

IRREGULAR PENSION PAYMENTS BY POST OFFICES

[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighty Fifth Report (17th Lok Sabha)]

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (DEPARTMENT OF POSTS)

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(2024-25)**

TENTH REPORT

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

T E N T H R E P O R T

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(2024-25)

(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)

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POST OFFICES**

**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations and
Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighty Fifth
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MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (DEPARTMENT OF POSTS)



Presented to Lok Sabha on :19-03-2025

Laid in Rajya Sabha on: 19-03-2025

L O K S A B H A S E C R E T A R I A T
N E W D E L H I

March 2025/ Phalguna 1946 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(2024-25)**

Shri K. C. Venugopal - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri T. R. Baalu
3. Dr. Nishikant Dubey
4. Shri Jagdambika Pal
5. Shri Jai Parkash
6. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
7. Shri C. M. Ramesh
8. Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy
9. Prof. Sougata Ray
10. Smt. Aparajita Sarangi
11. Dr. Amar Singh
12. Shri Tejasvi Surya
13. Shri Anurag Singh Thakur
14. Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni
15. Shri Dharmendra Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

16. Shri Ashokrao Shankarrao Chavan
17. Shri Shaktisinh Gohil
18. Dr. K. Laxman
19. Shri Praful Patel
20. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray
21. Shri Tiruchi Siva
22. Shri Sudhanshu Trivedi

Secretariat

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Dr. Sanjeev Sharma | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Shri Muraleedharan. P | - | Director |
| 3. Shri Alok Mani Tripathi | - | Deputy Secretary |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee (2024-25), having been authorised by the Committee, do present this Tenth Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighty Fifth Report (17th Lok Sabha) on “Irregular Pension Payments by Post Offices” relating to the Ministry of Communication (Department of Posts).

2. The Eighty Fifth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 7th February, 2024. The Committee considered the draft Action Taken Report on the subject and adopted the same at their sitting held on 12th February, 2025. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee form appendix to the Report.

3. For facility of reference and convenience, the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in **bold** in the body of the Report.

4. The Committee place on record their appreciation of the assistance rendered to them in the matter by the Committee Secretariat and the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

5. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 85th Report (17th Lok Sabha) is given at Appendix-II

NEW DELHI:
12 February, 2025
23 Magha, 1946 (*Saka*)

K. C. VENUGOPAL
Chairperson,
Public Accounts Committee

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee on Public Accounts deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighty Fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on “Irregular Pension Payments by Post Offices”.

2. The Eighty Fifth Report, which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 07 February, 2024, contained 04 Observations/Recommendations. The Action Taken Notes on all the Observations /Recommendations have been received from the Ministry of Communication (Department of Posts) and are categorized as under:

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Para No. 01, 02, 03 & 04

Total: 04

Chapter: II

- (ii) Observations /Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies received from the Government:

NIL

Total: nil

Chapter: III

- (iii) Observations /Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:

NIL

Total: nil

Chapter: IV

- (iv) Observations /Recommendations in respect of which Government have furnished interim replies /no replies:

NIL

Total: nil

Chapter: V

3. The detailed examination of the subject by the Committee had revealed certain shortcomings on the part of the Ministry of Communication (Department of Posts). The Committee had accordingly given their observations/recommendations in their Eighty Fifth Report.

4. The Action Taken Notes furnished by the Ministry on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Ninetieth Report (17th Lok Sabha) have been reproduced in the relevant chapters of this Report. The Committee will now deal with the Action Taken by the Government on some of their Observations/Recommendations made in the original Report which require reiteration/merit comments.

5. The Committee desire the Ministry of Communication (Department of Posts) to furnish Action Taken Notes in respect of observations/recommendations contained in Chapter I of the report, positively within three months of the presentation of the report to the Parliament.

Recommendation No. 2 of Eighty Fifth Report of PAC (17th Lok Sabha)

6. Recovery of excess/irregular pension:

The Committee noted that as per the review done at the Circle level, 12 Circles (Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, North East, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand) had reported 'Nil' cases of payment of pension without submission of life certificate, 08 Circles, namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Telangana had made full recovery in all the irregular pension credit cases and 03 Circles namely Assam, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu, have pending recovery cases. The Committee had been given to understand that Postal Directorate was actively pursuing the matter the Circles concerned for speedy recovery/regularization of pending pension cases. The Committee, while impressing upon the Department of Posts of the imminent need for minimizing such cases, urged the Department to expedite the process of recovery/regularization of irregular payment of pension.

