

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2023-24)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

181

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY FIRST REPORT

[Action taken by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) on the Observations/Recommendations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in the 151st Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA), Chennai.]

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 08.02.2024)



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
February 2024/ Magha 1945 (Saka)**

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

LOK SABHA

(2023-24)

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 Jamyang Tsering Namgyal
9. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
10. Shri T.N. Prathapan
11. Shri Sellaperumal Ramalingam
12. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
13. Shri Devendrappa Y.
14. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav
15. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R.K. Suryanarayanan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Naval K. Verma - Director
3. Shri Rahul Singh - Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2023-24), having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this 181st Report on the action taken by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) on the Observations/Recommendations made by the Committee in their 151st Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA), Chennai.

2. The 151st Report (17th Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 10.08.2023. The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) has furnished its replies indicating the action taken on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 151st Report. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 07.02.2024.

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
07 February 2024
18 Magha, 1945 (Saka)**

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

REPORT

Action taken by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) on the Observations/Recommendations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in the 151st Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA), Chennai.

This Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2022-23) in their 151st Report (17th Lok Sabha) presented to the Lok Sabha on 10.08.2023, which dealt with the matter of the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA), Chennai for the years 2012-13 to 2021-22, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries).

2. The Committee had made six (06) Observations/Recommendations in their 151st Report (17th Lok Sabha). The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) *vide* their O.M. No. j-1903336/16/2023-DOF dated 18.12.2023 has furnished the Action-taken replies in respect of all the six Observations/Recommendations made in the above-mentioned Report.

3. The recommendations of the Committee; action taken by the Government thereon and further comments of the Committee are given in the following paragraphs.

Recommendation No. 18

4. The Committee in their original Report had recommended as under:
“On scrutinizing the Annual reports and Audited Accounts of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA), Chennai for the years 2012-13 to 2021-22 which were required to be laid before the Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries) the Committee observe that these documents, except for the year 2013-14, have been laid with continuous and inordinate delays. The Committee take note of the assurance given by the Secretary, Department of Fisheries that, henceforth there will not be any delay in laying the requisite documents of the CAA. The Committee recommend the Ministry / Department to ensure

that the provisions of the CAA Rules and the General Financial Rules, 2017 regarding laying of requisite documents of CAA are duly adhered to.”

The Ministry in its Action taken reply has stated as under:-

The Ministry has informed CAA the time schedule for various steps to be completed for timely submission of Annual Report such as finalisation of account, compilation of audit by statutory audit, audit by CAG and issue of SAR, preparation of draft Annual Report and Approval of Authority. The Ministry has also monitored rigorously at the highest level to reduce avoidable delays.”

Recommendation No.19

5. The Committee in their original Report had recommended as under:

“The Committee also noted that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of CAA for the year 2013-14 have not been laid, till date. The Committee was apprised that the CAA had sent the requisite documents for the year 2013-14 twice to the Ministry/Department for laying them before the Parliament. However, as per records available, these have not been laid. The Committee recommend the Ministry to lay the pending requisite document of 2013-14 in the ensuing Session of Parliament alongwith the reasons as to why the Ministry / Department failed to lay these requisite documents before the Parliament after receiving them from the CAA twice.”

The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

“The Ministry has made one officer in the Department responsible and given the guidelines to follow the time schedule strictly for submission of Annual Report of the CAA for placing before the Houses of Parliament. Accordingly, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of CAA for the year 2013-14 is submitted for placing before the Houses of Parliament.”

Recommendation No. 20

6. The Committee in their original Report had recommended as under:

“The Committee are also surprised with the lack of inaction shown by the Ministry / Department in supervising and assisting the CAA in managing its affairs. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Ministry/Department to resolve various issues reportedly faced by the CAA at various time, such as, absence of internal auditors; accountant; Chairperson and regular Member Secretary etc.

The Ministry/ Department also apprised the Committee of various measures undertaken to monitor the issue of the requisite documents of CAA i.e., regular reminders; telephonic follow-up; senior officers’ meetings etc. However, the Committee feel that despite these steps, the Ministry/ Department has failed to curtail the delays, as all these measures enumerated by the Ministry/Department have failed to yield desired results. The Committee therefore, recommend the Ministry/Department to closely supervise the affairs and also guide and assist all the bodies, authorities etc. under its administrative control in resolving any such issues that may emerge in future and also take strict action against the erring officials.”

