

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (2013-14)**

**FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS)**

**NATIONAL TEST HOUSE (NTH) - FACILITIES FOR TESTING, EVALUATION AND  
CALIBRATION OF ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT**

**THIRTY THIRD REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**FEBRUARY, 2014/ MAGHA, 1935 (Saka)**

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**Presented to Lok Sabha on 21.02.2014**

**Laid in Rajya Sabha on 21.02.2014**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**FEBRUARY, 2014/ MAGHA, 1935(Saka)**

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## COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (2013-14)

Shri Vilas Muttemwar - *Chairman*

### MEMBERS

#### Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
3. Shri Shivraj Bhaiya
4. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
5. Shri Arvind Kumar Chaudhary
6. Shri Harishchandra Chavan
7. Shri Sanjay Dhotre
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11. Shri Sohan Potai
12. Shri Ponnamm Prabhakar
13. Shri C. Rajendran
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16. Shri Adhi Sankar
17. Shri Suresh K. Shetkar
18. Shri Jagdish Thakor
19. Shri Laxman Tudu
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21. Vacant

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28. Dr. T.N. Seema
29. Shri Birender Singh
30. Shri Veer Singh
31. Shri Kaptan Singh Solanki

### LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P. K. Misra - Additional Secretary
2. Smt. Veena Sharma - Director
3. Smt. Mriganka Achal - Under Secretary

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (2013-14) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty Third Report (15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on 'National Test House (NTH) – Facilities for Testing, Evaluation and Calibration of Engineering Equipment' relating to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).

2. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) on 9th December, 2013.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) for placing before them detailed written notes on the subject and for furnishing the information to the Committee, desired in connection with the examination of the subject.

4. The Committee also place on record their deep sense of appreciation for invaluable assistance rendered by the Officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

5. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 20th February, 2014.

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

**NEW DELHI;  
20 February, 2014  
01 Phalguna, 1935 (Saka)**

**VILAS MUTTEMWAR  
Chairman,  
Standing Committee on Food,  
Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.**

## **CHAPTER – I**

### **INTRODUCTORY**

#### **A. BACKGROUND**

The National Test House (NTH), a subordinate office under the administrative control of Department of Consumer Affairs, formerly known as the Govt. Test House, is a premier Scientific Institution of the country, originated at Alipore, Kolkata in the month of August, 1912 under the then Railway Board. On the backdrop of the "Swadeshi Movement" the use of indigenously manufactured goods became inevitable and National Test House was formed to evaluate these items mainly to be used by the Railway Board. Realizing, the immense potential of National Test House in the field of test and quality evaluation of various industrial products, it was subsequently brought under the Indian Stores Department and its facilities in the field of test and quality evaluation was made open for all (Government, Private, Research institutions) and even to individuals. It also started undertaking Research and Development on Testing Technology. Since independence, National Test House traveled a long journey and presently, in the year 2012 completed 100 years of dedicated service to the Nation.

1.2 NTH has grown into a laboratory of national importance in the field of testing, evaluation and quality control of various engineering materials and finished products. It is actively involved in all respects of technology connected with industry, commerce, trade and standardization. It has played a pivotal role in the development of indigenous industries and serves as a vital link between industrial research and manufacture of finished products under rigid quality control. The prime scientific and technological service that NTH discharges among other allied services is the testing, quality evaluation and ensure the quality of almost all sorts of industrial and consumer products except drugs, arms and ammunition by issuing test certificate in accordance with the national/international or customer standard and specification.

## **B. Network of NTH across the country**

1.3 The Regional Laboratories of National Test House were established as under:-

- (i) National Test House (WR), Mumbai in 1964,
- (ii) National Test House (SR), Chennai in 1975,
- (iii) National Test House (NR), Ghaziabad in 1977,
- (iv) National Test House (NWR), Jaipur in 1993,
- (v) National Test House (NER), Guwahati in 1995,
- (vi) National Test House (ER) , Salt Lake in 2003

### **1.4 Vision and Mission of NTH:**

As informed by the Department of Consumer Affairs, the vision and mission of NTH are as under:

- (i) To protect the rights and interests of consumers by assuring the quality of Industrial & Consumer products.
- (ii) To ascertain the quality of products (Industrial/ Consumer) as per national/international standards or customer requirements through testing, quality evaluation, conformity assessment and issue of test certificates.
- (iii) To assist legal custodian of the country to settle the disputes on the quality of products
- (iv) To train professionals in the field of Test Engineering by imparting training
- (v) Development of Test Methodology & failure analysis of the product
- (vi) Render technical assistance to Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) in framing of Standards.

### **1.5 Objectives of NTH are as stated below:-**

- (i) Strengthening the existing test facilities as well as creation of new test facilities for diversified industrial and consumer products in accordance with the Consumers need across the country.
- (ii) Focus on increase of revenue generation annually for self-sustainability.
- (iii) To effectively use Information Technology so that customer friendly service through computer based Management Information System (MIS) is made available.

1.6 Specifying the quality policy and quality objective of NTH it was further stated that NTH is committed to provide reliable testing & evaluation of various products/material in the scientific & engineering fields maintaining impartiality & confidentiality. It delivers calibration services in the areas of Mechanical & Electrical Engineering Generation of test and calibration results traceable to National / International standards. Commitment at all levels to implement & maintain a Quality system. To familiarize all personnel concerned in testing & calibration with the quality system & its implementation and continuous improvement/up-gradation of its managerial & technical capabilities along with focus towards customer satisfaction. are the other quality policy and objectives of NTH.

### **C. Functions of NTH**

1.7 The Committee have been informed that National Test House works in the field of Testing, Evaluation and Quality Control of various engineering materials and finished products, Calibration of measuring equipments/instruments and devices on chargeable basis. National Test House also issues test certificates in scientific & engineering fields conforming to national/international specification or customer standard specification. A detailed information regarding the broad activities of NTH as furnished to the Committee are mentioned below:

#### **(a) Testing & Evaluation: Materials & Products**

1.8 Testing and evaluation of materials, products, in practically all branches of Science and Technology except pharmaceuticals, arms and ammunitions in accordance with National/International Standards.viz:

- Chemical
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Non Destructive



- Rubber, Plastics, Paper & Textiles
- Testing at customers premises / site

**(b) Calibration at the level of Echelon – II and maintenance of proper standards and reference in areas of its competence.**

- Electro Technical measurements
- Mechanical measurements
- Calibration at customers premises / site
- Traceability to International system of Units (SI) as per ISO / IEC 17025:2005

**(c) Failure Analysis:**

- Investigational work related to failure of engineering materials / products – Consultancy on all sorts of analysis of engineering materials as well as in small scale industrial development related to engineering & material products.

**(d) Certification of Welders:**

- Welders certification under the scheme of “Central Authority for Testing & Certification of Welders” of the Indian Boilers Regulation Act 1950

**(e) Product Development Assistance:**

- Provides assistance in development of products

**(f) R&D in Testing Technology:**

- Research work undertaken for development in testing technology / methodology.

**(g) Training:**

- Chemical product testing
- Civil engineering product testing
- Electrical engineering product testing
- Mechanical engineering product testing
- Non-Destructive testing
- Rubber, Plastics, Paper & Textile testing
- Metrology and calibration in the field of Mechanical & Electrical measurements

**(h) Consultancy:**

- Setting up of laboratories
- Import substitution

- Failure analysis
- Quality upgradation
- Small Scale Industrial Development
- Development of test methods
- Grading of Radiographic Images
- Structural upgradation of old & heritage building as well as Industrial structures

**(i) Standardization:**

- Actively participates and supports B.I.S. in formulation of Indian Standards

**(j) Accreditation:**

- Actively participates and supports National Laboratory Accreditation Programme under National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories (NABL)

1.9 The following major facilities are available at National Test House Laboratories:-

**(k) Chemical:-**

- Metal Alloys & Ores, purity of precious metal
- General Chemical
- Building Materials, Waterproofing compounds, Wood Preservatives
- Lubricants, Fuel, Petroleum & Bituminous Products, Edible oil, Soap, Detergents
- Pesticides, Fertilizers[Inorganic & Organic] Disinfectants
- Water[Packaged drinking]
- High Polymer, Paper, Cheque Paper.
- Paint, Surface Coating and allied materials.

**(l) Mechanical:-**

- Mechanical Engineering Product Testing Division
- Heavy material.
- Light mechanical & Miscellaneous Products.

- Hydraulic Products
- Testing of Cranes
- Coupled TMT Bar, Valves
- Quality Assessment of Mini Steel Plants
- On-Site Testing in selected cases.

**(m) Electrical :-**

- Electrical Engineering Product Testing :-
- Cables
- High Voltage
- Energy Meter
- Lamp and Photometry
- Battery.
- Electrical Accessories, Geyser and other consumer durables
- Fan & Motor
- Compact fluorescent lamp [CFL]

**(n) Civil :-**

- Building materials
- Refractory materials
- Soil
- Concrete mix Design
- Miscellaneous Product – Sanitary ware, Grout materials(Cement, Epoxy, Polyester),
- Rock core, Concrete core.
- Timbers and Timber products, fire fighting equipments, fire check door.
- Defects of timber
- On-Site Testing in selected cases .

**(o) Non- Destructive Testing :-**

- Radiographic
- Ultrasonic
- Magnetic & Dye-Penetrant
- Metallographic Examination and Failure Analysis
- Evaluation of Welding Electrodes Preparation of Welder Procedure Specification
- On-site testing in selected cases.

