

**GLOBAL ESTATES MANAGEMENT BY
THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of
the Committee contained in their Thirtieth Report (16th Lok Sabha)]

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(2016-17)**

SIXTY-FIRST REPORT

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

SIXTY-FIRST REPORT
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(2016-17)

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

**GLOBAL ESTATES MANAGEMENT BY THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Thirtieth Report (16th Lok Sabha)]

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



Presented to Lok Sabha on: ...16.12.2016

Laid in Rajya Sabha on: ...16.12.2016

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

December, 2016/ Agrahayana, 1938 (Saka)

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* Not appended to the cyclostyled copy of the Report

**COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(2016-17)**

Prof. K.V. Thomas - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay
3. Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra
4. Shri Nishikant Dubey
5. Prof. Richard Hay
6. Shri Gajanan Chandrakant Kirtikar
7. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab
8. Smt. Riti Pathak
9. Shri Neiphiu Rio
10. Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal
11. Shri Abhishek Singh
12. Dr. Kirit Somaiya
13. Shri Anurag Singh Thakur
14. Shri Shivkumar C. Udasi
15. Dr. P. Venugopal

RAJYA SABHA

16. Shri Naresh Agrawal
17. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
18. * Shri Bhupender Yadav
19. Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita
20. Shri Shantaram Naik
21. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy
22. Shri Ajay Sancheti

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri A.K. Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Sukhi Chand - Joint Secretary
3. Shri T. Jayakumar - Director
4. Smt. Bharti Sanjeev Tuteja - Deputy Secretary

* Elected w.e.f. 09.08.2016 vice Shri Vijay Goel, MP appointed as Minister of State w.e.f. 05.07.2016.

INTRODUCTION

1. I, the Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee (2016-17), having been authorised by the Committee, do present this Sixty-First Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Thirtieth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on '**Global Estates Management by the Ministry of External Affairs**' relating to the Ministry of External Affairs.

2. The Thirtieth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 21 December, 2015. Replies of the Government to the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report were received on 26th August, 2016. The Public Accounts Committee considered and adopted the Sixty-First Report at their sitting held on 1 December, 2016. Minutes of the Sitting are given at Appendix-I.

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

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

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

NEW DELHI;
1 December, 2016
10 Agrahayana, 1938 (Saka)

PROF. K.V. THOMAS
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee

CHAPTER – I

REPORT

This Report of the Public Accounts Committee deals with Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Thirtieth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on “Global Estates Management by the Ministry of External Affairs” based on the C&AG Report No. 16 of 2014 (Performance Audit) Union Government (Civil) relating to the Ministry of External Affairs.

2. The Thirtieth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 21st December, 2015. It contained 18 Observations/Recommendations. Action Taken Notes in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations have been received from the Ministry of External Affairs and categorized as under:

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

Paragraph Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17 and 18

Total: 15
Chapter- II

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

-NIL-

Total: NIL
Chapter- III

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

-NIL-

Total: NIL
Chapter- IV

- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Government have furnished interim replies:

Paragraph Nos. 8, 12 and 14

Total: 03
Chapter- V

3. The detailed examination of the subject by the Committee had revealed certain shortcomings/deficiencies on the part of the Ministry of External Affairs which *inter-alia* included not maintaining even basic records of its properties, delays in construction on acquired properties ranging from 14 to 51 years, significant delays in identifying properties and finalizing deals, the renovation process took decades to complete, unsatisfactory planning and assessment of the requirements of the buildings; tardiness in acquisition of properties on reciprocal basis and deficient monitoring of various works by the Ministry etc. The Committee had accordingly given their Observations/Recommendations in their Thirtieth Report.

4. The Action Taken Notes furnished by the Ministry of External Affairs have been reproduced in the relevant Chapters of this Report. The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on their Observations/Recommendations which either need reiteration or merit comments.

5. The Committee desire that Action Taken Note in respect of Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter I and final action taken replies in respect of the Recommendation contained in Chapter V for which interim reply has been given by the Government may be furnished to them within three months of the Presentation of the Report to the House.