The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

“The CAA has regular Chairperson and Member Secretary and the Authority Meetings are convened on time for the last three years. Accordingly, CAA has cleared all pending audit observation and this would ensure that Annual Report of the CAA will be submitted to the DoF in time. The DoF is closely observing and supporting the CAA in placing the Annual Report before both the Houses of Parliament on time without delay.”

Recommendation No. 21

7. The Committee in their original Report had recommended as under:

“The Committee also noticed that there were no internal auditors between 2016-2021 and also there was no Accountant at CAA since 2019. The office of C&AG had also noticed errors in the accounts of CAA over the years, which led delay in furnishing of final audit report by the C&AG. The Committee are of the view that timely preparation of accounts is essential to enable the auditors to give final audit report in time. The Committee would like to be apprised of the reasons as to why the process of compilation of annual accounts was not taken seriously by the CAA.”

The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

“The CAA has rectified this issue in 2021 to resolve the delays in submission of Annual Report. The CAA has engaged CA firms for preparation of financial statements and finalizing the Annual Accounts. The CAA has also engaged CAGI empanelled CA Firm as Internal Auditor. The Annual Accounts for the current year was placed before the Authority for its approval and forwarded to the Audit AG in June 2023. The CAG has conducted its audit in the month of July and furnished its draft SAR in August 2023. The CAA has furnished its reply to draft SAR in September 2023 along with the revised Annual Accounts. The CAG has issued SAR on the accounts of CAA for 2022-23 in October 2023. The CAA has completed all process involved prior to submission of Annual Report. The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2022-23 will be submitted on time.”

Recommendation No. 22

8. The Committee in their original Report had recommended as under:

“The Committee also noticed a delay of 05 to 13 months between the years 2015-16 to 2020-21, in initiating the process of translation and printing, after getting these documents approved by the competent authority. The Committee recommend that appropriate steps be taken so that delay on this account does not occur.”

The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

“The CAA has empaneled Hindi Translator for translation of Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Authority in Hindi. The CAA has an efficient system in place and now there are no delays due to lack of professional support in translation of Annual Report to Hindi.”

Recommendation No. 23

9. The Committee in their original Report had recommended as under:

“The Committee further note that recently, the Ministry had prepared a time schedule indicating timeline for each of the process involved in finalization of Accounts till submission of the Annual Report and Audit accounts to Ministry/Department. The Committee recommend the Ministry to ensure that the time schedule is duly adhered to so that the delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts do not happen in future.”

The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

“The Ministry has taken steps to monitor the CAA in preparation of the Annual Report for the current year by following the time schedule of the Ministry and General Financial Rules, 2017. It is submitted that CAA has completed all the requisite process and it is assured that there will not be delay in placing the Annual Report for the financial year 2022-23 before both the Houses of Parliament.”

10. The Committee are pleased to note that in its action taken reply, the Ministry has assured to lay the requisite documents of CAA, Chennai for the year 2022-23 within stipulated time. Further, the Ministry has submitted the requisite documents for 2013-14 as per the recommendation made by this Committee in their original Report for placing before the Houses of Parliament.

The Committee note with satisfaction that the Ministry/CAA has acted positively to all the recommendations made by this Committee and has taken appropriate steps in this regard i.e., issuing instructions to the CAA and appointment of an official to ensure timely laying of requisite documents; appointment of CAG empanelled CA Firm as Internal Auditor and appointment of a Hindi translator. The Committee hope that the abovementioned steps taken by the Ministry/CAA will strictly be adhered to and the requisite documents of CAA will be laid within stipulated time in future.

**New Delhi
07 February 2024
18 Magha, 1945 (Saka)**

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

vi.	X	X	X	X	X;
vii.	X	X	X	X	X;
viii.	X	X	X	X	X;
ix.	X	X	X	X	X;
x.	X	X	X	X	X;
xi.	Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee in their 151 st Report (17 th Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Chennai.				
xii.	X	X	X	X	X; and
xiii.	X	X	X	X	X.

The draft Reports were adopted unanimously. The Hon'ble Chairperson was authorized by the Committee to finalize and present these Reports to the Lok Sabha on a date convenient to him.

The Meeting then adjourned.
