

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2022-2023)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

129

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY NINTH REPORT

[Action-taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their Seventy-Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), New Delhi under the administrative control of the Ministry of Culture]

(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
(2022-2023)

Shri Girish Chandra - **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 Bhardwaj - Additional Director

(iii)

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 **129th** Report on the action-taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their Seventy-Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), New Delhi under the administrative control of the Ministry of Culture.

2. The Seventy-Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 16.3.2022. The Ministry of Culture furnished their replies on 03.11.2022 indicating the action taken on the observations/recommendations contained in the Seventy-Fourth 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 Observation/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

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 (2022-2023) in its Seventy-Fourth Report (17th Lok Sabha) which was presented to Lok Sabha on 16.3.2022. The Seventy-Fourth Report (17th Lok Sabha) dealt with the matter of the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library(NMML), New Delhi under the administrative control of Ministry of Culture for the years 2015-16 to 2019-20.

2. The Committee had made five Observations/Recommendations in its Seventy-Fourth Report (17th Lok Sabha). The action-taken replies to all the five Observations/Recommendations were received from the Government on 03 November, 2022. The reply showing the action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Seventy-Fourth Report (17th Lok Sabha) is given in **Appendix-I**.

3. **The Committee in its Seventy-Fourth Report examined the reasons for delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), New Delhi for the years 2015-16 to 2019-20. The Committee note that the Government have accepted all the recommendations of the Committee made in the said Report and have also taken steps for their implementation. However, the Committee observe from the Action-taken replies that getting approval of the requisite documents because of non-convening of the AGM, which is chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister is one of the main reasons for delay. In this connection, the Committee would like to draw the attention of the nodal Ministry to following recommendation of this Committee made in their Sixteenth Report (13th LS) (Para 1.19) -**

“The Committee note that delay in according approval to the annual accounts by Governing Bodies/Executive Committee is the main reasons for delay in laying of documents by a number of Organizations. These include Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad under the Ministry of Rural Development and a score of other Organisations under the Ministry of

Health and Family Welfare. Governing Bodies/Executive Councils of all these Organizations are stated to be headed by the Union Ministers and due to their other pre-occupations, they could not spare time to hold periodical meetings of Governing Bodies/Executive Councils. Consequently, not only the documents requiring approval of these bodies got delayed, there was also consequential delay in their being laid on the Table of the House. Such avoidable delays, the Committee feel lead to inevitable adverse impact on the efficient functioning of these Organisations. The Committee, therefore, feel that the question of Ministers heading Governing Bodies of various Organisation under the control of respective Ministries should be reviewed at the highest level and if the review brings out any need for corrective measures, suitable steps be taken in the light thereof.”

4. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the matter of heading of Governing Bodies of various Organizations by VVIPs/Hon’ble Ministers should be reviewed at the highest level and bring corrective measures to overcome delay in approval.

5. The Committee further note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of NMML for the years 2020-21 had been laid with a delay of 1 month 7 days whereas the documents for the years 2021-22 have not been laid within the stipulated date i.e on 31 December of the respective year. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry of Culture to ensure that the requisite documents of the NMML, New Delhi are laid invariably within the stipulated time.

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

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

**STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SEVENTY-FOURTH
REPORT (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON
THE TABLE (LOK SABHA)**

(Recommendation Serial No.23)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Culture and the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) have not adhered to the provisions of Section 48(A) of the Memorandum of Association, Rules and Regulations of the NMML Society for laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament within prescribed period. The Committee are very disappointed to note that the Ministry of Culture did not adhere to the stipulated time frame in respect of laying of these documents of Nehru Memorial Museum for the years 2015-16 and 2016-17, which were laid on the Table of the House with delays ranging from 12 months to 15 months. The Committee also note with serious concern that the documents for the years 2017-18 to 2019-2020* which were required to be laid on the Table of the House by 31st December of the respective year, are yet to be laid.

(*2017-2018 to 2019-2020 have been laid on 13.12.2021, 2020-2021 have been laid on 07.02.2022)

Reply

The reasons for delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts have been noted for future compliance. It is submitted that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the FYs 2017-18 to 2020-21 have since been laid on the Table of the House.

The accounts for the FY 2021-22 have been audited in the month of July and the Audit Report has also been received on 14th October 2022. Further, NMML has been directed to ensure that the AGM meeting is timely convened to adopt the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the FY 2021-22. Hence, efforts are being made to ensure that the recommendations of the Committee are complied with and the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the FY 2021-22 are laid on the Table of the House in the upcoming Winter Session of the Parliament.

(Recommendation Serial No.24)

The Committee observe from the replies furnished by the Ministry that a casual approach was adopted by the NMML at each stage from the compilation of Annual Accounts, approaching the auditors for appointment of auditor to sending the documents to the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that, in future, the Ministry/NMML should act well in advance to deal with such issues as it affects the overall process of finalization of the requisite documents.

Reply

It is informed that Office Order No.19-29/2020-21/Accounts dated 12.01.2021 (copy enclosed) was issued by NMML for adherence to the timelines at each stage of the various tasks involved in the compilation of Annual Accounts, audit of annual accounts and sending the documents to the Ministry.

The accounts for the FY 2021-22 have been audited in the month of July and the Audit Report has also been received on 14th October 2022. Further, NMML has been directed to ensure that the AGM meeting is timely convened to adopt the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the FY 2021-22. Hence, efforts are being made to ensure that the recommendations of the Committee are complied with and the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the FY 2021-22 are laid on the Table of the House in the upcoming Winter Session of the Parliament.

(Recommendation Serial No.25)

The Committee further observe that undue delay has occurred in getting approval of AGM for the period 2017-2018 to 2019-2020. The Committee are discontented with this approach of the Ministry/NMML and desire that the AGM meeting should be timely convened either online or documents approved through circulation, as being done by the other Ministries. The Committee strictly direct the Ministry to lay the pending requisite documents for the years 2017-2018 to 2019-2020 without any further delay and ensure timely laying of the requisite documents, as assured.

Reply

It is submitted that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the FYs 2017-18 to 2020-21 have since been laid on the Table of the House. NMML has been directed to ensure that the AGM meeting is timely convened to adopt the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the FY 2021-22 so that these are laid on the Table of the House in the upcoming Winter Session of the Parliament.

(Recommendation Serial No.26)

The Committee further note that the Ministry of Culture has not been able to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure laying of the documents of the NMML on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament within the stipulated time, which is a matter of serious concern. The Committee recommend that comprehensive and holistic efforts must be made by the Ministry to ensure timely laying of the documents in future and the Committee should be informed of the compliance of these directions and also measures taken by the Ministry to avoid delays in future.

Reply

NMML has been directed to ensure that the AGM meeting is timely convened to adopt the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the FY 2021-22 so that these are laid on the Table of the House in the upcoming Winter Session of the Parliament.

(Recommendation Serial No.27)

The Committee also impress upon the Ministry that if due to some unavoidable reasons, the annual reports and audited accounts of the NMML 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 convenes, whichever is later.

Reply

The recommendation has been noted for compliance.

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. | x | x | x | x | x; |
| 9. | x | x | x | x | x; |
| 10. | x | x | x | x | x |
| 11. | x | x | x | x | x |

12. Action-taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their 74th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), New Delhi under the administrative control of the Ministry of Culture

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.

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

The Committee then adjourned.