7. The Ministry of Communication (Department of Posts) in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:-

It has already been informed that out of 23 Circles, 12 Circles have reported Nil cases of payment of Pension without the life certificate. Out of the remaining 11 Circles, recovery has

already been completed in 08 Circles. In three circles namely Assam, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu recovery were pending at the time of Previous Report Submitted to PAC.

Now, Jharkhand Circle has also reported that full recovery has been made and no dues are pending. Further, the report of the remaining two circles namely Assam and Tamil Nadu are as under:

Sl No.	Circle	Current Status
1.	Assam	The Circle has reported that in Tinsukia Division, full recovery amounting to Rs.150447/- (including penal interest of Rs.20168/-) have been made. In Guwahati Division, out of 5 identified cases of irregular credit of pension, full recovery amounting to Rs.291596/- have been made in 3 cases, whereas a total amount of Rs.155034/- is pending for recovery in 2 cases wherein recoveries are being made in installments 1/3 rd of net pension and full recovery will be completed by March, 2015
2.	Tamil Nadu	The Circle has reported that there is one case pending for recovery of amount Rs.76,577/- at Udhagamandalam HO in Western Region, wherein the pensioner produced Life Certificate on 05.11.2016 and he expired on 10.01.2017. The pension was credited to his savings bank account upto October, 2017 based on the Life Certificate submitted in November, 2016. His son continued to draw the pension through ATM. However, Western Region has submitted that the action will be completed within six months as the son of the pensioner does not have a regular income for full recovery.

8. The vetting comments of Audit are as follows:-

As the recovery in respect of two Postal Circles is still pending, Ministry may apprise the recovery status of outstanding amount in respect of both Postal Circles i.e. Assam and Tamil Nadu to PAC.

9. The Ministry in their Final Action Taken Reply stated as under :

It has already been informed that out of 23 Circles, 12 Circles have reported Nil cases of payment of Pension without the life certificate. Out the remaining 11 Circles, recovery are already completed in 09 Circles and w.r.t. two Circles namely Assam, and Tamil Nadu, recovery were pending at the time of Previous Report Submitted to PAC.

Now, Assam Circle has also reported that full recovery has been made. Further, the report of the remaining one Circle namely Tamil Nadu is as under:-

Sl. No.	Circle	Current Status
1.	Tamil Nadu	<p>The Circle has reported that there is one case pending for recovery of amount Rs.76,577/- at Udhagamandalam HO in Western Region, wherein the pensioner produced Life Certificate on 05.11.2016 and he expired on 10.01.2017. The pension was credited to his savings bank account upto October, 2017 based on the Life Certificate submitted in November, 2016. His son continued to draw the pension through ATM.</p> <p>The Circle has reported that there is no family pensioner in this case for effecting recovery. <u>Legal action has been initiated by filing FIR against the son of pensioner for recovery.</u> However, no response has been received from him to repay the remaining amount of Rs.76,577/- in installments.</p> <p>The Circle has also reported that there is no lacuna on the part of the DDO, like drawl of pension after expiry of Life Certificate/after receipt of intimation of death.</p> <p>Hence, this case does not fall under the purview of the subject audit under recovery of excess/irregular pension. The report submitted by Tamil Nadu Circle may be accepted and be excluded from the purview of the PAC Para and may be closed.</p>

Since, recovery has already been completed, in all the Circles except Tamil Nadu and as per the details provided by the Tamil Nadu Circle, the case does not fall under the category of irregular payments of pension and necessary legal action as per the law has already been started by the Circle, which will take its due course and time, accordingly, it is requested that this Para may be dropped.

10. The Committee in their original report recommended that the Department of Posts enhance their monitoring mechanisms to effectively identify cases of pension payments made without the necessary life certificate, including conducting regular audits to maintain oversight and accountability. They had emphasized the importance of providing periodic updates on the recovery status of outstanding amounts, particularly in Assam and Tamil Nadu, to ensure transparency and recommended to keep the PAC informed.

