

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE  
(2020-2021)**

**SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**40**

**FORTIETH REPORT**

**[Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/  
Observations made by the Committee in their Seventh Report  
(Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on delay in laying of the Annual Reports  
and Audited Accounts of the (i) South Zone Cultural Centre  
(SZCC), Thanjavur.; (ii) West Zone Cultural Centre (WZCC),  
Udaipur (iii) South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC),  
Nagpur; (iv) North Central Zone Cultural Centre (NCZCC),  
Allahabad and (v) North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC),  
Dimapur.]**

**(Presented on 10.08.2021)**



**सत्यमेव जयते**

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI  
August, 2021/ Shravan, 1943(Saka)**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE**  
**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**  
**LOK SABHA**  
**(2020-2021)**

**Shri Ritesh Pandey** - **Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri Shafiqur Rahman 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 Kumar Yadav

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Smt. Suman Arora - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. B. Visala - Director
3. Shri Munish Kumar Rewari - Additional Director
4. Smt. Manjinder Pubbi - Under Secretary
5. Smt. Rajni Bhagat - Committee Officer
6. Shri Darpan Sharma - Assistant Executive Officer

## INTRODUCTION

I, Chairperson of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table of the House (2020-21), having been authorized by the Committee to present this Report on their behalf, present this Fortieth Report in respect of the action taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee.

2. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 20.07.2021.

3. For facility of reference, observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold type in the body of the Report.

**New Delhi**  
**29 July, 2021**  
**07 Shravana, 1943 (Saka)**

**Ritesh Pandey**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee on Papers Laid on the Table**  
**Lok Sabha**

## **REPORT**

This Report of the Committee deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in their Seventh Report (17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) which dealt with the matter of delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of (i) South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur; (ii) West Zone Cultural Centre (WZCC), Udaipur; (iii) South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC), Nagpur; (iv) North Central Zone Cultural Centre (NCZCC), Allahabad and (v) North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Dimapur, that was presented to Lok Sabha on 20.03.2020.

2. The Committee had made 08 Observations/Recommendations in the Original Report. The Action Taken replies were received from the Government in respect of all the Recommendations/Observations made in the aforesaid Report. Accordingly, the Statement showing the action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Seventh Report (17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) is given in **Appendix**.

3. **The Committee in their Seventh Report (17th Lok Sabha) had noticed that during the years 2012-13 to 2018-19, there were several instances where the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the above-mentioned Five ZCCs were laid before the Parliament with repeated delays. The Committee is discontented to observe that still the requisite documents for the year 2018-19 of two of these five ZCCs i.e., Nagpur and Allahabad have not been laid before the Parliament. Also, the requisite documents for the year 2019-2020 of all these five ZCCs have not been laid before the Parliament till date.**

**The Committee take note of the assurance given by the Government in their Action Taken replies that the recommendations made in the Report (Original) have been duly noted and appropriate directions have been issued to all the ZCCs to ensure timely laying of their Annual Report and Audited Accounts. The Committee, therefore, hope that all the pending requisite documents of these five ZCCs would be laid without any further delay and also expect that from the year 2020-2021 onwards, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of all the ZCCs would be laid within the stipulated time. The Committee would like to be informed about further action taken by the Ministry/ZCCs in this regard.**

New Delhi  
20 July, 2021  
29 Ashadha, 1943 (Saka)

Ritesh Pandey  
Chairperson  
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table  
Lok Sabha

**APPENDIX**  
**(Vide Para 02 of the Report)**

STATEMENT      SHOWING      ACTION      TAKEN      ON      THE  
RECOMMENDATION/CONCLUSION CONTAINED IN THE SEVENTH  
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

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**Recommendation No. 15**

During examination of the Delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Five ZCCs., (I) South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur; (II) West Zone Cultural Centre (WZCC), Udaipur (III) South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC), Nagpur; (IV) North Central Zone Cultural Centre (NCZCC), Allahabad And (V) North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Dimapur for the period 2012-2013 to 2014-2015, The Committee observed that on four instances i.e., WZCC, Udaipur for the years 2012-13 and 2013-14; and SCZCC, Thanjavur and NEZCC, Dimapur, both, for the year 2013-14, the documents were laid on time. Even in the subsequent years i.e., 2015-16 to 2017-18, with the exception of WZCC Udaipur for the year 2016-17, the documents of the Five ZCCs were laid with further delays ranging between 01 to 19 months. Further, NCZCC Allahabad has failed to lay the documents for the year 2017-18, till date. The documents for the year 2018-19 have not been laid as yet, by any of these Five ZCCs.