6. *The Committee, on perusal of the replies submitted by the Ministry, note that the Ministry has in 6 out of 18 paragraphs responded in a single sentence i.e. "Committee's recommendation has been noted for compliance" without giving specific details about the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon by the Ministry. Further, the Ministry was asked to apprise the Committee about the action specified in several paragraphs within two months of the presentation of the Report but the Ministry did not send any such information within the stipulated time. The Committee strongly deprecate the casual approach of the Ministry in furnishing the Action Taken Replies to the Committee. The Committee desire the Ministry to furnish detailed action taken on the recommendations at Para Nos. 4,9,11,13,17 and 18 contained in their Thirtieth Report within a period of one month of the presentation of this Report to the House. The Committee also desire that appropriate punitive action may be taken against the officers found responsible for the delays/ negligence causing avoidable losses. The Committee hope that Ministry has learnt lessons from*

the inexplicable delays in acquisition/ construction of properties, particularly, as pointed out by them in their earlier Report in respect of construction at EOI, Tokyo which commenced after 53 years of purchase of land.

Creation of database

(Recommendation Para No. 2)

7. Opining that database is instrumental in better management of properties by providing a comprehensive overview for effective planning and by filling in the gaps in monitoring process, the Committee in their original Report had desired that the database produced before the Committee during evidence should also include details about the ownership (including previous ownerships) of all the properties (leased/ rented/ owned), the details of the inventories and the details of the periodical verification of the inventories. The Committee had further desired that all the documents relating to the properties be microfilmed for effective monitoring of those properties and be readily available for scrutiny. The Committee had also directed the Ministry to upload the database on its website within two months.

8. The Ministry in their Action Taken Notes have stated as under:

"Suggestions/recommendations of the esteemed Committee have been noted for compliance. Ministry has taken the steps to better manage the existing portfolio and also strive to widen its portfolio. These include creation of a database of both rented and owned properties and inclusion of the Section dealing with rented properties within the ambit of the Projects Division. Property I Section which supervises the rented properties which was earlier part of the Establishment Division has now been merged with Projects Division to create a Global Estate Management Division".

9. While vetting the said ATNs, the Audit made the following comments:

"Ministry may apprise the PAC if the desired data had been uploaded on its website. It may also confirm if there was some system in place to update the existing database of rented / owned properties on periodical basis. If so, the details, thereof, may be appended".

10. In their further comments to the above said audit observation, the Ministry stated as under:

"Ministry has instituted a mechanism for creation of a database of both rented as well as GOI owned properties after compiling the information received from the Missions and Posts abroad. The database of both rented as well as GOI owned properties are available in electronic format and updated regularly.

Though this database is available with the Ministry and would be submitted to the esteemed Committee as and when directed, the Ministry has reservation regarding making this available for uploading in its website primarily on

security considerations. Availability of the database in public domain could prove detrimental to our interests as certain foreign elements could use and develop the information to their advantage and local agencies in host countries would be able to raise the level of surveillance on the officials with much greater ease".

11. The Committee note from the reply of the Ministry that steps taken to better manage the existing portfolio and also widen the same include creation of database of both rented and owned properties and merging the section dealing with rented properties which was earlier a part of the Establishment Division with Projects Division to create a Global Estates Management Division. The Committee while appreciating the steps taken by the Ministry are of the view that the database to be useful over a period of time needs to be comprehensive and give a bird's eye view of the holdings of the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that, to ensure transparency, the database may also include details about the ownership (including previous ownerships) of all the properties (leased/ rented/ owned), the details of the inventories and the details of the physical verification thereof. The Committee after taking note of the security concerns of the Ministry regarding uploading of the database on the website desire that appropriate mechanism may be put in place to ensure that database is regularly updated and is readily made available for monitoring of the properties by the Division.

Delays in acquisition

(Recommendation Para No. 5)

12. The Committee in their original Report had found that there had been significant delays in identifying properties and even after identification, in many cases, the deals fell through for one reason or other, pointing to a serious lack of time bound, committed and professional approach in identification and negotiation of properties. The Committee were of the view that a detailed Search Report may be prepared for all the properties that have been identified for acquisition and made available to the Ministry and the members of the purchase committee. The Committee had desired that interaction with professional agencies abroad for timely identification, acquisition, development and maintenance of properties may be done in a more scientific, professional and structured manner by forming small teams comprising analysts and in cases where identification and finalization of the deals have taken longer time the team may be led by an official from the Ministry to effectively negotiate

and finalize the transaction. The Committee had also desired to be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard.

13. The Ministry in their Action Taken Notes have stated as under:

"Recommendation has been noted for compliance. Ministry has instructed the Missions/Posts to pursue acquisition of properties aggressively. All Missions/Post have been instructed to appoint a Nodal officer who would ensure progress in acquisition of properties. The Missions/Posts mentioned in the Report have been instructed to forthwith send proposals for empanelling prominent Real Estate Agents to locate/ identify properties for acquisition.

