

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

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

57

FIFTY SEVENTH REPORT

**[Delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the
Population Research Centre (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur.]**

(Presented on 15.12.2021)



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
December, 2021/ Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

C O N T E N T S**PAGE**

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (2021-2022)	(iii)
INTRODUCTION	(v)
<u>REPORT</u>	
Delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Population Research Centre (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur.	1
<u>ANNEXURES</u>	
I Statement showing the year-wise funds released during 2016-17 to 2020-21 released by the Government of India to PRC (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur.	11
II Statement showing the dates of laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the PRC (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur for the years 2016-2017 to 2019-2020.	12
III Statement showing the chronological sequence of the actual time taken at each stage in respect of finalization of Annual reports and Audited accounts of the PRC (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur for the years 2016-2017 to 2019-2020.	13
<u>APPENDICES</u>	
I The Extracts of the Minutes of the eighth sitting of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2020-2021) held on 05.01.2021.	17
II The Extracts of the Minutes of the second sitting of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2021-2022) held on 06.12.2021.	21

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

CHAIRPERSON

Shri Ritesh Pandey

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. 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 (2021-2022), having been authorized by the Committee to present this Report on their behalf, present this Fifty Seventh Report in respect of the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Population Research Centre (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur.

2. In terms of the recommendations of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table contained in their 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 Reports and Audited Accounts of the Organisation/Company are required to be laid on the Table of the House within nine months of the closure of the respective accounting year.

3. The Committee considered the matter of the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Population Research Centre (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur and took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare) and the Population Research Centre (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur in this regard at their sitting held on 05th January, 2021.

4. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 06.12.2021.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare) and the Population Research Centre (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur 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
09th December, 2021
18 Agrahanya, 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 Population Research Centre (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur.

The Population Research Centre (PRC) was established in the year 1981, in the campus of Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur. The main objective of the Centre is to conduct studies on socio-economic aspects of population, health issues related to public health, family welfare, etc. The PRC, Udaipur, has been carrying out various researches and Action Research Projects related to Health and Family Welfare, MCH, RCH, NHM and different studies on the demographic dimensions and policy implications.

2. On the question of the Act, Rule and Regulation under which the Papers of the PRC, Udaipur, are being laid on the table of the House, the Ministry submitted that the same are laid as per Rule 242(2)(iv) (a & c) of the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017.

3. Further, on the question of the provision of time for laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the PRC, Udaipur, the Ministry submitted that the same is governed by Rule 237 of the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017.

4. On the question about the pattern of funding to the Organization by the Government, the Ministry, in their reply, had submitted as under: -

“The PRCs have been functioning under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) as a Central Sector Scheme, where MoHFW provides 100% grants-in-aid for meeting all expenditure towards salary, allowances, approved research studies, infrastructure development, non-recurring expenditure and other office expenses(OE) /other administrative expenses (OAE) for various activities such as constructions, repairs and maintenance, purchase of office Furniture, equipment, computers, software, organizing workshops/seminars, etc.”

On being asked by the Committee to furnish the year-wise funds released by the

Government of India during the last five years, the Ministry furnished the information, which is placed in a statement at **Annexure-I**.

5. The Committee, in their First Report (5th Lok Sabha) presented to the House on 08 March, 1976, had emphasized that the Autonomous Organizations should lay their Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Review Statements within nine months of the close of the respective Accounting Year. Further, it is the responsibility of the Administrative Ministry to lay the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Organisation on the Table of the House. However, if for any reason, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts are not laid within the prescribed time period of nine months, the Ministry concerned should lay a statement within 30 days of the expiry of the said period or as soon as the House meets, whichever is later, explaining the reasons as to why the documents could not be laid in time.

6. The Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the PRC, Udaipur, for the years 2016-2017 to 2019-2020 had been laid by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare) before the Parliament with delays ranging between 02 months to 09 months (approximately).

The statement showing dates of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the PRC, Udaipur, along with the extent of delay is placed at **Annexure-II**.

