

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

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

141

141th REPORT

[Action-taken by the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their Fifty-second Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Sikkim.]

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 25.07.2023)



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
July, 2023/Shraavana,1945(Saka)**

C O N T E N T S

PAGE

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (2022-23)		(iii)
INTRODUCTION		(v)
<u>REPORT</u>	Action-taken by the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their Fifty-second Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Sikkim.	1
<u>APPENDICES</u>		
<u>Appendix-I</u>	Reply showing Action Taken by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their Fifty-second Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha).	3
<u>Appendix-II</u>	The Extracts of the Minutes of the sitting of the Committee held on 05.04.2023.	7

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 RamsingKolhe
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

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 141th Report on the action-taken by the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their Fifty-second Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Sikkim.

2. The Fifty-second Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 23.09.2020. The Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) furnished their replies on 28.02.2022 indicating the action taken on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fifty-second Report. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 05.04.2023.

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
05 April, 2023
Chaitra 15, 1944 (Saka)

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

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

Action-taken by the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their Fifty-second Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Sikkim.

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-second Report (17th Lok Sabha) which dealt with the matter of the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Sikkim, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) and which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 23.09.2020.

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

3. **The Committee take note that the Ministry of Education, besides issuing instructions to all NITs to avoid delay for laying the Annual Reports & Audited Accounts, has been monitoring the progress of the same in Board of Governors (BoG) meetings of the concerned NITs. In this regard, Ministry has also launched a Portal (www.mshe.education.gov.in) for effective monitoring of the process regarding reconciling their accounts, getting them audited from the**

C&AG and finally sending the same to their nodal Ministry to lay the same on the Table of the House. The Ministry is taking up the matter regarding the delay in holding the meetings of the Finance/BoG of the concerned Institutes. The Committee do appreciate that the consequent upon effective steps taken by the Government towards their implementation, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the concerned Institute for the year 2020-2021¹ have been laid on the Table of the House within stipulated time. While appreciating the efforts made by the Ministry for timely laying of the documents of the Institute, the Committee cannot but do expect that concerted and continued efforts be made by the Government to ensure timely laying of the requisite documents of the aforesaid Institute in future also. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken by the Ministry in this regard.

**New Delhi
05 April, 2023
Chaitra 15, 1945 (Saka)**

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

¹ In addition, the requisite documents for the year 2021-22 have been laid on 12.12.2022 within the stipulated time.

APPENDIX

(vide paragraph 02 of the Report)

Reply Showing Action Taken by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education on the Recommendations/Observations Contained in the Fifty-Second Report of the Committee on Papers on the Table (Lok Sabha), Seventeenth Lok Sabha.

(Recommendation Serial No.15)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) and the NIT, Sikkim have not adhered to the time frame stipulated in the recommendations of the Committee on Papers laid on the Table contained in Paras 1.16 and 3.5 of its First Report (5th Lok Sabha), Paras 4.16 and 4.18 of Second Reports of 5th Lok Sabha and Paras 1.12. and 2.6 to 3.8 of Second Report of 6th Lok Sabha presented to the House on 08.03.1976, 12.05.1976 and 22.12.1977 respectively, regarding laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts on the Table of the House. The mandatory requirement of laying the papers within nine months from the closure of the accounting year has not been complied with. The documents of the NIT, Sikkim for years 2015-2016 to 2018-2019 were laid with delays ranging from more than 12 to 13 months. The Committee also note that the documents for the year 2019-20 have not been laid as yet.

Reply of the Government

The Institute is functioning in acute remote area which hampers and discourages the reputed vendors to participate in the tendering process. The translation of the documents is a major challenge due to non-availability of suitable employees with proficiency in Hindi due to which the Institute outsources the translation work from other cities and faces major difficulty in getting the work done in a timely manner.

In addition, significant time was taken by the Office of C&AG for auditing the accounts leading to a considerable delay in laying the Reports before both the Houses of the Parliament.

The Ministry of Education from time to time has been giving instructions to all NITs vide letters dated 08.04.2019, 06.01.2021 and 22.03.2021 for timely laying of Annual Report & Audited Account before both the Houses of the Parliament and has been taking note of the progress of the same in Board of Governors (BoG) meetings of the NIT concerned. However, to ensure effective monitoring of this Activity, this Ministry has also launched a Portal (mshe.education.gov.in) requesting Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to indicate time taken to complete various activities with regard to completion of Annual Reports and

Annual Audit. Further, whenever, the Ministry has observed delays, the same has been taken up in the Finance/BoG meetings of the Institutes concerned to expedite the matter.

It is further informed that Annual Report of NIT, Sikkim for the year 2019-20 & 2020-21 has been laid before both the Houses of the Parliament on 20.12.2021 respectively.

(Ministry of Education O.M. No.F.No.29-1/2021-TS.III Dated 28.02.2022)

(Recommendation Serial No.16)

While examining the reasons for delays in laying the documents of the NIT, Sikkim, the Committee were disappointed to note that an undue delay had occurred due to the delay in compilation of the accounts, delay in CAG audit and translation of the documents in Hindi since the same is being done by the outside agency which takes lots of time, which could have been avoided. However, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic is understandable. Further, the Committee note that the Ministry and the NIT, Sikkim had failed to finalize annual accounts within the stipulated time. Further, the Committee also observe that the Institute had manual basis accounting system used at the stage of compilation of the accounts upto 2018 and now they used Tally software in accounts since 2019.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Education time and again has advised all NITs including NIT, Sikkim to provide the Annual Report & Audited Statement of Accounts following the prescribed time schedule so that the same may be laid before both the Houses of the Parliament within 09 months after the closure of the accounting year i.e.upto 31st December. However, considerate delay has been occurred for submitting Annual Reports to this Ministry by NIT, Sikkim due to various reasons (a) the functioning of the Institute in acute remote area hampering and discouraging the reputed vendors to participate in the tendering process, (b) the translation of the documents due to non-availability of suitable employees with proficiency in Hindi due to which the Institute outsources the translation work from other cites and faces major difficulty in getting the work done in a timely manner; (c) significant time was taken by the Office of C&AG for auditing the accounts.