**(p) Rubber, Plastic, Paper & Textile**

- Rubber & Leather
- Paper & Plastic
- Fiber & Textile product
- Life jacket-complete test
- GEO-Textile materials
- Tarfelt & Water proofing Membrane

**(q) Testing jobs towards Commitment to Society:-**

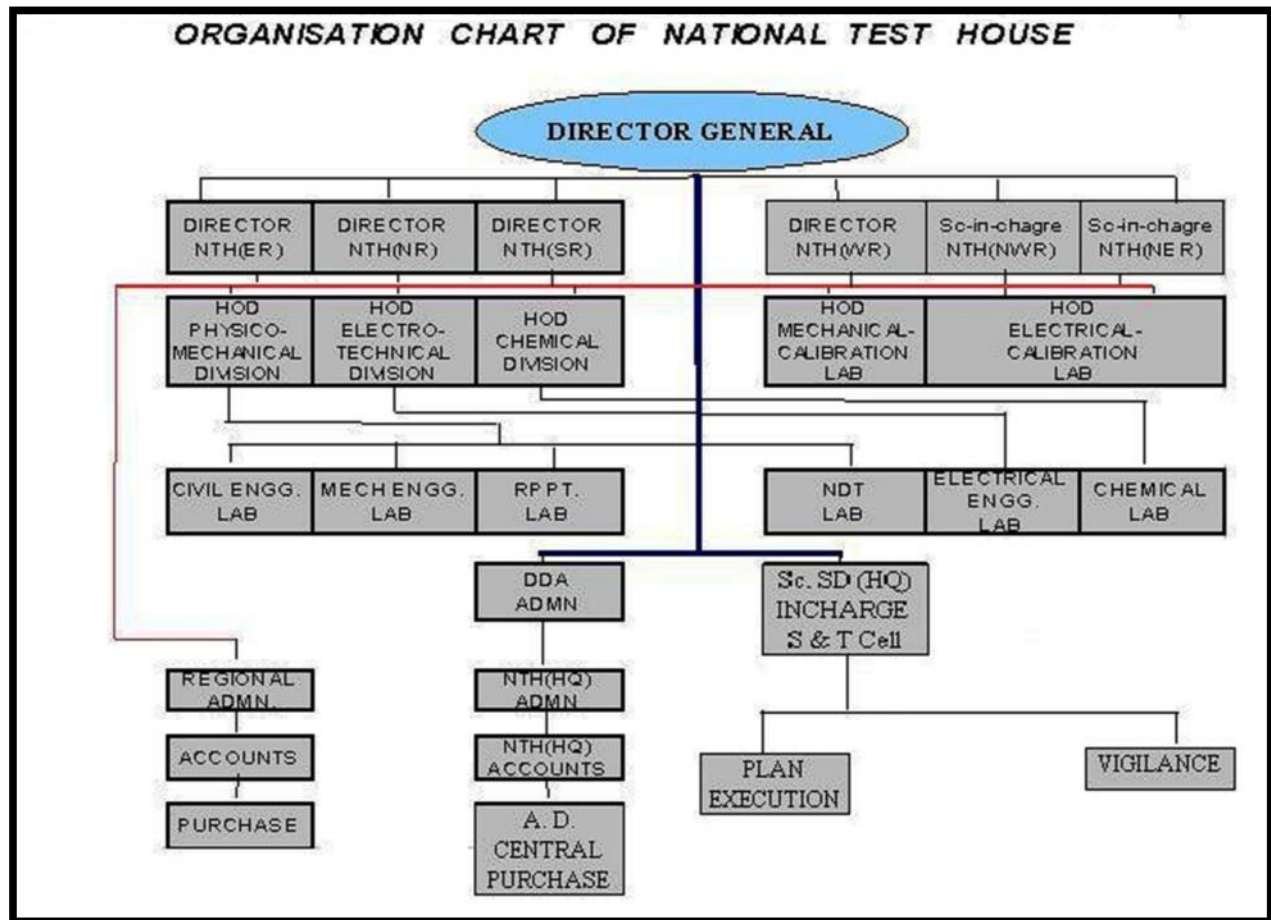
In regard to health, environment & ecology NTH examine

- (i) Residual pesticides level in Cold Drinks;
- (ii) Released toxicity during handling Of Dinner set;
- (iii) Adulteration in edible oil & mineral oil;
- (iv) Presence of insecticide “allethrin” as a contamination in rice’
- (v) Cyanide content in Leather Extract Solution in the effluent from a shoe manufacturing factory;
- (vi) Toxicity level of pond water and also adherent soil in the delta area reveals the cause of unnatural bird’s death there;

1.10 In a note furnished to the Committee, it was stated that due to the following reasons, testing at NTH is valued:-

- Availability of testing facilities for all the materials/products of major engineering disciplines under one-roof.
- The largest multi-location, multi-disciplinary techno-commercial testing & calibration laboratory in India;
- Best scientific/technological human resource of Test Engineering.
- The Best State-of-the-Art Machineries & Equipments for Testing & Calibration.
- Unique Web-based Management Information System to provide instantaneous status of the samples.
- Availability of the Test/Calibration Certificates on the Website.
- All the laboratories are accredited by NABL.
- Customer's confidence by maintaining highest level of Impartial status.

(D) The Department of Consumer Affairs have furnished the following Organizational set up of National Test House:-



Director General, NTH is the overall In-charge of General Administration, Finance, Vigilance & Plan Execution.

Scientist-SD (HQ) ---a) Has no financial power.

b) Is responsible for looking into the procurement process of Machinery & Equipment within the purview of Technical issues only.

c) Is responsible for utilization of fund for "L&B" & "IT".

d) Co-ordinates with DDA & AD(Central Purchase) for procurement process of Machinery & Equipment.

Deputy Director (Admn.) – NTH(HQ) ---- a) Has no financial power.

b) Is responsible for looking into the procurement process of Machinery & Equipment within the purview of Administrative & Financial issues.

c) Is responsible for utilisation of fund under "OE".

d) Co-ordinates with Sc.SD (HQ) & AD(Central Purchase) for procurement process of Machinery & Equipment.

Assistant Director (Central Purchase) --- a) Has no financial power.

b) Is Overall In-charge of the Central Purchase Section of NTH.

c) in Co-ordination with Sc.SD (HQ) & DDA executes the overall procurement process of Machinery & Equipment.

Directors / Regional In-Charges ---- a) Is regional In-charge of General Administration, Finance, Vigilance & Plan Execution.

b) Has Overall Responsibility for implementation of the Regional Projects

H.O.D. of Divisions at Regions ----- a) has no financial power.

(Scientist SD) b) Is Overall In-charge of the respective Technical Division

#### **E. Non-Commercial activities undertaken by NTH: - (Annual Report)**

1.11 As regards the non-commercial activities of NTH, the following information has been furnished by the Department in their Annual Report:-

(i) Assisting BIS in framing Specifications of varied engineering and consumable products through representation in its various Sectional Committees.

(ii) NTH Scientists represent as Lead Assessors and Assessors in National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for conducting Technical & Management Audit.

(iii) Providing training to the Professionals belonging to Government Departments and Autonomous Bodies viz. Railways, SAIL, BIS in the field of testing and calibration with very nominal charge.

(iv) Assisting various Court of Laws, Legal custodians and Vigilance Departments for quality assurance as a third party reference laboratory. Although

NTH receives testing fees but the intangible value for these sort of testing are enormous in the consumer interests of the country.

(v) NTH undertakes Social Welfare Service in sectors like health, environment and ecology, safe inhabitation etc. NTH accepts fees but cannot be considered as commercial in true sense of the terms, since the main role of NTH is that to provide services to the Society and Nation.

1.12 The Committee were further informed that laboratories of NTH also attracted great scientists like Dr. J.C. Ghosh, Dr. Meghana Saha, Shri Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Dr. S.N. Bose and Dr. Atmaram who later founded CSIR and great scientists like Dr. S.K. Mitra and Dr. Lal Burman who started their scientific journey from NTH and contributed important research in the field of science and technology.

1.13 During oral evidence, the representatives of the Department highlighted the importance and quality (specification) of the NTH which are as under:-

'Our organisation is basically a national premier quality body. It is like, you know, the standard body of the country. It is like the UPSC. It runs only on reputation and quality. Once it is certified by the Government Laboratory called National Testing Laboratory, even the Supreme Court, CVC, CBI—all of them accept our certificate. Our certificate is the ultimate in quality because it is the only recognised national level laboratory, 100 years old. Recently, the centenary celebration was attended by the hon. President of India. Even SAARC countries also send their samples for testing to us and their employees also come to us for training in this organisation.'

'There are some good things which are like feathers in our cap for example, NTH was given the task of testing of parts of Brahmos missile, testing of machineries of Kalpakkam Nuclear Power Plant, testing of fire retardant cloths which are being used in A.C. coaches of Indian Railway, 200 year old heritage buildings of Kolkata like Rajbhawan, Post Office, Highcourt etc. Other than this, testing of water due to which birds were dying in Sundarban Area was done in the laboratory of NTH, our testing is considered as ultimate'

**1.14 The Committee find that the National Test House which has been providing services and facilities to the Nation for the last over 100 years in the field of testing, evaluation and quality control of various engineering materials and finished products also undertakes social welfare service in sectors like health, environment and ecology. As regards the credibility of the quality of works done by NTH, the Committee note that Supreme Bodies like Central Vigilance Commission, Supreme Court and Central Bureau of Investigation also rely on testing of NTH and the Quality Certificate issued by the laboratory of National Test House is accepted by all. The Committee further note that NTH was given the task of testing of some parts of Brahmos Missile and Machineries of Nuclear Power Plant in Kalpakkam and even the SAARC countries send their samples for testing by NTH. While appreciating the work being done by NTH in various fields in both commercial and non-commercial activities, the Committee are of the view that NTH plays a crucial role for the overall scientific and economic development of the country. The Committee hope that NTH will continue to upgrade/improve itself in terms of infrastructure, efficiency, expansion of activities, information & technology, trained manpower and achieve self-sufficiency in future.**



## CHAPTER - II

### GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF NTH

#### A. Analysis of Budget and Revenue

2.1 The following table gives a glimpse of NTH performance during 11th Five Year Plan:

BE (Plan)	Rs. 74.84 crore
RE (Plan)	Rs. 69.51 crore
Actual Expenditure (Plan)	Rs. 62.11 crore
Non-Plan Expenditure	Rs. 23.59 crore
Revenue Generated	Rs. 52.57 crore

11th Plan Figures Year-wise (in crores) as submitted to the Committee are as under:-

Year	Land & Building	Machinery & Equipments	Recurring Expenditure	Information Technology	Total BE	Actual Expenditure
2007-08	3.55	3.24	1.38	0.10	8.27	5.39
2008-09	5.96	8.95	2.91	0.85	18.67	9.99
2009-10	5.67	8.28	3.35	0.40	17.70	13.47
2010-11	2.69	8.28	3.80	0.40	15.17	15.66
2011-12	2.33	8.23	4.22	0.25	15.05	17.60
Total	20.20	36.98	15.66	2.00	74.84	62.11

2.2 The following statement showing the BE, RE and Actual Expenditure of the NTH during the last five years along with percentage of utilization of funds has been furnished by the Department:-

