

**COMMITTEE ON
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(1998-99)**

(TWELFTH LOK SABHA)

SECOND REPORT

(Presented on 17 December, 1998)



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 1998/Agrahayana, 1920 (Saka)

51 R

Price : Rs. 21.00

Corrigenda to Second Report of the Committee
on Papers Laid on the Table (1998-99)
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)

<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
1	4	<u>Add</u> 'a' after as	
4	1	<u>Delete</u> 'it	
10	6	Audit	Audited
18	18	take	took
	(from bottom)		
20	23	was laid on	which was laid on
	(from bottom)	the on	the Table on
		17.12.96	17.12.96
23	4	Vidyapeha	Vidyapeetha
28	18	last	latest
30	6	<u>Add</u> 'were laid' <u>after</u> 'and 1993-94'	
	6	of	on
	11	<u>Delete</u> Thus, Table of the House 31.12.1994	
		respectively i.e. within 9 months of	
		close of the accounting year.	
	12	of	for
31	5	<u>Delete</u> for	
	5	Report	Reports
	(from bottom)		
33	3	or	for
	9	for	from
41	4	<u>Add</u> 'First' <u>after</u> '3.5 of their'	
	(from bottom)		

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PERSONNEL OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (1998-99)	(iii)
PREFACE	(v)
CHAPTER I Delay in laying Annual Report and Audited Accounts of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation for the year 1994-95.	1—5
CHAPTER II Delay in laying Annual Report and Audited Accounts of National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation for the year 1993-94.	6—10
CHAPTER III Delay in laying Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Indian Nursing Council for the year 1994-95.	11—15
CHAPTER IV Delay in laying Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi for the year 1994-95.	16—22
CHAPTER V Delay in laying Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth for the year 1994-95.	23—25
CHAPTER VI Delay in laying Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi for the year 1994-95.	26—29
CHAPTER VII Delay in laying Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad for the year 1993-94.	30—34
CHAPTER VIII Delay in laying Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya for the year 1993-94.	35—37
APPENDIX Summary of recommendations/observations contained in the Report.	38—48

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON
THE TABLE
(1998-99)**

Shri Arjun Charan Sethi — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. **Shri Ambareesh**
3. **Shri Ashok Argal**
4. **Shri Kallappa Awade**
5. **Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra**
6. **Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai Chaudhari**
7. **Shri C.D. Gamit**
8. **Shri Hannan Mollah**
9. **Shri Sudhakar Rao Naik**
10. **Shri Raj Narain Pasi**
11. **Shri Ashok Pradhan**
12. **Shri H.G. Ramulu**
13. **Dr. B.N. Reddy**
14. **Shri Jagannath Singh**
15. **Shri Ravi Prakash Verma**

SECRETARIAT

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Shri G.C. Malhotra | — <i>Additional Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri Ram Autar Ram | — <i>Director</i> |
| 3. Shri B.D. Swan | — <i>Under Secretary</i> |

INTRODUCTION

1, the Chairman of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table of the House, having been authorised by the Committee to present this Report on their behalf, present their Second Report.

2. As a result of examination of some papers laid during the Second, Third and Fourth Sessions (Eleventh Lok Sabha) the Committee have come to certain conclusions in regard to delay in laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the (i) National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation for the year 1994-95; (ii) National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation for the year 1993-94; (iii) Indian Nursing Council for the year 1994-95; (iv) Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi for the year 1994-95; (v) Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha for the year 1994-95; (vi) Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi for the year 1994-95; (vii) Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad for the year 1993-94; (viii) Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya for the year 1993-94 and have made certain recommendations. The conclusions of the Committee are reflected in the Report.

3. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 16 December, 1998.

4. A statement showing summary of recommendations/observations made by the Committee is appended to the Report (Appendix).

NEW DELHI;
16 December, 1998
25 Agrahayana, 1920 (Saka)

ARJUN CHARAN SETHI,
Chairman,
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table.

CHAPTER I

DELAY IN LAYING ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION, NEW DELHI FOR THE YEAR 1994-95

National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), New Delhi is Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Welfare. It was established on 30th September, 1994 in New Delhi under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 as Company, not for profit but with the main objective of promoting economic and developmental activities for the benefit of minorities and self-employment ventures.

1.2 The Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation, New Delhi for the year 1994-95 were laid alongwith Review and Delay Statement on the Table of the House on 25 February, 1997. As per recommendation of the Committee contained in para 4.16 of their Second Report (Fifth Lok Sabha), the aforementioned documents should have been laid by 31 December, 1995 i.e. within 9 months of the close of the accounting year. Thus, the delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts on the Table of Lok Sabha came to about 14 months.

1.3 In the statement laid alongwith Annual Report and Audited Accounts, the reasons for delay have been explained as under:—

“The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation, New Delhi is funded by the Ministry of Welfare and hence the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Corporation for the year 1994-95 were to be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha within nine months of the close of the accounting year, i.e., by 31st December, 1995.

(2) However, as the Corporation was incorporated on 30th September, 1994 under the Companies Act, 1956, the newly incorporated Company is allowed to hold its first annual general meeting within a period of 18 months from the date of its incorporation. This is under Section 166 of the Companies Act, 1956. The Corporation could hold its first annual general meeting in March, 96 i.e., within a period of 18 months. The Annual Report and the Audited Statement of Accounts were approved in the same meeting. Thereafter, sufficient time was not available to get the report printed by the Corporation and processed in the Ministry before laying it on the Table of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha during the last Monsoon Session of the Parliament which concluded on 13th September, 1996. Hence the delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Statement on the Table of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha.”

1.4 The Ministry of Welfare who were requested to furnish information on certain more points in this regard, have furnished the same on 25.3.1997 as under:—

POINTS	REPLIES
1	2
I. The dates when:	
(a) the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation, New Delhi (NMDFC) approached the audit authorities for appointment of auditors for auditing their accounts for the year 1994-95 and when were they appointed;	NMDFC approached audit authorities for appointment of auditors for auditing accounts for the year 1994-95 <i>vide.</i> letters No. NMDFC/Aud./App./95/461, No. NMDFC/Aud./App./95/573 and No. NMDFC/Aud./App./95/783 dated 31.3.95, 15.5.95 and 13.6.95 respectively. Statutory Auditors were appointed on 12.7.95.
(b) the accounts of NMDFC were compiled and were ready for being handed over to auditors;	Accounts were ready for being handed over to auditors on 15.4.95.
(c) the accounts were actually handed over to the auditors;	Statutory Auditors were appointed on 12.7.95 by the CAG. Accounts were handed over to the auditors in the last week of September, 1995, after informing BOD.
(d) the auditing of accounts commenced by the auditors and the time taken in it;	Statutory audit of NMDFC completed on 11.10.95 and Government Audit completed on 22.3.96.
(e) the Annual Report was finalised;	On 26.3.96.
(f) the Annual Report and audited accounts were taken up for translation and printing and the time taken in it;	In the month of May, 1996, translation work was started and was handed over to Printer in the month of June, 1996.
(g) the finalised Annual Report and audited accounts in both Hindi and English versions were sent to the Ministry for being laid in Parliament;	Finalised Annual Report and Audited Accounts (Bilingual) were sent to the Ministry for being laid in the Parliament on 12.9.96.
(h) the Delay Statement and Review were prepared by the Ministry;	The matter was processed during October-November and December, 96 in the Ministry and the delay and review

1	2
<p>(i) the Annual Report and accounts alongwith Review and Delay Statement were got authenticated from the Minister; and</p> <p>(ii) The latest position regarding finalisation of the Annual Reports and audited accounts for the subsequent years 1995-96, 1996-97. When these are expected to be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha?</p> <p>(iii) The remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken both in the Ministry and the NMDFC to ensure timely laying of the Annual Report and audited accounts within the prescribed period of nine months from the close of the accounting year, in future.</p>	<p>statement were authenticated by Minister in January, 1997, although the Annual Report was authenticated by Welfare Minister in October, 1996.</p> <p>Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the financial year 1995-96* has been received in the Ministry on 13.12.96 and are being processed and will be laid shortly. Annual Reports for the year 1996-97 will be finalised only after the matter is received from the Corporation.</p> <p>The Corporation has stated that they will submit their Annual Reports and Audited Accounts within the prescribed period.</p>

1.5 The Committee considered the matter at their sitting held on 25 September, 1997.

1.6 The Committee note that the Annual Report and the Audited Accounts of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi for the year 1994-95, which was the first year of the Corporation as it was established on 30.9.1994, were required to be laid on the Table of the House by 31.12.1995 but actually these were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 25.2.1997, i.e., after a delay of about 14 months. Taking note of the inordinate delay, the Committee decided to call the representatives of the Ministry of Welfare to elucidate the reasons for delay in laying these documents. Accordingly, the representatives of the Ministry of Welfare appeared before the Committee on 25 September, 1997 to tender their oral evidence.

1.7 When asked to explain the reasons for delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, the Secretary regretted for the delay and said that it was due to inexperience of the Corporation. He also stated that the Annual Report was finalised on 26.3.1996 and received in the Ministry on 12 September, 1996. Thereafter, it was placed before the Minister on 18 September, 1996 and got it signed on 23 September, 1996. The delay

* Laid on the Table on 6.5.1997.

statement was prepared and that was got it signed from the Minister on 6 January, 1997. And on 25 February, 1997, these documents were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

1.8 The witness also stated that the Corporation had no Company Secretary. If there had been a Company Secretary, the delay could have been cut short. Now, the Corporation have Company Secretary. It would have been seen that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 1996-97 are laid on the Table of Lok Sabha within the prescribed period of nine months.

1.9 When asked why so much time was taken in translation and printing by the Corporation, the witness stated that there was only one Translator in the Corporation and that too was a fresh appointment. In the beginning, there was a problem, now everything has been done in time.

1.10 On being asked why the time of about 5½ months was taken by the Ministry in laying these documents on the Table of the House after their receipt from the Corporation, the witness stated that the file was sent to the Minister for authentication, they should have followed it up much more vigorously to get it back. Unfortunately, it was not done.

1.11 When asked whether they were aware of the recommendation of the Committee contained in Para 4.16 of Second Report (5th Lok Sabha) that where it is not possible for the Government to lay the Report of any Company within the prescribed period they should lay on the Table, a statement explaining the reasons for not laying the Reports within 30 days from the expiry of the period of nine months and if the House is not in Session at that time, the statement should be laid on the Table within seven days of re-assembly of the House. The witness replied in negative and regretted by stating that this should have been done. He assured the Committee that in future care would be taken to adhere to this recommendation of the Committee.

