committee further recommend that with immediate effect and in accordance with the General Financial Rules, the Annual Accounts of all the PRCs, must be audited by the auditors appointed by the C&AG and the Annual Report and the Audited Accounts of all the PRCs should be laid before the Parliament individually.

Reply of the Government

Audited Accounts of all PRCs including PRC Udaipur has already been laid before Parliament.

As recommended by the Committee, instructions have been issued to all PRCs to ensure that their accounts in future are audited by Auditors empaneled by C&AG.

(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, O.M. No. H.11021/2/2021-Stats(PRC) dated 28th January, 2022)

Recommendation Serial No. 24

The Committee was further apprised that another reason for the delay was the lack of dedicated staff to look after the accounts related matters at the PRC, Udaipur and that the recruitment proposal of all bodies/institutions/PRCs etc. had been sent to the Ministry of Finance for their approval. The Committee recommend to the Ministry to ensure that sufficient manpower is provided to the Institute, on urgent basis, so that the accounts are timely compiled and handed over to the audit authorities.

The Committee are also surprised to know that out of the 18 PRCs across the country, only the accounts of PRC, Udaipur, are still being prepared and submitted manually. The Committee opine that this also been one of the reasons for such a long time taken in the compilation and submission of accounts to the auditors. The Committee recommend that the PRC Udaipur, should move to digital accounting system, as being done by the other 17 PRCs, as this can save time during compilation of accounts manually.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry has allocated necessary staff to the PRC Udaipur. PRC, Udaipur has also submitted all the requisite documents related to Annual Accounts and Audited Accounts 2020-21 within time and same was laid in the Parliament within stipulated time.

PRC Udaipur has shifted to digital Accounting system.

(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, O.M. No. H.11021/2/2021-Stats(PRC) dated 28th January, 2022)

Recommendation Serial No. 25

The Committee have been apprised by the Ministry that it has made efforts to ensure the timely laying of the requisite documents by way of regular reminders to the Institute and providing them with equipment and online training programmes regarding settlement of accounts. However, the persistent delays clearly show that more concerted efforts are required on part of the Ministry in this regard.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that Ministry, besides sending letters reminding the Institute to adhere to the timelines, shall also hold regular meetings with the Institute to address their grievances and should also redraw the time schedule for each stage involved in the finalization of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the PRC, Udaipur, to ensure that the target dates are duly met and the requisite documents are laid in time.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry is holding meetings with PRCs regularly and addressing the issues raised therein in the grievances of the PRCs.

Letters related to compliance of Timelines are being sent to the PRCs at beginning of each financial year. It will be ensured that the PRCs adhere to the timelines given by the Ministry.

(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, O.M. No. H.11021/2/2021-Stats(PRC) dated 28th January, 2022)

Committee On Papers Laid On The Table (2021-2022)

The Extracts of the Minutes of the sitting of the Committee held on 22.03.2022.

The Committee sat on Tuesday, 22nd March, 2022 from 15:00 to 16:00 in Committee Room "B", Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Ritesh Pandey - ***Chairperson***

Members

2. Dr. A. Chellakumar
3. Shri PallabLochan Das
4. ChoudharyMehboob Ali Kaiser
5. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
6. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav

Secretariat

1. Smt. Suman Arora - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Sundar Prasad Das - Director
3. Shri Uttam Chand Bharadwaj - Additional Director

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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 one draft Report and three Action-taken Reports on the following subjects:-

1. **X X X X X;**
2. **X X X X X;**
3. **X X X X X; and**
4. Action- taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee in their Fifty Seventh Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Mohanlal Sukhadia Univesity, Udaipur.

4. After deliberations, the Report and Action- taken Reports as mentioned above have been adopted by the Committee and the Chairperson has been authorized by the committee, as per the factual verification of (narration portion) the Report/Action- taken Reports, to finalize and present these Reports/Action- taken Reports to Lok Sabha.

5 to 11. X X X X X

The Committee then adjourned.