**(Rs. in Crore)**

Year	Land & Building ( Major Works)			Machinery & Equipments (M&E)			Recurring Expenditure			Information Technology(IT)			Total		
	BE	RE	Actual Expendit ure	BE	RE	Actual Expendit ure	BE	RE	Actual Expendit ure	BE	RE	Actual expendit ure	BE	RE	Actual Expendit ure
2008-09	4.64	4.64	3.72	6.00	4.46	4.57	2.51	1.67	1.43	0.85	0.85	0.27	14.0 0	11.62	9.99
2009-10	5.25	5.25	4.52	7.00	7.00	6.87	2.35	1.80	1.68	0.40	0.40	0.40	15.0 0	14.45	13.47
2010-11	7.70	7.20	6.11	7.70	7.70	7.57	1.25	1.75	1.61	0.52	0.52	0.37	17.1 7	17.17	15.66
2011-12	11.52	11.02	11.01	6.70	4.60	4.57	2.30	1.68	1.47	0.70	0.70	0.55	21.2 2	18.00	17.60
2012-13	10	8	7.17	4.7	2.5	2.44	3	2.24	2.2	0.3	0.26	0.18	18	13	11.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>39.11</b>	<b>36.11</b>	<b>32.53</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>26.26</b>	<b>26.02</b>	<b>11.41</b>	<b>9.14</b>	<b>8.39</b>	<b>2.77</b>	<b>2.73</b>	<b>1.77</b>	<b>85.3 9</b>	<b>74.2 4</b>	<b>68.7</b>
<b>% utilisation with respect to RE</b>	<b>90.09</b>			<b>99.09</b>			<b>91.79</b>			<b>64.84</b>			<b>92.54</b>		

2.3 The Committee observed from the Annual Report of the Department that during the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 74.84 crore was approved by EFC, out of which an amount of Rs. 20.20 crore has been placed under the head 'Land & Building', Rs. 36.98 crore for procurement of Equipment and Machinery and Rs. 17.66 crore for recurring nature of items (including Rs. 2.00 crore for Information & Technology). When asked about the details of physical output of 11<sup>th</sup> Plan expenditure, the Committee were informed as under:-

### **Land & Building :**

- Phase- II building of NTH(SR), Chennai** on the available vacant land within the NTH(SR), Chennai premises, was constructed and subsequently inaugurated on 06/10/2012 by the Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

2. In consonance with the policy of Department of Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India for strengthening and modernizing the test and quality evaluation activities in the North-East Region , NTH proposed one permanent Laboratory-cum-Office Building and one Residential Building by demolishing existing semi-permanent sheds at NTH(NER), Guwahati. Four-storied Residential Building has been completed in the year 2009-10. The Laboratories and offices are functioning from there.

The construction of Laboratory-cum-Office Building is going on. Due to shortage of funds, the project has been spilled over to the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan and expected to be completed by the end of the current financial year, 2013-14.

3. Construction of one additional floor to expand the laboratory activity of NTH(NR), Ghaziabad was projected in the proposal of 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. The construction has been completed in the year 2010 and is in use.
4. Apart from the above infrastructural developments, NTH also proposed a full-fledged Training Institute to be housed in NTH(ER), Alipore, Kolkata after revamping and renovation of vacant built-up space available in that complex. The Training Institute is into operation from the year mid 2009-10.

2.4 When asked whether any land has been purchased for construction of new infrastructure, it was stated by the Department that all the new/additional buildings were constructed within the available spaces of the respective regional offices of NTH and no additional land was purchased.

2.5 In regard to Machinery & Equipment, the Department stated that NTH mooted to create Center of Excellence on Testing and quality assurance of some highly demanding and sensitive industrial and consumer products. In order to strengthen NTH and to comply with the above objective, NTH prepared a list of advanced machinery and equipments for testing and calibration purposes. The entire list of machinery and equipments proposed for the entire 11<sup>th</sup> Plan Period were critically examined and vetted by the Scientists of National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.

Some major advanced version of equipments for creation of test facilities of high value and demanding products are listed below:-

<b>Name of Equipment</b>	<b>Cost (tentative) (Rs.in lakh)</b>	<b>Name of products meant for testing</b>	<b>Average outcome per month in terms of revenue generation ( approx.) ( Rs. in lakh)</b>	<b>Name of NTH region, where the equipment has been installed and commissioned</b>
Impulse Generator	300.00	Impulse Voltage Test on Power & Distribution Transformers, Switchgear items, High Voltage line materials	12.0	NTH(NR), Ghaziabad ( Electrical)
Miniature Circuit Breaker Test System	128.0	Test for Miniature circuit breakers including Breaking Capacity Tests.	10.0	NTH(NR), Ghaziabad ( Electrical)
20 Channel Cycle Tester for Secondary Batteries	97.0	Capacity Tests and other tests including Life Cycle Test for Storage type, Automotive Secondary Batteries including Low Maintenance cells	3.5	NTH(ER), Kolkata ( Electrical)
1000 kN Universal Testing Machine	90.0	Tensile & Compression testing of Mechanical materials like Rods, Wires, Metallic ropes etc.	2.0	NTH(NR), Ghaziabad ( Mechanical)

Besides, a number of other advanced machinery and equipments have been procured during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan Period from 2007 – 2012.

2.6 In the area of Information & Technology, the Committee were informed that a customer friendly Management Information System was introduced in NTH , Kolkata during the early part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan Period. It helped scientists to deliver quick service to the customer and also helped NTH, Kolkata to provide in-house service in the area of Cash, Budget & Accounts & Personal Information through this system. The customers of NTH , Kolkata were provided with the facility to know the instantaneous status of their samples submitted in NTH for testing and download the text-version of

the certificates from the website of NTH. After tremendous success , the same system was extended to NTH(SR) , Chennai , NTH(NR) , Ghaziabad & NTH(WR), Mumbai.

2.7 It was observed from the written reply furnished to the Committee that during the 11th Five Year Plan, actual expenditure on Information Technology (IT) was only Rs. 1.77 crore out of the Revised Estimates of Rs. 2.73 crore which is only 64.84% of the sanctioned amount. When the Committee asked to furnish reasons for the same, the representative of the Department stated that the approval of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan of NTH was received very late , almost at the end of the financial year of 2007-08 (18.01.2008). An amount of Rs.45 lakh was allocated which due to the late approval of 11<sup>th</sup> Plan was reduced to Rs.10 lakh only but as there was no time left before expiry of the financial year ,therefore only an amount of Rs. 96,000/- could be utilised. As a result there was an involuntary surrender of more than Rs.44 lakh which went into the overall accounting.

2.8 The Committee were further informed that the major portion of the expenditure of “IT” involved “Extension of the Management Information System” in the four regions of NTH and a substantial amount was estimated for procurement of hardware & networking components to be used for the projects , the actual value of which could only be visualized after finalization of the tender process. Due to the unforeseen crisis in the global financial scenario and fluctuation in the Rupee value, the variations in the components to be procured was unpredictable. Moreover, it was stated that it was also not out of the place to mention that there is no IT Professional in NTH. All the IT related activities and functions are performed by the NTH scientists of different disciplines in addition to their routine work.

2.9 When the Committee desired to know about the major achievements and shortfall of NTH during 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, following information was provided:-

- a) Completion of the construction of Centenary Building at NTH(SR),Chennai.
- b) Creation of additional space at NTH(NR) , Ghaziabad.
- c) Completion of construction of Training Centre at NTH(ER) , Kolkata.

- d) Completion of the construction of the Residential Building at NTH (NER) , Guwahati.
- e) Completion of Implementation & Extension of Web-based Management Information system in NTH(ER) , Kolkata , NTH(SR),Chennai , NTH(NR) , Ghaziabad & NTH(WR) , Mumbai.
- f) Creation of High Capacity Impulse Voltage test facility at NTH(NR) , Ghaziabad.
- g) Creation of test facilities for Miniature Circuit Breaker(MCB) at NTH(NR) , Ghaziabad.
- h) Enhancement of the testing facility of Secondary Storage Battery at NTH(ER) , Kolkata.
- i) Creation of Vibration Testing Facility for Electronic Components & Secondary Battery at NTH(ER) , Kolkata.
- j) Creation of facility for noise pollution measurement of DG-Set at NTH(NR) , Ghaziabad.
- k) Creation of Accelerated Weathering test facility for Exterior paints , Textile & polymeric materials at NTH(ER) , Kolkata , NTH(SR),Chennai & NTH(WR) , Mumbai. During the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan Period, NTH had utilized 90% of the fund allocated to it. Therefore, there was no shortfall.

2.10 It was observed from the information furnished to the Committee that most of the funds were kept for starting the new projects from the very first year of the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan and none of them could be started due to the late approval of SFC. In this regard, the Committee desired to know the present status of all the new projects started so far. The information provided to the Committee were as under:-

**Land & Building :**

Sl.No.	Description of the Project	Status as on October , 2013
1.	Completion of the on-going construction of the Office-cum-Laboratory Building at NTH(NER) , Guwahati.	Civil Construction was complete. Major Electrical activities will start after authorization of Rs.180 lakh by the department. Minimum 4-months will be taken for completion of electrical work after

		availability of fund (as informed by CPWD(NEZ)). Total estimate : Rs. 12.06 crore. Total authorization made upto Oct'2013-Rs.10.25 crore.
2.	Construction of Shed & laboratory for creation of Testing facility of RCC Pipe at NTH(NR) , Ghaziabad.	Construction has already started and the Project is expected to be functional by December , 2013. Total estimate : Rs. 16.93 lakh Authorization made upto Oct'2013-Rs.16.93 lakh.
3.	Construction of one additional floor over the existing building at NTH(NWR) , Jaipur	The construction work was expected to be started by November ' 2013 ( as informed by CPWD(NWZ)). Total estimate : Rs. 4.58 crore. Authorization made upto Oct'2013-Rs.2.00 crore.
4.	Construction of the G+4 Office-cum-Laboratory Building at NTH(WR) , Mumbai	The construction work was expected to be started by the end of the current financial year of 2013-14 ( as informed by CPWD(WZ)). Total estimate : Rs. 25.26 crore Authorization made upto Oct'2013-Rs.4.26 crore.