In response, the Ministry has indicated that they had issued instructions to all 23 Heads of Circles and General Managers (Finance) to remind pensioners to submit their life certificates through SMS, email, and other digital modes. The Committee also note the reply of the Ministry that these efforts were aimed at minimizing cases of irregular payments. They also note the response of the Audit that the recovery in respect of two Postal Circles i.e. Assam and Tamil Nadu is still pending.

The Committee recommend that the Department of Posts continue to strengthen its monitoring mechanisms and enhance outreach efforts to educate pensioners about the importance of submitting life certificates. They emphasize the necessity of establishing a support system for vulnerable pensioners and encourage Circles that have successfully completed recoveries to share their best practices. Further, the Committee recommend a comprehensive evaluation of current recovery processes to ensure their effectiveness, along with an annual review of pension management practices across all Circles. The pending recovery in Tamil Nadu circle may be completed immediately and a final status in this regard may be updated on APMS Portal.

Observation/Recommendation Para No. 4

11. Fixing of responsibility

The Committee noted that recovery of payment of irregular pension is pending in Assam and Tamil Nadu Circles. While the Assam Circle has intimated that full recovery would be made by March, 2025, no timeline for recovery had been fixed in the case of Tamil Nadu Circle. The Circle had filed FIR against the son of the deceased (expired on 10.01.2017) for irregular withdrawal of money from ATM after the death of the pensioner till expiry of DLC in October, 2017. The Committee, further noted that responsibility had already been fixed by U.P. Circle and Assam and Gujarat Circles had intimated that the process of fixing the responsibility is underway. Moreover, the Department of Posts had also issued instructions to all the circles to fix responsibility and to intimate the same to the Department by 31.12.2023. Though the Department had not initiated action for recovery, the Committee were constrained to note that no concrete action was hitherto been taken against the officials responsible for irregular payment of pension. The Committee desired to be apprised of the disciplinary action taken against all errant postal officials who had released pension without undertaking thorough verification of life certificates of each pensioner.

12. The Ministry of Communication (Department of Posts) in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:

This Department has taken up the case of fixing the responsibility with all the 11 Circles, where the irregular payment of pension occurred. Out of 11 Circles, 01 Circle namely Bihar has already issued the charge-sheet under Rule 16 of CCS(CCA) Rule. Another Circle namely Uttar Pradesh has already issued the punishment order for withholding of one increment for one year without cumulative effect against the responsible officer. 2. The investigation process and process of fixing the responsibility is at completion stage in 07 circles namely Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal. 3. Two Circles namely Andhra Pradesh and Telangana has reported as under: 1 A.P No official has been found to be liable as action was done under the DoPPW OM dated 31.12.2021. 2 Telangana The Circle has investigated and reported that no such case of irregular pension payment has been found.

13. The vetting comments of Audit are as under:
Ministry may submit final compliance report to PAC along with supporting documents.

14. The Ministry in their final Action Taken Reply has stated as under:

ACTION TAKEN (DEPARTMENT OF POSTS)

This Department has taken up the case of fixing the responsibility with all the 11 Circles, where their regular payment of pension occurred. Out of 11 Circles, 04 Circles namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have already completed it sanction and already been reported, vide previous report dated 29.04.2024.

The updated position w.r.t. the remaining 07 pending Circles (Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal) areas under:

Sl. No	Circle	Current Status
1.	Assam	<p>The cases in Assam Circle were distributed in its two Divisions Namely Guwahati and Tinsukia Division. The updated position Are as under-</p> <p><u>In Guwahati Division</u> The charge sheet under Rule 16 of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 has been issued to three officials.</p> <p><u>In Tinsukia Division:</u> fixing of responsibility does not arise as the pensioner was required to submit Life Certificate in the month of November each year and in the absence of life certificate for the year 2021, the pension was stopped w.e.f. December, 2021.</p> <p>Hence, no action is pending.</p>
2.	Tamil Nadu	<p>There is no lacuna on the part of the DDO, like drawal of pension after expiry of Life Certificate/after receipt of intimation of death. Hence, this does not fall under the purview of recovery of excess/irregular pension.</p> <p>hence, no action is pending and may be excluded from the Para as per the report.</p>
3.	West Bengal	<p>The Circle has reported that Charge Sheet in 02 cases has already been issued. Further in 03 cases, draft charge-Sheet has been approved for action.</p> <p>Further, the Circle has informed that in addition to above cases, Disciplinary proceedings are under process in 04 cases against the officers.</p>

Further, in the remaining 04 Circles (Gujarat, Haryana Jharkhand and Karnataka), the process is underway and are in advance stage. Accordingly, PAC is requested to kindly drop this para.