7. On being enquired by the Committee about the reasons for delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the PRC, Udaipur, for the years 2016-2017 to 2019-2020, the Ministry, in their reply, stated that they had laid the “Delay statements” before the Parliament for the years 2016-17 to 2018-19 with the following chronology of reasons for the delay in those years: -

2016-17

“As per the contents of General Financial Rules (GFR) Annual Report shall contain audited accounting details accepted by the P&AO of this Ministry. Due to some change in the contents of the GFR 2017 and in the format of Utilization Certificate (UC), there was a delay in receiving their Annual Report along with audited accounts from the PRC.

The Annual Report along with accepted audited accounts was finally ready on the first week of January 2018, after completing all the necessary formalities.”

2017-18

“As per the contents of General Financial Rules (GFR) Annual Report shall contain audited accounting details accepted by the P&AO of this Ministry. Due to some clarification required in Utilization Certificate (UC), there was a delay in receiving their Annual Report along with audited accounts.

The Annual Report along with accepted audited accounts was finally ready on the first week of July 2019, after completing all the necessary formalities.”

2018-19

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Completion of Audit by their Auditor</i>	<i>08 November 2019</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Audited Accounts for the year 2018—19 settled by MoHFW after receiving the queries/justification</i>	<i>19 February 2020</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Annual Report Received by MoHFW</i>	<i>17th March 2020</i>

The reasons for delay for the year 2019-20 as furnished by the Ministry are as follows:

“PRC, Udaipur has sent the Utilization Certificate on 31st March, 2021, but due to some observations/ anomalies in the audited UC, it could not be settled and requested for further corrections. Therefore, the UC could be settled on 23rd June, 2021 (Annexure 3). PRC, Udaipur has been requested to send the Annual Report 2019-20 in bilingual (Hindi & English).”

8. The Committee also enquired whether the Ministry agreed that the delays in laying the documents indicated 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 reply, submitted that: -

“Every year, Ministry issues (...) letter during the 1st quarter directing PRCs to adhere to timelines so that Annual Reports and Audited Accounts can be timely laid before Parliament. All the PRCs follow the instructions of the Ministry, however, sometime there are procedural delays due to unavoidable circumstances.

The matter has been taken by the Ministry with PRC, Udaipur several times. Many reminders were sent to PRC, Udaipur through e-mails, however, due to unavoidable circumstances (shortage of staff) in PRC, Udaipur, they could not submit the required documents/information on time. During 2020 the submission of Audited UC of 2019-20 also got delayed due to COVID pandemic.”

9. The Ministry was asked to furnish the information in respect of the finalization of the requisite documents, i.e. from approaching the Auditors to laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the PRC, Udaipur, before the Parliament, for the years 2016-2017 to 2019-2020. The information showing the chronological sequence of the actual time taken at different stages submitted by the PRC Udaipur and the Ministry, is placed at **Annexure-III**.

10. The Committee desired to know as to whether the Ministry/Institute had identified the stages at which the delays occurred during all these years and if so, how did the Ministry propose to curtail the same in future. The Ministry, in their reply, submitted that: -

“The delay occurred due to non-receipt of Audited Accounts and related queries. PRC, Udaipur has been instructed for completion of Accounts Audit well in time and same is monitored by the Ministry. However, due to shortage of staff the UC gets delayed.

The Ministry is in process of getting approvals for filling up of vacancies at PRC Udaipur.”

11. The Committee also desired to know as to whether there had been any delay in appointment of auditors for the purpose of auditing the Annual Accounts of the Institute during these years. The Ministry, in their reply, submitted that: -

“No. Auditing of Accounts of PRCs is done by appointment of CA by the respective PRCs/Host Universities. ”

12. The Committee desired to know as to how the issue of auditing and the subsequent timely receipt of the Audit Reports from the audit authorities was dealt with by the Ministry. The Ministry, in their reply, submitted that: -

“ PRCs are under administrative control of University/Institute where they are located. Auditing of Accounts of PRCs is done by appointment of CA by the respective PRCs/Host Universities.

Every year, Ministry issues letter during the 1st quarter directing PRCs to adhere to timelines so that Annual Reports and Audited Accounts can be timely laid before Parliament.

The matter is taken by the Ministry with PRCs several times. Many reminders are sent to PRCs, through e-mails for timely completion.”

13. The Committee also desired to know whether there were any procedural difficulties in convening the meeting of the Competent Authority for getting approval of the documents of the Institute. In their reply, the Ministry submitted that: -

“Meetings not done by MoHFW. All work done at PRC/Host University Level.”