### **Machinery & Equipment :**

Sl. No	Name of Store/ Equipment	Cost / Estimated Value	Present Status	Release of payment	
				in 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	in 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
1	Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer	Rs. 25,20,372/-.	Equipment received on 30.10.2013. Awaiting for installation & commissioning	100% against satisfactory installation & commissioning Rs. 25,20,372/-	
2	Climatic Test Chamber, 1000 Litres, (Imported) 3 (three) nos of equipments	Euro (€) 38,700.00 x 3 = Euro (€) 1,16,100.00 [Rs.87,07,500/- (approx)]	Supply order issued, L/C opened, pre-despatch inspection completed. Awaiting for shipment.	90% against shipping documents Rs. 78,36,750/- (approx)	Balance10% against satisfactory installation & commissioning Rs. 8,70,750/- (approx)
3	Tensiometer-	US \$	Supply order issued,	90% against	Balance10%

	20kN	7950.00 [Rs. 4.77 Lacs approx]	L/C opened. Awaiting for shipment	shipping documents Rs. 4,29,300/- (approx)	against satisfactory installation & commissioning Rs. 47,700/- (approx)
4	Thermal Shock apparatus	Rs. 6,83,725/-	Supply order issued on 22.08.2013 . Equipment to be delivered in 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter		100% against satisfactory installation & commissioning Rs. 6,83,725/- (approx)
5	Petrol (Gasoline) analyzer (Mid FTIR Based) (Imported)	Euro (€) 20,535.00 [Rs. 17.25 Lacs approx]	Supply order issued on 10.10.2013, L/C to be opened after receiving order confirmation & bank guarantee.		90% against shipping documents Rs. 15,52,500/- (approx)
6	Projection Microscope (Imported) 4 (four) nos of equipments	20 x 4 = 80 Lacs	Technical Evaluation of offer are under process		90% against shipping documents Rs. 72,00,000/- (approx)
7	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer (FTIR) (Imported) 4 (four) nos of equipments	15 x 4 = 60 Lacs	Technical Evaluation of offer are under process		90% against shipping documents Rs. 54,00,000/- (approx)
8	Fabrication of Frame for Three Edge Load bearing system for testing of RCC pipes	10	Technical Evaluation of offer are under process		100% against satisfactory installation & commissioning Rs. 10,00,000/- (approx)
9	Fabrication of Frame for Hydrostatic Test	20	Technical Evaluation of offer are under		100% against satisfactory installation &



	of Pre-cast RCC pipes		process		commissioning Rs. 20,00,000/- (approx)
				<b>Rs. 1,07,86,422/- (approx.)</b>	<b>Rs. 1,87,54,675/- (approx.)</b>
	Charges to be incurred for Inspection & Freight Forwarding			<b>Rs. 9 lacs (approx)</b>	
	Purchase of low-valued equipments (costing less than 2.5 lacs) under the delegated power of Regional Heads of NTH			<b>25 lacs (approx)</b>	
				<b>Rs. 142 lacs (approx)</b>	

### **Information & Technology :**

Extension of MIS to NTH(NWR) , Jaipur --- Work Order for purchase of Computers & Printers required for operating MIS has been placed. Technical Evaluation for Procurement of networking components is under process. The software related activities will commence after start of the LAN. Estimate of the project is Rs.13.60 lakh.

### **Year-wise Fund Allocated For NTH during the 12th Five Year Plan Period (2012-17)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Major Works (Land &amp; Building) (Capital)</b>	<b>Machinery &amp; Equipments (M&amp;E) (Capital)</b>	<b>Recurring (OE, DTE, FTE) (Revenue)</b>	<b>Information Technology (IT) (Revenue)</b>	<b>Total Rs. in crore</b>
2012-13	8.0 (RE)	4.0 (RE) Reduced to 2.5 on 10/12/12	2.20 (RE) Increased to 2.24 on 10/12/12	0.30 (RE) Reduced to 0.26 on 10/12/12	14.50 (RE) Reduced to (13.00)
2013-14	12.00	5.0 – Already reduced to 4.25	2.20	0.30	19.50 Reduced to (18.75)
2014-15	13.00	6.0	2.30	0.40	21.70
2015-16	10.00	7.0	2.30	0.30	19.60

2016-17	4.00	7.0	2.40	0.20	13.60
Total (as projected at the beginning of the Plan period)	47.00	29.0	11.40	1.5	88.90

2.11 When asked about the revenue earned by NTH during last five years, the Committee were provided the following information:-

**Revenue Generation for last five Years**

**(Rs. in Crore)**

Year	Revenue earned
2008-09	8.69
2009-10	10.48
2010-11	12.87
2011-12	13.86
2012-13	14.46
Total	<b>60.35</b>

2.12 On being asked to furnish details of revenue earned by each regional laboratories during the last five years, the Department furnished the following information:-

**Year-wise Revenue Generation of Different Regions of NTH during last five years**

**Rs. in Lacs**

	<b><i>2008-09</i></b>	<b><i>2009-10</i></b>	<b><i>2010-11</i></b>	<b><i>2011-12</i></b>	<b><i>2012-13</i></b>	<b><i>Total</i></b>
<b>NTH(ER)</b>	250.28	262.08	302.17	353.95	363.86	<b>1532.34</b>
<b>NTH(WR)</b>	115.29	162.45	201.85	254.54	248.43	<b>982.56</b>
<b>NTH(SR)</b>	121.57	145.27	147.92	200.45	216.67	<b>831.88</b>

	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>NTH(NR)</b>	283.88	386.84	538.12	444.73	465.96	<b>2119.53</b>
<b>NTH(NWR)</b>	66.51	67.84	79.05	108.93	121.73	<b>444.06</b>
<b>NTH(NER)</b>	31.61	23.33	17.46	23.00	29.45	<b>124.85</b>
	<b>869.13</b>	<b>1047.82</b>	<b>1286.57</b>	<b>1385.60</b>	<b>1446.1</b>	<b>6035.22</b>

2.13 The Committee observed that since 2008-09, there was not major improvement in revenue generation of NTH, it only increased from Rs. 8.69 crore in 2008-09 to Rs. 14.46 crore in 2012-13. Regarding the efforts which are being made by the Government to generate more revenue or funds out of its services, the Department submitted that there has been an increase of more than 66% in the revenue earning of NTH from the year 2008-09 (Rs.8.69 crore) to 2012-13 (Rs.14.46 crore). Efforts are being made to generate more net revenues by purchasing modern equipments and also by expanding in to new areas like testing of solar power devices, LED based appliances, RCC pipes etc. A separate agreement has been negotiated with Bureau of Indian Standards to obtain more items from BIS for testing in NTH. Physical infrastructure is being expanded in North East so that more work can be done leading to increase in revenue.

2.14 When asked whether revenue earned by NTH is sufficient to make NTH self-sufficient or less dependent on government assistance, the Department further elaborated that National Test House was conceptualized to provide service to the society and it's consumers by ensuring the quality of products / materials produced by the manufacturers. NTH has always honoured this immense responsibility bestowed on them by the Government of India and shouldered this responsibility with full conviction for 100 long years. During this passage of time, NTH has always concentrated on surging ahead in the field of science and technology with a view to attain self-sufficiency in Test-technology and became at par with the international standard in this field. Attaining self-sufficiency in terms of fiscal aspect was never the goal of NTH. But, with the advent of the demand for attaining self-sufficiency, NTH also shifted its focus and

started increase the revenue earning. In spite of several hurdles existing with the NTH system and specially with the increasing number of private test laboratories in the market, NTH has been able to achieve more than 50% self-sufficiency to the non-plan expenditure. In the absence of any statutory / legislative notification (as enjoyed by some offices under DoCA) , it is extremely difficult for NTH to attain 100% self-sufficiency , however giving due honour to the advice / directive , NTH has thought of number of measures ( like testing of solar appliances, LED Luminaries, RCC Pipe & Impulse Voltage of transformers , Outdoor line materials etc.) which will certainly increase the revenue earning to a great extent.

2.15 Director General, NTH further elaborated on this during evidence as under:-

'Sir, National Test House is a primer scientific organisation giving its services in the nation for last 100 years. Our main core activity is the testing and quality evaluation of the products. So, I request this Committee that the focus should be on quality evaluation and not on the profit earning. It is because if we give preference and prudence to the profit earning, somewhere I apprehend that the quality will be marginalised. This is my prayer that the National Test House should be spared from this. Although we are making our wholehearted effort to generate the revenue as well, the quality is such a thing which no one can afford to ignore in this world. The kind of work that we are doing is very important and very sensitive. We give the measurements which provide the very basis of all control actions for anything. Therefore, I request this august Committee that the focus should be much on quality of testing of the products and not on the profit.'

He further added that:-

'Sir, the National Test House is spending hugely on the latest technology so that we can serve the customers who are coming with the diversified products. In every plan we are identifying the thrust areas. In the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, we have identified four such areas like LED, which is one of the thrust areas. Now, we have proposed to develop the machinery worth Rs. 8.2 crore along with its infrastructure in our four or five branches. Everybody is going behind the solar energy appliances and this also is the latest thing which the National Test House proposes to develop for testing.

Similarly, RCC pipe is one area, to which we can say it is a par excellence area. We have declared some of our branches par excellence where we see that these are very popular and latest things. We have done it at Ghaziabad. For wood testing, we have declared NTSWR and we have developed the facilities for wood testing at par excellence level at Mumbai. Similarly, you have asked me whether we are thinking for the research and development. For research and

development also some work is going on in National Test House. We have started that research in the area of nanotechnology.'

2.16 In the same context, the Secretary, while tendering evidence, before the Committee stated as under:-

'While performing our tasks, we majorly support Government organizations when they procure machineries, materials etc. We check materials are based on appropriate standards, we do required testing before payment. So, in consideration with our customers and Government organization, we have fixed our rates which are reasonably very less.

During evidence, the Committee were also informed that though NTH is a Government organization 40% to 50% of NTH revenue comes from big private companies like L&T, Siemens, Gamman India for testing their products.

2.17 During oral evidence, while replying to queries of the Committee, the Director, NTH and representatives of the Department of Consumer Affairs stated as under:-

'My second prayer before this hon. Committee is that there should be mandatory testing by NTH for various purchases done by Government Departments and public sector. I wish that this kind of mandate should be given to NTH and to all the Government organisations for whatever be the purchase. Some portion of it should go to the National Test House for the quality control. Now they are going to the private sector also.'

They further added that-

'In the competition we have a lot of limitations as a Government organisation. Private laboratories have the flexibility. They increase or decrease their charges whereas we have certain commitments. We have to give 90 per cent as salary for the ministerial staff. The number of scientists is less. Similarly we have to see that such a big establishment keeps running. We cannot change all these testing bases just like that.'