Dy. Director General (Personnel)(L/O) (Department of Posts O.M.No.10003/2022-

Pension(Vol.-11 dated 31.07.2024.)

15. The Committee, in their original recommendation, have observed that recovery of irregular pension payments remains pending in several postal circles, particularly in Assam and Tamil Nadu. While Assam has provided a timeline for recovery by March 2025, no such timeline has been established for Tamil Nadu. The Committee also note that, although disciplinary action has been initiated in some circles like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the process of fixing responsibility and completing recovery

actions is still ongoing in others, such as Gujarat, Haryana, and Jharkhand. In light of the Ministry's reply, where the Ministry has mentioned that disciplinary proceedings are under process and charge-sheets have been issued in some circles, the Committee find merit in the Audit observation that despite these efforts, the process is delayed, and concrete actions have not been consistently taken across all circles.

The Committee are therefore constrained to recommend that the Ministry expedite the completion of the responsibility-fixing process in all pending cases. They would like to see a specific timeline being set for each circle to ensure timely resolution, with regular updates furnished to the Committee in their final action taken statement. Moreover, the Committee would like to stress the importance of enhancing the verification of life certificates for pensioners across all circles, as the irregularities in payment were often linked to lapses in this process. The Committee recommend that the Ministry issue clear guidelines and protocols to ensure strict adherence to life certificate submission deadlines, as part of a broader effort to prevent future irregularities and maintain the integrity of the pension payment system.

CHAPTER – II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Observation/Recommendation

Non adherence to rules

The Committee learn that P&T Financial Handbook Volume-II mandates an annual verification of the continuity of life of pensioners. The pensioners are required to submit a life certificate in November each year to facilitate crediting of pension in subsequent months for the coming year. Audit had highlighted that lapses on the part of the Postal authorities in undertaking annual verification of continuity of life before crediting pension, resulted in the irregular crediting of pension amounting to Rs. 6.02 crore to 122 pensioner accounts in five Head Post Offices (HPOs) of West Bengal Circle. Further, analysis of these cases reveal serious lapses like crediting of monthly pension despite non-receipt of life certificate from pensioners for prolonged period ranging from one to ten years, non-operation of accounts by pensioners and crediting of pension accounts wherein the pensioners had deceased 1-10 years back. In response, the Department of Posts have submitted that in respect of these five HPOs, full recovery has been made. The Committee are of the opinion that full recovery has been made in the cases pertaining to the West Bengal - Postal Circle, the whole situation of irregular crediting of pension would have avoided had the Postal Authorities concerned adhered to the laid down rules diligently. The fact that irregular crediting of pension remained undetected for years is indicative of serious lapses in the system of verification of life certificate on the part of the authorities concerned which needs to be rectified urgently. The Committee are of the opinion that in order to ensure timely submission of life certificates, the Department needs to issue reminders from the month of October till the end of November to the pensioners through sms/e-mail/post/television/radio/social media etc. detailing the various modes of submission of life certificates and also make alternate arrangements to cater to pensioners who are not tech-savvy or are incapacitated to submit their life certificates either online or otherwise.

Action Taken (Department of Posts)

Pension in Department of Posts is calculated, managed and disbursed by its 23 Postal Circle offices located across India as the staff member gets its pension from the Circles, from where they have retired. Accordingly, in order to comply with the recommendation of the PAC, the Department with the approval of the Competent Authority has instructed all its 23 Heads of Circles and all GMs (Finance) to issue reminders to the respective pensioners from the months of October till November through SMS/Email/other digital modes for submission of life certificate and also to sensitize the Pensioners through other accessible and affordable modes to submit the Digital Life Certificate.

Considering the compliance of the recommendation and considering the instructions already issued, it was requested to finally close this Para as complied, vide this Department's communication dated 29.04.2024.

