

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2022-23)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

125

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIFTH REPORT

[Action-taken by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangajan) on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their Eighty-Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) New Delhi.]

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 03.04.2023)



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March 2023/ Chaitra 1945 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

LOK SABHA

(2022-23)

Shri Girish Chandra

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Chairperson

MEMBERS

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

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Vinay Kumar Mohan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Naval K. Verma - Director
3. Shri Uttam Chand Bharadwaj - Additional Director

(iii)

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2022-23), having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this One Hundred And Twenty Fifth Report on the action-taken by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangajan) on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their Eighty-Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) New Delhi.

2. The Eighty-eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 05.08.2022. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangajan) furnished their replies on 09.11.2022 indicating the action taken on the observations/recommendations contained in the Eighty-eighth Report. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 29.03.2023.

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
29 March 2023
Chaitra 8, 1945 (Saka)**

**Girish Chandra
Chairperson
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table
Lok Sabha**

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (2022-23), LOK SABHA

Report

Action-taken by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangajan) on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their Eighty-Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) New Delhi.

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 (2022-23) in its Eighty-eighth Report (17th Lok Sabha) which, dealt with the matter of the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) New Delhi for the years 2016-17 to 2019-20, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangajan) and, that was presented to the Lok Sabha on 05.08.2022.

2. The Committee had made five (05) Observations/Recommendations in their Eighty-eighth Report (17th Lok Sabha). The action-taken replies to all the five Observations/Recommendations of the said Report were received from the Government on 09th November, 2022. Accordingly, the reply showing the action-taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Eighty-eighth Report (17th Lok Sabha) is given in **Appendix**.

3. **The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangajan), in their action-taken reply, have submitted they had issued guidelines for ensuring timely laying the requisite documents of all autonomous bodies under their administrative control, including ISLRTC. The Ministry/Department have also submitted that the requisite documents of ISLRTC, New Delhi for the year 2021-22* are expected to be laid before the Parliament within stipulated time i.e., 31st December 2022. The Committee recommend the Ministry/Department to ensure that these guidelines are strictly followed and the requisite documents of not only ISLRTC, New Delhi, but all the organizations under their administrative control are laid before the Parliament within stipulated time henceforth. The Committee will keep a strict vigil over the Ministry and the ISLRTC, New Delhi, in this regard.**

**New Delhi
29 March 2023
Chaitra 8, 1945 (Saka)**

**Girish Chandra
Chairperson
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table
Lok Sabha**

**Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 2021-22 were laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 28.03.2023.*

APPENDIX-I
(vide paragraph 02 of the Report)

Reply showing the Action-taken by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangajan) on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their Eighty-Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) New Delhi.

Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) New Delhi

Recommendation Serial No. 22

The Committee observe that although the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) New Delhi is serving a noble cause by serving the needs of the Indian deaf community in the country, the organization cannot be exempted from fulfilling its statutory obligation of laying the Annual reports and Audited accounts before the Parliament within the stipulated time of nine months. The examination of the matter of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) New Delhi for the year(s) 2016-2017 to 2019-2020, has revealed that the requisite documents of the ISLRTC, New Delhi had been laid by the nodal Ministry, i.e., Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangajan), with delays ranging between 03 to 13 months. Further, the requisite documents for the year 2020-2021 have not been laid.

The Committee recommend to the MoSJ&E to strictly adhere to the recommendations of the Committee regarding laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of an organization. The Committee also recommend to the MoSJ&E not only to lay the pending requisite documents of the ISLRTC, New Delhi for 2020-2021 before the Parliament, at the earliest, but also to ensure timely laying of these requisite documents, henceforth.

Reply of the Government

The Annual Report and Audited Accounts of ISLRTC, for the FY- 2020-21 were laid on 05th April, 2022 in Lok Sabha. Henceforth for timely laying of these documents the Centre approached C&AG in July itself and the Statutory Audits of FY- 2021-22 was completed on 22nd August, 2022 and the Centre received Statutory Audit Report on 12th October, 2022 and the Annual Report and Annual Accounts are expected to be laid before the Parliament within the stipulated time limit.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, O.M. No. S-2906/7/2021-RCI, dated 09.11.2022)

Recommendation Serial No. 23

The Committee was apprised that there had been no delay in the appointment of auditors of the organization. After the compilation of the Annual Accounts for 2017-2018 to 2019-2020, the ISLRTC, New Delhi took about 20 days to near about 2 months in approaching the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) to appoint the auditors for conducting the audit of Annual Accounts. The reason for the delay, in this regard, as intimated by the MOSJ&E was to be in getting the approval of the Annual Accounts from the Executive Council, before sending these to the auditor. The Committee hope that the ISLRTC will start the compilation of its Annual Accounts, from April onwards, instead of May, so that by early June, the Annual Accounts could be sent to the C&AG. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Annual Accounts, after getting the approval of the Executive Council, as per their procedure, should be sent to the audit authorities by early June, every year, so that the delays on this score could be avoided.