## **B. Work Force**

2.18 When asked about the staff strength of NTH and its laboratories and the composition of total work force, the Department, in a written note, furnished to the Committee stated that the total staff strength of National Test House as on date stands at 705 (including canteen staff) comprising HQ and 6 regions. The composition of work force in Laboratories are as under :-

**Scientific Category** :- Scientific Asstt.(Chem/Elec/NDT/MECH/Civil/RPT) [NGO]Gr.B  
Scientific Officer (Chem/Elec/NDT/MECH/Civil/RPT) [GO]Gr.B  
Scientist SB (Chem/Elec/NDT/MECH/Civil/RPT) [GR. A POST]  
Scientist SC (Chem/Elec/NDT/MECH/Civil/RPT) [GR. A POST]  
Scientist SD (Chem/Elec/NDT/MECH/Civil/RPT) [GR. A POST]

**Technical Category** :- Comprising of Physical & Chemical Division with 15  
Categories of posts

**Administrative Category** : Headed by Director General as Head of the Department  
Directors & Scientist-in-charge of Regional Offices,  
Dy. Director (Admn), Assistant Director (Admn)  
Purchase Officer, Accounts Officer & Assistant Director  
(OL).

**Administrative Supporting Staff** : Stenographers, Office Supdt., U.D.C., L.D.C.  
MTS etc.

The following table shows the actual and sanctioned staff/officers/scientists  
strength of the NTH and its laboratories:-

**STATEMENT SHOWING GROUP WISE SANCTIONED STRENGTH & ACTUAL STRENGTH AS ON 01.10.2013**

	D.G.'S OFFICE														TOTAL		vacc.	Lien	Deputation
	D.G's Office		NTH(ER)		NTH(WR)		NTH(SR)		NTH(NR)		NTH(JPR)		NTH(NER)						
	S.S.	A.S.	S.S.	A.S.	S.S.	A.S.	S.S.	A.S.	S.S.	A.S.	S.S.	A.S.	S.S.	A.S.	S.S.	A.S.			
Group - 'A'	5	6	37	21	13	7	14	10	17	12	6	5	4	3	96	64	32	0	1
Group - 'B' (G.O.)	3	4	34	16	21	15	16	13	17	19	8	8	6	2	105	77	28	4	0
Group- 'B' (N.G.O.)	0	0	36	14	12	5	17	6	22	9	15	2	8	1	110	37	73	0	0
Group - 'C'	2	2	134	110	37	27	28	26	15	13	4	3	7	6	227	187	40	0	0
Group - 'C' Skilled Work Asstt.	2	2	81	51	22	17	15	9	19	15	4	2	3	2	146	98	48	0	0
Canteen Staff	0	0	10	7	7	1	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	21	12	9	0	0
TOTAL	12	14	332	219	112	72	93	67	91	69	37	20	28	14	705	475	230	4	0

N.B. 1 01 Asstt. Director has been Posted at NTH from DS&D

S.S. = Sanction Strength  
A.S.= Actual Strention  
ER= Eastern Region, Kolkata  
WR = Western Region, Mumbai  
SR= Southern Region, Chennai  
NR= Northern Region, Ghaziabad  
JPR= Jaipur Region

2.19 The Committee noted from the written reply that actual staff strength of NTH including its regional laboratories in every group is 475 which is far less than the sanctioned strength of 705 resulting into 230 vacancies in the organization. In this regard, the Committee desired to know the reasons behind large number of vacancies. The representatives of the Department submitted in reply, the following:-

'As per the Recruitment Rules, the Group A and B posts are filled up through UPSC and SSC. There has been some delay in recruitment due to direction of UPSC and SSC to amend the existing Recruitment Rules on the basis of recommendation of Sixth Pay commission. The vacancies in Group C and D are being expeditiously filled up. To tide over the situation, NTH is considering to outsource the services through contractual agreement/outsourcing till regular incumbents join.'

2.20 The Committee noticed that there has been no major recruitment of new talents or scientists in NTH since long time. The Committee feel that the world has changed now. There are so many new inventions and technology which has introduced to the world. Therefore, the organization needs new talents. But lack of staff in NTH is a problem and NTH has not focused on it. When the Committee desired to know the reasons about the difficulty in recruiting new scientists and staff, the representative of the Department during the evidence stated as under:-

'There is a policy that after a period of one year the post will go in the deemed abolished category. So, because of procedural delay, it goes into the deemed abolished category. It is a very long drawn process.'

2.21 As regards the manpower available with NTH, during their Study Visit to NTH, Kolkata, in November, 2011, the Committee were informed that more than 10 Group A Officers were recruited last year through the UPSC. However, a lot of manpower shortage still exists in the organization to which Hon'ble Chairman advised NTH to submit their proposal regarding shortage of manpower to the Ministry.

2.22 When asked whether the slow recruitment is affecting their performance in the market, the representatives of the Department stated as under:-



'I will submit that you have rightly pointed out that there is a very slow recruitment and there are many vacant positions in the Department and that is affecting our performance. We are trying to tackle two problems. Firstly, recruitment to A and B categories is taking place through the UPSC, through open advertisement. That will take its own time. Recruitment to C and D categories we do on our own. As I mentioned, there is a rule that if a vacancy is not filled up within one year, that post gets abolished. Like in the case of CSIR and other scientific organisations, we are writing to the Finance Ministry to exempt us also from this clause.'

2.23 When asked whether all sections of society i.e. SC/ST/OBC are adequately represented in the compositions, the representative of the Department stated that the representation of SCs/STs & OBCs are plotted as per Post Based Roster (Post- Wise). This office has **recruited / promoted all cadres** after careful examination of the Roster Point with due verification by Liaison Officer of NTH before every attempt.

2.24 The Committee have been further informed that SC/ST & OBC candidates recruited in NTH are adequately qualified and in turn grasped the work of Testing with the help of their seniors in the respective laboratories, or with the senior officials of Administrative section. However, if any short comings are observed / noticed by the Lab. In-charge in the Laboratories or Administrative Officers in their Admin section, the Officials are trained accordingly. Periodically the incumbents at various levels are sent for training as per requirement.

**2.25 The Committee note that during the 11th Plan Period, the total amount allocated to the National Test House as BE (Plan) was Rs. 74.84 crore which was subsequently reduced at RE stage to Rs. 69.51 crore whereas total actual expenditure incurred during the entire 11th Plan Period was only Rs. 62.11 crore having unspent balance of Rs. 7.40 crores. In the 12th Plan period, during the year 2012-13, the BE was kept at Rs. 18.00 crores which was revised to Rs. 13 crores at RE stage and the actual expenditure incurred was Rs. 11.98 crore. Similarly, during the year 2013-14, while BE was kept at Rs. 18.75 crore, RE was increased to Rs. 19.50 crore, whereas actual expenditure upto September, 2013 was only Rs. 11.28 crores. The Committee observe that during the 11th Five Year Plan, physical performance of NTH and its laboratories on each head i.e. Land& Building, Machinery & Equipments and Information & Technology was not satisfactory. Further, being the age of Information & Technology, the Committee feel that the NTH should have allocated more funds on Information & Technology. The Committee, however, are dismayed to note that merely Rs. 2 crores had been allocated for Information & Technology for the entire 11th Plan Period whereas the expenditure incurred on this head has gone down from Rs. 0.85 lakhs in the year 2008-09 to Rs. 0.25 lakhs in the year 2011-12. The Committee, therefore, desire that NTH should allocate adequate funds for the improvement of Information and Technology in tune with the fast changing need of the time. The Committee further desire that the NTH should strive to allocate sufficient funds for Research &Development works so as to not only maintain its reputation as a**

premier scientific institution of the country but also improve its overall functioning and efficiency.

**2.26 The Committee observe that in the 12th Plan, most of the funds were kept for starting new projects which include construction of laboratories building at NTH (NER, Guwahati), construction of shed and laboratory for creation of testing facility of RCC pipe at NTH (NR) Ghaziabad, construction of the G+4 office cum laboratory building at NTH (NR), Mumbai and purchase of new machinery and equipment etc. But these projects could not be started due to late approval of SFC. The Committee observe from the status of all the projects as furnished by the department, that as on October 2013, action has been initiated on all the projects and most of the projects are under process. They, however, are not convinced by the reasons given by the Department that due to late approval of SFC, in the first year of 12th Plan, they could not perform as most of the projects were awaiting SFC approval. The Committee feel that the projects are already delayed by two years and had the problem been foreseen by the Department at early stage, could be averted. The Committee also note that the present status of installation of machinery and equipment also reflects that most of the machineries are either awaiting installation and commissioning or awaiting for shipment for which supply order has already been issued. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Department should make earnest efforts to complete all the projects of 12th Plan which includes construction of laboratories, purchasing of machinery and equipment at the earliest so that infrastructure and facilities of NTH could be improved at international standards. The Committee also hope that a full-fledged training institute would start soon in NTH (ER) – Alipore, Kolkata after revamping and renovation as proposed by NTH.**

2.27 The Committee observe that since 2008-09, there was marginal improvement in revenue generation of NTH as it only increased from Rs. 8.69 crore in the year 2008-09 to Rs. 14.46 crore in the year 2012-13. Further, the revenue generation of NTH (NER) Guwahati has gone down from Rs. 31.61 lakhs in the year 2008-09 to Rs. 29.45 lakhs in the year 2012-13. The Committee are unhappy to note that the NTH being a premiere scientific institution of one of its kind in public sector, even after 100 years of existence is not self-dependant and has been able to achieve about 50% self-sufficiency in the non-plan expenditure. In this context, the Department has stated that the main focus of NTH is quality evaluation, not profit earning or revenue generation. The Department has also stated that there is no statutory legislative notification as enjoyed by the other offices of Department of Consumer Affairs which bound other Government organizations to have testing, evaluation etc. done by NTH. While agreeing with the Department, the Committee believe that though revenue generation should not be the sole focus of NTH yet being an exemplary technical organization NTH should be vibrant, self-sufficient and profit earning and for this, they have to expand their areas of activities. The Committee, however, note that the NTH has now thought of taking up new measures like testing of solar appliances, LED luminaries, RCC pipe and Impulse voltage of transformers, outdoor materials etc. that will increase its revenue earning to a great extent. The Committee hope that these new measures taken up by NTH for testing would help increase the revenue earning of NTH. The Committee also desire that apart from new measures taken, the NTH may take up with the Department about the feasibility to entrust the laboratories of NTH with mandatory testing work of various purchases done by