14. On the question as to whether the process of accounting, to facilitate speedy and timely compilation of accounts of the PRC, Udaipur, were computerized, the Ministry submitted that: -

“No. The accounts are prepared and submitted manually.

The Ministry is in process of releasing funds for purchasing various Office Equipment, Laptop and Computers etc. so that the work of the PRCs can be improved.”

15. Further, the Committee enquired as to whether the Institute had any internal auditing mechanism to ensure timely compilation of accounts and also to minimize the audit queries at the time of auditing. In reply, the Ministry submitted that: -

“Yes, from time to time the university conducts an internal audit of their constituent unit through the University Chartered Accountant.”

16. The Ministry was also asked as to whether any time schedule had been laid down by the Institute/Ministry indicating the normative time for completion of the task at each stage involved in the finalization of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts. In reply therefor, the Ministry submitted that: -

“Yes, time schedule has been prescribed and made available to the organization for preparation of Annual Report and audited Statement of Expenditure of the Centre for submission of information to the Ministry.

Every year, Ministry issues letter during the 1st quarter directing PRCs to adhere to timelines so that Annual Reports and Audited Accounts can be timely laid before Parliament.”

17. On being asked whether there was any mechanism in the Ministry to monitor the progress of work to ensure timely laying of the documents, the Ministry submitted that: -

“In continuation to issue of letter to PRCs during 1st quarter for adhering to timelines, MoHFW also regularly send reminders to PRCs through letters, e-mails etc.”

18. The Committee desired to be apprised as to whether any remedial measures had been taken or proposed to be taken both by the Ministry/Institute to ensure timely laying of the documents before the Parliament within the prescribed period of nine months from the close of the accounting year, in future. The Ministry submitted that: -

“In continuation to issue of letter to PRCs during 1st quarter for adhering to timelines, MoHFW also regularly send reminders to PRCs through letters, e-mails etc.”

19. As part of the mandate, the Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare) and the Population Research Centre (PRC), Udaipur on 20th July, 2021 to consider the matter of the delays in laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the PRC, Udaipur, for the years 2016-2017 to 2019-2020.

20. During the evidence, the Secretary enumerated lack of dedicated staff as one of the reasons for the delay. The representative of the PRC, Udaipur, also submitted that: -

“... there have been errors in those Utilisation Certificates and they had to be corrected many times...”

“... We very humbly assure you that there will be no delay and we will adhere to all timelines.”

Observations/Recommendations

21. From the scrutiny of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Population Research Centre (PRC), Udaipur, for the years 2016-2017 to 2019-2020*, the Committee observe that the requisite documents of the PRC, Udaipur, for these years have been laid by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare) with delays ranging from 02 months to 08 months (approximately) as against the stipulated date of 31st December of the respective year(s).

The Committee take serious note of such recurrent delays in the last four years and recommend that the Ministry and the PRC, Udaipur, should take effective steps to control this recurring period of delay and also ensure that in future, the requisite documents of the PRC, Udaipur, are timely laid before the Parliament.

22. The Committee further observe that the PRC is a unique case, wherein, on the one hand, the funds are provided to these PRCs by the Centre through the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare) and on the other hand, the administrative control of these PRCs lies with the host universities concerned and the Ministry does not have much say in the functioning of these PRCs.

The Committee are of the opinion that in spite of this unique administrative set up, the Ministry should be more vigilant while releasing the grants for the next year to all the PRCs, to ensure that the requisite documents of the previous year have already been furnished to the Ministry in time.

* The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2020-2021 were laid before the Parliament on 03.12.2021.

23. The Committee also note that the accounts of all the PRCs, including PRC, Udaipur, are audited by a private auditor of the concerned host university and not by the auditors of the C&AG. The Ministry has stated that the Utilisation Certificate (UC) along with the accounts are, thereafter, sent to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare). These Audited Accounts are further audited by the C&AG in the Ministry.

The Committee recommend that for all the years for which the Audited Accounts of all the PRCs, including the PRC Udaipur, had not been laid before the Parliament, the Audit certificates from the C&AG should be laid before the Parliament, at the earliest.