Reply of the Government

The Centre has taken approval of Annual Accounts for the FY- 2021-22 from Executive Council and General Council through circulation Statutory Audit for the FY has been conducted by C&AG from 04th August to 22nd August, 2022. The Centre adapted the practice to take approval of Annual Report and Annual Accounts from Executive Council and General Council through circulation.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, O.M. No. S-2906/7/2021-RCI, dated 09.11.2022)

Recommendation Serial No. 24

The representative of the MoSJ&E also apprised the Committee, during the oral evidence that one of the reasons for the delay was due to late receipt of the Final Audit Report from the C&AG. The Committee recommend to the MoSJ&E to take up the matter pertaining to the delay in the audit process and, also to ensure a periodic follow up after the submission of the Annual Accounts, with the office of the C&AG.

Reply of the Government

It is to submit that the Centre has been received the final Separate Audit Report on Annual Accounts of the Centre on 12th October, 2022.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, O.M. No. S-2906/7/2021-RCI, dated 09.11.2022)

Recommendation Serial No. 25

The Committee was also apprised during the oral evidence that there is a two-tier structure at the ISLRTC for getting the approval of the documents, i.e., from the Executive Council and thereafter, from the General Council*. This was attributed as another reason for the delay. The MoSJ&E also stated that it was considering the proposal of obtaining the approval of both the Executive and General Councils* through circulation mode, considering it to be an exceptional circumstance. The Committee recommend to the MoSJ&E and the ISLRTC, New Delhi to start this practice, immediately, in order to save time by obtaining approval for these requisite documents from both the Councils.

Reply of the Government

The Centre already started the practice of obtaining approval for Executive Council and General Council through circulation mode, considering it to be an exception circumstances. It is assured that this practice will be followed in future to obtain approval from Executive Council and General Council through circulation to abide the timeline.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, O.M. No. S-2906/7/2021-RCI, dated 09.11.2022)

Recommendation Serial No. 26

The Committee expect that, if these changes proposed by the organization itself, and also endorsed by the Ministry, are strictly put in practice, the requisite documents of not only the ISLRTC, New Delhi, but of all the other organizations under the administrative control of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangajan) will be laid within the stipulated time, in future.

Reply of the Government

The Department has issued a guidelines for ensuring timely laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of all autonomous bodies under its administrative control including ISLRTC (copy at Annexure-I). Earlier, the Department (DEPwD) vide letter no. F.N-N-2206/119/2020-NI dated 14th June, 2022 (copy at Annexure-II) had issued direction to all National Institutes for timely submission of Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2021-2022.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, O.M. No. S-2906/7/2021-RCI, dated 09.11.2022)

The Extracts of the Minutes of the fourth sitting of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2022-2023) held on 29.03.2023.

Committee On Papers Laid On The Table (2022-23)

The Committee sat on Thursday, 29th March, 2023 from 15:00 hours to 16:00 hours in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Girish Chandra - ***Chairperson***

***Members
(Lok Sabha)***

2. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
3. Shri Choudhury Mohan Jatua
4. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
5. Shri T.N. Prathapan

Secretariat

1. Shri Vinay Kumar Mohan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Naval K. Verma - Director
3. Shri Uttam Chand Bharadwaj - Additional Director

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

4. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following six draft Reports and six Action taken Reports for consideration and adoption:-

1. x x x x x;
2. x x x x x;
3. x x x x x;
4. x x x x x;
5. x x x x x;

6. x x x x x;

7. x x x x x;

8. Action-taken by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangajan) on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their 88th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre New Delhi;

9. x x x x x;

10. x x x x x

11. x x x x x

12. x x x x x

The above mentioned six Reports and six Action Taken Reports were unanimously adopted by the Committee and the Chairperson was authorized by the Committee to finalize and present Reports to the Lok Sabha.

xx xx xx xx
xx xx xx xx

(A Copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting is kept.)

The Committee then adjourned.
