

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2018-2019)**

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

26

TWENTY SIXTH REPORT

**[Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the
Committee in their Seventh Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha)]**

Presented on 18 December, 2018



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December 2018/ Agrahayana, 1940(Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(2018-2019)

Shri Chandrakant Khaire - ***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 Choudhury Mohan Jatua
7. Shrimati Mausam Noor
8. Shri Bheemrao B. Patil
9. Shri Sanjaykaka Ramchandra Patil
10. Shri Bishnupada Ray
11. Shri Manohar Untwal
12. Shri Uday Pratap Singh
13. Shri Virendra Singh
14. Shri P.R. Sundaram
15. Vacant*

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. Preeti Srivastava - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Rita Jailkhani - Director
3. Smt. Maya Lingi - Additional Director
4. Smt. Rajni Bhagat - Committee Officer

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 Twenty Sixth Report on the Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Seventh Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee.

2. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 12 December, 2018 and the Minutes of the sitting are given at Annexure - I.
3. For facility of reference, observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold type in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI
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 Seventh Report (16th Lok Sabha) which was presented to Lok Sabha on 27.04.2016 .

2. The Seventh Report dealt with delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), New Delhi. In all, the Committee made 04 Observations / Recommendations in the Report. The Action Taken replies have since been received from the Government in respect of all the Recommendations/Observations contained in the aforesaid Report. Accordingly, the Statements showing the action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Seventh Report (16th Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix.

3. The Committee note that the Government have accepted all the recommendations of the Committee made in the aforesaid Report of the Committee. The Committee now deal with the action taken by the Government on the following Recommendations/Observations:-

4. In paragraphs 15 of their 7th Report (16th Lok Sabha) relating to delay in laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts Rail Land Development Authority, New Delhi the Committee had recommended :

The Committee have time and again emphasized that both the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of an Organisation should be laid simultaneously to enable the Members of Parliament to get a complete picture of the working and activities of the Organization. However, the Committee are disappointed to note that the Ministry of Railways has failed to comply with the statutory provisions and specific recommendation of the Committee in laying the requisite documents of the RLDA before Parliament during the years 2006-2007 to 2014-2015. The Committee consider it as grave irregularity on the part of the Administrative Ministry/RLDA which certainly amounts to abdication of Parliamentary responsibility and can hardly be overlooked. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should make all out efforts to plug the systemic loopholes so as to eliminate avoidable delays and formulate an action plan to ensure that Parliamentary obligations in the matter of timely laying of the documents in the House are duly met. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives taken/ being taken by the Ministry in this regard.

The Ministry of Railways in their action taken notes have stated as under:-

Ministry of Railways have identified the areas of likely delay in the process of approval/compilation/translation/printing and tabling of the Annual Accounts & Report for placing before both the houses of the Parliament. The main areas consuming a substantial time have been identified as the Auditing and issue of Audit Report by the C&AG and then printing of Annual Accounts & Report. The other phases of work consist

of preparation of Accounts and the Report, approval of Financial Accounts before/after Auditing and its translation. Accordingly, all out efforts have been taken to streamline the procedure to adhere to time schedule stipulated by Ministry of Finance. The Annual Accounts and Report for the financial year 2014-15, have been submitted within 09 months after closure of the Financial Year i.e. on 30.12.2015. The Annual Accounts & Report for the Financial Year has been tabled in the Rajya Sabha on 11.03.2016 and in Lok Sabha on 16.03.2016.

The matter has been continuously followed with Audit Authorities to cope up with the time schedule prescribed by the Ministry of Finance so that the overall time schedule could be adhered to. Advance action is being taken for compilation of report, translation and printing to avoid possible delay. The process of getting the Accounts approved by RLDA Board will be completed by the end of June every year. Four month's time has been kept for Auditing by C&AG, issue of draft Report, submission of replies to Audit and issue of final SAR. This process is targeted to be completed by the end of October. As soon as the Audit report is received, the last phase of work i.e. translation and printing of consolidated Annual Accounts & Report would be completed within a month's time i.e. by the end of November, so that the printed copies can be processed for tabling before both the houses of the Parliament within 09 months of the closure of Financial Year.

It will be ensured that the Annual Accounts and Report will be finalized and submitted within the due period of 09 months from the closure of Financial Year in future.

5. In their 07th Report (16 Lok Sabha), the Committee noted recurring delays in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Rail Land Development Authority, New Delhi for the years 2006-2007 to 2014-2015. The Committee had accordingly urged upon the Ministry to ensure that the requisite documents of the Organization be laid before Parliament within the stipulated period of nine months from the close of the Accounting Year. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee, corrective steps were taken by the Ministry. The Committee note that though, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Authority for the year 2015-2016 were laid on the Table of the House with delay 1 month, it is a matter of satisfaction that these documents of RLDA for the year 2016-2017 have been laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated period. The Committee expect the Ministry to strictly adhere to the time schedule in future and also to ensure that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Authority are always laid well within the timeframe.

