

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

THIRTY SEVENTH REPORT

[Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee in their Seventeenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha)]

Presented on 28.12.2018



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December, 2018/Pausa, 1940(Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2018-2019)

Shri Chandrakant Khaire

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Chairperson

M E M B E R S

2. Shri Dushyant Chautala
3. Shrimati Veena Devi
4. Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar
5. Shri Laxman Giluwa
6. Shri Choudhary Mohan Jatua
7. Shrimati Mausaum Noor
8. Shri Bheemrao B. Patil
9. Shri Sanjay Kaka Patil
10. Shri Bishnu Pada Ray
11. Shri Uday Pratap Singh
12. Shri Virendra Singh
13. Shri P.R. Sundaram
14. Shri Manohar Untwal
15. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. Preeti Srivastava - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Maya Lingi - Additional Director
3. Shri Munish Kumar Rewari - Deputy Secretary
4. Shri K. P. Kashyap - Committee Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty Seventh Report on the action taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Seventeenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee.

2. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 18.12.2018 and the Minutes of the sitting are given at Appendix.
3. For facility of reference, observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI
18 December, 2018
Agrahayana, 1940 (Saka)

Chandrakant B. Khaire,
Chairperson
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

REPORT

This Report of the Committee deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations made in their Seventeenth Reports (16th Lok Sabha) which were presented to Lok Sabha on 28.12.2017.

2. The Seventeenth Report dealt with delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.
3. The Action Taken Notes have since been received from the Government in respect of all the recommendations/observations contained in the aforesaid Report.
4. The Committee have dealt with the action taken by the Government on some of their important Recommendations/Observations in the succeeding paragraphs.
5. In Paragraph 18 (17th Report, 16th Lok Sabha) relating to delay in laying of the documents of Indian Institute of Forest Management(IIFM), Bhopal the Committee had recommended as follows :-

"18. The Committee note that the work relating to preparation of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 of IIFM had been completed on time but delay occurred in laying the Accounts before the Parliament due to their inability to hold AGM meeting in time. Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the President of IIFM Society and the AGM society meeting could not be held due to unavoidable reasons. Further, the documents for the year 2014-15 were laid in Winter Session of 2016 with delays of 11 months. As regards the year 2015-16, despite the assurance given by the representative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to expedite laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts, the same were not laid during the Monsoon Session 2017. The IIFM submitted that they will be careful in the future and efforts will be taken to ensure that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts statement will be laid in time."

6. In their Action Taken Note, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indian Institute of Forest Management have stated as under:-

"Annual Report and Audited Accounts of IIFM, Bhopal for the year 2015-16, was vetted by the Board of Governors in their meeting held on 16/01/2017 and by the Annual General Meeting of the IIFM Society in their meeting held on 13/04/2017. The AGM of IIFM Society could not be held earlier than 13/04/2017.

The printed copies of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2015-16 was received in the Institute on 01/08/2017 and the same were submitted to the Ministry on 03/08/2017. However, the same could not be laid on the Table of Lok

Sabha/Rajya Sabha due to paucity of time, since as per Chapter-4,4.1 (a) of the General Procedure for Laying of Papers on the Table of the House, atleast three clear sittings days` notice is required to for the Ministry for laying papers on the Table of the House.

The laid down Provisions of the General Procedure for Laying of Papers on the Table of the House will be adhered to in future."

7. The Statement showing the action taken by the Government on each of the recommendations/observations contained in the Seventeenth Report (16th Lok Sabha) are given in Appendix.
8. **The Committee was apprised that main reason for delay in laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of IIFM was delay in convening the AGM of the Institute as Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the President of IIFM Society and the AGM of society could not be held due to unavoidable reasons. However, from the Action Taken replies received from the Ministry the Committee observed that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Institute for the year 2015-16 were got approved in the AGM held on 13.04.2017 and the Institute took near about 3½ months to send these documents to the Ministry for laying on the Table of the House. The Committee feel that had the action of translation and printing of documents been taken up within time, the documents of the Institute for the year 2015-16 could have been laid during Monsoon Session 2017. The Committee, therefore, recommend that effective measures be undertaken by the Ministry to avoid such delays and to ensure that the documents of the Institute are laid within prescribed time period in future. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Ministry in this regard.**

NEW DELHI
18 December, 2018
27 Agrahayana, 1940 (Saka)

Chandrakant B. Khaire,
Chairperson
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

APPENDIX
(Vide Para 3 of the Report)

STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE CONTAINED IN THEIR SEVENTEENTH REPORT (16TH LOK SABHA)

Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 17)

The Committee have time and again emphasized that both the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of an Organization should be laid on the Table of the House simultaneously so as to enable the Members of parliament to get complete picture of the working and activities of the Organization. However, the Committee are disappointed to note that the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has failed to comply with the specific recommendations of the Committee in laying the requisite documents of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal before Parliament during the years 2013-14 to 2015-16. The Committee note that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 were delayed ranging from 07 and 11 months.