Earlier, there was a delay of around 12-13 months for the year 2015-16 to 2018-19 for laying these documents before both the Houses of the Parliament; however, as mentioned in above recommendation, with the introduction of Tally

software in accounts since 2019, compilation time of accounts has been reduced to a great extent.

Annual Report for the year 2019-20 was received in March, 2021 (after completing the same in all respect) was left at Reception Office, Lok Sabha, Parliament House Annex on 06.08.2021 for laying (as desired by the official available there following the COVID-19 appropriate behavior protocols, but the same was not laid on the Table of the House). The same was again placed in the next session and has now been laid on 20.12.2021.

The Annual Report & Audited Accounts of NIT, Sikkim for the year 2020-21 has already been laid on the Table of the House (Lok Sabha) on 20.12.2021 which shows that there is no delay for the same. All possible efforts are being made for timely laying of Annual Report & Audited Accounts before both the Houses of the Parliament.

(Ministry of Education O.M. No.F.No.29-1/2021-TS.III Dated 28.02.2022)

(Recommendation Serial No.17)

The committee further note that the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) has not been able to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure the laying of the documents of the NIT, Sikkim 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 that the Committee should be informed of the compliance of these directions and also measures taken by the Ministry to avoid delays in future.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Education from time to time has been giving instructions to all NITs vide letters dated 08.04.2019, 06.01.2021 and 22.03.2021 (**Annexure-I**) for timely laying of Annual Report & Audited Account before both the Houses of the Parliament and has been taking note of the progress of the same in Board of Governors (BoG) meetings of the NIT concerned. However, to ensure effective monitoring of this Activity, this Ministry has also launched a Portal (**mshe.education.gov.in**) requesting Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to indicate time taken to complete various activities with regard to completion of Annual Reports and Annual Audit. Further, whenever, the Ministry has observed

delays, the same has been taken up in the Finance/BoG meetings of the Institutes concerned to expedite the matter.

With the introduction of Tally software in accounts since 2019 in NIT, Sikkim, compilation time of accounts has been reduced to a great extent resulting in timely laying of the Annual Report for the year 2020-21 on the Table of the House.

(Ministry of Education O.M. No.F.No.29-1/2021-TS.III Dated 28.02.2022)

(Recommendation Serial No.18)

The Committee also impress upon the Ministry that if due to unavoidable reasons, the annual reports and audited accounts of the NIT, Sikkim 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 with 30 days or as soon as the House convenes, whichever is later.

Reply of the Government

The Annual Report & Audited Accounts of NIT, Sikkim for the year 2020-21 has already been laid on the Table of the House (Lok Sabha) on 20.12.2021 **(Annexure-II)** which shows that there is no delay for the same. All possible efforts are being made for timely laying of Annual Report & Audited Accounts before both the Houses of the Parliament.

Earlier, the Ministry of Education vide letters dated 19.07.2019, 31.07.2019, 07.01.2020, 02.02.2021, 31.12.2021 **(Annexure-IV)** has also sought extension from Lok Sabha Secretariat and Rajya Sabha Secretariat for laying the Annual Report & Audited Accounts of NITs beyond the stipulated time period after taking due approval from the Hon'ble Minister of State (M/o Education).

(Ministry of Education O.M. No.F.No.29-1/2021-TS.III Dated 28.02.2022)

The Extracts of the Minutes of the ___ sitting of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (202__-202__).

The Committee sat on Wednesday, 05th April, 2023 from 15:00 hours to 16:10 hours in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Girish Chandra - ***Chairperson***

Members

(Lok Sabha)

16. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
17. Dr. A. Chellakumar
18. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
19. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
20. Shri T.N. Prathapan
21. Shri Sellaperumal Ramalingam
22. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
23. Shri Devendrappa Y.

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 regarding consideration and adoption of 3 original and 9 Action-taken draft Reports and oral evidence of the representatives of the (i) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) and the (ii) Ministry of Heavy Industries.

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following three draft Reports and nine Action taken Reports for consideration and adoption:-

(i) **Action-taken by the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their Fifty-second Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Sikkim;**

(ii)	X	X	X	X	X;
(iii)	X	X	X	X	X;
(iv)	X	X	X	X	X.
(v)	X	X	X	X	X;
(vi)	X	X	X	X	X;
(vii)	X	X	X	X	X X;
(viii)	X	X	X	X	X X.
(ix)	X	X	X	X	X.
(x)	X	X	X	X	X.
(xi)	X	X	X	X	X.
(xii)	X	X	X	X	X X.

The above mentioned three draft Reports and nine Action taken Reports were unanimously adopted by the Committee. The Chairperson was authorized by the Committee to finalize and present these Reports to the Lok Sabha.

4-7. X X X X X

The Committee then adjourned.

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