The Committee further recommend that with immediate effect and in accordance with the General Financial Rules, the Annual accounts of all the PRCs, must be audited by the auditors appointed by the C&AG and the Annual Report and the Audited Accounts of all the PRCs should be laid before the Parliament individually.

24. The Committee was further apprised that another reason for the delay was the lack of dedicated staff to look after the accounts related matters at the PRC, Udaipur and that the recruitment proposal of all bodies/institutions/PRCs etc. had been sent to the Ministry of Finance for their approval. The Committee recommend to the Ministry to ensure that sufficient manpower is provided to the Institute, on urgent basis, so that the accounts are timely compiled and handed over to the audit authorities.

The Committee are also surprised to know that out of the 18 PRCs across the country, only the accounts of the PRC, Udaipur, are still being prepared and submitted manually. The Committee opine that this has also been one of the reasons for such a long time taken in the compilation and submission of accounts to the auditors. The Committee recommend that the PRC, Udaipur, should move to

the digital accounting system, as being done by the other 17 PRCs, as this can save time during compilation of accounts manually.

25. The Committee have been apprised by the Ministry that it has made efforts to ensure the timely laying of the requisite documents by way of regular reminders to the Institute and providing them with equipment and online training programmes regarding settlement of accounts. However, the persistent delays clearly show that more concerted efforts are required on the part of the Ministry in this regard.

The Committee therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry, besides sending letters reminding the Institute to adhere to the timelines, shall also hold regular meetings with the Institute to address their grievances and should also re-draw the time schedule for each stage involved in the finalization of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the PRC, Udaipur, to ensure that the target dates are duly met and the requisite documents are laid in time.

**New Delhi
06th December, 2021
15 Agrahanya, 1943 (Saka)**

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

Annexure-I
vide para 04 of the Report

Statement showing the year-wise funds released during 2016-17 to 2020-21 released by the Government of India to PRC (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur.

S.No	Years	Recurring	Non-recurring	Total
1	2016-17	5787000	84400	5871400
2	2017-18	3002529	84400	3086929
3	2018-19	1331000	84400	1415400
4	2019-20	2148000	0	2148000
5	2020-21	1398241	0	1398241

Annexure-II
vide para 06 of the Report

Statement showing the dates of laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the PRC (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur for the years 2016-2017 to 2019-2020.

Year	Date by which Annual Reports and Audited Accounts were required to be laid	Actual Date of laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts	Extent of delay (approximate)
2016-2017	31.12.2017	09.03.2018	02 months and 09 days
2017-2018	31.12.2018	26.07.2019	06 months and 26 days
2018-2019	31.12.2019	18.09.2020	08 months and 18 days
2019-2020	31.12.2020	06.08.2021	07 months and 06 days

* The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2020-2021 were laid before the Parliament on 03.12.2021.

Annexure-III
vide para 09 of the Report

Statement showing the chronological sequence of the actual time taken at each stage in respect of finalization of Annual reports and Audited accounts of the PRC (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur for the years 2016-2017 to 2019-2020.

Sub-Question	Points	YEARS			
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-2020
7 (i)	Date of approach to the audit authorities	4.8.2017	30.7.2018	4.8.2019	23.12.2020
	Time taken after the closure of accounting year	4 months 03 days	3 months 29 days	4 months 03 days	8 months 22 days
7 (ii)	Date of appointment of statutory auditors	University's C.A.			
	Time taken after the approaching the audit authorities for appointment of auditors	University's C.A.			
7(iii)	Date of compilation of annual accounts	25.7.2017	22.7.2018	25.7.2019	20.12.2020
	Time taken after the closure of the accounting year	3 months 24 days	3 months 21 days	3 months 24 days	8 months 19 days
7(iv)	Date of submission of annual accounts to auditors	12.8.2017	02.8.2018	12.8.2019	28.12.2020
	Time taken after	4 months 11 days	4 months 01 days	4 months 11 days	8 months 27 days