1.12 The Committee note that the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi initiated the action for appointment of auditors as late as on 31.3.1995, i.e., on the last day of the close of the accounting year and the Auditors were appointed on 12.7.1995, i.e., after about 3½ months of the close of the accounting year. The Committee also note that though the accounts were compiled and ready for being handed over to the Auditors on 15.4.1995 and auditors were appointed on 12.7.1995, but these documents were actually handed over to Auditors in the last week of September, 1995 taking 2½ months time after the appointment of auditors in handing over the accounts for auditing. The Committee do not see any reason why the Corporation kept the accounts with it for 2½ months. The Committee do not appreciate this type of working of the Corporation. The Committee feel that had the Corporation taken timely action for appointment of Auditors much of the delay could have been avoided. The Committee considered it a serious lapse on the part of the Corporation and hope that due care would be taken in future to eliminate such lapse. Further the Auditors took a long period of six months in auditing the accounts. The Committee do not see any instance where auditors were reminded by the Corporation for early auditing the accounts. The Committee feel that once the accounts are handed over to Auditors for auditing they must be vigorously pursued for early auditing of the accounts.

1.13 The Committee also note that 12 months were taken by the Corporation in finalising their Annual Report though it should have been finalised within six months of the close of the accounting year. The Committee appreciate the Corporation's efforts that the Annual Report was finalised on 26.3.1996 and they got the approval of Annual Report and Audited Accounts by the General Body in Annual General Meeting held in the same month. Immediately after approval, these documents should have been taken up for translation and printing but the Corporation took about 2 months in taking up the Job of translation, i.e., it was taken up in May, 1996. Not only this, but after printing of the documents, the Corporation took 2 months in forwarding these documents to the Ministry. The Committee are not happy over the manner in which the work of translation, printing and forwarding of these documents to the Ministry by the Corporation has been handled. The Committee hope that the Corporation would be more vigilant and would not allow to recur such lapse in future.

1.14 The Committee take a serious view of the fact that the Ministry took an unduly long period of about 5½ months in laying these documents on the Table of the House. The Committee feel that if the administrative Ministry is doing their work in such a go slow approach how the Corporation can be enthused for timely laying of these documents.

1.15 The Committee do not appreciate the ignorance shown by the representative of the Ministry of Welfare about the laying provision made by the Committee in para 4.16 of their Second Report (Fifth Lok Sabha). The Committee regret to observe that such an important recommendation of the Committee has lost sight of the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their said recommendation for information and future compliance by the Ministry of Welfare.

"4.16.....where it is not possible for the Government to lay the Report of any Company within that period they should lay on the Table a statement explaining the reasons for not laying the Reports within 30 days from the expiry of the period of nine months and if the House is not in Session at that time, the statement should be laid on the Table within 7 days of re-assembly of the House....."

1.16 The Committee are unhappy to note that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Corporation for the year 1995-96 were laid on 6.5.1997, i.e., after about 4 months of the close of the accounting year.

1.17 In order to avoid delays, the Committee recommend that the Ministry of Welfare in consultation with the Corporation should draw up a time bound programme for completion of each and every stage involved in laying the documents on the Table of the House, right from the appointment of auditors upto the stage of laying these documents on the Table of the House. For this purpose, some senior officer, at an appropriate level, both in the Ministry and in the Corporation should be entrusted with the job for monitoring the progress made at each stage so that these documents would be laid on the Table of the House within stipulated period of nine months from the close of the relevant accounting year.

CHAPTER II

DELAY IN LAYING ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF NATIONAL BACKWARD CLASSES FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, NEW DELHI FOR THE YEAR 1993-94

The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) was set up under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 with the main objective to promote self-employment ventures for the benefit of Backward Classes and to assist these classes in developing technical and entrepreneurial skills for setting up such ventures.

2.2 The Annual Report and Audited Accounts of NBCFDC for the year 1993-94 were laid together with Review and delay statement on the Table of Lok Sabha on 1.8.96. As per the recommendation of the Committee contained in para 4.16 of their 2nd Report (5th Lok Sabha), the aforementioned documents should have been laid by 31 December, 1994 i.e. within 9 months from the close of the accounting year. Thus, the period of delay involved in the case came to about 19 months.

2.3 In the statement, laid alongwith the Annual Report and Audited Accounts, the reasons for delay have been explained as under:—

"The Second Annual Report for the year 1993-94 of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation was approved in the Annual General Meeting of the Corporation held on 20th December, 1994. Thereafter, the Report was to be printed alongwith the audited accounts and could not be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha earlier."

2.4 The Ministry of Welfare who were requested to furnish information on certain more points, had furnished the same on 30.9.1996 as under:-

Points	Date	Replies Remarks
1	2	3
I. The dates when:		
(a) the action was initiated for appointment of auditors;	13.08.93	
(b) the auditors were appointed;	24.3.94	
(c) the accounts of NBCFDC, New Delhi for the year 1993-94 were compiled and were ready for being handed over to auditors;	29.6.94	The accounts were approved in the 12th meeting of Board of Directors held on 29th June, 1994 were given to statutory auditors on 30.6.94. However, these required some amendments as suggested by the auditors and same were amended and resubmitted to auditors on

1	2	3
(d) the accounts were actually handed over to auditors for auditing.	30-6-94	26 Sept., 94. The amended accounts were approved by the Board of Directors in its 14th meeting held on 28th Nov., 1994. These accounts were handed over to the office of Member Audit Board III, CAG on 30th Nov., 94 and the CAG gave its report on 16th Dec., 94.
(e) the auditing of accounts commenced by the auditors and the time taken in it;	July 94 to 29th Nov. 94 (5 months)	
(f) the annual report was finalised.	20th Dec., 1994	The Board of Directors in its 15th meeting held on 20.12.94 had approved the contents of the Annual Report.
(g) the annual report and audited accounts were got approved from the Annual General Meeting/Governing Body/Executive Committee of the NBCFDC;	30th Dec., 94.	The approval was given in the Adjourned Second Annual General Meeting held on 30th Dec., 94 and the Minutes of the meeting were approved by the Secretary (W) on 7th Feb., 95.
(h) the annual report and audited accounts were taken up for translation and printing and the time taken in it;	Jan. 95 to July, 95	Time taken for translation into Hindi and printing of Annual Report.
(i) the finalised annual report and audited accounts in both Hindi and English version were sent to the Ministry of Welfare for being laid in Parliament;	01.08.95	In view of the fact that some mistakes cropped up in the figures submitted by the Corpn. earlier, they were asked to check up and certify that no error/mistake is there in the Annual Report of 1993-94.
(j) the delay statement and review were prepared by Ministry; and	04.03.96	Papers were ready but we had to wait for the next Parliament Session.
(k) the annual report and audited accounts along with review statement and delay statement were got authenticated from the Minister;	08.03.96	Shri Sitaram Kesari the then Welfare Minister authenticated the Report on 8.3.96 but the Report could not be laid on the Table of the House. When the BJP Government was formed

1	2	3
(ii) The latest position regarding finalisation of the annual report and audited accounts for the year 1994-95. When these are expected to be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.	16.8.96	<p>Shri Karia Munde, the then Welfare Minister authenticated the Report on 21.5.96. Again, it could not be laid on the Table of the House. Again the Report was got authenticated from Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, the Welfare Minister on 7.6.1996 and finally was sent on 19th July, 1996 for laying on the Table of the House.</p> <p>The Annual Report for the year 1994-95 was sent to the Table Office for laying it before the Parliament on 16.8.96.*</p>
(iii) The remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken both in the Ministry and the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi to ensure timely laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts within the prescribed period of nine months from the close of the accounting years, in future.		<p>The Corporation was set up in January 1992 and due to teething problems and all its sectors were not well-organised there was delay in submission of the Annual Report 1993-94. The Corporation is in the process of computerizing its accounts, setting up accounts and financial manuals which will help in early finalisation of accounts, so that the whole process upto laying of Annual Report in the Parliament is completed in a time bound manner. The translation and printing jobs are also being standardised as per the requirements of the Corpn.</p>
(iv) The date on which the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the years 1991-92 and 1992-93 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.	24.8.94	<p>The Corporation was set up on 13.1. 1992, the first financial year was for the period 13.1.92 to 31.3.93. The first Annual Report was sent to the Table Office for laying it in the Parliament on 24.8.94.</p>

*Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 12.9.1996.

2.5 The matter was considered by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table at their sitting held on 7 May, 1995.

2.6 The Committee noted that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) for the year 1993-94 were laid on the Table on 1.8.1996, i.e. after a delay of 19 months; these documents for the year 1994-95 were laid on the Table of the House on 12.9.1996, i.e., after a delay of about 11½ months and documents for the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 were not laid on the Table of the House. In view of the continuous inordinate delay, the Committee decided to call the representatives of the Ministry of Welfare to explain the reasons for delay. Accordingly, evidence was tendered by the Ministry before the Committee at their sitting held on 25 September, 1997.

2.7 When asked why the Annual Accounts of the NBCFDC were not maintained properly, the Secretary, Ministry of Welfare admitted this fact and stated that they had no excuse for that and it was very difficult for them to justify that kind of delay.

2.8 When asked why an inordinate delay had taken place in translation and printing, the witness stated that there was only one translator in the Corporation and she too went on Maternity Leave and the translation work had to be got done from outside the Corporation. The witness admitted that proper monitoring was not done by the Corporation. He assured the Committee that everything would be done within time in future.

2.9 The Committee do not see any reason for not maintaining the accounts properly since this is the second year of their laying these documents on the Table of the House. The Committee are also not convinced with the argument advanced by the Ministry of Welfare that they did not have sufficient arrangements for translation of the Report. The Committee feel that much of the delay could be obviated if the NBCFDC had taken timely action in making adequate arrangements for translation and printing of the Report.