(Remarks:- The ATN submitted vide Communication of even no. dated 29.04.2024 has been examined and accepted by the Principal Director of Audit (Delhi) vide U.O. no. Report- DOP/2(D)/F-10266/ATN dated 17.05.2024 with remarks no further comments are being offered)

Dy. Director General (Personnel)(L/O)

(Department of Posts O.M. No. 100-03/2022-Pension (Vol.-II dated 31.07.2024)

Vetting Comments of Audit

Audit vide their UO No. DOP/2(D)/F-10266/ATR dtd. 28.5.2024 have vetted the Action Taken Note with the following remarks:

In view of the reply of the Ministry, no further comments are being offered.

Observation/Recommendation

Recovery of excess/irregular pension

The Committee note that as per the review done at the Circle level, 12 Circles (Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, North East, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand) have reported 'Nil' cases of payment of pension without submission of life certificate, 08 Circles, namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Telangana have made full recovery in all the irregular pension credit cases and 03 Circles namely Assam, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu, have pending recovery cases. The Committee have been given to understand that Postal Directorate is actively pursuing the matter the Circles concerned for speedy recovery/regularization of pending pension cases. The Committee, while impressing upon the Department of Posts of the imminent need for minimizing such cases, urge the Department to expedite the process of recovery/regularization of irregular payment of pension.

(S1. No. 1; Appendix II; Part-II Para No. 2 of the 85th
Report of the Committee on Public Accounts
(17th Lok Sabha)

Action Taken (Department of Posts)

It has already been informed that out of 23 Circles, 12 Circles have reported Nil cases of payment of Pension without the life certificate. Out the remaining 11 Circles, recovery are already completed in 09 Circles and w.r.t.

two Circles namely Assam, and Tamil Nadu, recovery were pending at the time of Previous Report Submitted to PAC.

Now, **Assam Circle** has also reported that full recovery has been made. Further, the report of the remaining one Circle namely **Tamil Nadu** is as under:-

SI	Circle	Current Status
	Tamil Nadu	<p>The Circle has reported that there is one case pending for recovery of amount Rs. 76,577/- at Udhagamandalam HO in Western Region, wherein the pensioner produced Life Certificate on 05.11.2016 and he expired on 10.01.2017. The pension was credited to his savings bank account upto October, 2017 based on the Life Certificate submitted in November, 2016. His son continued to draw the pension through ATM. The Circle has reported that there is no family pensioner in this case for effecting recovery. Legal action has been initiated by filing FIR against the son of pensioner for recovery. However, no response has been received from him to repay the remaining amount of Rs. 76,577/- in installments.</p> <p>The Circle has also reported that there is no lacuna on the part of the DDO, like drawl of pension after expiry of Life Certificate/after receipt of intimation of death.</p> <p>Hence, this case does not fall under the purview of the subject audit under recovery of excess/irregular pension. The report submitted by Tamil Nadu Circle may be accepted and be excluded from the purview of the PAC Para and may be closed.</p>

Since, recovery has already been completed in all the Circles except Tamil Nadu and as per the details provided by the Tamil Nadu Circle, the case does not fall under the category of irregular payments of pension and necessary legal action as per the law has already been started by the Circle, which will take its due course and time, accordingly, it is requested that this Para may be dropped.

Dy. Director General (Personnel)(L/O)

Vetting Comments of Audit

Audit vide their UO No. DOP/2(D)/F-10266/ATR dtd. 28.5.2024 have vetted the Action Taken Note with the following remarks:

As the recovery in respect of two Postal Circles is still pending, Ministry may apprise the recovery status of outstanding amount in respect of both Postal Circles i.e Assam and Tamil Nadu to PAC.

Comments of the Committee

Please see Para No. 10 of Chapter I.

Observation/Recommendation

Easing submission of life certificates and verification processes

The Committee note that to streamline the process of claiming pension, the Department of Posts had provided for submission of a Digital Life Certificate (Jeevan Pramaan) on-line from the year 2014, specifically for pensioners with Aadhar-linked pension accounts. Additionally, the Finacle software was also introduced in the postal network during 2015-16 to enable pensioners to withdraw pension funds from any post offices across India. The Department have also stated that to develop suitable control checks in the existing software to stop automatic credit of pension, technical upgradations have been made with the integration of Jeevan Pramaan Portal (NIC) with Core System Integration — Human Resource Management System (CSI-HRMS) for auto-verification of Digital Life Certificate (DLC), and the DDO can authentically verify availability life certificate through the Jeevan Pramaan Interface by sing DDO login. The Committee are surprised to note that despite a slew of measures taken by the Department to facilitate submission/verification of life certificate, cases of pension being credited to pensioners' accounts without confirming the

continuity of the life certificates do persist. The Committee, therefore, in no unequivocal terms recommend that the whole system of verification and crediting of pension may be reviewed with a view to identify the loopholes in the existing system and to address the same.

