

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

20

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

TWENTIETH REPORT

[Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations made
by the Committee in their Thirty Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha)
regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the
National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)]

(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
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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 Twentieth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Thirty Second Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports together with Audited Accounts of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).

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 Thirty Second Report of the 16th Lok Sabha regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) 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 Second Report (16th Lok Sabha) are given in Appendix.

3. The Committee in their Thirty Second Report had pointed out the failure of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation regarding timely laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the NMCG for the years 2011-12; 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 and recommended that the documents of the NMCG should be laid within stipulated time in future.

4. The Committee note that the Government have accepted all the recommendations of the Committee made in the aforesaid Report and have also taken steps for the their implementation, though the Audited Accounts of NMCG for the years 2011-2012 to 2013-2014 were laid on the Table of the House on 23.03.2018 with delay ranging from 39 months to 63 months. The Audited Accounts for the years 2014-15 and 2015-16 were laid on the Table of the House on 26.07.2018 with delay of 31 months to 19 months respectively. The Ministry has not laid Review Statement for the years 2014-15 and Annual Report and Review Statement for the year 2015-16. The Annual Report for the year 2016-2017 was laid on the Table of the House on 02.08.2018 with delay of 7 months and Audited Accounts for the year 2016-2017 was laid on the Table of the House on 25.07.2019 with delay of 19 months . The Audited Accounts for the year 2017-2018 was laid on the Table of the House on 05.12.2019 with delay of 11

months. The Ministry has not laid Annual Report for the year 2017-18. The Ministry has also not laid the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for year 2018-19.

5. The Committee expressed their concern over not laying of the Review Statement for the year 2014-15, Annual Report and Review Statement for the year 2015-16, Annual Report for year 2017-18. The Committee feel that the measures taken by the Ministry have not proved effective enough to ensure timely laying of these documents before Parliament. Taking a very serious note thereof the Committee direct to explain the reasons for delay in laying of these documents within three months from the date of presentation of this Report. The Committee also direct the Ministry to ensure that such kind of lapse do not recur in future and the documents of the NMCG are laid within stipulated time in future.

March, 2020
Phalguna, 1941(Saka)

Shyam Singh Yadav
Chairperson
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

(Vide Para 02 of the Report)

**Reply to the Recommendations / Observations made by the
Committee on Papers Laid on the table**

(Recommendation Serial No. 19)

The Committee are disappointed to note that the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Ministry of Water Resource, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and NMCG have neither fulfilled the Parliamentary requirement nor Committee's recommendation regarding laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NMCG. As per the Rule 237 of the GFR 2017, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NMCG for the years 2011-2012, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 should have been laid by December, 2012, December, 2013 and December, 2014 respectively. But these documents were laid on the Table of the House on 10.12.2015 with delays ranging from 12 to 36 months. Further Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NMCG for the years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 should have been laid by December, 2015, and December, 2016 respectively. However, the NMCG had laid only Audited Accounts, Review Statement and Delay Statement on 26.07.2018 with delays ranging from 19 to 31 months. The Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NMCG for the year 2016-17 were laid on the Table of the House 26.07.2018 with delays of almost 7 months.

Reply of the Government

The Annual Accounts of NMCG for FY 2011-12, FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14 were finalized on 1 September 2012, 1 September 2013 and July 2014, respectively. However, NMCG could convene its first General Body Meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation only on 7 May 2016 and hence the Annual Accounts for these years could be adopted by the General Body only on that day. Annual accounts for these years were forwarded for laying on the Table of the Parliament on 7 November 2016. Annual Accounts for FY 2014 -15 were

finalized on 22 May 2015, approved by Governing Council on 16 June 2016 and were adopted by the Empowered Task Force on 3 August 2017. Annual Accounts of FY 2014 - 15 were forwarded for placing on the Table of the Parliament on 20 December 2017. Annual Accounts for FY 2015-16 were finalized on 20 September 2016, approved by the Governing Council on 19 June 2017 and were adopted by the Empowered Task Force on 3 August 2017. Annual Accounts of FY 2015 -16 were forwarded for placing on the Table of the Parliament on 20 December 2017. Annual Accounts for FY 2016-17 were finalized on 05 July 2017 and audit was completed on 18 July 2017. These accounts were approved by the Governing Council in its meeting held on 30 July 2018 and were placed before the Empowered Task Force for adoption in its meeting held on 26 December 2018. Finance Unit is yet to receive the Minutes of the meeting of Empowered Task Force held on 26 December 2018.

{Ministry of Water Resource, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation OM No. F.N.H. 11021/1/2019-SMD/NMCG dated 27th March, 2019}

(Recommendation Serial No. 20)

While examining the reasons from delays of 6 to 35 months in laying of the documents of the NMCG, the Committee note that undue delay had occurred at all the stages right from compilation of Annual Accounts to laying them on the Table of the House. The NMCG took more than 5 months at the stage of compilation of Annual Accounts for the years 2011-2012, 2012-2013 and 2015-2016 as against 03 months prescribed by the Committee in this regard. Further, the NMCG had finalised its first Annual Report for the period 1st April, 2016 to 31 October, 2017 on 10.06.2018. The Committee expressed its concern over these delays.

Reply of the Government

National Mission for Clean Ganga was established as a society in August 2011. Recruitment and posting of staff commenced thereafter. First batch of

employees joined the services of NMCG during July/ August 2013. As NMCG worked with skeleton staff till the posting of regular staff, there was delay in finalizing the accounts for FY 2011 -12 and FY 2012 -13. Since, in the early days of the organization, focus was on launching Project in different states, office work could not be taken up initially. Hence, there was delay in finalizing the accounts for FY 2015 - 16.

{Ministry of Water Resource, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation OM No. F.N.H. 11021/1/2019-SMD/NMCG dated 27th March, 2019}

(Recommendation Serial No. 21)

The chronology of events has brought into sharp focus the failure of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to put in place a system and monitoring mechanism to ensure laying of document of NMCG on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament within the stipulated time. The Ministry must make all out efforts to ensure that the documents of the NMCG pertaining to 2017-2018 is laid within stipulate 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

Annual Accounts for FY 2017 - 18 have been finalized on 09 October 2018. And further action for adoption by taking approval of Governing Council and Empowered Task Force is under process.

{Ministry of Water Resource, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation OM No. F.N.H. 11021/1/2019-SMD/NMCG dated 27th March, 2019}

(Recommendation Serial No. 22)

The Committee also impress upon the Ministry that if due to unavoidable reasons, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NMCG

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 strictly within 30 days as recommended by the Committee in its earlier Report.

Reply of the Government

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was set up in the year 2011. Earlier it was a part of the Ministry of Environment Forests and CC under the Society Act. It comes under the control of the Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR in 2014. It is still a society and was granted status of Authority by restructuring on 07th October, 2016. It was given powers under the Environment Protection Act and the Management Structure was also strengthened. Now there is a DG of NMCG at the top level and five support the DG. All these changes over the last six-seven years have had its impact on the normal functioning of the NMCG. These reasons led to initial delay in compiling of Annual Accounts and Annual Reports. The directions have been noted for compliance.

{Ministry of Water Resource, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
OM No. F.N.H. 11021/1/2019-SMD/NMCG dated 27th March, 2019}