2.10 The Committee note that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of NBCFDC for the year 1993-94 were received by the Ministry on 1.8.95 for being laid on the Table of the House but the Ministry sent back these documents to the Corporation on 31.10.95 for verification of figures. After due verification the Corporation resubmitted these documents to the Ministry on 18.12.95. The Committee note that the Ministry of Welfare took three months in sending back these documents to the Corporation for verification of figures and the Corporation also took 1½ months in verification of figures. The Committee feel that undue period of about 4½ months was taken in verification of figures while no outside agency was involved in this process. Thereafter, the Ministry took inordinately long period of about 2½ months in preparing review and delay statement. The Committee feel that if the administrative Ministry is doing their work in such a lackadaisical manner, what sort of control they would have on the Corporation in making them to lay the documents on the Table of the House in time. The Committee feel that this type of approach should be discouraged in future. The Committee suggest that such verifications could be expedited through personal contacts/visits in spite of entirely depending upon the protracted correspondence involving various channels which results in unjustified delays.

2.11 The Committee displease to note that their recommendations are not being paid due attention both in the Ministry of Welfare as well as in the Corporation by not implementing them in letter and spirit.

2.12 The Committee need hardly stress that in order to give timely information to Parliament about the working and performance of the Corporation it is the duty of the Administrative Ministry to see that the Corporation's Annual Report and Audit Accounts are laid within 9 months of the close of the accounting year as recommended by the Committee in para 4.16 of their Second Report (Fifth Lok Sabha).

2.13 The Committee recommend that the NBCFDC in consultation with the Ministry of Welfare should devise some mechanism for regular internal audit and internal control procedure in the Corporation so that the accounts are handed over to the Auditors free from basic defects and the time could be saved on account of such audit objections.

2.14 The Committee also feel that creation of a monitoring cell jointly by the Ministry and NBCFDC to keep a close watch over the progress and timely completion of various stages for timely laying of Annual Report and Audited Accounts on the Table of the House can also help to avoid such delays in future.

CHAPTER III
DELAY IN LAYING ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED
ACCOUNTS OF THE INDIAN NURSING COUNCIL,
NEW DELHI FOR THE YEAR 1994-95

The Indian Nursing Council is a Statutory Body set up under the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947 with the prime objective to prescribe uniform standard for training of nurses, midwives, auxiliary-nurse-midwives and health visitors. It also regulates their professional ethics. For this purpose the Indian Nursing Council periodically carries out inspection of nursing institutions.

3.2 The Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi for the year 1994-95 were laid alongwith Review and Delay Statement on the Table of Lok Sabha on 16 December, 1996. As per recommendation of the Committee contained in para 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha), the aforementioned documents should have been laid by 31 December, 1995 i.e. within 9 months of the close of the accounting year. Thus, the delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts on the Table of Lok Sabha came to about 12 months.

3.3 In the statement laid alongwith Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Council for the year 1994-95, the reasons for delay have been explained as under:—

“The dates on which various activities were completed by the Indian Nursing Council for preparing Annual Report and the Audited Accounts statement for the year 1994-95 are as under:—

Sl. No.	Activities	Date
1.	Compilation of Accounts	January, 1996
2.	Submission of the Accounts to Audit	23.01.1996
3.	Receipt of the draft audited Accounts from DACR	06.05.1996
4.	Reply given on points raised by the Audit in the draft report	27.05.1996
5.	Receipt of the final Audited Accounts from DACR	16.09.1996
6.	Translation of the certified accounts and the audit report into Hindi	04.10.1996
7.	Preparation of Annual Report	18.10.1995
8.	Preparation of Hindi version of the annual report	07.08.1996
9.	Approval/adoption of the Annual Report and audited accounts by the Executive Committee/ Finance Committee	28.02.1996 4-5 July, 1996
10.	Submission of the Annual Report and audited accounts (bilingual) to the Ministry	09.10.1996

3.4 The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Deptt. of Health) who were asked to furnish clarifications on certain points furnished the same on 24.4.1997 as under:—

POINTS	REPLIES
I. The dates when:	
(a) (i) the audit authorities were approached for appointment of auditors for auditing the accounts of Indian Nursing Council, for the year(s) 1994-95	23.1.96
(ii) when they were appointed;	30.1.96
(b) the Delay Statement and Review were prepared by the Ministry;	1.11.96
(c) the Annual Report and audited accounts alongwith Review and Delay Statement were got authenticated from the Minister; and	6.12.96
(d) the Annual Report and audited accounts of Indian Nursing Council for the last three years, i.e. 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 were laid in the Parliament.	<u>1991-92</u> <u>22.4.93</u> <u>1992-93</u> 4.8.94 <u>1993-94</u> 27.2.96
II. The latest position regarding finalisation of the Annual Report(s) and audited accounts for the subsequent year(s) 1995-96. When these are expected to be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha?	The Annual Report and Audited statement of accounts for the year 1995-96 has been received on 11.3.97 and is likely to be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in the current Budget Session.
III. The remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken both in the Ministry and the Indian Nursing Council, to ensure laying of the Annual Report and audited accounts within the prescribed period of nine months from the close of the accounting year, in future.	The President, Indian Nursing Council has been requested to ensure timely laying of these reports.

3.5 The Committee had earlier examined the matter of delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Indian Nursing Council for the year 1981-82 and reported the matter to the House on 14 August, 1984.

The Committee had *inter-alia* recommended as under:—

"The Council should be very careful in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts on the Table of the House in future."

3.6 The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in their action taken replies to the recommendation of the Committee, contained in the above-said report, had *inter-alia* stated as under:—

"The views and observations of the esteemed Committee have been noted and the Indian Nursing Council has been impressed upon to ensure meticulous compliance."

3.7 The Committee considered the matter at their sitting held on 9 September, 1997 and regretted to find from the information furnished by the Ministry that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Council for the years 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96 had been laid on the Table of the House on 22.4.1993, 4.8.1994, 27.2.1996, 16.12.1996 and 14.8.1997 after a delay of about 4 months, 7 months, 14 months, 12 months and 7½ months respectively and decided to call the representatives of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Department of Health) to further elucidate the matter. Accordingly, the representatives of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, (Department of Health) appeared before the Committee to tender oral evidence on 25 September, 1997.

3.8 During evidence, the representatives were asked to explain the reasons for delay in laying the Annual Reports & Audited Accounts of Indian Nursing Council for the years 1991-92 to 1995-96. They stated that for the year 1991-92 there was no delay on the part of the Council as they had sent the documents to the Ministry on 9 December, 1992. The delay took place on the part of the Ministry. But, since the Session was upto 23 December, 1997 the Ministry could not process them and lay on the Table of the House in time.

3.9 When asked whether they were aware of the recommendations of the Committee contained in para 3.5 of the first Report (5th Lok Sabha), the witness replied in negative.

3.10 The witness also informed that it is a small body and only 3 or 4 officers are there. There was one Secretary, one Additional Secretary, One Assistant Secretary and one Accountant-cum-cashier. But the post of the Accountant was vacant from December, 1993 to December, 1994 after that one man was posted but that too had resigned. Therefore, the Council faced problems.

3.11 About the remedial steps, the witness added that they had drawn a time-table and all the work is being done according to the time-table. The document for the year 1996-97 are expected to be placed on the Table of the House before 31 December, 1997. For, this they have put their Joint Secretary in-charge to monitor the work.

3.12 The Committee regret to note that in spite of the assurance given by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for meticulous compliance of the recommendations of the Committee, the same is not being done with seriousness.

3.13 The Committee note that the accounts of Council for the year 1994-95 were compiled in January, 1996 i.e. after about ten months of the close of the accounting year. Thereafter, the Auditors took about three months in auditing the accounts, final Audited Accounts from the DACR were received after about three months of having answered the points raised by the Audit. The Annual Report was prepared on 18.10.1995 i.e. after about six months of the close of the accounting year, the Hindi version of the Annual report was prepared on 7 August, 1996 i.e. after about nine months of the preparation of the English version of the Annual Report. The Annual report and Audited Account in both the versions were sent by the Council to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 9.10.1996 i.e. after about 2 months of the preparation of the Hindi version of the Annual Report. The Committee do not appreciate the justification of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that the post of two Accountants was vacant from December, 1993 to December, 1994. The Committee observe that had the Council and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare filled up the vacant post without loss of time that the delay in completion of the accounts could be avoided. The Committee also do not appreciate the contention that the Council is small body having three or four officers of the rank of Secretary, Additional Secretary, Asstt. Secretary and Accountant-cum-Cashier. The Committee are bound to observe that these high ranking officers did not move in the matter with the required seriousness. The Committee also do not appreciate the ignorance shown by the Ministry about the laying provision made by the Committee in Para 3.5 of their Report (5th Lok Sabha). The Committee regret to observe that such an important recommendation of the Committee has lost the sight of the Ministry.

3.14 The Committee reiterate their said recommendation for information and future compliance by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Department of Health):—

"3.5 The Committee are of the opinion that normally the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of autonomous organisations should be presented to Parliament together to enable the House to have a complete picture of the working of that body. This decision should not be taken to imply that laying of reports and accounts could be delayed to any length of time. The Committee recommend that the Annual Report together with the audited accounts and audit report thereon for a particular year should be laid on the Table within 9 months of the close of the accounting year unless otherwise stipulated in the Act or Rules under which the organisation has been set up. To comply with this requirement proper time schedule should be laid down for compilation of Annual Report and accounts and their auditing. The Committee feel that normally a period of 3 months would be sufficient for compilation of accounts and their submission to audit; the next 6 months might be given for auditing of accounts; for printing of the report and sending it to Government for laying. If for any reason the report, audited accounts and audit report cannot be laid within the stipulated period of nine months, the Ministry should lay within 30 days of expiry of the prescribed period or as soon as the House meets, whichever is later, a statement explaining the reasons why the report and accounts could not be laid within the stipulated period."

3.15 The Committee hope that henceforth the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health) and the Council would make sincere efforts to lay Annual Reports & Audited Accounts on the Table of the House within prescribed period of nine months after the close of the accounting year. To eliminate the recurrence of such delays, the Ministry and the Council would work as per the recommendation made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in Para 3.5 of First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) and some senior officers would be made responsible both in the Ministry and the Council to ensure the strict adherence of the said recommendation of the Committee.

CHAPTER IV

DELAY IN LAYING ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (ICAR), NEW DELHI FOR THE YEAR 1994-95.

The Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi for the year 1994-95 were laid on the Table of the House on 17.12.1996. In terms of recommendation of the Committee on Papers Laid contained in para 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha), the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Council for the said year should have been laid on the Table of the House by 31 December, 1995 i.e. within 9 months of the close of the accounting year. Thus, the delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts had come to 11½ months.

