

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2021-2022)

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

52

FIFTY SECOND REPORT

**[Report on delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the
National Institute of Technology (NIT), Sikkim]**

(Presented on _____ December, 2021)



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

December, 2021/Agrahayana, 1943(Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2021-2022)

Shri Ritesh Pandey

-

Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Barq
3. Shri Margani Bharat
4. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
5. Chowdhury Mohan Jatua
6. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
7. Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe
8. Dr. A. Chella Kumar
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 Sankar 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. Shri Kundan Kumar - Committee Officer
5. Shri K.P. Kashyap - Assistant Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, Chairperson of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table of the House (2021-22), having been authorized by the Committee to present this Report on their behalf, present this Fifty Second Report in respect of the delay in laying the Annual Reports together with Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Sikkim, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education).

2. In terms of the recommendation of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table contained in its First Report, Second Report (5th Lok Sabha) and Second Report (6th Lok Sabha) presented to the House on 08 March 1976; 12 May 1976 and 22 December 1977 respectively, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Organization/Company are required to be laid on the Table of the House within nine months of the closure of Accounting Year.

3. The Committee considered the matter of the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Sikkim for the year 2015-16 to 2019-20 and took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) and National Institute of Technology (NIT), Sikkim at their sitting held on 17th March, 2021 in this connection.

4. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 29th November, 2021.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) and National Institute of Technology (NIT), Sikkim for furnishing the written replies, other material/information and for placing their views in the matter before the Committee.

6. The Observations / Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters at the end of the Report.

New Delhi
December, 2021
Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

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

Report

Delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Sikkim

NIT Sikkim was established in 2010 under the NITSER Act 2007 (Amended in 2012) to provide instructions and research in such branches of engineering and technology, management, education, sciences and arts, as the Institute may think fit, for the advancement of learning and dissemination of knowledge in such branches. It started functioning in 2010 at NIT, Calicut, which was its mentor Institute. From 2012 it started functioning in its home state of Sikkim from a temporary campus located at Ravangla. Currently the institute is offering B. Tech programme in five disciplines, M. Tech programme in three specializations and PhD programme in nine disciplines. Despite remote location and limited resources, placement was done 56% and 63% in 2018 & 2019 respectively.

2. The pattern of funding to the Institute by the Government of India, as per the Ministry, is as follows: -

Financial Year	Grants released (Amount in Rs.crore)
2019-20	12.00
2018-19	38.17
2017-18	19.00
2016-17	12.00
2015-16	9.67

3. In terms of the recommendations of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table contained in its First and Second Reports of 5th Lok Sabha and Second Report of 6th Lok Sabha presented to the House on 08 March 1976, 12 May 1976 and 22 December 1977 respectively, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Organization/Company are required to be laid on the Table of the House within nine months of the closure of the Accounting Year. To comply with this requirement proper time schedule should be laid down for compilation of Annual Report and Annual Accounts and their auditing. The Committee felt that normally a period of three months would be sufficient for compilation of Annual Accounts and their submission for Audit; the next six months might be given for auditing of accounts, printing of the Report and sending it to Government for laying. If for any reason, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Institutes could not be laid within the prescribed period of nine months, the Ministry concerned should lay a Statement within 30 days of the expiry of the aforesaid period or as soon as the House assembles whichever is later, explaining the reasons as to why the documents could not be laid.

4. The scrutiny by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table reveals that the annual reports and audited accounts of the NIT, Sikkim for the years from 2015-16 to 2018-19 were laid on the Table of the House with delays ranging from 12 to 13 months and the documents for the year 2019-20 have not been laid as yet. Thus, the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) and the NIT, Sikkim failed to comply with the parliamentary requirement of laying their documents within 9 months of the closure of the financial year. The date of laying and the extent of delay in laying of the annual reports and audited accounts of the NIT, Sikkim have been given in **Annexure-I**.

5. The chronological sequence, as submitted by the Ministry, in respect of the finalization of the annual reports and audited accounts of the NIT, Sikkim for the years from 2015-2016 to 2019-2020, is given in **Annexure-II**.