	closure of respective accounting year				
7(v)	The date and duration for auditing the annual accounts by statutory auditors	20.8.2017 and 8 days	10.8.2018 and 8 days	17.8.2019 and 05 days	30.12.2020 and 02 days
7(vi)	The date of queries raised by auditors during auditing/ after completion of the annual accounts	Nil	Nil	Nil	
	Time taken by auditors in raising the queries during auditing/after completion of the annual accounts to audit authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	
7(vi i)	The date on which the replies to the audit queries were furnished to the auditors	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	The time taken to resolve the queries	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7(vi ii)	The date on which draft audit report was issued by audit authorities	20.8.2017	11.8.2018	17.8.2019	04.1.2021
	Time taken after auditing of the annual accounts	0 day	1 day	0 day	5 days
7(ix)	The date on which the final audit report received	21.8.2017	11.8.2018	30.8.2019/ 8.11.2019 (Revised)	5.1.2021

	by PRC				
	Time taken after issue of draft report	1 day	0 day	13 days	1 day
7(x)	Total time taken by the audit authorities after receiving of the annual accounts to furnishing the final audit report to the organisation	9 days	9 days	18 days	8 days
7(xi)	Date of finalization of the annual report	28.10.2017	20.09.2018	15.02.2020	#
	Time taken after the closure of the financial year; and also	6 months 27 days	5 months 19 days	10 months 14 days	
	Time taken after the receipt of the final audit report	2 months 7 days	1-month 09days	5 months 16 days	
7(xii)	The date on which documents were got approved from the competent authority	05.11.2017	25.09.2018 (without settled UC)	20.02.2020	
	Time taken after finalization of annual report	8days	5 days	5 days	
	Time taken after receipt of final audit report	2 months 15 days	1 month 14 days	5 months 21 days	
7(xii i)	The date on which documents were taken	10.11.2017	26.09.2018	21.02.2020	

	up for translation & printing				
	The time taken for completing the task at each stage.	20 days	22 days	20 days	
7(xiv)	The date for sending the documents to the Ministry for being laid to the House after the completion the task at each stage.	08.12.2017	22.10.2018	17.03.2020	
	Time taken by the organisations in sending the document to the Ministry	8 days	4 days	5 days	
7(xv)	The date of laying the documents to the House.	09.03.2018	26.07.2019	18.09.2020	
	Time taken after receipt of the documents from the Organisation	3 months 01 day*	9 months 04 days**	6 months 01 days***	

*: For 2016-17: As per the contents of General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017 Annual Report shall contain audited accounting details accepted by the P&AO of this Ministry. Due to some changes in contents of the GFR 2017 and in the format of Utilization Certificate (UC), there was delay in receiving their Annual Report along with Audited Accounts from the PRC. The Annual Report along with the accepted Audited Accounts was finally ready on 1st week of January, 2018 after completing all the necessary formalities.

** For 2017-18: As per the contents of General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017 Annual Report shall contain audited accounting details accepted by the P&AO of this Ministry. Due to some clarification required in the Utilization Certificate (UC), there was delay in receiving their Annual Report along with Audited Accounts. The Annual Report along with the accepted Audited Accounts was finally ready in 1st week of July, 2019 after completing all the necessary formalities.

*** For 2018-19: The revised Audited Accounts received on 8th November, 2019. The Annual Report was received by MoHFW on 17th March, 2020 after settlement of all queries.

For 2019-20: The Annual Report is not received from PRC, Udaipur.

**THE EXTRACTS OF THE MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH SITTING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (2020-2021)**

The Committee sat on Tuesday, 20th July 2021 from 15:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs. in Committee Room '01', Parliament House Annexe Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Ritesh Pandey - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
3. Dr. A. Chellakumar
4. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
5. Smt Aparupa Poddar
6. Shri S. Ramalingam
7. Shri Saptgiri Ulaka

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Suman Arora - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Munish Kumar Rewari - Additional Director

**THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY
WELFARE (DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE) and
THE POPULATION RESEARCH CENTRE
(MOHANLAL SUKHADIA UNIVERSITY), UDAIPUR.**

1. Shri Rajesh Bhushan - Secretary
2. Smt Sandhya Krishnamurthy - DG (Stats)
3. Shri D K Ojha - DDG (Stats)
4. Prof Seema Jalan - Hony Director, PRC Udaipur

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

3-6. X X X X

7. Thereafter, the Committee took up the case of the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the PRC, Udaipur for the years from 2015-2016 to 2019-2020 pertaining to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Department of Health & Family Welfare).