4.2 In the delay statement laid alongwith the documents, the reasons for delay have been explained as under:—

“The Draft Audit Report and the Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the year 1994-95 were issued by Principal Director of Audit, Scientific Departments, New Delhi on 5.1.1996 and were received in the Council on the same day. The final Audit Report alongwith the certified Accounts of the ICAR were received on 6.2.96. The Audited Accounts were approved by the General Body of the Council at its Annual General Meeting held on 9.3.96. In this connection a Statement showing all the events in chronological order is as under:—

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Date of submission of Accounts by the body to Auditors | 29.08.1995 |
| 2. Reasons for returning the accounts after revision if that be the case; indicate also why accounts could not be certified with qualification | N.A. |
| 3. Date of submission of revised accounts to Audit where revision was considered essential | N.A. |
| 4. Date on which audit was conducted and completed | 16.08.1995
to
13.10.1995 |
| 5. Date of issue of Draft Audit Report by the Principal Director of Audit, Scientific Departments, New Delhi to the Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. | 05.01.1996 |
| 6. Date(s) for furnishing of replies to Draft Audit Report by the ICAR to Principal Director of Audit (Scientific Departments) | 16.01.1996 |

7. Issue of final Audit Report by the Principal Director of Audit (Scientific Departments), New Delhi to the Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi with a copy to ICAR 06.02.1996
8. The Audited Accounts were approved by the General Body of the Council at its annual general meeting held on. 09.03.1996

4.3 The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education) who were requested to furnish information on some more points, have furnished the same on 20.3.97 as under:—

POINTS		REPLIES	
1		2	
I. The dates when:			
(a) the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) approached the audit authority for appointment of auditors for auditing their accounts for the year 1994-95.		23.3.1992	
(b) the accounts of Indian Council of Agricultural Research were compiled and were ready for being handed over to auditors;		29.8.1995	
(c) The Annual Report for the year 1994-95 was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha;		The Annual Report of ICAR for 1994-95 and 1995-96 were combined and laid on the Table on 17.12.1996.	
(d) the audited accounts were taken up for translation and printing and the time taken in it;		7.2.96 to 6.3.96	
(e) the audited accounts both in Hindi and English versions were sent to the Ministry for being laid in the Parliament;		10.12.1996	
(f) the Delay Statement was prepared by the Ministry;		29.11.1996	
(g) the audited accounts alongwith Delay Statement were got authenticated by the Minister; and		4.12.1996	
(h) the Annual Report and audited accounts of ICAR for the last three years i.e. 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 were laid in Parliament;		<i>Year</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>
		1991-92	20-4-93
		1992-93	22-4-94
		1993-94	25-4-95

1	2
II. The latest position regarding finalisation of the Annual Accounts for the year 1995-96 and Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 1996-97 when these are expected to be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha?	The Annual Accounts* for the year 1995-96 has been finalized & printed. The Accounts will be laid on the Table of the House during the current Budget Session on receipt of the proceedings of the Annual General Body meeting of the ICAR Society held on 15.3.1997. The Audited accounts for the year 1996-97 will be finalized as soon as the accounts are closed on 31.3.1997.
III. The remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken both in the Ministry and the ICAR to ensure timely laying of the Annual Report and audited accounts within the prescribed period of nine months from the close of the accounting years, in future.	It is ensured that in future the Annual Report as well as Audited Accounts will be laid on the Table of the House in stipulated period of time.

4.4 The matter was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 14 July, 1997. The Committee were not satisfied with the reasons put forward by the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) and in view of the recurring delays, the Committee decided that the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) might be invited to appear before the Committee to explain the reasons therefor in detail.

4.5 Accordingly, at their sitting held on 26 September, 1997, the Committee take oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) in the matter.

4.6 During evidence, when asked to explain the reasons for delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the years 1992-93 to 1995-96, the Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) stated that one of the reasons was that the Agricultural Institute is spread all over the country and has 73 Research Institutes. Sometimes there was delay in getting the required information of such a large number of Institutes in time. The witness also stated that for the year 1994-95 they had received the Audited Report as late as in February, 1996 and after that it was placed before the Annual General Meeting in March, 1996. The General Body asked for explanation from the Financial Advisor and after giving explanation the Report was translated into Hindi, got printed and in this process it was delayed.

4.7 When asked to explain about the time taken for translation, the witness stated that one month was taken in it. On being asked about the steps taken to curtail the delay, the witness stated that they had already discussed the matter at the level of

* Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 6.5.1997.

Director-General and directions have already been given to all the senior officers so that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts could be laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated period of nine months from the close of the accounting year in future.

4.8 The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) who were requested to furnish information on some more points had furnished the same as under:—

POINTS	REPLIES
1	2
<p>I. It has been stated that the Council submitted the accounts for auditing to the Auditors on 29.8.95 and the audit was started on 16.8.95.</p>	<p>The Audit team, in addition to audit of consolidated accounts of ICAR, also conducts the scrutiny of accounts and allied records of ICAR Hqrs. on the basis of which consolidated Accounts are prepared. For the year 1994-95, the audit was conducted from 16.8.95 to 13.10.95. As at the start of audit, the consolidated accounts were under finalization hence the same were submitted to the audit on 29.8.95. In the meantime, the audit team scrutinized the accounts and allied records of ICAR Hqrs.</p>
<p>Please clarify how the audit started before submission of Accounts by the Council to the Auditors?</p>	
<p>II. It has been stated that the audited accounts were sent by the Council to the Ministry for being laid in Parliament on 10.12.96 and the delay statement was prepared by the Ministry on 29.11.96 and accounts were got authenticated by the Minister on 4.12.96.</p>	<p>The audited accounts both in Hindi and English were sent to the Ministry for being laid in the Parliament on 10.12.96 and the delay Statement were prepared by the Ministry on 29.11.96 and authenticated by the Ministry on 4.12.96.</p>
<p>Please clarify how the delay statement and the audited accounts were prepared/got authenticated from the Minister before receipt of audited accounts from the Council.</p>	

1	2
<p>III. It has been replied that the annual report of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 were combined laid on the Table on 17.12.96.</p>	
<p>a) Please verify the fact whether the annual report for the year 1994-95 was also laid on the Table on 17.12.96 alongwith annual report for the year 1995-96, since it has not come up in Bulletin Part-I dated 17.12.96; and</p>	<p>Prior to 1995, the annual report for DARE/ICAR were prepared separately i.e., DARE report was printed for the current financial year and the ICAR report of previous financial year. It was decided that the Annual report of DARE and ICAR should be same to avoid duplication of information. In order to comply with new arrangement and to prepare the report up-to-date the Annual Report of 1995-96 also contained achievements of 1994-95.</p>
<p>b) if not, please specify the date when the Annual Report for the year 1994-95 was laid on the Table of the House.</p>	<p>The annual report of ICAR prepared for 1995-96 also contained the achievement of 1994-95 was laid on the on 17.12.96.</p>

4.9 The Committee regret to note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the year 1991-92 to 1994-95 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha after delays ranging from 4 to 11½ months.

4.10 From the information furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education), the Committee find that the Council compiled and handed over the accounts to Auditors for auditing on 29.8.1995, i.e., after about 5 months from the close of the accounting year. The Committee feel that all out efforts are not made to ensure that compilation of accounts etc. are completed well in time according to a pre-determined schedule. The Committee recommend that the Council in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Council should devise some sort of concurrent audit system so that much of the time is saved in compilation of accounts after the close of the accounting year.

4.11 The Committee also find that the accounts were submitted to the auditors for auditing on 29.8.1995 but the auditors started the auditing on 16.8.1995 and completed on 13.10.1995. The Committee fail to understand how the Audit started before handing over the documents to Auditors. The Committee are not satisfied with the moulded information furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) vide their office Memorandum dated 21.5.1998 that the Auditors, prior to handing over the documents, scrutinised the accounts and allied records of Indian Council of Agricultural Research Headquarters. The Committee feel that scrutiny of records etc., on the basis of which the accounts

are prepared, is the soul of Auditing and hence it cannot be separated from the actual audit. The Committee advise to the Ministry of Agriculture to avoid giving such twisting replies in future.

4.12 The Committee further note that Auditors took about 5 months in furnishing their final Report to Indian Council of Agricultural Research *i.e.* on 6.2.1996. The Committee see that such a long time taken is just because of imperfect accounts handed over to auditors for auditing which gave birth to a number of objections by the auditors. The Committee feel that ICAR will make all out efforts to maintain their accounts in such a way that minimum objections might be raised by the audit authorities while auditing the accounts.

4.13 The Committee regret to take note that the Audited Accounts were approved by the General Body of the Council at its Annual General Meeting held on 9.3.1996 and the approved accounts were sent to the Ministry after about 9 months, *i.e.*, on 10.12.1996 for being laid on the Table. The Committee fail to understand why the Council withheld the documents and took 9 months in forwarding them to the Ministry. The Committee do not appreciate the casual approach of the Council with which the whole matter has been dealt with. The Committee are bound to presume that the Ministry of Agriculture also did not pursue the matter with the Council at any stage and worked leisurely which led to inordinate delay in laying these documents on the Table of the House. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Council should discourage such attitude to eliminate delay in future.

4.14 The Committee find that the Council sent the Audited Accounts to the Ministry of Agriculture for being laid on the Table on 10.12.1996 and the delay statement was prepared by the Ministry on 29.11.1996 and the same was got authenticated by the Ministry on 4.12.1996. The Committee do not understand how the delay statement was prepared and got authenticated prior to receipt of Audited Accounts from the Council. The Committee hope that the matter will be looked into by the Ministry seriously.

4.15 The Committee regret to note that the Annual Report of Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 was combined and laid on the Table on 17.12.1996. The Committee are not convinced with the reply furnished by the Ministry in this regard that the Annual Report for the year 1995-96 also contained achievements of Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the year 1994-95. On perusal of the Annual Report for the year 1995-96, the Committee do not find any specific mention that this Report also contain the achievements of the Council for the year 1994-95. The Committee feel if it was so, this fact would have been categorically mentioned in the Annual Report for the year 1995-96. The Committee desire that this matter may be looked into thoroughly and in future Annual Reports together with Annual Accounts should be laid on the Table of the House for each year separately.

4.16 The Committee note that the Annual Report for the year 1995-96 was laid within stipulated time, *i.e.*, on 17.12.1996 but the annual accounts for the same year were laid on the Table on 6.5.1997, *i.e.*, after a delay of about 4 months. The Committee feel that the manner in which the documents laid on the Table

of the House do not present the realistic picture of the performance of the Council. The Committee, therefore, feel that this fact should be realised in right perspective and efforts should be made to lay the Annual Report and Audited Accounts together in future.