**Government organizations/ departments and public sector which will further add to the revenue generation of NTH.**

**2.28 The Committee note that though the sanctioned staff strength of NTH and its laboratories is 705 (in A,B,C & D groups), the actual working strength is only 475 leading to 230 vacancies. The Committee note that Group A and B posts are filled up through UPSC and SSC and there was some delay in recruitment due to the recommendation of Sixth Pay Commission requiring the UPSC and SSC to amend the existing Recruitment Rules. The recruitment to Group C and D categories is done by NTH. The Committee also note that there was no recruitment in NTH since long time and if any post is lying vacant for over one year, it would be deemed abolished. The Department is taking up the matter with the Finance Ministry to exempt NTH from the purview of this rule as in the case of CSIR and other scientific organizations. The Committee are of the view that large number of vacancies in an institution like NTH will not only affect its efficiency and performance but will also diminish its stature as a premier national institution. The Department themselves had admitted during evidence before the Committee that a large number of vacancies in NTH is affecting its performance. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that NTH should take up the matter with the UPSC/SSC/Department to fill up all 230 vacancies on urgent basis. The Committee further desire that the Department should vigorously pursue with the Finance Ministry on the issue of exempting the NTH from abolishing the posts lying vacant for over one year. Further, the Committee are astonished to know that there is no IT professional in NTH and all the IT related activities and functions are performed by the NTH scientists of different disciplines in addition to their routine work. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should recruit IT professionals separately to perform IT works exclusively instead**

**of burdening the scientists who are recruited for performing research and testing works.**



## **CHAPTER – III**

### **PROSPECTS OF EXPANSION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMME ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF NTH**

3.1 Since last decade, the process of liberalization/globalization and privatization has been started full-fledgedly in India and along with this the glut of new products has also been taken off. The Committee desired to know whether in this new scenario NTH has visualized the tremendous task of laboratories to test additional products. In response, the Department has stated that the scientists of NTH are well aware of the New Products of the multiple disciplines which are continuously arriving in the market. The scientists of NTH play a vital role in development of new products specially in the Mechanical (for steel and allied products) & Chemical disciplines (for paint and allied products). During the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan, NTH has started Testing & Evaluation in a number of new areas like Noise Pollution of DG Set, Testing of Miniature Circuit Breakers, High Voltage Testing of Transformers, special Grade steels and many more new areas. During the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan, NTH has conceptualized some significant new areas like testing of LED Luminaries, testing of solar Energy based Appliances, Testing of special grade RCC pipe, expansion of the High Voltage testing facilities etc. It was further added that the importance of NTH is silently adored by many Private manufacturers & industries and Govt. & semi-Government Departments which has never been marketed in a large scale.

3.2 On being asked whether Ministry of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) propose to open new laboratories in different parts of the country, the Department stated that. presently NTH is having its six branch offices which are geographically & strategically located to cover the major zones of the country including North-eastern region. The Six regional offices are NTH(ER), Kolkata (two campuses), NTH(NR), Ghaziabad, NTH(SR), Chennai, NTH(WR), Mumbai, NTH(NWR), Jaipur & NTH(NER), Guwahati and at present, there is no proposal to open new laboratories.

3.3 In regard to expansion of NTH laboratories, during oral evidence, representatives of the Department further stated as under:-

'On the issue of expansion of our centres, we have not actively considered it. However after we have received the responses from the hon. Members, we feel encouraged to spread and work on those lines. We are also aware of the fact that we will be doing a lot of good services, and, therefore, it is not just revenue. However we have to keep in mind that we must be self-sufficient and not lapse into a situation where we depend on the Government grants.'

The Committee were further informed that they had started research in the area of nano technology. During oral evidence, representatives of the Department further stated as under:-

'In nano technology, we will test the nano tubes, which are used in the medical science or in purification of water. This is what we plan. We also plan to test the wires and plates, which are used for the orthopaedic tests. In medical science, we are using the nano plates and nano wires. This is what we plan to do in the National Test House.

That apart, we are also trying to develop the test facilities for exploring or developing the biodegradable materials because now plastic is becoming one of the big eyesores, which is a big cause of pollution. So, we are planning to develop some device or formulation so that the biodegradable material is developed.'

3.4 The Committee observed that NTH performs testing jobs towards commitment to society which majorly covers adulteration in edible oils, mineral oil and water etc. In this regard, the Committee observed that in some States, portable water condition is very poor and adulteration in edible oil is also unchecked. The Committee desired to know what is the role of Department of Consumer Affairs in such cases and whether Department of Consumer Affairs have initiated any action suo moto in all such areas. The Department, in a written note furnished to the Committee, stated that the the Deptt. of Consumer Affairs does not have any legal jurisdiction to take suo-moto action in respect of poor quality of water or adulteration. The Department financially assists and supervises a three tier hierarchy of Consumer Fora which redresses such grievances when the affected consumers take it before them.

3.5 When the Committee desired to know how NTH ensures/checks that there is no adulteration in edible oils in the open market in different parts of the country and what is the procedure to approach NTH by common man, the representatives of the Department submitted that if any common man gives a sample of edible oil for checking its purity, the NTH will test the sample and give its report. If adulteration is noticed in this report, the consumer can take the defaulting manufacturer to a Consumer Fora for penal action. He can also give this report to health authorities under Food Safety and Standards Authority of India Act for taking criminal action against the manufacturer.

3.6 Regarding opening of small test centres all over the country so that quality of water may be checked, the Department submitted that they support the idea of opening small test centres all over the country for checking of water quality. This will require consultation and consent from various State Governments/UTs/Municipal Bodies, Deptt. of Drinking Water under Ministry of Water Resources. As regards to packaged drinking water, the same can only be produced with a licence from BIS (for mandatory ISI mark).

3.7 When asked about the opening of small test centers at small scale in other parts of the country for testing food etc. as exist in Mumbai, NTH, the Committee were informed that so far, food products which are being received for testing, are being tested in the existing regional laboratories of NTH.

3.8 The Committee desired to know that after the emergence of the private sector, particularly the laboratories in this sector, what is the status of NTH in the market, who are the main competitors of NTH. The Committee further wanted to know whether private organizations/laboratories in the market have affected its business/profits, and the steps taken by NTH to improve its status in the market. The Department, in this regard, submitted that in multiple forums, NTH has raised the demand for imposition of some kind of legal enactment to protect the interest of NTH. There are hundreds of Private Testing Laboratories existing in the market most of which have flexible testing charges which change as per the requirement of business. Whereas NTH being a full-

fledged Govt. Organisation has to support the institutional hierarchical architecture where Non-scientific / administrative staff are part of the system. 90% of the Non-Plan expenditure are consumed for Salaries & wages which are again governed by the Govt. Policies & System. Hence, Test-Fees of NTH, as calculated on over-head basis, are fixed. NTH provides 10-15% discount to the Small Scale Industries as an incentive.

3.9 The Committee have been further informed that in the present-day open market scenario where consumers have the multiple choice of selecting the service provider, the small private laboratories having very less & flexible fee structure attracts consumers more.

3.10 Regarding the private organizations who have availed services of the NTH , the Department submitted that following are some of the names which have availed facilities of NTH and flagged their reputation nationally - Gammon India Limited, L& T Ltd, India Consolidated Construction Consortium Ltd., Garrison Engineer, Shapoorji & Pallonji & Co Ltd, Dorsch Consultancy Ltd., Saint Gobain, Bangalore Tirumala Tirupathi DevasthanamT, M/s SIEMENS LTD, M/s SRIRAM Cables, ABB Ltd, KEC International, Reliance Infra Ltd etc. Apart from that NTH has extended its services to some of the SAARC countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and other countries i.e. Afghanistan, Thailand, Kenya etc.

3.11 Regarding the competitiveness & limitations of NTH, DG, NTH stated that without any legal/legislative enactment and proactive support from the Govt. of India, the plausibility of attaining self-sufficiency would appear to be a difficult & remote task. On the contrary , being a Full-Fledged Govt. organization for providing Testing & Quality Assurance to the consumers, the role and mandate of NTH towards service to the society may be given more importance. During the centenary celebration of NTH, the Hon'ble President of India had advised NTH to encourage it's scientists to devote more time in nurturing R&D culture in NTH.

3.12 When the Committee desired to know whether NTH has launched any awareness programmes to spread information about its services/facilities to the

consumers, the representatives of the Department, in a written note submitted that NTH hosts all the necessary information pertaining to its functioning in its website, the URL of which is <http://www.nth.gov.in>. Newsletter of NTH is published from NTH(HQ), Kolkata regularly and is distributed to all the regional offices which in turn is provided to the customers. NTH participates in events like "Industrial Trade Fair", "Indian Science Congress" and many other Fairs, Seminars & workshops organized by different Central & state departments. During the occasion of Centenary Celebration of NTH, a book on the inception & Pre-independence history of NTH has been published which has earned acclamation from different sectors of the society. Apart from that, Customer & Industrial meets are regularly organized by all the regional offices of NTH to appraise its customers about development of NTH and also to redress their complaints, if any.

3.13 During oral evidence, representatives of the Department stated that-

'Sir, as you asked as to what we are doing in awareness programme, basically we are doing campaign in Jago Grahak Jago, we are writing D.O.letter etc. to Chief Secretaries, we are expending on advertisements, we are assuring here that.'

3.14 The Committee further enquired as to whether the Department is planning to run audio-visual programmes which would be more effective to spread awareness among the public at large. Indicating the steps which have been contemplated to be taken, the Department, in a written note, submitted that the Ministry will earmark certain percentage of its budget available for spreading consumer awareness to popularize the services of NTH. This budget will be dedicated to audio-visual programmes regarding facilities available with NTH. It will be effective in spreading awareness among the public about NTH.

3.15 The Committee have been informed that apart from that, NTH regularly organizes Industry/customer meet to redress the customer grievances, accept their suggestions and augment existing facilities. NTH also participates in different fairs, symposiums, seminars & workshops to spread the facilities available in NTH. The service of NTH is equally open to Central/State Govt./Semi-Govt., Private and even to general consumers also.

