

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

10

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

TENTH REPORT

[Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their Fortieth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)]

(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 Ali 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. Srinivash Prabhu - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Kusal Sarkar - Director
3. Shri Munish Kumar Rewari - Additional Director

4. Shri R.K. Chaudhary - Under Secretary

(iv)

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 Tenth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Fortieth Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports together with Audited Accounts of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

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
Phalgun, 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 Fortieth Report regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi which was presented to Lok Sabha on 05.02.2019.

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 Fortieth Report (16th Lok Sabha) are given in Appendix.

3. **The Committee in their Fortieth Report had pointed out the failure of the Ministry of Human Resource Development regarding timely laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the NCERT for the years 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 and recommended that the documents of the NCERT 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 Reports and have also taken steps for the their implementation, Though the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of NCERT for the years 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 were laid on the Table of the House with delay ranging from more than 1 month to 11½ months. The Ministry has also not laid the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2018-19. The Committee expect that concerted efforts of the Government shall continue to ensure timely laying of the documents of the aforesaid Authority 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 ON THE RECOMMENDATION/ CONCLUSION CONTAINED IN THIS FORTIETH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(Recommendation Serial No. 13)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Human Resource Development and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have not adhered to the provisions of Rule 70(iv) and Rules 71 of NCERT, which provide for laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of NCERT on the Table of the House within nine months of the close of the accounting year. Thus similar recommendations of the Committee on Papers laid on the Table contained in Paras 1.16 and 3.5 of its First Report (5th Lok Sabha), Paras 4.16 and 4.18 of Second Reports of 5th Lok Sabha and Paras 1.12 and 2.6 to 3.8 of Second Report of 6th Lok Sabha presented to the House on 08.03.1976, 12.05.1976 and 22.12.1977 respectively regarding laying of these documents on the Table of the House within nine months from the closure of the accounting year have also not been complied with. The Committee are disappointed to note that the Ministry of Human Resource Development did not adhere to the stipulated time frame in respect of these documents of NCERT for years 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 which were laid with delays ranging from 2½ to 11½ months. The Committee also note that the documents for the year 2017-2018 which were required to be laid on the Table of the House by 31st December, 2018 are yet to be laid.

Reply of the Government

The reasons for continuous delay in laying the Annual Report and Annual Accounts of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for the years 2013-14 to 2017-18, despite regular follow up by the Ministry, were analyzed in detail and it was observed that the delay was mainly due to the inability of NCERT to convene the meetings of their Finance Committee, Executive Committee and General Body timely. The Ministry, in several meetings held with the officials of the NCERT, has impressed upon them to take necessary measures for timely convening of the meetings of these Committees. They have also been advised to delink the matter of approval of their Annual Report and Audited Accounts from other issues to be placed before the Executive Committee and the General Council in normal course and get these reports approved by their Finance Committee, Executive Committee and General Body by convening special meeting for this purpose or by circulating the Resolution to ensure timely submission of the reports to the Ministry so that these could be laid on the Table of both the Houses of the Parliament within the stipulated time period. This position was also submitted before the Hon'ble Committee by the representative of this Ministry

during the course of oral evidence on 05.07.2018 while the officials from NCERT were also present.

As a result, the NCERT convened the meetings of their Executive Committee and the General Body on 05.01.2019 during which their Annual Report for the year 2017-18 and Annual Accounts for 2017-18 were approved. The Annual Report and Annual Accounts for the year 2017-18 in respect of NCERT have been laid in Lok Sabha on 11.02.2019 and in Rajya Sabha on 13.02.2019.

{Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education & Literacy) OM No. F. No. 6-3/2018-Sch.4 dated 11th June, 2019}

(Recommendation Serial No. 14)

While examining the reasons for delays of 2½ months to 11½ months in laying of the documents of the NCERT, the Committee note that undue delay had occurred in convening the meeting of the Finance Committee, Executive Committee and General Body. The Committee expressed its concern over these delays.

Reply of the Government

The concerns of the Hon'ble Committee were sincerely noted by the Ministry and the NCERT. Appropriate action has been taken to ensure that such delays do not recur in future. The action taken in the matter has been indicated in detail in reply to the Recommendation at serial no. 13 of the Committee.

{Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education & Literacy) OM No. F. No. 6-3/2018-Sch.4 dated 11th June, 2019}

(Recommendation Serial No. 15)

Thus the Ministry of Human Resource Development has apparently not been able to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure laying of document of NCERT on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament within stipulated time. The Ministry must make all out efforts to ensure that henceforth these documents are laid within stipulated time. The Committee shall be informed of the compliance of these directions as also measures taken by the Ministry to avoid delays in future.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry has regularly been requesting NCERT for completion of the entire process and laying of their Annual Report and Annual Accounts on the Table of both the Houses of the Parliament within nine months of the closure of the relevant financial year. Letters to expedite the process are sent to NCERT at regular interval.

The reasons for continuous delay in laying the Annual Report and Annual Accounts of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for the years 2013-14 to 2017-18, despite regular follow up by the Ministry, were analyzed in detail and it was observed that the delay was mainly due to the inability of NCERT to convene the meetings of their Finance Committee, Executive Committee and General Body timely. The Ministry, in several meetings held with the officials of the NCERT, has impressed upon them to take necessary measures for timely convening of the meetings of these Committees. They have also been advised to delink the matter of approval of their Annual Report and Audited Accounts from other issues to be placed before the Executive Committee and the General Council in normal course and get these reports approved by their Finance Committee, Executive Committee and General Body by convening special meeting for this purpose or by circulating the Resolution to ensure timely submission of the reports to the Ministry so that these could be laid on the Table of both the Houses of the Parliament within the stipulated time period. This position was also submitted before the Hon'ble Committee by the representative of this Ministry during the course of oral evidence on 05.07.2018 while the officials from NCERT were also present.

As a result, NCERT convened the meetings of their Executive Committee and the General Body on 05.01.2019 during which their Annual Report for the year 2017-18 and Annual Accounts for 2017-18 were approved. The Annual Report and Annual Accounts for the year 2017-18 in respect of NCERT have been laid in Lok Sabha on 11.02.2019 and in Rajya Sabha on 13.02.2019.

Further, as a result of continuous and regular follow up by this Ministry, the Annual Accounts of NCERT for the year 2018-19 have already been considered and approved by their Finance Committee in its meeting held 21.05.2019. These Accounts have been sent to the office of Director General of Audit, C&AG on 23.05.2019 for audit well within the prescribed time schedule.

{Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education & Literacy) OM No. F. No. 6-3/2018-Sch.4 dated 11th June, 2019}

(Recommendation Serial No. 16)

The Committee also impress upon the Ministry that if due to unavoidable reasons, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NCERT 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 prescribed period should be laid on the Table of the House within 30 days or as soon as the House meets, whichever is later.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation of the Hon'ble Committee has been noted for compliance in future.

{Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education & Literacy) OM No. F. No. 6-3/2018-Sch.4 dated 11th June, 2019}