4.17 In view of the recurring delays in laying these documents on the Table of the House, the Committee feel it necessary that the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research should draw up a time schedule for each stage involved in finalisation and timely laying of these documents. The Committee also desire that officers at sufficiently higher level both in the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) and in the Council should be assigned the responsibility to keep a close watch in ensuring that these documents are completed and laid on the Table within 9 months of the close of the accounting year.

CHAPTER V

DELAY IN LAYING ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF SHRI LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI RASHTRIYA SANSKRIT VIDYAPEHA, NEW DELHI FOR THE YEAR 1994-95

The Annual Report and the Audited Accounts of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, (S.L.B.S.R.S.V.) New Delhi for the year 1994-95 were laid together with Review and Delay Statement on the Table of Lok Sabha on 3.12.96. As per recommendation of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, contained in para 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha), the aforementioned documents should have been laid on the Table of Lok Sabha within 9 months of the close of the accounting year i.e. by 31 December, 1995. Thus, the period of delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts on the Table of Lok Sabha came to about 11 months.

5.2 In the delay statement laid alongwith Annual Report and Audited Accounts, the reasons for delay had been explained as under:—

"There has been some delay in laying the Annual Report and Annual Accounts of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi for the year 1994-95. The report was prepared for publication on 11.1.1996. The Shista Parishad of the Sanskrit Vidyapeetha approved the Annual Report on 15.7.96. The fulfilment of the prescribed procedure including translating & binding resulted in the Vidyapeetha sending us the copies only on 31.7.96. The Annual Accounts of the Vidyapeetha has also received on 9.9.1996. The Annual Report and the Annual Accounts for 1994-95 are now laid on the Table of the House."

5.3 In this connection, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) who were requested to furnish information on certain points had furnished the same as under:—

POINTS	REPLIES
1	2
I. The dates when:	
(a) the accounts of S.L.B.S.R.S.V. were compiled and were ready for being handed over to auditors;	30.06.1995
(b) the accounts were actually handed over to the auditors;	07.07.1995
(c) the auditing of accounts commenced by the auditors and the time taken in it;	08.03.96 to 23.05.96 (50 working days)

1	2
(d) the Annual Report was finalised; (e) the Annual Report and Audited Accounts were got approved from the A.G.M./General Body/ Executive/Finance Committee of the S.L.B.S.R.S.V.	The Annual Report was finalised on 11.01.96. (i) Annual Report 1994-95 approved by General Body on 11.01.1996. Audited accounts approved by Finance Committee on 16.09.96 in its 14th meeting.
(f) the Annual Report and Audited Accounts were taken up for translation and printing and the time taken in it;	Annual Report 1994-95 taken up for translation in April 96 and printed in July, 1996 <i>Audit Accounts</i> -27.6.96.
(g) the finalised Annual Report and Audited Accounts in both Hindi and English versions were sent to the Ministry for being laid in Parliament.	A.R. — 31 July, 1996 A.A. — 06 Sept., 1996
(h) the Delay Statement and Review were prepared by the Ministry.	7.10.1996
(i) the Annual Report and Audited Accounts alongwith Review and Delay Statement were got authenticated from the Minister; and	A.A. — 8.10.1996 A.R. — 9.09.1996
(j) the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of S.L.B.S.R.S.V. for the last three years i.e. 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 were laid in Parliament.	1991-92 - 25.04.1995 1992-93 - 25.04.1995 1993-94 - A.A. 19.12.1995 — A.R. 25.04.1995
II. The latest position regarding finalisation of the Annual Report(s) and Audited Accounts for the subsequent year 1995-96. When these are expected to be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha?	Annual Report 1995-96* is ready for approval of the Karya Parishad. The accounts have since been audited and the audited accounts are likely to be received shortly from Principal Director Audit, Central Revenues, New Delhi.
III. The remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken both in the Ministry and the S.L.B.S.R.S.V. to ensure timely laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts within the prescribed period of nine months from the close of the accounting year, in future.	<i>Audited Accounts.</i> More vigorous efforts will be made to get accounts cleared. (ii) Efforts will be made to get the Annual Report approved from various bodies in time.

*Have not been laid so far.

5.4 The matter was considered by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table at their sitting held on 14 July, 1997.

5.5 The Committee are unhappy to note that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha for the year 1994-95 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha after a period of 11 months. These documents for the year 1995-96 which were required to be laid on the Table of the House on 31 December, 1996 have not so far been laid.

5.6 The Committee are distressed to note from the information furnished by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) that 8 months were taken by the Auditors in commencing the auditing of the Accounts after their receipts from the Vidyapeetha on 7.7.95. Furthermore, the Auditors took 2½ months in auditing the accounts. The Committee do not see any reason why 10½ months were taken at the stage of auditing of accounts. After receipt of audited accounts, the Finance Committee took 4 months for its approval. The Committee regret to note that the Annual Report which contained administrative matters only was finalised after 9½ months after close of the accounting year. Further for laying of these documents, the Ministry took 3 months after their receipt from the Vidyapeetha on 6.9.1996.

5.7 The Committee further note that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Vidyapeetha for the last 3 years i.e. 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 were also laid on the Table of Lok Sabha after delay of about 28, 16 and 12 months respectively.

5.8 The Committee are of the view that the matter of laying the documents on the Table of the House has not received adequate attention either by the Vidyapeetha or by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education). Had the Ministry and the Vidyapeetha pursued the matter with the audit authorities for early auditing of accounts much of the delay could have been cut down. The documents for the subsequent year 1995-96 have not yet been laid. The delay is obviously inordinate and inhibits total lack of obligation to Parliament by the concerned authorities both in the Vidyapeetha and the Ministry. The Committee take serious view of the lapse and recommend that immediate remedial steps be taken by the Vidyapeetha and the Ministry *inter-alia* by drawing up a time-bound schedule for the preparation of Annual Reports and Accounts, their auditing, approval and laying on the Table of the House. For the adherence of the time schedule so drawn up, some senior officers in the Vidyapeetha and the Ministry should be entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the progress of each and every stage involved, in finalisation of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts.

CHAPTER VI

DELAY IN LAYING ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE, NEW DELHI FOR YEAR 1994-95

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, (CCRUM), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India was established in 1979 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The main objectives of the CCRUM are the formulation of aims and patterns of research on scientific lines in Unani Medicine and to initiate, aid, promote scientific research on different aspects, fundamental and applied, of Unani Medicine.

6.2 The Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi for the year 1994-95 were laid on the Table of the House on 3.12.1996. In terms of recommendation of the Committee on papers laid contained in para 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha), the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Council for the said year should have been laid on the Table of the House by 31 December, 1995 i.e. within 9 months of the close of the accounting year. Thus, the delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts came to 11 months.

6.3 In the delay statement laid alongwith the documents, the reasons for delay have been explained as under :—

As per Rule 55 of the Memorandum of Association of Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws of the Council, the Annual Report of the Council together with audited statement of accounts is to be laid down on the Table of Parliament within nine months of the close of financial year. There has been some unavoidable circumstances due to which the Report could not be laid down on the Table of Parliament well in time. Reasons for delay is given below in chronological order :—

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------------------|
| 1. | Date of Submission of Accounts to DGACR | 30.6.1995 |
| 2. | Period of Audit | 28.8.1995
to
29.9.1995 |
| 3. | Date of receipt of final Audit Report from DGACR | 2.1.1996 |
| 4. | Completion of the process of receipt of Annual Report from different Institutes/Units | 14.8.1995 |
| 5. | Circulation of Report to Members of the Scientific Advisory Committee | 6.10.1995 |
| 6. | Date of approval of Audit Report & Audited Statement of Accounts by Standing Finance Committee | 28.2.1996 |
| 7. | Date of approval/adoption of the Audit/Annual Report by the HFM in his capacity as President of the Governing Body | 1.3.1996 |

- | | | |
|-----|--|------------|
| 8. | Hindi translation of the report | 2.8.1996 |
| 9. | Date of submission of Annual Report alongwith the Audited Report & Accounts in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare | 24.10.1996 |
| 10. | Date of submission of 'Delay Statement' in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare | 24.10.1996 |

6.4 The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Department of ISM&H) who were requested to furnish information on some more points, had furnished the same as under :—

POINTS	REPLIES
1	2

I. "The dates when :

- | | |
|---|--|
| (a) The action for appointment of auditors for auditing the accounts of Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine for the year 1994-95 was initiated : | (a&b) The Director of Audit, Central Revenues are the Standing Statutory Auditors for the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) for auditing of its accounts for the year 1994-95. |
| (b) The accounts of CCRUM were compiled and were ready for being handed over to the auditors. | The CCRUM submitted the accounts for the year 1994-95 to Director of Audit on 30.6.95. The accounts were audited by the team sent by Director of Audit from 28.8.95 to 29.9.95. |
| (c) The Annual Report was finalised. | The Annual Report & Audited Accounts for the year 1994-95 were approved by the Governing Body in its meeting held on 1st March, '96. However, the minutes of the meeting were approved on 15.3.96. |
| (d) The Annual Report & Audited Accounts were taken up for translation and printing and the time taken in it. | The Hindi translation of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts was completed by the Council by 2.8.96 and the printed version of the Report both in Hindi and English was received in the Ministry on 24.10.96. |

1	2
(e) The Delay Statement and Review were prepared by the Ministry.	The Delay Statement and Review were prepared in this Ministry on 18.11.96.
(f) The Annual Report and Audited Accounts alongwith Review and Delay Statement were got authenticated from the Minister.	Annual Report and Audited Accounts alongwith Delay Statement and Review were got authenticated from the Hon'ble Minister on 22.11.96.
(g) The Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of CCRUM for the last 3 years, i.e., 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 were laid in the Parliament.	The Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the CCRUM for the last 3 years were submitted for laying on the Table of both Houses of Parliament on the dates indicated below:— <div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; margin-right: 20px;"> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: flex-end;"> <div>1991-92</div> <div>1992-93</div> <div>1993-94</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: flex-end;"> <div>18.7.94</div> <div>18.7.94</div> <div>27.3.95</div> </div> </div>
II. The last position regarding finalisation of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the subsequent year 1995-96. When these are expected to be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha?	The Annual Report* for the year 1995-96 has already been approved by the Governing Body in its meeting held on 28.11.96. The CCRUM have stated that the Report is under print and the same is expected to be laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament during the forthcoming Budget Session.
III. The remedial measure taken or proposed to be taken both in the Ministry and the CCRUM to ensure timely laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts within the prescribed period of nine months from the close of the accounting year, in future.	A calender of activities has been prepared for 1996-98 wherein target dates have been indicated for the Council for various activities in such a manner that the Annual Report & Audited Accounts are ready for laying on the Table of both Houses of Parliament in its Winter Session.