December, 2018
Agrahayana, 1940(Saka)

**CHANDRAKANT B. KHAIRE,
Chairperson,
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table**

APPENDIX
(Vide Para 02 of the Report)

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

Rail and Development Authority, New Delhi

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 15)

The Committee have time and again emphasized that both the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of an Organisation should be laid simultaneously to enable the Members of Parliament to get a complete picture of the working and activities of the Organisation. However, the Committee are disappointed to note that the Ministry of Railways has failed to comply with the statutory provisions and specific recommendation of the Committee in laying the requisite documents of the RLDA before Parliament during the years 2006-2007 to 2014-2015. The Committee consider it as grave irregularity on the part of the Administrative Ministry/RLDA which certainly amounts to abdication of Parliamentary responsibility and can hardly be overlooked. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should make all out efforts to plug the systemic loopholes so as to eliminate avoidable delays and formulate an action plan to ensure that Parliamentary obligations in the matter of timely laying of the documents in the House are duly met. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives taken/ being taken by the Ministry in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Railways have identified the areas of likely delay in the process of approval/compilation/translation/printing and tabling of the Annual Accounts & Report for

placing before both the houses of the Parliament. The main areas consuming a substantial time have been identified as the Auditing and issue of Audit Report by the C&AG and then printing of Annual Accounts & Report. The other phases of work consist of preparation of Accounts and the Report, approval of Financial Accounts before/after Auditing and its translation. Accordingly, all out efforts have been taken to streamline the procedure to adhere to time schedule stipulated by Ministry of Finance. The Annual Accounts and Report for the financial year 2014-15, have been submitted within 09 months after closure of the Financial Year i.e. on 30.12.2015. The Annual Accounts & Report for the Financial Year has been tabled in the Rajya Sabha on 11.03.2016 and in Lok Sabha on 16.03.2016.

The matter has been continuously followed with Audit Authorities to cope up with the time schedule prescribed by the Ministry of Finance so that the overall time schedule could be adhered to. Advance action is being taken for compilation of report, translation and printing to avoid possible delay. The process of getting the Accounts approved by RLDA Board will be completed by the end of June every year. Four month's time has been kept for Auditing by C&AG, issue of draft Report, submission of replies to Audit and issue of final SAR. This process is targeted to be completed by the end of October. As soon as the Audit report is received, the last phase of work i.e. translation and printing of consolidated Annual Accounts & Report would be completed within a month's time i.e. by the end of November, so that the printed copies can be processed for tabling before both the houses of the Parliament within 09 months of the closure of Financial Year.

It will be ensured that the Annual Accounts & Report will be finalized and submitted within the due period of 09 months from the closure of Financial Year in future.

(Ministry of Railways (Railway Board)(O.M. No. 2015/LML-II/6/6 dated 28.06.2016)

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 16)

While examining the reasons for delay in laying of the documents of the RLDA for the years 2009-2010 to 2013-2014, the Committee note that there was undue delay at all the stages, i.e compilation of Annual Accounts, submission of Annual Accounts to Audit Authorities, receiving final Audit Reports from Audit Authorities, finalization of Annual Report, getting the documents translated, printed and sending the same to the Ministry for laying them on the Table of the House. The Committee are dismayed to note that reasons for delay in this regard have not been furnished by the Ministry except for the year 2009-2010 which were delayed even after compilation of Annual Accounts of the RLDA in September, 2010 due to change in format as per direction of the Controller & Auditor General (C&AG). The Committee feel that all the stages in the process were well within the control of the Ministry/RLDA and thus, avoidable but for lack of any mechanism in place to monitor the whole process in the matter. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a mechanism may be put in place in the Ministry to ensure that avoidable delays are eliminated to expedite the process for laying of documents timely before the House. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Ministry/RLDA in this regard.

Reply of the Government

As mentioned in the reply for the Para 15, RLDA management has fixed target dates for each activity to avoid delays and expedite the process of laying of documents.

S. No.	Description	Target Date
1.	Preparation of Annual Accounts and its approval by RLDA Board	30 th June
2.	Auditing, Management replies, approval of RLDA Board and issue of Audit Report by C&AG	31 st October
3.	Translation, Printing and Proof reading	30 th November

4.	Submission of printed Annual Accounts & Report	1 st week of December
5.	Tabling of Annual Accounts & Report before the Parliament	By 30 th December

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It is to be mentioned that the phase of work vide Serial No. 2 above, depends on timely completion of Audit by the C&AG and issue of Separate Audit Report. All out efforts will be made to co-ordinate with the Audit to expedite the process for tabling of Annual Accounts & Report before the Parliament.

(Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) O.M. No. 2015/LML-II/6/6 dated 28.06.2016)

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 17)

The Committee also note that the time taken in auditing of accounts and furnishing the audit report ranges from 6 to 8 months for the years from 2009-2010 to 2013-2014. The reasons for taking such a long time for completing the Audit Report are not clear. The Committee urge the Ministry of Railways to take up the issue with audit authorities for completion of audit to avoid consequential delays in laying of the documents before the Parliament. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

Reply of the Government

RLDA management has kept a time period of 04 months from July to October every year for the all important phase of work of Auditing, Management replies, approval of RLDA Board and issue of Audit Report by C&AG. The Audit of RLDA Accounts has been assigned to Principal Director of Audit, COFMOW on behalf of C&AG. The management is in touch with Audit authorities for completion of the task at the earliest for tabling of Annual Accounts & Report before the Parliament within the stipulated time. It will be ensured that the time schedule will be adhered to by pursuing continuously with the Audit Authorities.

(Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) O.M. No. 2015/LML-II/6/6 dated 28.06.2016)

Recommendation (Paragraph No. 18)

The Committee note with concern that documents of the RLDA for the year 2009-2010 submitted to the Ministry on 15.11.2011 were laid on the Table of the House on 02.05.2013 of the inordinate delay of 17½ months. The reason adduced for the same was that the documents of the RLDA for the year 2009-2010 were misplaced in the office of the Railway Board and the same was noticed while laying of documents of the RLDA for the succeeding year. This only shows the lackadaisical approach of the Ministry on the issue. The Committee therefore, recommend that the matter may be investigated and responsibility may be fixed for the lapses which resulted in misplacement of the relevant documents and punitive action against the officials responsible for the same may be taken. The Committee also recommends that corrective measures may also be taken so as to avoid such delays in future.

Reply of the Government

The delay in submission of Annual Report & Accounts for the financial year 2009-10 has been investigated. It is seen that the delay was on the part of concerned section offices who had kept the Annual Report of 2009-10, in the Almirah and forgot thereafter. When Annual Report of 2010-11 was submitted by RLDA on 22.02.2013, it was noticed that previous year i.e. 2009-10 Annual Report has not been laid on the table of the house. Both the Annual Report i.e. 2009-10 and 2010-11 after approval of Minister for Railways on 03.04.2013 were laid on the Table of House (Lok Sabha on 02.05.2013 and Rajya Sabha on 03.05.2013). The concerned Section Officer superannuated on 31.12.2012. However, in the successive years, there have been no inordinate delay either in submission of Annual Report or in placing of the same in both the Houses of Parliament.

**EXTRACTS OF THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST SITTING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

The Committee sat on Wednesday, 12 December, 2018 from 15:00 hrs to 15:45 hrs. in Committee Room "C", Parliament House Annexe , New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Chandrakant Khaire - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

2. Smt. Veena Devi
3. Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar
4. Shri Virendra Singh
5. Shri P.R. Sundaram

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. Preeti Srivastava - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Maya Lingi - Additional Director
3. Shri Munish Kumar Rewari - Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee.
3. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following xx xx, six Action Taken Reports and three Draft Reports for consideration :-

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(iii) *Draft Reports relating to the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee in their **Sixth Report** on Delay in laying of Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Victoria Memorial Hall Kolkata;*

(iv) *Draft Reports relating to the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee in their **Seventh***

Report on Delay in laying of Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Rail Land Development Authority New Delhi;

- (v) *Draft Reports relating to the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee in their **Eighth Report** on Delay in laying of Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Delhi Development Authority New Delhi;*
- (vi) *Draft Reports relating to the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee in their **Ninth Report** on Delay in laying of Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the University Grants Commission New Delhi;*
- (vii) *Draft Reports relating to the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee in their **Tenth Report** on Delay in laying of Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Social Defence New Delhi;*
- (viii) *Draft Reports relating to the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee in their **Eleventh Report** on Delay in laying of Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the National Commission for Women New Delhi;*
- (ix) *Draft Reports regarding delay in laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Central Pollution Control Board(CPCB), New Delhi;*
- (x) *Draft Reports regarding delay in laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), New Delhi; and*
- (xi) *Draft Reports regarding delay in laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD), New Delhi.*

4. After deliberations, the Committee adopted the xx xx Reports without modifications.

5. The Committee authorized the Hon'ble Chairperson to present the same to the Parliament during ongoing Session.

Then the Committee adjourned.