

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2019-2020)**

9

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

NINTH REPORT

**[Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations
made by the Committee in their Thirty First Report (Sixteenth Lok
Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited
Accounts of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)]**

(Presented on 20 March, 2020)



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
March, 2020/Phalguna, 1941(Saka)**

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**COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID
ON THE TABLE**

(2019-2020)

Shri Shyam Singh Yadav - Chairperson

M E M B E R S

2. Shri Shafiqur Rehman Barq
3. Shri Margani Bharat
4. Dr. A. Chellakumar
5. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
6. Shri Chowdhury Mohan Jatua
7. Choudhary Mehboob Kaiser
8. Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe
9. Shri Raja Amareshwara Naik
10. Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal
11. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
12. Shri T.N. Prathapan
13. Shri S. Ramalingam
14. Shri Saptagiri Ulaka
15. Shri Ashok KumarYadav

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri B. Srinivasa Prabhu | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Kusal Sarkar | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Munish Kumar Rewari | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Shri R.K. Chaudhary | - | Under Secretary |
-

(v)

INTRODUCTION

I, Chairperson of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table of the House (2019-20), having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Ninth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Thirty First Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports together with Audited Accounts of the Central Pollution Control Board.

2. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 4th March, 2020.
3. For facility of reference, recommendations/observations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report.

**New Delhi
March, 2020
Phalguna, 1941(Saka)**

**SHYAM SINGH YADAV
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 Thirty First Report regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi which was presented to Lok Sabha on 18.12.2018.

2. The Action Taken Notes have since been received from the Government in respect of all the recommendations/observations contained in the aforesaid Report. Accordingly, the Statement showing the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Thirty First Report (16th Lok Sabha) are given in Appendix.

3. The Committee in their Thirty First Report had pointed out the failure of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change regarding timely laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the CPCB for the years 2013-2014 to 2016- 2017 and recommended that the documents of the Central Pollution Control Board should be laid within stipulated time in future.

4. The Committee appreciate that the Government have accepted all the recommendations of the Committee made in the said Report and have also taken steps for the their implementation, though the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Central Pollution Control Board for the years 2013-2014 to 2015-2016 were laid on the Table of the House with delay ranging from 4 months to 12 months. The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 were laid on the Table of the House on 28.12.2018, 04.01.2019 and 10.02.2020 with delay of 12 months, 04 days and 39 days respectively. The Committee expect that concerted efforts of the Government shall continue to ensure timely laying of the documents of the aforesaid Board in future.

March, 2020
Phalguna, 1941(Saka)

SHYAM SINGH YADAV
Chairperson
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

APPENDIX

(Vide Para 02 of the Report)

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

Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi

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 a complete picture of the working and activities of the Organization. The Committee are disappointed to note that the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change failed to comply with the specific recommendations of the Committee in laying the requisite documents of the CPCB before the Parliament for the years 2013-2014 to 2016-2017. The Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the CPCB for the years 2013-2014 to 2015-2016 were laid on the Table of the House with delay ranging from 4 months to 12 months. For the year 2016-2017 these documents have not been laid till date.

Reply of the Government

The Annual Report of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the year 2016-17 duly consisting Audited Accounts Statement has been laid on the table of Lok Sabha on 28.12.2018 and Rajya Sabha on 31.12.2018. A copy of OMs sent to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariat are enclosed at Annexure-I and Annexure-II.

{Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (CP Division) OM No. H-11013/01/2009-CPW dated 15th March, 2019}

Recommendation (Paragraph No 18)

From the submission of the Ministry, the Committee note that delay in appointment of Statutory Auditor and completion of audit were the main reasons for delay. The Committee note that the CPCB took 4 – 5 months in each year at the stage of appointment of Statutory Auditor and compilation of Audit for the aforesaid years as against 03 months stipulated for these activities. The Committee feel that such administrative procedural delays can very well be avoided with proper planning and prompt monitoring. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and CPCB apparently did not do enough to prevent these delays.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry has laid down a time-schedule for timely laying down of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Central Pollution Control Board on the table of the both Houses of the Parliament. The time-schedule prescribes timelines for appointment of Statutory Auditor, commencement of Audit by the Auditors, submission of draft Annual Report to the Ministry by CPCB, approval of the draft report by the Ministry, completion of Audit and submission of Final Audit Report to CPCB, submission of final Annual and Audit Report to the Ministry and finally laying of Annual Report and Audit Statement of Accounts on table of the Parliament. The Ministry shall be taking all possible measures to avoid delay in laying down Annual Reports and Audited Statement of Accounts of CPCB in future.

{Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (CP Division) OM No. H-11013/01/2009-CPW dated 15th March, 2019}

Recommendation (Paragraph No 19)

Another reason which is stated to have attributed to delay relates comparatively longer time taken by Auditors to Audit the Accounts. The Audit Authorities took 04 to 08 months for the years 2013-2014 to 2016-2017 in completing the process of Accounts. The reasons for taking such a long time have not been furnished by the Ministry/CPCB. The Committee therefore, strongly recommend that the matter be appropriately taken up by the Ministry and the CPCB with the Audit Authorities at the earliest and efforts are made to provide timely information and clarification to the Audit Authorities so as to avoid such delays in future. The Committee may also be informed of the action taken in the matter.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry is in the process of appointing Statutory Auditors for auditing the accounts of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the year 2018-19 and Statutory Auditors will be appointed before the closure of the financial year 2018-19 as per the time-schedule laid down by the Ministry. The CPCB has been requested to accord all support to Audit Authorities for timely disposal of their work.

{Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (CP Division) OM No. H-11013/01/2009-CPW dated 15th March, 2019}

Recommendation (Paragraph No 20)

The Secretary apprised the Committee that the Ministry has strengthened its administrative structure and given time schedule to CPCB for completion of work to avoid delay in laying Annual Report and Audit Accounts for the year 2017-2018 and the Report will be finalized December, 2018. The Committee direct that the said timeline completion of the Report is strictly adhered to, to avoid any further delay.

Reply of the Government

The Annual Reports of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the year 2017-18 has been laid on the table of both Houses of Parliament during the Winter Session of the Parliament. It has been laid on the table of Lok Sabha on 04.01.2019 and Rajya Sabha on 07.01.2019. A copy of OMs sent to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariat are enclosed at Annexure-III and Annexure-IV.

{Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (CP Division) OM No. H-11013/01/2009-CPW dated 15th March, 2019}

Recommendation (Paragraph No 21)

The Committee directs the Ministry of Environment, Forests Climate Change and the Central Pollution Control Board to ensure laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the year 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 before 31.12.2018. The Ministry must also note that if for a unavoidable reasons, it is not possible to lay the Annual Reports Audited Accounts of CPCB on the Table of the House within stipulated time; a statement explaining the reasons as to why the requisite documents could not be laid within prescribed period should be laid on Table of the House strictly within 30 days as recommended by Committee in its earlier Report.

Reply of the Government

The Annual Reports of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the years 2016-17 and 2017-18 were laid on the table of both Houses of Parliament during the Winter Session of the Parliament. The Annual Report of CPCB for the year 2016-17 was laid on the table of Lok Sabha on 28.12.2018 and Rajya Sabha on 31.12.2018. The Annual Report of CPCB for the year 2017-18 was laid on the table of Lok Sabha on 04.01.2019 and Rajya Sabha on 07.01.2019. The direction of the committee to submit statement explaining the reasons as to why the requisite documents could not be laid within prescribed period should be laid on Table of the House strictly within 30 days shall be followed complied with.

{Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (CP Division) OM No. H-11013/01/2009-CPW dated 15th March, 2019}