6.5. The Committee considered the matter at their sitting held on 13.6.1997.

6.6. The Committee are constrained to note that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi for the year 1994-95 were laid on the Table of the House on 3.12.1996 after a delay of about 11 months after close of the accounting year. These documents for the subsequent

*Laid on 12.5.1997.

year 1995-96 which were required to be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha by 31.12.1996 were also laid with a delay of about 4½ months, i.e., on 12.5.97.

6.7 The Committee find from the delay statement and subsequent information furnished by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy) that 6 months were taken in auditing the accounts by the auditors. The Committee regret to note that six months time recommended by the Committee on Papers Laid in para 3.5 of their First Report (5th Lok Sabha) for auditing of accounts, for printing of the Report and sending it to the Government for laying on the Table of the House, were consumed by the auditors alone in auditing of the accounts. The Committee feel that the Ministry and the Council failed to pursue the matter with the Auditors for early auditing of accounts. The Committee also note that after receipt of the Audit Report from the Auditors and the finalisation of the Annual Report, the Council took about 2 months in getting the approval of these documents from the General Council. An inordinately longer time of more than 6 months was also taken in translation and printing of the Annual Reports and the Audited Accounts. After translation and printing, the Council took 2 months in forwarding these documents to the Ministry for laying them on the Table of Lok Sabha.

6.8. The Committee are unhappy to note that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been failing to lay the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Council in time since the last four years, i.e., 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95. The Committee are constrained to observe that the matter was not taken up with a sense of urgency and seriousness which it deserved. A casual approach was adopted which resulted in inordinate delay in laying the documents on the Table of the House. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry as well as the Council should draw up a time bound schedule for finalisation of Annual Report and Audited Accounts right from the appointment of statutory auditors to the stage of laying them on the Table of Lok Sabha so that in future these documents of the Council are laid on the Table of the House within 9 months of the close of the accounting years. For the adherence of the time schedule so drawn up, some senior officers in the Ministry and in the Council should be entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the progress of each and every stage involved in finalisation of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts.

CHAPTER VII

DELAY IN LAYING ANNUAL REPORTS AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF ALLAHABAD MUSEUM SOCIETY, ALLAHABAD, FOR THE YEARS 1992-93 AND 1993-94

The Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad for the year 1992-93 and 1993-94 on the Table of the House of 3.9.1996. In terms of recommendation of the Committee contained in para 3.5 of their First Report (Fifth Lok Sabha), the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Museum for the said years should have been laid on the Table of the House by 31 December, 1993 and 31.12.1994 respectively i.e. within 9 months of the close of the accounting year. Thus, Table of the House 31.12.1994 respectively i.e. within 9 months of the close of the accounting year. Thus, the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 came to about 32 and 20 months respectively.

7.2 In the statement alongwith the documents, the reasons for delay had been explained as under:—

"The documents could not be laid within the stipulated period due to the non-receipt of the same from the Accountant General (Audit), Uttar Pradesh, Allahabad as the order relating to entrustment of audit of the accounts of the Museum for the year 1992-93 and onwards to the Comptroller & Auditor General of India were issued by Government of India, Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs), Budget Division on 2.1.1995.

A brief accounts of the steps involved in finalising the report is as under :—

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Date on which copies of the annual accounts for 1992-93 were supplied to the Audit. | 02.01.1995 |
| 2. | Duration of the Audit | 03.02.1995
to
22.02.1995 |
| 3. | Date of discussion of Inspection Report of 1992-93 and 1993-94 | 22.02.1995 |
| 4. | Date on which the draft Audit Report was received from the Accountant General Audit-I, U.P., Allahabad | 30.3.1995 |
| 5. | Date on which draft Audit Report was replied | 02.05.1995 |
| 6. | Date of receipt of copy of Audit Certificate (English version) from the Accountant General, Audit-I, U.P., Allahabad | 30.05.1995 |
| 7. | Date of approval of Accounts by the Executive Board | 31.07.1995 |

8. Date of receipt of the Hindi version of the Audit Certificate from the Accountant General, Audit-I, U.P., Allahabad. 01.08.1995
9. Date of receipt of requisite number of copies of the Audited Accounts for and Audited Report (English & Hindi version) in the Deptt. of Culture from the Organisation. 01.11.1995

On receipt of the documents mentioned at No. 9, the same were examined in this Department. By the time they were processed for authentication of Minister of State, the Budget Session of the Parliament was over (i.e. 13.3.1996).

Efforts will be made to see that the Annual Report and Audited Statement of Account of the Museum are placed before the Parliament within the stipulated time-limit".

7.3 The Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Culture) who were requested to furnish information on some more points, had furnished the same on 9.12.1996 as under :—

POINTS	REPLIES
1	2
I. The dates when :	
(a) the action for appointment of auditors for auditing the accounts of Allahabad Museum Society for the years 1992-93, 1993-94 was initiated by AMS.	The matter relating to audit of the accounts of the Allahabad Museum Society (AMS) for year 1992-93 was taken up by AMS with the Accountant General (Audit) I, U.P., Allahabad on 5th December, 1993. Relevant order of Ministry of Finance for entrusting of the audit work to CAG were issued on 2.1.1995. By this time, the accounts for 1993-94 were all ready. The accounts for both these Years were finalised in 1993-94.
(b) the accounts of the Allahabad Museum Society were compiled and were ready for being handed over to auditors;	1992-93—By August, 1993. 1993-94—By August, 1994.
(c) the Annual Report was finalised;	1992-93—By December, 1993. 1993-94—By November, 1994.
(d) the Annual Report and Audited Accounts were got approved from the A.G.M./General Body/Executive/Finance Committee of the Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad.	1992-93—05.12.1994. 1993-94—31.07.1995.

1	2
(e) the Annual Report and Audited Accounts were taken up for translation and printing and time taken in it.	<u>1992-93</u> : The work was taken up in the first week of December, 1993 and completed by the fourth week of December, 1993.
(f) the delay statement and Review were prepared by the Ministry.	<u>1993-94</u> : The work was taken up in the first week of December, 1994 and completed by the fourth week of December 1994.
(g) the Annual Report and Audited Accounts alongwith Review and Delay Statement were got authenticated from the Minister; and	1992-93—29.2.1996. 1993-94—29.2.1996.
(h) the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad for the last three years 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 were laid in Parliament.	(a) The relevant file/papers were submitted for approval/ authentication to Minister of State (E&C) on 8.3.1996 and were received back on 14.3.1996, without singing as the Parliament was adjourned. (b) The file was again submitted on 17.7.1996 for approval/ authentication of HRM and received back in Section duly authenticated on 20.8.1996. It was sent to Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha on 30.8.1996 for laying before the Parliament. L.S. R.S. 1989-90 26.8.91 10.9.1991. 1990-91 14.7.92 10.7.1992. 1991-92 22.4.1994 26.4.1994.
II. The latest position, regarding finalisation of the Annual Report (s) and Audited Accounts for the subsequent year (s) 1994-95 and 1995-96. When these are expected to be laid on the table of Lok Sabha.	(a) Allahabad Museum Society has informed that Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 1994-95 are ready for submission to Department of Culture for laying them before the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha and the requisite number of copies are being sent shortly.

1	2
<p>III. the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken both in the Ministry and the Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad to ensure timely laying of the Annual Report and audited accounts within the prescribed period of 9 months from the close of the accounting year, in future.</p>	<p>(b) The audit of Annual Accounts or the year 1995-96 was concluded by Accountant General (Audit)-I, Uttar Pradesh, Allahabad on 1st November 1996. The Audit Report and the Audit Certificate are awaited for audit.</p> <p>Necessary instructions to compile the Annual Accounts and Annual Report by 30th June, each year since been issued to the officials/officers concerned. Concerted efforts will be continued for laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts as per the prescribed time frame.</p>

7.4 The matter was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 7.5.1997.

7.5 The Committee are distressed to note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Allahabad Museum Society for the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 which, in terms of the recommendation of the Committee made from time to time, ought to have been laid before Parliament by 31 December, 1993 and 1994 respectively i.e. within 9 months of the close of the accounting year, were actually laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 3.9.1996. Thus, there were delays of about 32 and 20 months in laying of the documents for the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 respectively.

7.6 The Committee find from the delay statement and subsequent information furnished by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Culture) that much of the delay took place in appointing the statutory auditors i.e. 21 months after the close of the accounting year 1992-93. The Committee also note that auditors took 4 months in auditing the accounts; the Society took a long period of 20 months and 16 months in finalising the Annual Reports for the years 1992-93 and 1993-94, respectively and the Ministry took 9 months after receipt of the documents, in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts on the Table of Lok Sabha.

7.7 The Committee further note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the previous 3 years i.e. from 1989-90 to 1991-92 were also laid on the Table with delay ranging from 8 to 16 months and the documents for the subsequent years 1994-95 and 1995-96 have not been laid so far.

7.8 The Committee recommend that the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Culture) should take seriously, the recurrence of delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Society and

ensure in future timely finalisation of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts by the Society and prompt submission of replies to queries from auditors. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry in consultation with the Society, should draw up a time bound programme for timely completion of each stage involved in finalisation of the Annual Report and Annual Accounts and in laying them on the Table of the House within the prescribed time limit of nine months of the close of the accounting year, in future.

CHAPTER-VIII

DELAY IN LAYING ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF INDIRA GANDHI RASHTRIYA MANAV SANGRAHALAYA, BHOPAL FOR THE YEAR 1993-94

The Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), Bhopal for the year 1993-94 were laid together with Review and Delay Statement on the Table of Lok Sabha on 26.8.1996. As per recommendation of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table contained in para 3.5 of their First Report (5th Lok Sabha), the aforementioned documents should have been laid by December 31, 1994 i.e. within 9 months from the close of the accounting year. Thus, the period of delay involved in this case came to about 20 months.