Reply of the Government

Time schedule has been prepared for each stage of activities starting from preparing appointment of auditors, finalization of accounts, addressing audit queries, convening and placing the Annual Report and Audited Accounts in the Board of Governors (BoG) Meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society, translation, tendering formalities for printing the Annual Report till its submission to the Ministry. The Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the President of the IIFM Society. However, the delay occurred for laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 on the table of Parliament as the same could not be got approved by the Annual General Meeting of the IIFM Society not earlier than 22/02/2015 and 01/06/2016 respectively, due to unavoidable reasons.

All efforts will be made to hold the AGM of the IIFM Society in time and to place the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts on the Table of Parliament within the prescribed time schedule in future.

(Forwarded to Lok Sabha Secretariat Committee Branch-II)

(Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change OM No. 12/06/2017-RT dated 05.02.2018)

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 18)

The Committee note that the work relating to preparation of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 of IIFM had been completed on time but delay occurred in laying the Accounts before the Parliament due to their inability to hold AGM meeting in time. Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the President of IIFM Society and the AGM society meeting could not be held due to unavoidable reasons. Further, the documents for the year 2014-15 were laid in Winter Session of 2016 with delays of 11 months. As regards the year 2015-16, despite the assurance given by the representative of the Ministry of

Environment, Forest & Climate Change to expedite laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts, the same were not laid during the Monsoon Session 2017. The IIFM submitted that they will be careful in the future and efforts will be taken to ensure that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts statement will be laid in time.

Reply of the Government

Annual Report and Audited Accounts of IIFM, Bhopal for the year 2015-16, was vetted by the Board of Governors in their meeting held on 16/01/2017 and by the Annual General Meeting of the IIFM Society in their meeting held on 13/04/2017. The AGM of IIFM Society could not be held earlier than 13/04/2017.

The printed copies of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2015-16 was received in the Institute on 01/08/2017 and the same were submitted to the Ministry on 03/08/2017. However, the same could not be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha due to paucity of time, since as per Chapter-4,4.1 (a) of the General Procedure for Laying of Papers on the Table of the House, atleast three clear sitting days' notice is required to for the Ministry for laying papers on the Table of the House.

The laid down Provisions of the General Procedure for Laying of Papers on the Table of the House will be adhered to in future.

(Forwarded to Lok Sabha Secretariat Committee Branch-II)
(Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change OM No. 12/06/2017-RT dated 05.02.2018)

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 19)

The Committee urge upon the Institute and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to accord due priority to timely laying of these Reports before both the Houses of Parliament, due care should be taken to ensure all associated activities are completed and meetings held in a time bound manner so that there is no delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts. The Committee also impress upon the Ministry that if for any unavoidable reasons, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Institute could not be laid on the Table of House within the stipulated time; an statement explaining the reasons as to why the requisite documents could not be laid within the prescribed time period should be laid strictly within 30 days as recommended by the Committee in its earlier Report.

Reply of the Government

Time schedule has been prepared for each stage of activities starting from preparing appointment of auditors, finalization of accounts, addressing audit queries, convening and placing the Annual Report and Audited Accounts in the Board of Governors (BoG) Meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society, translation, tendering formalities for printing the Annual Report till its submission to the Ministry. Due care will be taken to ensure that all associated activities are completed and meetings are held in a time bound manner so that there is no delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts on the Tables of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

It will also be ensured that if for any unavoidable reasons, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Institute could not be laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated time; a statement explaining the reasons as to why the requisite documents could not be laid within the prescribed time period should be laid strictly within 30 days as recommended by the Committee in its Report.

(Forwarded to Lok Sabha Secretariat Committee Branch-II)
(Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change OM No. 12/06/2017-RT dated 05.02.2018)