(S1. No. 1; Appendix IL Part-II Para No. 3 of the 85th
Report of the Committee on Public Accounts
(17th Lok Sabha)

Action Taken (Department of Posts)

It has already been reported that the problem of Irregular payment of pension occurred due to the lack of the integration of Jeevan Praman Portal of NIC with CSI-HRMS for auto verification of Digital Life Certificate. Now after the integration of both the portal w.e.f. 22nd December 2022, it is possible for the DDO to check about the availability of the DLC and thus, there are no scope now for re-occurrence of such incident. Since, all cases of irregular pension pertains to period prior to 22nd December 2022, accordingly, the recommendation of the Committee has already been examined in depth in the Department and necessary checks and balances to stop such re-occurrences have been placed in system.

Accordingly, it was requested that the PAC Para may please be dropped, vide this Department's communication dated 29.04.2024

(Remarks:- The ATN submitted vide Communication of even no. dated 29.04.2024 has been examined and accepted by the Principal Director of Audit (Delhi) vide U.O. no. Report- DOP/2(D)/F-10266/ATN dated 17.05.2024 with remarks no further comments are being offered)

Dy. Director General (Personnel)(L/O)

(Department of Posts O.M. No. 100-03/2022-Pension (Vol.-II dated 31.07.2024)

Vetting Comments of Audit

Audit vide their UO No. DOP/2(D)/F-10266/ATR dtd. 28.5.2024 have vetted the Action Taken Note with the following remarks:

In view of the reply of the Ministry, no further comments are being offered.

Observation/Recommendation

Fixing of responsibility

The Committee note that recovery of payment of irregular pension is pending in Assam and Tamil Nadu Circles. While the Assam Circle has intimated that full recovery would be made by March, 2025, no time line for recovery has been fixed in the case of Tamil Nadu Circle. The Circle has filed FIR against the son of the deceased (expired on 10.01.2017) for irregular withdrawal of money from ATM after the death of the pensioner till expiry of DLC in October, 2017. The Committee, further note that responsibility had already been fixed by U.P. Circle and Assam and Gujarat Circles had intimated that the process of fixing the responsibility is underway. Moreover, the Department of Posts had also issued instructions to all the circles to fix responsibility and to intimate the same to the Department by 31.12.2023. Though the Department has not initiated action for recovery, the Committee are constrained to note that no concrete action was hitherto been taken against the officials responsible for irregular payment of pension. The Committee desire to be apprised of the disciplinary action taken against all errant postal officials who had released pension without undertaking thorough verification of life certificates of each pensioner.

(S1. No. 1; Appendix II; Part-II Para No. 4 of the 85th
Report of the Committee on Public Accounts
(17th Lok Sabha)

ACTION TAKEN (DEPARTMENT OF POSTS)

This Department has taken up the case of fixing the responsibility with all the 11 Circles, where the irregular payment of pension occurred. Out of 11 Circles, 04 Circles namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have already completed its action and already been reported, vide previous report dated 29.04.2024.

The updated position w.r.t. the remaining 07 pending Circles (Assam, Gujrat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal) are as under:-

Sl. No	Circle	Current Status
1.	Assam	<p>The cases in Assam Circle were distributed in its two Divisions namely Guwahati and Tinsukia Division. The updated position are as under:-</p> <p>In Guwahati Division: The charge sheet under Rule 16 of CCS(CCA) Rules, 1965 has been issued to three officials.</p> <p>In Tinsukia Division: fixing of responsibility does not arise as the pensioner was required to submit Life Certificate in the month of November each year and in the absence of life certificate for the year 2021, the pension was stopped w.e.f. December, 2021.</p> <p>Hence, no action is pending.</p>
2.	Tamil Nadu	<p>There is no lacuna on the part of the DDO, like drawal of pension after expiry of Life Certificate/after receipt of intimation of death. Hence, this does not fall under the purview of recovery of excess/irregular pension.</p> <p>Hence, no action is pending and may be excluded from the Para as per the report.</p>

3.	West Bengal	<p>The Circle has reported that Charge-Sheet in 02 cases has already been issued. Further in 03 cases, draft Charge-Sheet has been approved for action.</p> <p>Further, the Circle has informed that in addition to above cases, Disciplinary proceedings are under process in 04 cases against the officers.</p>
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Further, in the remaining 04 Circles (Gujarat, Haryana Jharkhand and Karnataka), the process is under way and are in advance stage. Accordingly, PAC is requested to kindly drop this para.