8.2 In the statement laid alongwith the Annual Report and Audited Accounts, the reasons for delay had been explained as under:—

"The Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, an autonomous organisation fully financed by the Government of India, Department of Culture for the year 1993-94 were required to be laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament by 31st December, 1994. However, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts could not be submitted within the stipulated time. A brief account of the stages in finalising the report is as under:—

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Date of finalisation of Annual accounts by the I.G.R.M.S. | 15.7.94 |
| 2. Date of sending the same to A.G., M.P. | 15.7.94 |
| 3. Date on which Audit was carried | 25.7.94 to 06.08.94 |
| 4. Date on which The Paper of Auditor General, M.P. was received | 04.3.95 |
| 5. Date on which the Report was finalised | April, 1995 |
| 6. Date on which the Report was approved by the I.G.R.M.S. | 07.6.95 |
| 7. Date on which Hindi Translation was received | July, 1995 |
| 8. Date on which the Report was given for Pre-Press Works | August, 1995 |
| 9. Date on which the Report was sent for Printing | 30.11.95 |
| 10. Date on which the Printed Report was received | 19.12.95 |
| 11. Date on which the Report was forwarded to Deptt. of Culture | 19.12.95 |
| 12. Date on which Delay Statement was furnished | 19.12.95 |

In order to ensure the timely submission of the report before the Parliament, the Department has prepared a time-table for the various stages and has impressed upon the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya to adhere to the time-limit strictly in future."

8.3. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (Deptt. of Culture) who were requested to furnish information on certain more points, have furnished the same on 31.10.1996 as under:—

POINTS	REPLIES
I. "The dates when:	
(a) The action for appointment of auditors for auditing the accounts of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), Bhopal for the year 1993-94 was initiated.	For 1989-90 to 1993-94 (i.e. 5 years) 6th August, 1990. Accounts were audited during 25th July, 1994 to 6th August, 1994. Report was received on 4th March, 1995 and the same was approved by the RMS Samiti on 7.6.1995.
(b) The annual report and audited accounts were taken up for translation and the time taken in it.	July, 1995 (one month)
(c) The Review was prepared by the Ministry.	January, 1996
(d) The annual report and audited accounts alongwith Review and Delay Statement were got authenticated from the Minister	July, 1996
(e) The annual reports and audited accounts of IGRMS for the last three years i.e. 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 were laid in Parliament.	1990-91 —23.8.93 1991-92 —22.4.94 1992-93 —22.8.95
II. The latest position regarding finalisation of the annual reports and audited accounts for the subsequent years 1994-95 and 1995-96. When these are expected to be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha?	The annual report and audited accounts for the year 1994-95 are ready for being approved by the Ex. Council and Samiti of the RMS. These are expected to be laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament after completion of procedural formalities shortly. In respect of 1995-96, audit was carried out in August, 1996. Report from the Accountant General, Madhya Pradesh is yet to be received."

8.4. The Committee considered the matter in detail at their sitting held on 20th January, 1997 and decided to hear oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Culture).

8.5. Accordingly, the representatives of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Culture) appeared before the Committee on 27 March, 1997 to tender oral evidence.

8.6. When asked to explain the reasons for delay in laying Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of IGRMS for the years 1990-91 to 1993-94 the witness stated that necessary actions which were required to be taken by the Ministry were not taken in time. Apart from this, sometimes the delay also occurred at the stage of auditing.

8.7. On being asked to explain why the documents for the years *1994-95 and *1995-96, had not been laid till then the witness stated that the documents were under printing and would be laid during the Budget Session of 1996 and also assured that in future, such delay would be avoided.

8.8. When asked why a statement, explaining the reasons for not laying the documents within the prescribed period, was not laid on the Table within 30 days after expiry of the stipulated period or as soon as the House met, as recommended by the Committee, the representative admitted the lapse on their part.

8.9. The Committee regret to note that the inordinate delay of 7 months has occurred in auditing of accounts; 5 months were taken in printing of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts; and six months were taken by the Ministry in getting the documents authenticated from the Minister.

8.10. The Committee are happy to know that in order to ensure the timely laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts in Parliament, the Ministry has prepared a time bound programme for completion of various stages and has impressed upon the Sangrahalaya to adhere to the time-limit strictly in future.

8.11. The Committee recommend that the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya should adhere to the time bound programme drawn by them. They should assign the responsibility to some senior officers in the Ministry as well as in the Sangrahalaya, for monitoring the progress of each and every stage involved in finalisation of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts and ensuring their laying on the Table of the House within nine months of the close of the accounting years.

NEW DELHI;
16 December, 1998
25 Agraphayana 1920 (Saka)

ARJUN CHARAN SETHI,
Chairman,
Committee on Papers laid
on the Table (1998-99).

1	2	3
7.	2.10	<p>The Committee note that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of NBCFDC for the year 1993-94 were received by the Ministry on 1-8-95 for being laid on the Table of the House but the Ministry sent back these documents to the Corporation on 31-10-95 for verification of figures. After due verification the Corporation resubmitted these documents to the Ministry on 18-12-95. The Committee note that the Ministry of Welfare took three months in sending back these documents to the Corporation for verification of figures and the Corporation also took 1½ months in verification of figures. The Committee feel that undue period of about 4½ months was taken in verification of figures while no outside agency was involved in this process. Thereafter, the Ministry took inordinately long period of about 2½ months in preparing review and delay statement. The Committee feel that if the administrative Ministry is doing their work in such a lackadaisical manner, what sort of control they would have on the Corporation in making them to lay the documents on the Table of the House in time. The Committee feel that this type of approach should be discouraged in future. The Committee suggest that such verifications could be expedited through personal contacts/visits in spite of entirely depending upon the protracted correspondence involving various channels which results in unjustified delays.</p>
8.	2.11	<p>The Committee displease to note that their recommendations are not being paid due attention both in the Ministry of Welfare as well as in the Corporation by not implementing them in letter and spirit.</p>
9.	2.12	<p>The Committee need hardly stress that in order to give timely information to Parliament about the working and performance of the Corporation it is the duty of the Administrative Ministry to see that the Corporation's Annual Report and Audit Accounts are laid within 9 months of the close of the accounting year as recommended by the Committee in para 4.16 of their Second Report (Fifth Lok Sabha).</p>
10.	2.13	<p>The Committee recommend that the NBCFDC in consultation with the Ministry of Welfare should devise some mechanism for regular internal audit and internal control procedure in the Corporation so that the accounts are handed over to the Auditors free from basic defects and the time could be saved on account of such audit objections.</p>

1	2	3
11.	2.14	<p>The Committee also feel that creation of a monitoring cell jointly by the Ministry and NBCFDC to keep a close watch over the progress and timely completion of various stages for timely laying of Annual Report and Audited Accounts on the Table of the House can also help to avoid such delays in future.</p>
12.	3.12	<p>The Committee regret to note that in spite of the assurance given by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for meticulous compliance of the recommendations of the Committee, the same is not being done with seriousness.</p>
13.	3.13	<p>The Committee note that the accounts of Council for the year 1994-95 were compiled in January, 1996 <i>i.e.</i>, after about ten months of the close of the accounting year. Thereafter, the Auditors took about three months in auditing the accounts, final Audited Accounts from the DACR were received after about three months of having answered the points raised by the Audit. The Annual Report was prepared on 18-10-1995 <i>i.e.</i> after about six months of the close of the accounting year, the Hindi version of the Annual Report was prepared on 7 August, 1996 <i>i.e.</i> after about nine months of the preparation of the English version of the Annual Report. The Annual Report and Audited Account in both the versions were sent by the Council to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 9-10-1996 <i>i.e.</i> after about 2 months of the preparation of the Hindi version of the Annual Report. The Committee do not appreciate the justification of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that the post of two Accountants was vacant from December, 1993 to December, 1994. The Committee observe that had the Council and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare filled up the vacant post without loss of time that the delay in compilation of the accounts could be avoided. The Committee also do not appreciate the contention that the Council is small body having three or four officers of the rank of Secretary, Additional Secretary, Asstt. Secretary and Accountant-cum-Cashier. The Committee are bound to observe that these high ranking officers did not move in the matter with the required seriousness. The Committee also do not appreciate the ignorance shown by the Ministry about the laying provision made by the Committee in Para 3.5 of their Report (5th Lok Sabha). The Committee regret to observe that such an important recommendation of the Committee has lost the sight of the Ministry.</p>

1	2	3
14.	3.14	<p>The Committee reiterate their said recommendation for information and future compliance by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Department of Health):—</p> <p>‘3.5 The Committee are of the opinion that normally the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of autonomous organisations should be presented to Parliament together to enable the House to have a complete picture of the working of that body. This decision should not be taken to imply that laying of reports and accounts could be delayed to any length of time. The Committee recommend that the Annual Report together with the audited accounts and audit report thereon for a particular year should be laid on the Table within 9 months of the close of the accounting year unless otherwise stipulated in the Act or Rules under which the organisation has been set up. To comply with this requirement proper time schedule should be laid down for compilation of Annual Report and accounts and their auditing. The Committee feel that normally a period of 3 months would be sufficient for compilation of accounts and their submission to audit; the next 6 months might be given for auditing of accounts; for printing of the report and sending it to Government for laying. If for any reason the report, audited accounts and audit report cannot be laid within the stipulated period of nine months, the Ministry should lay within 30 days of expiry of the prescribed period of as soon as the House meets, whichever is later, a statement explaining the reasons why the report and accounts could not be laid within the stipulated period.’</p>
15.	3.15	<p>The Committee hope that henceforth the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health) and the Council would make sincere efforts to lay Annual Reports & Audited Accounts on the Table of the House within prescribed period of nine months after the close of the accounting year. To eliminate the recurrence of such delays, the Ministry and the Council would work as per the recommendation made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in Para 3.5 of first Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) and some senior officers would be made responsible both in the Ministry and the Council to ensure the strict adherence of the said recommendation of the Committee.</p>
16.	4.9	<p>The Committee regret to note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Council of Agricultural</p>