6. On being enquired by the Committee about the reasons for the delay in laying the annual reports and audited accounts of the NIT, Sikkim for the years from 2015-16 to 2019-20, the Ministry in their written reply submitted as under: -

"The Institute is still functioning in temporary campus in acute remote area which hampers and discourages the reputed vendors to participate in the tendering process.

The translation of the documents is a major challenge due to non-availability of suitable employees with proficiency in Hindi. The Institute is forced to outsource the translation work from other cities and face major difficulty in getting the work done on a timely manner.

As India Post is the only effective operating logistic service in the area for sending/ receiving the documents, it takes a minimum of 7-10 days for any document to reach NIT Sikkim from the rest of the country. Moreover, there is no air or train connectivity with the rest of the country

In addition, it has also been observed that significant time was taken by the Office of C&AG for auditing the accounts which lead to a considerable delay in laying the Reports before both the Houses of Parliament. "

7. On being asked whether the delays in laying the documents indicate that due importance was not given to the timely laying of the papers before the Parliament and things were taken in a casual manner, the Ministry, in their written reply, submitted as under: -

"The delay in submission of Annual Report has been on account of various reasons. The Institute is facing several constraints due to its location, non-availability of trained manpower, lack of necessary services etc. which led to the delays. The Ministry is fully committed to fulfil statutory requirements of laying Annual Report in time before both the Houses of the Parliament."

8. On being asked as to whether the Ministry/Institute has identified the stages to which delays have occurred during these years and what they proposed to do to curtail delays in future, the Ministry in their written reply submitted as under: -

"The delay happened due to (a) late receipt of Separate Audit Report (SAR) from Comptroller Auditor – General (C&AG) in the Institute; (b) Hindi Translation and printing of Annual Reports and Annual Accounts from outside agency (c) time taken by the Institute to send Annual Reports and Audited Accounts to the Ministry.

This Ministry propose to reduce delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts by (a) active co-ordination with the Office of the C&AG by respective NIT; (b) continuous monitoring at the level of Director of the Institute concerned and the Ministry and (c) identifying the agency for translation and printing of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts so that the same could be finalized in time."

9. On being enquired by the Committee whether the Institute faced any problem in connection with the translation of the documents into Hindi and subsequent printing thereof and if so, what efforts have been made to overcome these problems, the Ministry, in their written reply submitted as under: -

“The Institute has faced problem with translation of the documents in Hindi since the Institute is located in the North Eastern Region of the country and most of the employees are from Sikkim and West Bengal who are not proficient with Hindi language. The Institute is forced to outsource the translation work from other cities and face major difficulty in getting the work done in a timely manner. The Institute has been combating this issue over the years and have now identified a few agencies in Kolkata and Delhi for the translation works.”

10. On being asked whether the Institute has any internal audit mechanism to ensure timely compilation of accounts and to minimize the audit queries at the time of auditing, it was stated in their written reply that an Internal Audit Officer has been appointed on contract basis since 2019 to ensure timely compilation of account and to liaison with the audit authorities.

11. On being enquired by the Committee whether there is any mechanism in the Ministry to monitor the progress of work in this regard and to ensure timely laying of the documents, the Ministry stated in their written reply that the accounts are placed before the Board of Governors (BoG) meeting of the NIT concerned before sending it to the C&AG and also after receiving the same from the C&AG. The representative of the Ministry in the meeting takes note of the progress in this regard for timely laying of the documents in the Parliament. The Ministry, time and again, sends reminders to all the Institutes and whenever feel necessary, even telephonic reminders are sent to the Director of the concerned NIT. Whenever Ministry has observed delays, matter was taken up by the Ministry in the Finance/BoG meetings of the Institute to expedite the process.