The Committee then called, together, the representatives of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Department of Health & Family Welfare) and the Population Research Centre (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur to take oral evidence with regard to the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the PRC, Udaipur for the years from 2015-2016 to 2019-2020.

8. The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of the Ministry and the PRC, Udaipur to the sitting of the Committee and explained the purpose of convening the meeting. The Chairperson also informed the witnesses about the provisions of Direction 58 of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, regarding the confidentiality of the proceedings.

9. The representatives, at first, made a brief Power Point presentation about Population Research Centre, Udaipur. The Chairman then enquired the Ministry/ PRC, Udaipur about the reasons of the delay in laying the requisite documents of the PRC, Udaipur for the years from 2015-2016 to 2019-2020. Shri Saptagiri Ulaka and Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq, Members of the Committee, asked the representatives as to who was responsible for this? Shri Saptagiri Ulaka opined that the Ministry should be more proactive and also enquired about the measures being taken to ensure that it is not

repeated next year.

The Representative of the Ministry submitted that they would take responsibility and also ensured the Committee that necessary steps would be taken for timely submission of Annual Reports.

The Committee also pointed out about the issue of the auditing of the accounts of PRC Udaipur by private auditors instead of C&AG. The representative of the Ministry submitted that the auditing of the PRC, Udaipur had been first done by the Chartered Accountants of the University (Mohanlal Sukhadia University) and then again at the Ministry-level by the Auditors of the C&AG.

The Chairman then suggested the Ministry to have some sort of a portal on which real-time basis information regarding accounts i.e., as and when they utilize the money and through this portal the Ministry could monitor on a regular basis at various timelines and also automatically reminders could be send through it.

The representative of the Ministry submitted that the lack of manpower at the PRC, Udaipur; the delay in receipt of utilization certificate from the Chartered Accountants; and various errors in calculations in those utilization certificates were the main reasons for the delays. The representative of the PRC, Udaipur apologized for the delays on their part and assured the Committee that there would be no delay and that they would adhere to all the timelines.

The representative of the Ministry/ PRC, Udaipur assured the Committee that the annual accounts of the PRC, Udaipur for the year 2019-2020 would be laid during the ongoing session of Parliament and for the year 2020-2021 would be submitted by December 2021.

Shri Saptagiri Ulaka and the Chairperson both were not satisfied with the replies of the Ministry/Institute and expressed their displeasure about the unpreparedness of the Institute for the oral evidence before the Committee. The representative submitted that they will send the updated information after the sitting. Shri Saptagiri Ulaka also pointed out to no research work being conducted in the PRC Udaipur during the year 2019-2020

and the amount of fund being spent on retention of staff at the Institute.

10. Lastly, the Chairperson advised the Ministry/ PRC, Udaipur to ensure that all the requisite documents should be laid before the Parliament within the stipulated time. Thereafter, the Hon'ble Chairperson thanked the representatives of the Ministry and the PRC, Udaipur for the useful discussion in connection with the examination of the subject.

The witnesses then withdrew.

The Committee then adjourned.

**THE EXTRACTS OF THE MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF
THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (2021-2022).**

The Committee sat on Monday, 06th December 2021 from 15:00 hours to 16:30 hours in Committee Room "C", Parliament House Annexe , New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Ritesh Pandey - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

2. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Barq
3. Dr. A. Chella Kumar
4. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
- 5 Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
- 6 Shri T.N. Prathapan
7. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
8. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav

SECRETARIAT

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

X X X X X

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

X X X X X

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration, the eleven draft Reports (Original/ATR) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the following organisation :-

- | | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|--------|
| i. | X | X | X | X; |
| ii. | X | X | X | X; |
| iii. | X | X | X | X; |
| iv. | X | X | X | X; |
| v. | Population Research Centre (Mohanlal Sukhadia University), Udaipur; | | | |
| vi. | X | X | X | X; |
| vii. | X | X | X | X; |
| viii. | X | X | X | X; |
| ix. | X | X | X | X; |
| x. | X | X | X | X; and |
| xi. | X | X | X | X. |

4. After deliberations, the Committee adopted all the eleven (11) Reports without modifications.

5. The Committee authorised the Hon'ble Chairperson to present these Reports to the Parliament.

X X X X X

X X X X X

The Committee then adjourned.