**Reply of the Government**

It is stated that the major reason attributable to the delay has been the delay on the part of the Auditing Authority in submitting the Audited Accounts on the basis of which the Annual Report is prepared by the respective Zonal Cultural Centres. As per the laid down procedure, both the Annual Report & Audited Accounts are required to be formally approved by the Governing Bodies of these Zonal Cultural Centres. However, concrete steps have been taken by this Ministry to ensure that the required procedure is timely undertaken and completed by all the Zonal Cultural Centres in a time bound manner.

Accordingly, it is confirmed that Annual Report and Audited Accounts in r/o all Zonal Cultural Centres upto the period 2017-18 have already been tabled in the Parliament. As regards the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the period 2018-19, it is stated that the requisite Annual Report and Audited Accounts in r/o NZCC, Patiala, WZCC, Udaipur and NEZCC, Dimapur (only in Lok Sabha in r/o NEZCC, Dimapur, since the session of Rajya Sabha had expired by the time the Annual Report was ready for being laid) have already been tabled in March, 2020. Further the Annual Report and Audited Accounts in r/o EZCC, Kolkata has also

been received and will be tabled in the upcoming Monsoon Session of the Parliament. Sincere efforts are being made to ensure that the requisite Reports in r/o NCZCC, Prayagraj, SZCC, Thanjavur and SCZCC, Nagpur are finalized and laid in the Parliament expeditiously.

(Ministry of Culture's O.M. F. No. 19-1/2016-ZCC, Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2020)

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### **Recommendation No. 16**

The committee note that at SZCC, Thanjavur, between June 2010 and January 2013, the meeting of executive board, governing body etc. could not be held in the absence of a regular director which delayed the finalization and submission of the audited accounts to the audit authorities and the subsequent approval of both the annual report and audited accounts for the year 2010-11 to 2012-13. The Committee opines that the Ministry should either have timely appointed a new Director or should have delegated such powers and duties to a senior official to allow smooth functioning of the SZCC.

Further, the Committee note that the delay in laying of the documents for the year 2014-15 was due to the delay in the translation of the report in Hindi, though no such delay in the preceding years occurred on this account. The committee also note that an expert in Hindi has been engaged by the SZCC to look after the translation work. The committee hope that no delay will take place, in future, on account of translation of documents.

### **Reply of the Government**

The observations of the Committee have been duly noted. It is stated that a regular incumbent has since been appointed as Director, SZCC, Thanjavur w.e.f. 13.09.2018. Further, it would be ensured that there is no undue delay in making such appointments so that the functioning of Zonal Cultural Centres is not adversely affected.

(Ministry of Culture's O.M. F. No. 19-1/2016-ZCC, Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2020)

### **Recommendation No. 17**

The Committee note with concern that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of WZCC, Udaipur for the year 2014-15 were delayed due to certain procedural and administrative reasons. The committee further note that the Ministry took more than 12 months in processing and laying of the documents on the Table of the House for the year 2014-15.

The committee would also like to be apprised of the specific reasons of the procedural and administrative delay during the year 2014-15 as mentioned by the Ministry.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Annual Report / Audited Accounts of WZCC, Udaipur for the year 2014-15 were required to be laid on the Table of both Houses of the Parliament within nine months of the completion of financial year i.e. by 31.12.2015. It is stated that the Annual Report & Audited Accounts in r/o WZCC, Udaipur for the year 2014-15 was received in the Ministry on 20.11.2015. The file was submitted for authentication on 22.12.2015. However, approval could not be obtained by 31.12.2015 and therefore, further extension of time from Rajya Sabha / Lok Sabha Secretariat was sought. File was re-submitted for authentication on 22.02.2016 and the same was received back on 10.05.2016. The Reports could not be laid as Budget Session had adjourned on 11.05.2016. Thereafter, the Report for the year 2014-15 in r/o WZCC, Udaipur was ultimately laid during the Winter Session of Parliament, 2016.

All due care is being taken to ensure that no such administrative delay occurs in future.

(Ministry of Culture's O.M. F. No. 19-1/2016-ZCC, Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2020)

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### **Recommendation No. 18**

The Committee note that besides certain unavoidable circumstances, procedural and administrative delays, and non-receipt of final audit report from audit authorities were also identified as the reason for delays at SCZCC, Nagpur.