The expenditure incurred by these Missions/Posts in Rental outgo for the years 2012-13 to 2014-15 are given in Annexure II".

14. The Vetting comments of Audit on the above-said ATNs are as follows:

While the Ministry have noted the recommendations for compliance, it has not specifically responded to PAC's recommendation on the preparation of detailed search report. As such, the factual position can be ensured at the time of next audit.

15. In their further comments to the above said audit observation, the Ministry stated as under:

"In order to pursue acquisition of properties by the Missions/Posts abroad, Ministry has allowed engagement of appropriate agencies who could locate/identify properties and assist the Ministry in acquisition of properties. Missions/Posts abroad have also been advised to update the Ministry on the development in search of properties and the same is regularly reviewed in the Ministry by senior officers."

16. The Committee note the reply of the Ministry that the Missions/ Posts have been instructed to pursue acquisition of properties aggressively and to appoint a Nodal Officer who would ensure progress in acquisition of properties . The Ministry has further stated that engagement of appropriate agencies to locate / identify properties and assist the Ministry in acquisition of properties has also been allowed. The Committee reiterate that in order to present a better picture on identified properties, detailed Search Reports in respect of these properties may be prepared by the agencies for placing it before the members of the purchase committee. The Committee also desire that the Nodal officers may be made responsible for sending regular updates to the Ministry on the progress made in the acquisition process and to ensure time bound acquisition of properties.

Purchase of property in Paris
(Recommendation Para No. 8).

17. The Committee in their original Report had noted that the Ministry decided to purchase a property belonging to French Government for establishing India Cultural Centre at Paris and both the architects/ consultants engaged by the Mission to assess the suitability of the building reported that the building was not suitable to be used as a cultural centre and the Ministry ignored the reports of the architects and purchased the property which has been lying unutilized since then. The Committee were astonished to find that the Ministry did not heed to the advice of the Architects/ Consultants and went on with the acquisition of the property which eventually resulted in idling of assets and wasteful expenditure on maintaining the property. The Committee were of the view that making such a deal without proper planning and consultation tantamount to criminal negligence. The Committee were of the considered opinion that a comprehensive system of reporting be evolved where all such deviations from routine procedures get automatically identified and reported to the Projects Division so that a judicious and prudent decision could be arrived at and the project implemented without loss of time and escalation of cost. The Committee had desired to be apprised of the action taken in this regard within two months.

18. The Ministry in their Action Taken Notes have stated as under:

"Committee's recommendations are noted for compliance. Design is submitted to local authorities and final approval is expected in next two months. Partly the renovation work has begun with removal of asbestos used in the existing building. Tenders finalised by the Architect are in the process for approval in the Ministry".

19. *The Committee note that the Ministry in their reply has stated that the renovation work at India Culture Centre, Paris has begun partly and the tenders finalised by the Architect are in the process for approval in the Ministry. However, the Committee find that the Ministry has not responded to the observation of the Committee that making such a deal without proper planning and consultation tantamount to criminal negligence and also to the suggestion for evolving a comprehensive system of reporting wherein the Ministry is automatically informed of the deviations in the procedures. The Committee are also of the view that the nodal officer being appointed may be made responsible for intimating the Ministry about any such deviations. The Committee also desire that an inquiry may be instituted*

against the officers responsible for criminal negligence in making a deal without proper planning and consultation and the Committee may be apprised of the action taken in this regard. The Committee desire that a statement showing properties both rented as well as acquired by the Indian Missions abroad, its date of acquisition and date of effective use may be submitted to it within two months of presentation of the report.

Expenditure over and above the delegated financial powers
(Recommendation Para No. 12)

20. The Committee in their original Report had noted with serious awe that CGI Vancouver, CGI Houston, Eol Panama City and Eol Chile incurred expenditure over and above the delegated financial powers on repair and maintenance of Government of India properties. The Committee were, perturbed to note the reply of the Ministry that due to large number of Missions/Posts to be audited coupled with limiting factors of manpower, limited budgetary resources, there was no periodicity for conducting internal audit. The Committee had felt that the need for the internal audit as a preventive and remedial mechanism could not be over emphasized and, therefore, strongly desired that the officials of the Ministry be adequately sensitized and an effective internal e-audit system may be developed in the Ministry to minimize such recurrences. The Committee had desired to be apprised of the action taken by the Ministry in this regard within two months.