**3.16 The Committee note that the NTH, presently, has only 6 Regional Laboratories namely NTH (ER), Kolkata, NTH (NR) Ghaziabad, NTH (SR) Chennai, NTH (WR) Mumbai, NTH (NWR), Jaipur and NTH (NER), Guwahati to meet the testing and calibration service requirement of the whole country. The Committee also observe that there are hundreds of testing laboratories in private sector existing in the market and most of these laboratories have flexible testing charges convenient to the customers. The Committee are, however, of the opinion that private laboratories are not always accessible to the people in general and the quality of their testing is also not reliable, whereas laboratories of public sector do quality testing and are more responsible to provide services to the people. The Committee, however, are unhappy to note that the Department have not realized the potential of NTH and the importance of widening the network of its laboratories so as to make facilities/services easily available to the people at large. Under the circumstances, the Committee are of the opinion that it is high time, the Government should explore the possibility of expanding the network of NTH laboratories throughout the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should take necessary steps expeditiously to open new laboratories in all parts of the country not only to benefit large number of population but also to lessen the burden of the existing six laboratories. The Committee hope that the Department would make sincere efforts and apprise them of the action taken in this regard.**

**3.17 The Committee note that NTH performs testing jobs towards commitment to society which majorly covers adulteration in edible oils, mineral oil, food, quality of water etc. The Committee, however, fail to understand that with the existing laboratories to check adulteration or purity of water at small scale, how the NTH would fulfill its commitment to the society. The Committee feel that in the country like India which has vast population, only six laboratories cannot serve adequately whereas these kind of problems are very widespread as number of inferior quality products have flooded the market and it is difficult to check purity of the product with the limited number of laboratories. The Committee also note that the Department will require consultation and consent from various State/UT/Municipal Bodies, Ministry of Water Resources to establish small test centres all over the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to initiate consultation with the various States/UTs/Municipal Bodies and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and make earnest efforts to open small test centres in all States/UTs, particularly in semi-urban and small towns.**

**3.18 The Committee observe that NTH provides all the necessary information pertaining to its functioning on its website to make the consumer aware of its working. A newsletter of NTH is published regularly and is distributed to all the regional offices which in turn is provided to the customers. NTH participates in events like 'Industrial Trade Fair', 'Indian Science Congress' and many other Fairs, Seminars and workshops organized by different Central and State Departments. Apart from that, Customer and Industrial meets are regularly organized by all the regional offices of NTH to apprise the customers about development of NTH and also to redress their complaints, if any. While appreciating these measures taken by the Department, the Committee feel that the awareness programme of NTH to spread information about their services/facilities to the consumers are not enough. The Committee have been informed that the Ministry will earmark certain percentage of its budget available for spreading consumer awareness to popularize the services of NTH. This budget will be dedicated to audio-visual programmes regarding facilities available with NTH. The Committee are of the view that consumer awareness is essential for good governance as it is the benchmark of the success of any government action/programme. The Committee feel that NTH is a unique testing house which is entrusted with all facilities of testing, evaluation and calibration works in public sector but is not very popular and acknowledged by people in general because of lack of awareness among the people about these facilities. Therefore, creating awareness through publicity is equally important so that the people get the information regarding the services of NTH which is meant for providing service to the nation in the field of testing, evaluation and calibration. An extensive**



awareness campaign is therefore needed to be launched by NTH. The Committee hope that as promised by the Department, certain percentage of its budget available for spreading consumer awareness will be used to popularize the services of NTH and an extensive audio-visual programme regarding the facilities available at NTH will be launched at the earliest.

## CHAPTER – IV

### NTH AND BIS

4.1 The Committee have been informed that NTH has been an active partner in formulation of National Standards and has the privilege of assisting Bureau of Indian Standards in the process of standardization. The scientists of NTH play a vital role in the process of formulation of Standards by Bureau of Indian Standards. There are number of Committees of BIS where scientists of NTH participate either in the capacity of “member of the Committee” or as the “Chairman of the committee”. While drafting standards , sometimes NTH is requested to carry-out necessary Test & Evaluation to check the effectiveness of the draft standard which will come into force after proper verifications by NTH. For example, Standards of most of the Exterior & Interior Paints have been finalized under the active guidance of the NTH Scientists.

4.2 In respect of “Indian Standard” formulation by BIS, NTH scientists with an array of testing experience, represent, at present 131 Technical Committees as members, the details of which are as under:

Sl. No.	Engineering / Technology Division	Number of committees represented
1	Chemical Engineering discipline	37
2	Civil Engineering discipline	29
3	Metalurgical Engineering discipline	25
4	Electro Technical division	21
5	Electronics & Information Technology	8
6	Production & General Engineering	6
7	Mechanical Engineering	3
8	Soil quality & Fertiliser division	1
9	Automotive Electrical Equipments & Instruments division	1

Under the Chemical Engineering division, there exists a committee of “Paint & Allied Products” and the Chairman of the said committee is the “Director, National Test House, Kolkata”

4.3 During the evidence, the representatives of BIS informed the Committee as under:-

'There are eight laboratories of BIS and we have recognized 140 laboratories including laboratories of NTH. We believe that we can get many testing works of BIS and whatever the products which have been identified till now have high turnover and most of them are manufactured in our own country.'

4.4 When the Committee desired to know the correlation between NTH and BIS or whether they are overlapping in terms of their functions and area of work, the Department, in a written note, submitted the following:-

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) functions mainly for the formulation of Indian Standards harmonizing the same with International Standards so that products manufactured in the country are also in conformity to the International Standards. BIS also undertakes Marking / Certification of Products based on test and quality assurance of the same either at their own in-house laboratories or outside laboratories recognised under their "Laboratory Recognition Scheme. The Government of India has provided a "Legislative" cover in support of the functions / activities of BIS. Contrary to the above, the main function of NTH lies in assuring the conformity or otherwise of the products as per relevant Indian / International Specifications by way of utilising its available / installed "Test" facilities." Apart from the above, NTH also discharges its services in the following fields:

- Calibration in the field of Mechanical, Electrical & Thermal
- Failure Analysis Investigational work
- Certification of Welders under the scheme of "Central Authority for Testing & Certification of Welders" of the Indian Boilers Regulation Act 1950
- Product Development Assistance
- R&D for development Testing Technology
- Imparting training
- Consultancy services
- Accreditation of Laboratories as per ISO 17025:2005 by assisting National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories (NABL)

4.5 The Committee have been further informed that though NTH was conceptualized to provide quality assurance service on behalf of Govt. of India and has 100-years of experience under it's sleeve but till today it is not supported by any Legislative protection. The issue was deliberated in the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee of NTH held on 13.11.2013. It was decided that statutory protection is not favourable in the present scenario.

4.6 When the Committee desired to know whether any standard has been set to check quality of the product in consultation with BIS or independently, the Department submitted that unlike BIS, NTH activities does not cover the area of formulation of Standards, however, agencies like RDSO have approached NTH to formulate standards for them to cover certain products like "Coach Cleaning Solution". NTH undertakes testing of various industrial and consumer products covered by non-standard methods after due validation of the test methods.

4.7 The Committee were informed that a bilateral agreement with BIS has been signed for testing of 106 products and some of the products which are used in day-to-day life are also covered in this scheme. When asked whether under the agreement, whether NTH has received the authority of cancellation of licenses, if the sample is found to be faulty, the Department submitted that NTH has no authority of cancellation of licenses. However , NTH undertakes the testing of the samples in the following disciplines, viz Chemical , Mechanical , Electrical , Rubber, Plastic & Textile, Civil,Non-Destructive Testing and reports are issued to the customers/clients only.

4.8 When the Committee asked regarding the number of products which NTH has received for testing so far under the agreement, the Committee were informed that out of the 106 approved products , NTH received products like Cement , Plugs , Switches & sockets , Plywood, Cables etc. Though the inflow of sample is very low, however, DG-BIS & DG-NTH had taken the initiatives to increase the inflow of samples from BIS to NTH by holding bilateral meeting in the first week of October , 2013.

4.9 When asked about the infrastructure available with NTH to handle the additional work of testing the 106 products are sufficient and efforts which are being undertaken by the Government to meet the requirements, if any, the Department stated that available infrastructure of NTH is sufficient enough to take any amount of work-load which might be forwarded by BIS. The capacity verification of all the laboratories of NTH has already been examined by the BIS.

4.10 As one of the main functions of NTH is to provide assistance in development of products, the Committee wanted to know as to how NTH helps in developing products. The Committee were informed that NTH Scientists banking on their wide experience of testing various products and similar product of various make and manufacture embarked on R&D work to provide consultancy / design specification for developing products, some of which are narrated below:

- a) R & D work has been executed by Chemical Lab. of NTH (ER), Kolkata, to develop a **substitute of Sea Water Resistant Paint (so far imported)** for off-shore structures. This is a paint system, a combination of Zinc-ethyl-silicate paint, epoxy Paint & Poly –Urethane Paint, is anti corrosive and gets excellent shielding effect on structure exposed to salinity as well as to adverse off-shore climatic condition.
- b) R & D work has been executed and developed ‘Gland Packing’ by Chemical Lab. Of NTH (ER), Kolkata. This set of packing is used in pumping unit of Indian Oil Corporation for pumping crude oil. This Gland Packing was imported earlier.
- c) ‘Fibre Reinforced Plastic’ has been tested and developed by RPT laboratory of NTH (WR), Mumbai as a probable replacement of Metal under a R&D project of RDSO to be used in Light Signal Unit.
- d) Mechanical Laboratory of NTH (NR), Ghaziabad carried out R&D and assisted in development of Portable Fire Extinguishers used to extinguish fires arising / generated from ‘Wood Burning’, ‘Hexane Fire’ etc.

4.11 As regards the legal sanctions attached with facilities available at NTH, the Department submitted that the NTH undertakes testing/analytical work. NTH is functioning as government organisation. NTH is not created under any Act. Moreover,

the existing work paradigm of NTH does not authorise it to accept or cancel any sort of license what-so-ever. Further, NTH is not empowered to issue any license.

4.12 When the Committee desired to know the credibility and utility of laboratories of NTH at international level, during the oral evidence, representatives of the Department stated the following:-

'On the issue of international trade, the world now is standardizing its standards in the sense that all of us complying with the International Standards Organisation's (ISO) standards. Therefore, there is a uniformity. However, every country has geographical and climatic requirement. Therefore, each country can make slight changes in the standards. Typically, these are called Non-Tariff Barriers, which they sometimes use to protect their domestic industry.'