12. On being asked regarding any remedial measures that have been taken or proposed to be taken both by the Ministry and the NIT, Sikkim to ensure timely laying of the documents before Parliament within the prescribed period of nine months from the closure of the Accounting Year in future, the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) in their written reply as under :-

“As directed by the Ministry, the Institute has identified a few agencies in Kolkata and Delhi for the translation works as well as typing and printing of the Report so that the same could be laid within the prescribed period of nine months from the close of the accounting year.

The Institute has been requested to keep close liaison with the A.G. Office through periodic contacts/visits and discussions across the table so as to remove all the reason for delay and ensure clearance of the reports by Office of the C&AG in time.”

13. The Committee considered the matter of delays in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NIT, Sikkim for the years from 2015-2016 to 2019-2020 and on the issue took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) and the NIT, Sikkim on 17.03.2021.

14. During the evidence, the Chairperson enquired on behalf of the Committee about the reasons for delay in laying the documents from 12 months to 13 months of the NIT, Sikkim for the years from 2015-16 to 2018-19. Elaborating further the reasons for the delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NIT, Sikkim, the Director of the Institute explained the reasons for delay during the evidence and stated that the location of the Institute is near about 80 kilometers from Gangtok, the roads are very bad and it takes nearly three and a half hours. They have got only one CA after last April on contract basis. Hindi translation had also become very difficult because mostly the staff was from West Bengal or Sikkim. They have done the translation work themselves this time. Earlier, they had taken translation service from the MNIT, Jaipur and that took too much time, afterwards they took translation service from the IIT, Kharagpur. The Director further added that now they have hired an accountant on contract who work only for the Institute and also that they have appointed Assistant Professor for Hindi translation from Bihar. They assured the Committee that the documents of the Institute will be laid on the Table of the House within stipulated time period in future.

Observations/Recommendations

15. The Committee note that the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) and the NIT, Sikkim have not adhered to the time frame stipulated in the 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 Annual Reports and Audited Accounts on the Table of the House. The mandatory requirement of laying the papers within nine months from the closure of the accounting year has not been complied with. The documents of the NIT, Sikkim for years 2015-2016 to 2018-2019 were laid with delays ranging from more than 12 to 13 months. The Committee also note that the documents for the year 2019-20 have not been laid as yet.

16. While examining the reasons for delays in laying the documents of the NIT, Sikkim, the Committee were disappointed to note that an undue delay had occurred due to the delay in compilation of the accounts, delay in CAG audit and translation of the documents in Hindi since the same is being done by the outside agency which takes lots of time, which could have been avoided. However, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic is understandable. Further, the Committee note that the Ministry and the NIT, Sikkim had failed to finalize annual accounts within the stipulated time. Further, the Committee also observe that the Institute had manual basis accounting system used at the stage of compilation of the accounts upto 2018 and now they used Tally software in accounts since 2019.

17. The committee further note that the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) has not been able to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure the laying of the documents of the NIT, Sikkim on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament within the stipulated time which is a matter of serious concern. The Committee recommend that comprehensive and holistic efforts must be made by the Ministry to ensure timely laying of the documents in future, and that the Committee should be informed of the compliance of these directions and also measures taken by the Ministry to avoid delays in future.

18. The Committee also impress upon the Ministry that if due to unavoidable reasons, the annual reports and audited accounts of the NIT, Sikkim 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 with 30 days or as soon as the House convenes, whichever is later.

New Delhi

December, 2021

Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

Ritesh Pandey

Chairperson

Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

Annexure- I
Vide para 3 of the Report

Statement Showing the dates of laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of
the NIT, Sikkim for the years 2015-16 to 2019-20

Year	Date by which required to be laid	Date of laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts	Extent of Delay
2015-16	31.12.2016	05.01. 2017	12 Months
2016-17	31.12.2017	11.02.2019	13 Months
2017-18	31.12.2018	10.02.2020	13 Months
2018-19	31.12.2019	13.02.2021	13 Months
2019-20	31.12.2020	Not Laid	-

Annexure - II
vide Para 5 of the Report

Statement showing the details of chronological sequence of different activities involved in the finalization of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Sikkim for the years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020