21. The Ministry in their Action Taken Notes have stated as under:

"Committee's Observations are noted for compliance. Excess expenditure over and above the delegated powers in respect of E/I, Panama City and E/I, Santiago, Chile has been regularised and Sanction issued vide No. Q/Proj-II/745/03/2015 dated 23.09.2015 and vide No. Q/Proj-II/ 745/04/2014 dated 27.01.2016 respectively. The regularisation is under process in the case of CGI, Houston and CGI, Vancouver".

22. While vetting the said ATNs, the Audit made the following comments:

"Ministry has not specified the time-lines for the regularisation of excess expenditure over and above the delegated powers in respect of CGI, Houston and CGI, Vancouver".

23. In their further comments to the above said audit observation, the Ministry stated as under:

"The process of regularisation of excess expenditure is being expedited to avoid further delay".

24. The Committee note from the reply of the Ministry that excess expenditure over and above the delegated powers in respect of E/I Panama City and E/I Santiago, Chile

has been regularised and in case of CGI, Houston and CGI, Vancouver, the regularisation is under process. The Committee, however, find that the Ministry has not responded to their recommendation regarding strengthening of the internal audit system. The Committee are of the considered view that effective internal audit system ensures that accounting and allied records have been properly maintained, the assets management system is in place in order to safeguard the assets and also to see whether policies and procedures are in place and are duly being complied with. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the officials of the Ministry be adequately sensitized and an effective internal e-audit system be developed so as to ensure timely regularisation of excess expenditure. The Committee further desire to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

CHAPTER V

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH GOVERNMENT HAVE FURNISHED INTERIM REPLIES

Observation / Recommendations

The Committee note that the Ministry decided to purchase a property belonging to French Government for establishing India Cultural Centre at Paris and both the Architects/Consultants engaged by the Mission to assess the suitability of the building based on structural soundness, feasibility of utilization of structure for the desired purpose, design, execution and compliance with local regulations etc. reported that the building was not suitable to be used as a Cultural Centre since the building neither had two exits nor enough provision for assembly of at least 100 people as required under French regulations. The Committee further note that the Ministry ignored the reports of the architects and purchased the property for Rs. 30.03 crore in March 2011 which has been laying unutilized since then. As per the reply of the Ministry, the issues raised by the Architects/Consultants were taken up with French Government which authorized the Mission to make additional/alterations in the existing building as well as, if required, to rebuild the property by following bye laws prevailing in the city. However, information relating to taking up the matter with French Government was not provided to the Audit. The Ministry has now appointed another Architect-Consultant for renovation of the property to make it suitable for Cultural Centre and as reported by the Ministry the project is likely to be completed by September, 2016. The Committee are astonished to find that the Ministry did not heed to the advice of the Architects/Consultants and went on with the acquisition of the property which eventually resulted in idling of assets and wasteful expenditure on maintaining the property. The Committee are of the view that making such a deal without proper planning and consultation tantamount to criminal negligence. The Committee also take serious note of non-furnishing of important information to Audit by the Mission and desire that all the relevant records be produced to the Audit urgently within two months. The Committee after going through the reply of the Ministry feel that the objections raised by the Architect/Consultants after the confirmation by the Ministry/ICCR for purchase of the property were not brought before the Ministry by the Mission. The Committee are of the considered opinion that a comprehensive system of reporting be evolved where all such deviations from routine procedures get automatically identified and reported to the Projects Division so that a judicious and prudent decision could be arrived at and the project implemented without loss of time and escalation of cost. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard within two months.

[Observation / Recommendations No.8 of 30th Report of the
Public Accounts Committee (16th Lok Sabha)]