The Committee further note that during the year under examination the major reason for the delay in the year 2014-15 was due to the time taken in compilation and submission of accounts to the Audit authorities. The Committee directs the Ministry/SZCC to evolve a mechanism in order to avoid the procedural and administrative delays. The Committee also urge the Ministry/ZCCs to take up the matter of delay in audit process with the office of CAG at the highest level to ensure timely receipt of documents from the Audit authorities.

### **Reply of the Government**

The observation made by the Committee has been duly noted. All the Zonal Cultural Centres have been directed by the Ministry to take necessary remedial action to ensure that the work of getting the Annual Accounts audited by the

Auditing Authority is completed in a time bound manner. The matter will also be taken up appropriately with the O/o the Comptroller and Auditor General of India as and when such need arises.

(Ministry of Culture's O.M. F. No. 19-1/2016-ZCC, Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2020)

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### **Recommendation No. 19**

The Committee note with concern, the reply submitted by the Ministry that the work related to preparation, finalization and approval of Annual Report and Audited Accounts of NCZCC, Allahabad was delayed due to the engagement of staff, including that of accounts department, in organizing the programmes of the NCZCC. The Committee urge that the proper planning of programmes for NCZCC needs to be organized and to keep in mind, to avoid deployment of the staff of accounts department in organizing programmes and other miscellaneous work so that the accounts work may not suffer in future.

### **Reply of the Government**

All efforts are being made on the part of this Ministry to ensure that the procedural / administrative delays in the submission of Annual Report & Audited Accounts are minimized to the extent possible.

However, as advised by the Committee, NCZCC, Allahabad is being advised to do a proper planning of their annual calendar of programmes well in advance and avoid deployment of the staff of Accounts Department in organizing programmes on the venue and in other miscellaneous work so that the accounts work may not suffer in future.

(Ministry of Culture's O.M. F. No. 19-1/2016-ZCC, Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2020)

### **Recommendation No. 20**

The Committee is not convinced with the reply of the Ministry/ NEZCC Dimapur that the laying of documents for the year 2012-13 was delayed as the Rajya Sabha was adjourned sine die. Further, the delay in the year 2014-15 was accounted to delay in obtaining approval for submission of accounts to the auditors. On the contrary, the Committee noted that the actual delay in 2014- 15 was due to excessive time taken in compilation of accounts. The Ministry also failed to furnish the details of time taken by them in processing of documents before laying them before the Parliament.

The Committee feel that the delay could have been avoided if the accounting system was computerized at NEZCC. The Committee recommends the Ministry/NEZCC to take immediate steps to computerize the accounting system at the NEZCC.

### **Reply of the Government**

Ministry of Culture has already taken appropriate steps to improve the accounting system in all the organizations under the administrative control of this Ministry including Zonal Cultural Centres by way of implementing the Public Finance Management System (PFMS). Further, in consonance with the policy laid down by the Ministry of Finance, all the organizations under Ministry of Culture including Zonal Cultural Centres have been mandated to implement the Expenditure, Advance and Transfer (EAT) module w.e.f. FY 2018-19.

(Ministry of Culture's O.M. F. No 19-1/2016-ZCC, Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2020)

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### **Recommendation No. 21**

The Committee is of the considered view that despite the time schedule drawn by the Ministry and also an MoU signed between Ministry and ZCCs for timely laying of requisite documents before the Parliament both the ZCC and the Ministry failed to adhere to them. The Committee, therefore, recommends to the Ministry and the ZCCs to take adequate steps to adhere to the Schedule/ MoU to ensure timely laying of documents.

### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendation of the Committee has been duly noted. Appropriate directions to all the Zonal Cultural Centres have been issued to ensure timely laying of their Annual Report and Audited Accounts.

(Ministry of Culture's O.M. F. No 19-1/2016-ZCC, Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2020)

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## **Recommendation No. 22**

The Committee impress upon that if due to unavoidable reasons, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the ZCCs 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 period should be laid on the Table of the House strictly within 30 days as recommended by the Committee in its earlier reports.

## **Reply of the Government**

All efforts are being made to ensure timely laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts on the table of House within the stipulated time. However, in case of any inordinate delay all efforts will be made to apprise the Parliament of the such delay.

(Ministry of Culture's O.M. F. No 19-1/2016-ZCC, Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2020)



(b) X X X X X.

After deliberations, the Committee adopted the xxxx Action Taken Reports without modifications.

5. The Committee authorized the Hon'ble Chairperson to present xxxx Reports to the Parliament.

6-10. X X X X X

**The Committee then adjourned.**

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