Sub-Que.	Points	Financial Years				
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
7 (i)	Date of approach to the audit authorities	18.10.2016	23.11.2017	06.11.2018	10.09.2019	11.11.2020
	Time taken after the closure of accounting year	201 Days	237 Days	220 Days	163 Days	225 Days
7 (ii)	Date of appointment of statutory auditors	03.11.2016	30.11.2017	30.11.2018	27.11.2019	20.11.2020
	Time taken after the approaching the audit authorities for appointment of auditors	16 Days	07 Days	24 Days	78 Days	09 Days
7(iii)	Date of compilation of annual accounts	15.10.2016	19.11.2017	09.11.2018	05.09.2019	10.11.2020
	Time taken after the closure of the accounting year	198 Days	233 Days	223 Days	158 Days	224 Days
7(iv)	Date of submission of annual accounts to auditors	18.10.2016	23.11.2017	12.11.2018	10.09.2019	11.11.2020
	Time taken after closure of respective accounting year	201 Days	237 Days	226 Days	163 Days	225 Days
7(v)	The date and duration for auditing the annual accounts by statutory auditors	15.11.2016 - 19.11.2016	4.12.2017 - 7.12.2017	4.12.2018 – 7.12.2018	3.12.2019 - 5.12.2019	23.11.2020 – 28.11.2020
7(vi)	The date of queries raised by auditors during auditing/ after completion of the annual accounts	19.11.2016	07.12.2017	07.12.2018	05.12.2019	28.11.2020
	Time taken by auditors in raising the queries during auditing/after completion of the annual accounts to audit authorities	4 Days	4 Days	4 Days	3 Days	6 Days
7(vii)	The date on which the replies to the audit queries were furnished to the Auditors	19.11.2016	7.12.2017	7.12.2018	5.12.2019	4.12.2020
	The time taken to resolve the queries	1 Day	1 Day	1 Day	1 Day	6 Days
7(viii)	The date on which draft Audit Report was issued by Audit Authorities	16.12.2016	19.12.2017	27.12.2018	23.12.2019	No draft Audit Report Received
	Time taken after auditing of the annual accounts	27 Days	12 Days	20 Days	18 Days	-

7(ix)	The date on which the final audit report received by the Institute.	10.3.2017	5.3.2018	28.2.2019	12.2.2020	12.2.2021
	Time taken after issue of draft report	84 Days	76 Days	63 Days	51 Days	70 Days*(after submission of reply)
7(x)	Total time taken by the audit authorities after receiving of the annual accounts to furnishing the final audit report to the Institute	143 Days	102 Days	108 Days	155 Days	93 Days
7(xi)	Date of finalization of the annual report	2.5.2017	5.6.2018	15.6.2019	25.6.2020	18.2.2021
	Time taken after the closure of the financial year; and also	397 Days	431 Days	441 Days	452 Days	324 Days
	Time taken after the receipt of the final audit report	53 Days	92 Days	107 Days	134 Days	06 Days
7(xii)	The date on which documents were got approved from the Competent Authority	5.5.2017	12.04.2018	28.0.2019	24.6.2020	19.2.2021
	Time taken after finalization of Annual Report	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days	3 Days	1 Days
	Time taken after receipt of Final Audit Report	56 Days	96 Days	112 Days	137 Days	7 Days
7(xiii)	The date on which documents were taken up for translation printing	27.6.2017	10.7.2018	10.7.2019	7.7.2020	20.2.2021
	The time taken for completing the task at each stage.	Translation – 30 days; Printing – 7 days; Despatch – 8 days; Report Received on – 8.8.2017	Translation – 105 days; Printing – 30 days; Despatch 15 days; Report Received on – 27.11.2018	Translation – 108 days; Printing – 12 days; Despatch 15 days; Report Received on – 25.11.2019	Translation – 95 days; Printing – 17 days; Despatch 8 days; Report Received on – 15.10.2020	Printing work under progress
7(xiv)	The date for sending the documents to the Ministry for being laid in House after the completion the task at each stage.	08.8.2017	10.12.2018	25.11.2019	4.11.2020	To be sent to the Ministry by March 2021.
	Time taken by the organisations in sending the documents of the Ministry	2 Days	13 Days	0 Dayse	19 Days	-
7(xv)	The date of laying the documents to the House.	05.01.2018	11.02.2019	10.02.2020	Ready for laying in upcoming session	report have not yet received from the Institute
	Time taken after receipt of the documents from the Organisation	4 months 29 days	1 month 18 days	2 months 18 days	-	-