1	2	3
		Research for the year 1991-92 to 1994-95 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha after delays ranging from 4 to 11½ months.
17.	4.10	From the information furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education), the Committee find that the Council compiled and handed over the accounts to Auditors for auditing on 29-8-1995, i.e., after about 5 months from the close of the accounting year. The Committee feel that all out efforts are not made to ensure that compilation of accounts etc. are completed well in time according to a pre-determined schedule. The Committee recommend that the Council in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Council should devise some sort of concurrent audit system so that much of the time is saved in compilation of accounts after the close of the accounting year.
18.	4.11	The Committee also find that the accounts were submitted to the auditors for auditing on 29-8-1995 but the auditors started the auditing on 16-8-1995 and completed on 13-10-1995. The Committee fail to understand how the Audit started before handing over the documents to Auditors. The Committee are not satisfied with the moulded information furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) <i>vide</i> their Office Memorandum dated 21-5-1998 that the Auditors, prior to handing over the documents, scrutinised the accounts and allied records of Indian Council of Agricultural Research Headquarters. The Committee feel that scrutiny of records etc., on the basis of which the accounts are prepared, is the soul of Auditing and hence it cannot be separated from the actual audit. The Committee advise to the Ministry of Agriculture to avoid giving such twisting replies in future.
19.	4.12	The Committee further note that Auditors took about 5 months in furnishing their final Report to Indian Council of Agricultural Research i.e. on 6-2-1996. The Committee see that such a long time taken is just because of imperfect accounts handed over to auditors for auditing which gave birth to a number of objections by the auditors. The Committee feel that ICAR will make all out efforts to maintain their accounts in such a way that minimum objections might be raised by the audit authorities while auditing the accounts.
20.	4.13	The Committee regret to take note that the Audited Accounts were approved by the General Body of the Council at its Annual General Meeting held on 9-3-1996 and the approved accounts

1	2	3
		<p>were sent to the Ministry after about 9 months, <i>i.e.</i>, on 10-12-1996 for being laid on the Table. The Committee fail to understand why the Council withheld the documents and took 9 months in forwarding them to the Ministry. The Committee do not appreciate the casual approach of the Council with which the whole matter has been dealt with. The Committee are bound to presume that the Ministry of Agriculture also did not pursue the matter with the Council at any stage and worked leisurely which led to inordinate delay in laying these documents on the Table of the House. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Council should discourage such attitude to eliminate delay in future.</p>
21.	4.14	<p>The Committee find that the Council sent the Audited Accounts to the Ministry of Agriculture for being laid on the Table on 10-12-1996 and the delay statement was prepared by the Ministry on 29-11-1996 and the same was got authenticated by the Minister on 4-12-1996. The Committee do not understand how the delay statement was prepared and got authenticated prior to receipt of Audited Accounts from the Council. The Committee hope that the matter will be looked into by the Ministry seriously.</p>
22.	4.15	<p>The Committee regret to note that the Annual Report of Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 was combined and laid on the Table on 17-12-1996. The Committee are not convinced with the reply furnished by the Ministry in this regard that the Annual Report for the year 1995-96 also contained achievements of Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the year 1994-95. On perusal of the Annual Report for the year 1995-96, the Committee do not find any specific mention that this Report also contain the achievements of the Council for the year 1994-95. The Committee feel if it was so, this fact would have been categorically mentioned in the Annual Report for the year 1995-96. The Committee desire that this matter may be looked into thoroughly and in future Annual Reports together with Annual Accounts should be laid on the Table of the House for each year separately.</p>
23.	4.16	<p>The Committee note that the Annual Report for the year 1995-96 was laid within stipulated time, <i>i.e.</i>, on 17-12-1996 but the annual accounts for the same year were laid on the Table on 6-5-1997, <i>i.e.</i>, after a delay of about 4 months. The Committee feel that the manner in which the documents laid on the Table of the House do not present the realistic picture</p>

1	2	3
		of the performance of the Council. The Committee, therefore, feel that this fact should be realised in right perspective and efforts should be made to lay the Annual Report and Audited Accounts together in future.
24.	4.17	In view of the recurring delays in laying these documents on the Table of the House, the Committee feel it necessary that the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research should draw up a time schedule for each stage involved in finalisation and timely laying of these documents. The Committee also desire that officers at sufficiently higher level both in the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) and in the Council should be assigned the responsibility to keep a close watch in ensuring that these documents are completed and laid on the Table within 9 months of the close of the accounting year.
25.	5.5	The Committee are unhappy to note that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha for the year 1994-95 were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha after a period of 11 months. These documents for the year 1995-96 which were required to be laid on the Table of the House on 31 December, 1996 have not so far been laid.
26.	5.6	The Committee are distressed to note from the information furnished by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) that 8 months were taken by the Auditors in commencing the auditing of the Accounts after their receipt from the Vidyapeetha on 7-7-95. Furthermore, the Auditors took 2½ months in auditing the accounts. The Committee do not see any reason why 10½ months were taken at the stage of auditing of accounts. After receipt of audited accounts, the Finance Committee took 4 months for its approval. The Committee regret to note that the Annual Report which contained administrative matters only was finalised after 9½ months after close of the accounting year. Further for laying of these documents, the Ministry took 3 months after their receipt from the Vidyapeetha on 6-9-1996.
27.	5.7	The Committee further note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Vidyapeetha for the last 3 years i.e. 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 were also laid on the Table of Lok Sabha after delay of about 28, 16 and 12 months respectively.

1	2	3
28.	5.8	<p>The Committee are of the view that the matter of laying the documents on the Table of the House has not received adequate attention either by the Vidyapeetha or by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education). Had the Ministry and the Vidyapeetha pursued the matter with the audit authorities for early auditing of accounts much of the delay could have been cut down. The documents for the subsequent year 1995-96 have not yet been laid. The delay is obviously inordinate and inhibits total lack of obligation to Parliament by the concerned authorities both in the Vidyapeetha and the Ministry. The Committee take serious view of the lapse and recommend that immediate remedial steps be taken by the Vidyapeetha and the Ministry <i>inter alia</i> by drawing up a time-bound schedule for the preparation of Annual Reports and Accounts, their auditing, approval and laying on the Table of the House. For the adherence of the time schedule so drawn up, some senior officers in the Vidyapeetha and the Ministry should be entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the progress of each and every stage involved, in finalisation of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts.</p>
29.	6.6	<p>The Committee are constrained to note that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi for the year 1994-95 were laid on the Table of the House on 3-12-1996 after a delay of about 11 months after close of the accounting year. These documents for the subsequent year 1995-96 which were required to be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha by 31-12-1996 were also laid with a delay of about 4½ months, i.e., on 12-5-97.</p>
30.	6.7	<p>The Committee find from the delay statement and subsequent information furnished by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy) that 6 months were taken in auditing the accounts by the auditors. The Committee regret to note that six months time recommended by the Committee on Papers Laid in para 3.5 of their First Report (5th Lok Sabha) for auditing of accounts, for printing of the Report and sending it to the Government for laying on the Table of the House, were consumed by the auditors alone in auditing of the accounts. The Committee feel that the Ministry and the Council failed to pursue the matter with the Auditors for early auditing of accounts. The Committee also note that after receipt of the Audit Report from the Auditors and the finalisation of the Annual Report, the Council took about 2 months in getting</p>

1	2	3
		<p>the approval of these documents from the General Council. An inordinately longer time of more than 6 months was also taken in translation and printing of the Annual Reports and the Audited Accounts. After translation and printing, the Council took 2 months in forwarding these documents to the Ministry for laying them on the Table of Lok Sabha.</p>
31.	6.8	<p>The Committee are unhappy to note that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been failing to lay the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Council in time since the last four years, <i>i.e.</i> 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95. The Committee are constrained to observe that the matter was not taken up with a sense of urgency and seriousness which it deserved. A casual approach was adopted which resulted in inordinate delay in laying the documents on the Table of the House. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry as well as the Council should draw up a time bound schedule for finalisation of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts right from the appointment of statutory auditors to the stage of laying them on the Table of Lok Sabha so that in future these documents of the Council are laid on the Table of the House within 9 months of the close of the accounting years. For the adherence of the time schedule so drawn up, some senior officers in the Ministry and in the Council should be entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the progress of each and every stage involved in finalisation of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts.</p>
32.	7.5	<p>The Committee are distressed to note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Allahabad Museum Society for the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 which, in terms of the recommendation of the Committee made from time to time, ought to have been laid before Parliament by 31 December, 1993 and 1994 respectively <i>i.e.</i> within 9 months of the close of the accounting year, were actually laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 3.9.1996. Thus, there were delays of about 32 and 20 months in laying of the documents for the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 respectively.</p>
33.	7.6	<p>The Committee find from the delay statement and subsequent information furnished by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Culture) that much of the delay took place in appointing the statutory auditors <i>i.e.</i> 21 months after the close of the accounting year 1992-93. The Committee also note that auditors took 4 months in auditing the accounts; the Society took a long period of 20 months and 16 months in</p>

1	2	3
		finalising the Annual Reports for the years 1992-93 and 1993-94, respectively and the Ministry took 9 months after receipt of the documents, in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts on the Table of Lok Sabha.
34.	7.7	The Committee further note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the previous 3 years <i>i.e.</i> from 1989-90 to 1991-92 were also laid on the Table with delay ranging from 8 to 16 months and the documents for the subsequent years 1994-95 and 1995-96 have not been laid so far.
35.	7.8	The Committee recommend that the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Culture) should take seriously, the recurrence of delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Society and ensure in future timely finalisation of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts by the Society and prompt submission of replies to queries from auditors. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry in consultation with the Society, should draw up a time bound programme for timely completion of each stage involved in finalisation of the Annual Report and Annual Accounts and in laying them on the Table of the House within the prescribed time limit of nine months of the close of the accounting year, in future.
36.	8.9	The Committee regret to note that the inordinate delay of 7 months has occurred in auditing of accounts; 5 months were taken in printing of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts; and six months were taken by the Ministry in getting the documents authenticated from the Minister.
37.	8.10	The Committee are happy to know that in order to ensure the timely laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts in Parliament, the Ministry has prepared a time bound programme for completion of various stages and has impressed upon the Sangrahalaya to adhere to the time-limit strictly in future.
38.	8.11	The Committee recommend that the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya should adhere to the time bound programme drawn by them. They should assign the responsibility to some senior officers in the Ministry as well as in the Sangrahalaya, for monitoring the progress of each and every stage involved in finalisation of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts and ensuring their laying on the Table of the House within nine months of the close of the accounting years.

© 1998 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rule 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business
in Lok Sabha (Ninth Edition) and printed by the Manager P.L. Unit,
Govt. of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi-110002.