**4.13 The Committee note that NTH has been an active partner in formulation of National Standards and has the privilege of assisting BIS, scientists of NTH play a vital role in the process of formulation of standards by BIS, for example while drafting standards, NTH is requested to carry out necessary tests and evaluation to check the effectiveness of the draft standards which come into force after proper verification by NTH.**

**The Committee note that a bilateral agreement with BIS has been signed by NTH for testing of 106 products but inflow of samples is very low as NTH has received only some products like cement, plugs, switches, sockets and plywood etc. The Committee feel that having experience of 100 years of R&D, testing and evaluation, NTH should work in cooperation/consonance of BIS and provide their valuable assistance in various areas of work so that BIS could get benefit of wide experience and expertise of NTH scientists not only in testing but also in formulation of various standards. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should make such arrangements which facilitates both organizations of Government to work together and maximum work of BIS should go to NTH for all testings which will not only help in popularizing NTH but also increase its revenue and credibility. The Committee find that though NTH was conceptualized to provide quality assurance service on behalf of Government of India and has 100 years of experience under its sleeve but till today, it is not supported by any legislative protection, whereas Government of India has provided a legislative cover in support of the functions/activities of BIS. In regard to legislative protection to NTH like BIS, the Committee feel that first of all, the Department should ascertain the viability of the issue and study and explore the possibility of**

providing the legislative protection to NTH and if found feasible to make more earnest efforts to pursue the concerned authorities/ministries to look into the matter to provide legislative cover in support of the functions of NTH.

**NEW DELHI**  
**20 February 2014**  
**01 Phalguna, 1935(Saka)**

**VILAS MUTTEMWAR,**  
**Chairman,**  
**Standing Committee on Food,**  
**Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution**



**MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD,  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (2013-14) HELD ON FRIDAY,  
18TH OCTOBER, 2013**

The Committee sat from 1200 hrs. to 1330 hrs. in Committee Room 'B', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

Shri Vilas Muttemwar - Chairman

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Shivraj Bhaiya
3. Shri Arvind Kumar Chaudhary
4. Shri Sanjay Dhotre
5. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
6. Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav
7. Shri Purnmasi Ram
8. Shri Chandulal Sahu

**RAJYA SABHA**

9. Dr. Bharatkumar Raut
10. Shri Birender Singh
11. Shri Veer Singh
12. Shri Kaptan Singh Solanki

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri P.K.Misra - Additional Secretary
2. Smt. Veena Sharma - Director
3. Shri Khakhai Zou - Under Secretary

**Representatives of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs)**

1. Shri Pankaj Agrawala	-	Secretary
2. Shri P. K. Jha	-	AS & FA
3. Shri Manoj Kumar Parida	-	Joint Secretary
4. Dr. Bijendra Kumar	-	Director General
5. Shri S. Basu	-	Scientist, SD
6. Shri Sher Singh	-	Scientist SD (in-charge)
7. Shri K.N.Mishra	-	Scientist, SD (Elect.)
8. Shri D.V.S.Prasad	-	Scientist, SD (Civil)
9. Shri T.R.Burman	-	Scientist, SB (HQ)
10. Shri S.K.Nag	-	Director (NTH)
11. Shri A.K.Jain	-	Director (P&C)

At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the members to the sitting of the Committee convened for briefing by the representatives of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) on the subject 'National Test House (NTH) – Facilities for Testing, Evaluation and Calibration of Engineering Equipments'. Thereafter, Secretary and other officials of the Department of Food and Public Distribution were invited to the sitting of the Committee. After welcoming them, the Chairman apprised them of the provisions of Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker.

2. Hon'ble Chairman then requested the representatives of the Department to brief the Committee on various issues such as functioning of National Test House, progress made by research and development in testing and measurement technology, the problems being faced in its functioning, if any and the facilities available at National test house laboratories, etc.

3. Thereafter, the Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs addressed the issues raised by the Hon'ble Chairman and also briefed the Committee on the various issues related to the subject with the help of a power point presentation. The supplementary queries of the Members of the Committee were also responded to by the representatives of the Department.

4. The following are some of the important points that emerged during the deliberations of the Committee:-

- (i) Probability of self-sufficiency and role of NTH in future in view of upcoming private participation in the market.
- (ii) The co-relation between NTH and BIS.
- (iii) Revenue generation by NTH and how to make it profit-making organization
- (iv) The progress made by the NTH in R&D along with upgradation of technology in all laboratories of NTH.
- (v) Need for opening of more test centres and laboratories throughout the country.
- (vi) Need for awareness campaign by NTH regarding its testing facilities.
- (vii) Need for full utilization of all regional laboratories available with NTH etc.

5. The Hon'ble Chairman then thanked the Secretary and other representatives of the Department of Consumer Affairs for free and frank discussion and also for briefing the Committee properly.

6. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

**The Committee then adjourned.**

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD,  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (2013-14) HELD ON MONDAY,  
9TH DECEMBER, 2013**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1615 hrs. in Committee Room 'E',  
Basement, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

Shri Vilas Muttemwar - Chairman

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

1. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
2. Shri Harishchandra Chavan
3. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
4. Shri Ponnamm Prabhakar
5. Shri C.Rajendran

**RAJYA SABHA**

6. Dr. Bhushan Lal Jangde
7. Dr. Bharatkumar Raut
8. Dr. T.N.Seema
9. Shri Veer Singh

**SECRETARIAT**

- |                      |   |                      |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. Shri P.K.Misra    | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. Smt. Veena Sharma | - | Director             |
| 3. Shri Khakhai Zou  | - | Under Secretary      |

**Representatives of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs)**

- |                             |   |                              |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Ms. Chandralekha Malviya | - | Sr. Economic Advisor         |
| 2. Shri Manoj Parida        | - | Joint Secretary              |
| 3. Dr. Bijendra Kumar       | - | Director General, NTH        |
| 4. Ms. Bharti Das           | - | Chief Controller of Accounts |
| 5. Shri S. Basu             | - | Scientist, SD, NTH           |
| 6. Shri Sher Singh          | - | Scientist SD, NTH            |
| 7. Shri K.N.Mishra          | - | Scientist, SD (Elect.), NTH  |
| 8. Shri D.V.S.Prasad        | - | Scientist, SD (Civil), NTH   |
| 9. Shri T.R.Barman          | - | Scientist, SB (HQ), NTH      |
| 10. Md. Zakir Hussain       | - | Director (P&C)               |

At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the members to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee first considered the draft report on action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the 28th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2013-14) pertaining to the Department of Food and Public Distribution. After due deliberation, the Committee unanimously adopted the draft Report without any amendments/modifications.

3. Thereafter, Senior Economic Advisor and other officials of the Department of Consumer Affairs were invited to the sitting of the Committee to tender oral evidence on the subject 'National Test House (NTH) – Facilities for Testing, Evaluation and Calibration of Engineering Equipments'. After welcoming them, the Chairman apprised them of the provisions of Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker. Hon'ble Chairman, in his opening remarks, sought comments of the officials of the Department on various important issues related to the subject such as revenue prospect of NTH, challenges from private sector, awareness programmes to spread information about its services/facilities, future plan for expansion of its laboratories and their staff strength to

run the laboratories efficiently, prospect of opening small test centres in other parts of the country, plans for developing the test facilities for bio-degradable polymers etc.

4. Thereafter, the officials of the Department of Consumer Affairs addressed the issues raised by the Hon'ble Chairman and also apprised the Committee on the various issues related to the subject. The supplementary queries of the Members of the Committee were also responded to by the representatives of the Department.

5. The following are some of the important points that emerged during the deliberations of the Committee:-

- (i) Expansion of horizon of NTH in new areas like LED, Light testing, solar instrument testing, RCC pipe testing etc.
- (ii) Revenue generation by NTH and how to make it profit-making organization.
- (iii) Major achievements of NTH during last 2-3 years.
- (iv) Need for recruitment of new talents, scientists in the organization.
- (v) Need for additional funds for purchase of State of Art Equipment.
- (vi) Need for opening of more test centres and laboratories throughout the country.
- (vii) Need for awareness campaign by NTH regarding its testing facilities.
- (viii) Need for full utilization of all regional laboratories available with NTH etc.

6. The representatives of the Department responded to the queries raised by the Chairman and the members on the aforesaid issues.

7. The Hon'ble Chairman then thanked the Senior Economic Advisor and other representatives of the Department of Consumer Affairs for free and frank discussion and also for apprising the Committee properly.

8. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

**The Committee then adjourned.**

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD,  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (2013-14) HELD ON  
TUESDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 2014**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs. in Chairman's Room No.115 – A,  
First Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

Shri Vilas Muttemwar - Chairman

**MEMBERS**  
**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Arvind Kumar Chaudhary
3. Shri Ponnamm Prabhakar
4. Shri Adhi Shankar

**RAJYA SABHA**

5. Dr. Bhushan Lal Jangde
6. Shri Lalhming Liana
7. Dr. Bharatkumar Raut

**SECRETARIAT**

- |                               |   |                      |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. Shri P. K. Misra           | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. Smt. Veena Sharma          | - | Director             |
| 3. Shri Lovekesh Kumar Sharma | - | Additional Director  |
| 4. Shri Khakhai Zou           | - | Under Secretary      |

2. The sitting of the Committee was scheduled to be held for consideration and adoption of the draft report on the subject 'National Test House (NTH)- Facilities for Testing, Evaluation and Calibration of Engineering Equipment' pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).

3. Due to lack of quorum even after waiting for 30 minutes, the sitting of the Committee had to be postponed under the provisions of Rules 259(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

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**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD,  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (2013-14) HELD ON  
THURSDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 2014**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1540 hrs. in Chairman's Room No. 115 – A,  
First Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

Shri Vilas Muttemwar - Chairman

**MEMBERS**  
**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Shivraj Bhaiya
3. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
4. Shri Harishchandra Chavan
5. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
6. Shri Ponnamm Prabhakar
7. Shri C. Rajendran
8. Shri Purnmasi Ram
9. Shri Adhi Shankar
10. Shri Suresh K. Shetkar

**RAJYA SABHA**

11. Dr. Bhushan Lal Jangde
12. Shri Lalhming Liana
13. Dr. Bharatkumar Raut
14. Shri Kaptan Singh Solanki

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri P. K. Misra - Additional Secretary
2. Smt. Veena Sharma - Director
3. Shri Lovekesh Kumar Sharma - Additional Director
4. Shri Khakhai Zou - Under Secretary

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened for consideration and adoption of the draft Report on the subject 'National Test House – Facilities for Testing, Evaluation and Calibration of Engineering Equipment' pertaining to the Department of Consumer Affairs. In his opening remarks Hon'ble Chairman highlighted the important recommendations contained in the draft Report.

3. The Committee then took up for consideration the draft Report pertaining to the Department of Consumer Affairs. After due deliberation, the Committee unanimously adopted the draft Report without any amendments/modifications.

4. The Committee then authorized the Chairman to finalize the aforesaid Report and present the same to Parliament in the current Session of Parliament.

**The Committee then adjourned.**

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