CHAPTER V

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH GOVERNMENT HAVE FURNISHED INTERIM REPLIES

Observation / Recommendations

The Committee note that the Ministry decided to purchase a property belonging to French Government for establishing India Cultural Centre at Paris and both the Architects/Consultants engaged by the Mission to assess the suitability of the building based on structural soundness, feasibility of utilization of structure for the desired purpose, design, execution and compliance with local regulations etc. reported that the building was not suitable to be used as a Cultural Centre since the building neither had two exits nor enough provision for assembly of at least 100 people as required under French regulations. The Committee further note that the Ministry ignored the reports of the architects and purchased the property for Rs. 30.03 crore in March 2011 which has been laying unutilized since then. As per the reply of the Ministry, the issues raised by the Architects/Consultants were taken up with French Government which authorized the Mission to make additional/alternations in the existing building as well as, if required, to rebuild the property by following bye laws prevailing in the city. However, information relating to taking up the matter with French Government was not provided to the Audit. The Ministry has now appointed another Architect-Consultant for renovation of the property to make it suitable for Cultural Centre and as reported by the Ministry the project is likely to be completed by September, 2016. The Committee are astonished to find that the Ministry did not heed to the advice of the Architects/Consultants and went on with the acquisition of the property which eventually resulted in idling of assets and wasteful expenditure on maintaining the property. The Committee are of the view that making such a deal without proper planning and consultation tantamount to criminal negligence. The Committee also take serious note of non-furnishing of important information to Audit by the Mission and desire that all the relevant records be produced to the Audit urgently within two months. The Committee after going through the reply of the Ministry feel that the objections raised by the Architect/Consultants after the confirmation by the Ministry/ICCR for purchase of the property were not brought before the Ministry by the Mission. The Committee are of the considered opinion that a comprehensive system of reporting be evolved where all such deviations from routine procedures get automatically identified and reported to the Projects Division so that a judicious and prudent decision could be arrived at and the project implemented without loss of time and escalation of cost. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard within two months.

[Observation / Recommendations No.8 of 30th Report of the
Public Accounts Committee (16th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

Committee's recommendations are noted for compliance. Design is submitted to local authorities and final approval is expected in next two months. Partly the renovation work has begun with removal of asbestos used in the existing building. Tenders finalised by the Architect are in the process for approval in the Ministry.

Audit's vetting comments on Ministry's ATN

No further comments.

[Ministry of External Affairs OM No. Q/Proj-II/745/01/16 dated 12 August 2016]

Observation / Recommendations

The Committee note with serious awe that CGI Vancouver, CGI Houston, EOI Panama City and EOI Chile, incurred expenditure over and above the delegated financial powers on repair and maintenance of Government of India properties. The Committee also note with dismay that the Missions in Oman, Libya, Tehran, Moscow, Bucharest, Guangzhou and Pyongyang had retained vacant leased residential accommodation for more than 90 days without the prior approval of the Ministry as required under the relevant Rules. The Committee find from the reply of the Ministry that the expenditure incurred by CGI Houston, EOI Panama City and EOI Chile are yet to be regularized by the Ministry. The Committee also observe that the Ministry has now examined all the cases of unauthorised retention and regularized all of them. The Committee are, however, perturbed to note the reply of the Ministry that due to large number of Missions/Posts to be audited coupled with limited factors of manpower, limited budgetary resources, there is no periodicity for conducting internal audit. The Committee while noting the observation of the audit that in case of Oman, Libya and Moscow, the Mission could have applied for prior approval of the Ministry for retention. It clearly establishes that the internal audit system of the Ministry has not been functioning properly as otherwise these irregularities would have been easily brought out. The Committee feel that the need for the internal audit as a preventive and remedial mechanism cannot be over emphasized and, therefore, strongly desire that the officials of the Ministry be adequately sensitized and an effective internal e-audit system may be developed in the Ministry to minimize such recurrences. The Committee may be apprised of the action taken by the Ministry in this regard within two months.

[Observation / Recommendations No.12 of 30th Report of the
Public Accounts Committee (16th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

Committee's Observations are noted for compliance. Excess expenditure over and above the delegated powers in respect of E/I, Panama City and E/I, Santiago, Chile has been regularised and Sanction issued vide No. Q/Proj-II/745/03/2015 dated 23.09.2015 and vide No. Q/Proj-II/745/04/2014 dated 27.01.2016 respectively. The regularisation is under process in the case of CGI, Houston and CGI, Vancouver.

Audit's vetting comments on Ministry's ATN

Ministry has not specified the time-lines for the regularisation of excess expenditure over and above the delegated powers in respect of CGI, Houston and CGI, Vancouver.

Reply on vetting comments of Audit by MEA:

The process of regularisation of excess expenditure is being expedited to avoid further delay.