Dy. Director General (Personnel)(L/O)

(Department of Posts O.M. No. 100-03/2022-Pension (Vol.-II dated 31.07.2024.)

Vetting Comments of Audit

Audit vide their UO No. DOP/2(D)/F-10266/ATR dtd. 28.5.2024 have vetted the Action Taken Note with the following remarks:

Ministry may submit final compliance report to PAC alongwith supporting documents.

Comments of the Committee

Please see Para No. 15 of Chapter I.

CHAPTER III

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT

NIL

CHAPTER IV

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE
GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WHICH
REQUIRE REITERATION**

NIL

CHAPTER V
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH GOVERNMENT
HAVE FURNISHED INTERIM REPLIES/NO REPLIES

NIL

NEW DELHI:
12 February, 2025
23 Magha, 1946 (*Saka*)

K. C. VENUGOPAL
Chairperson,
Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (2024-25) HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY, 2025

The Committee on Public Accounts sat on Wednesday, the 12 February, 2025 from 1500 hrs to 1715 hrs in Committee Room D, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri K.C. Venugopal - Chairperson

Members

LOK SABHA

2. Dr. Nishikant Dubey
3. Smt. Aparajita Sarangi
4. Dr. Amar Singh
5. Shri Tejasvi Surya
6. Shri Anurag Singh Thakur
7. Shri Dharmendra Yadav
8. Shri T. R. Baalu
9. Prof. Sougata Ray

RAJYA SABHA

10. Dr. K. Laxman
11. Shri Tiruchi Siva

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Sanjeev Sharma | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Muraleedharan. P | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Alok Mani Tripathi | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Pankaj Sharma | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 5. | Shri Atul Bhave | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 6. | Smt. Malvika Mehta | - | Deputy Secretary |

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR
GENERAL OF INDIA**

1. Sh. Rebecca Mathai - Dy. CAG
2. Ms. Atreyee Das - Dy. CAG
3. Ms. Smita S. Chaudhari - Dy. CAG
4. Sh. Samar Kant Thakur - Director General

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF XXXXXX

1. XXXXXXXXXXXX
2. XXXXXXXXXXXX
3. XXXXXXXXXXXX
4. XXXXXXXXXXXX
5. XXXXXXXXXXXX
6. XXXXXXXXXXXX
7. XXXXXXXXXXXX
8. XXXXXXXXXXXX
9. XXXXXXXXXXXX

PART A

XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX

PART B

Thereafter, Hon'ble Chairperson stated that the following nine draft reports may be taken up for consideration and adoption :-

- a. Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 85th Report (17th LS) on 'Irregular Pension Payments by Post Offices'
- b. XXXXXXXXXXXX
- c. XXXXXXXXXXXX
- d. XXXXXXXXXXXX
- e. XXXXXXXXXXXX
- f. XXXXXXXXXXXX

- g. XXXXXXXXXXXX
- h. XXXXXXXXXXXX
- i. XXXXXXXXXXXX

After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the aforesaid Draft Reports without any modifications and authorised the Chairperson to finalise the Reports in the light of factual verification done by the Audit.

The Committee then adjourned.

A copy of the proceedings of the Sitting has been kept on record.

APPENDIX-II

(Vide Paragraph 5 of Introduction)

ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS CONTAINED IN THEIR EIGHTY FIFTH REPORT (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

(i)	Total number of Observations/Recommendations	04
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations of the Committee which have been accepted by the Government: Para Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4	Total: 04 Percentage: 100%
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the reply of the Government: Para No. – NIL	Total: 00 Percentage: 0
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration: Para No. – NIL	Total: 00 Percentage: 0
(v)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the Government have furnished interim replies: Para No. – NIL	Total: 00 Percentage: 0