APPENDIX-I

EXTRACTS OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE(2020-2021) HELD ON 17TH MARCH, 2021

The Committee sat on Wednesday, 17th March, 2021 from 1500 hours to 1600 hours in Committee Room "B", Parliament House Annexe , New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Ritesh Pandey - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
3. Shri Raja Amareshwara Naik
4. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
5. Shri Saptagiri Ulaka
6. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Suman Arora - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. B. Visala - Director
3. Shri R.K. Chaudhary - Under Secretary
4. Smt. Manjinder Pubbi - Under Secretary

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION)

- 1 Shri Amit Khare - Secretary
- 2 Shri Madan Mohan - Additional Director General (HE)

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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SIKKIM

- 1 Prof. Mahesh Chandra Govil - Director
- 2 Dr. Dhananjay Tripathi - Assistant Professor
3. Shri Sahil Minda - Internal Auditor

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the sitting and explained the purpose of convening the meeting.

3. to 7. XX XX XX XX

8. After that, the representatives of the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) and the National Institute of Technology, Sikkim were ushered in to tender oral evidence before the Committee with regard to the delay in laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Institute.

9. The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of the Ministry/Institute to the sitting of the Committee and explained to them that the meeting had been called to enquire about the reasons for the delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Institute. The Chairperson also explained to the witnesses the provisions of Direction 58 of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha regarding confidentiality of the proceedings.

10. On being enquired by the Committee the reasons for delay at the stage of compilation of Accounts of the Institute for the years 2015-16 to 2019-20, the representative of the Ministry/Institute submitted before the Committee that due to remote area, people usually denied to join their services there. After repeated efforts made by the Ministry/Institute, one internal auditor was appointed in the year 2019 on contract basis. He started using Tally package software for the entire accounting processes.

11. Translation of documents in Hindi version was stated to be another reason for delay. However, this problem had also been resolved as they had appointed some Assistant professors from Bihar for the job.

12. As regard delay at the stage of auditing the Account and furnishing the final Audit Report, the Secretary of the Ministry assured the Committee that he would write to C&AG for expediting the matter. They also assured the Committee that all the pending documents would be laid before December, 2021.

13. Thereafter, the Hon'ble Chairperson thanked the representatives of the Ministry and the Institute for the useful discussion in connection with examination of the subject.

The witnesses then withdrew.

A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting of the Committee has been kept on record

The Committee then adjourned.

**EXTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF
THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2021-2022)**

The Committee sat on Monday, 29th November, 2021 from 1500 hours to 1630 hours in Committee Room "C", Parliament House Annexe , New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Ritesh Pandey - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

2. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
3. Dr. Amol Ramsingh Kolhe
4. Dr. A. Chellakumar
5. Shri S.Ramalingam,
6. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Suman Arora - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Munish Kumar Rewari - Additional Director
3. Smt. Manjinder Pubbi - Under Secretary

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2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee.

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3. Thereafter, the Committee took up the seven Reports (original) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the following organisation for the consideration :-

- i. Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), Noida;
- ii. Noida Metro Rail Corporation, Noida;
- iii. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI);
- iv. Ghani Khan Choudhury Institute of Engineering & Technology (GKCIET), Malda, West Bengal;
- v. National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur;
- vi. National Institute of Technology, Sikkim; and
- vii. Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Bengaluru.

4. After deliberations, the Committee adopted the all seven Reports without modifications.

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The Committee then adjourned.