[Ministry of External Affairs OM No. Q/Proj-II/745/01/16 dated 12 August 2016]

Observation / Recommendations

The Committee note that there were inordinate delays in construction of properties on the plots of land acquired by the Ministry for its various passport offices country-wide viz. Jaipur, Amritsar, Mumbai and Srinagar resulting in huge outgo of avoidable rent. The Committee note from the reply of the Ministry that except for Srinagar all other buildings are ready or will be ready by the end of 2015. The Committee, however, feel that there have been significant delays in the construction of buildings even in India and are astonished to find that Passport Office, Jaipur took over the building 25 long years after acquiring the plot. The Committee are shocked to find that CPWD has taken two and a half years for submitting revised drawings and estimates for Srinagar Regional Passport Kendra. The Committee are of the view that lackadaisical attitude of the officers and lack of follow up and persuasion on part of the Ministry has contributed to these inordinate delays. The Committee desire that alongwith fixing the timeframes for completion of construction the responsibility of the officers may be fixed and they may be asked to give periodic updates on each of the property under their supervision. The Committee further feel that a comprehensive mechanism may be developed so that allotment of land, its construction is done in a time bound manner for future needs. The Committee may be apprised of the action taken by the Ministry in this regard within two months.

[Observation / Recommendations No.14 of 30th Report of the
Public Accounts Committee (16th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

Committee's observations are noted for compliance. The plot initially allotted in 1983 for the construction of RPO building and staff quarters at RPO, *Jaipur* got cancelled and another plot was allotted and the possession was given on 30.03.2001. Construction started in 2005 and the Ministry is exploring options other than CPWD for execution of its projects at Srinagar, Kolkata and Bhopal so that time and cost overrun which have been faced by the Ministry in almost all the projects entrusted to CPWD are averted in future. PAC's kind observation is noted for compliance to closely monitor the progress, coordinate with the executing agencies/local bodies and submit regular updates on the progress.

Audit's vetting comments on Ministry's ATN

The present position of stated projects would be reviewed at the time of next audit.

[Ministry of External Affairs OM No. Q/Proj-II/745/01/16
dated 12 August 2016]

NEW DELHI;
14 December, 2016
24 Agrahayana, 1938 (Saka)

PROF. K.V. THOMAS
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee

APPENDIX-I

MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH SITTING OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (2016-17) HELD ON 01st DECEMBER, 2016.

The Committee sat from 1015 hrs. to 1055 hrs. on 01st December, 2016 in Room No. "51", Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Prof. K. V. Thomas

Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Nishikant Dubey
3. Shri Gajanan Kirtikar
4. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab
5. Shri Janardan Singh Sigrwal
6. Dr. Kirit Somaiya
7. Dr. P. Venugopal
8. Smt. Riti Pathak
9. Shri Neiphiu Rio
10. Shri Anurag Singh Thakur
11. Shri Shivkumar C. Udasi

RAJYA SABHA

12. Shri Bhupender Yadav
13. Shri Shantaram Naik
14. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy
15. Shri Ajay Sancheti

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Shri A. K. Singh | - Additional Secretary |
| 2. Shri S.C. Chaudhary | - Joint Secretary |
| 3. Shri T. Jayakumar | - Director |
| 4. Shri Tirthankar Das | - Additional Director |

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 5. | Smt. Bharti S. Tuteja | - Deputy Secretary |
| 6. | Shri A.K. Yadav | - Deputy Secretary |

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

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Shri Nand Kishore | - Deputy C&AG (DCR) |
| 2. | Shri Mukesh P. Singh | - Director General of Audit |
| 3. | Shri Manish Kumar | - Principal Director of Audit (PAC) |
| 4. | Ms. Pooja Singh Mandol | - Principal Director (Railways) |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson, PAC welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following draft Reports for consideration:

(i) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

(ii) Draft report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Thirtieth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Global Estate Management by the Ministry of External Affairs".

3. The Chairperson invited suggestions of the Members on the above mentioned draft Reports. After discussing the draft Reports, the Committee adopted both the Reports with some changes/modifications.

4. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize these Reports in the light of verbal discussion and consequential changes arising out of the suggestions by the Members factual verification by the Audit and present the same to Parliament.

The officials of the C&AG then withdrew.

- | | | | | |
|----|------|------|------|------|
| 5. | xxxx | xxxx | xxxx | xxxx |
| 6. | xxxx | xxxx | xxxx | xxxx |

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX-II
(Vide Paragraph 5 of Introduction)

**ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
CONTAINED IN THEIR THIRTIETH REPORT (SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

(i)	Total number of Observations/Recommendations	-	18
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations of the Committee which have been accepted by the Government: Para Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10,11,13,15,16,17 and 18	-	Total : 15 Percentage: 83.33%
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the reply of the Government: -Nil-	-	Total : 0 Percentage: 0%
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration: -Nil-	-	Total : 0 Percentage: 0%
(v)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the Government have furnished interim replies: Para Nos. 8, 12 and 14	-	Total : 3 Percentage: 16.67%