

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 of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology (NMI-HACM), New Delhi.		1
<u>ANNEXURES</u>		
I	Statement showing the dates of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the (i) Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (VSEZ) Authority; (ii) Cochin Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) Authority; (iii) Kandla Special Economic Zone (KSEZ) Authority; and (iv) Madras Special Economic Zone (MEPZ) Authority for the years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020.	13
II	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 (i) Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone Authority (VSEZ); (ii) Cochin Special Economic Zone Authority (CSEZ); (iii) Kandla Special Economic Zone Authority (KASEZ); and (iv) Madras Special Economic Zone Authority (MEPZ) for the years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020.	15
III	Statement indicating normative time for completion of the task of each stage involved in the finalization of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts	26
<u>APPENDICES</u>		
I	The Extracts of the Minutes of the twelfth sitting of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2020-2021) held on 09.08.2021.	27
II	The Extracts of the Minutes of the third sitting of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2021-2022) held on 13.12.2021.	30

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. Shri Kundan Kumar | - | 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 Seventy First Report in respect of the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the (i) Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (VSEZ) Authority; (ii) Cochin Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) Authority; (iii) Kandla Special Economic Zone (KSEZ) Authority; and (iv) Madras Special Economic Zone (MEPZ) Authority.

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 (i) Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (VSEZ) Authority; (ii) Cochin Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) Authority; (iii) Kandla Special Economic Zone (KSEZ) Authority; and (iv) Madras Special Economic Zone (MEPZ) Authority and took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and the above mentioned four SEZs in this regard at their sitting held on 09.08.2021.

4. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 13.12.2021.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Commerce and the (i) Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (VSEZ) Authority; (ii) Cochin Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) Authority; (iii) Kandla Special Economic Zone (KSEZ) Authority; and (iv) Madras Special Economic Zone (MEPZ) Authority 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
15th December, 2021
24 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 (i) Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (VSEZ) Authority; (ii) Cochin Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) Authority; (iii) Kandla Special Economic Zone (KSEZ) Authority; and (iv) Madras Special Economic Zone (MEPZ) Authority.

India was one of the first in Asia to recognize the effectiveness of the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) model in promoting exports, with Asia's first EPZ set up in Kandla in 1965. Seven more zones were set up thereafter. However, the zones were not able to emerge as effective instruments for export promotion on account of the multiplicity of controls and clearances, the absence of world-class infrastructure and an unstable fiscal regime. While correcting the shortcomings of the EPZ model, some new features were incorporated in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Policy announced in April 2000. This policy intended to make SEZs an engine for economic growth supported by quality infrastructure complemented by an attractive fiscal package, both at the Centre and the State level, with the minimum possible regulations.

To instil confidence in investors and signal the Government's commitment to a stable SEZ policy regime and with a view to impart stability to the SEZ regime thereby generating greater economic activity and employment through the establishment of SEZs, a comprehensive Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, was passed by Parliament in May, 2005 and received Presidential assent on the 23rd of June, 2005 and the Special Economic Zone Act was enacted. The SEZ Act, 2005, supported by SEZ Rules, came into effect on 10th February, 2006, providing for simplification of procedures and for single window clearance on matters relating to Central as well as State Governments.

The main objectives of the SEZ Scheme are:

- a) Generation of additional economic activity;
- b) Promotion of exports of goods and services;
- c) Promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources;
- d) Creation of employment opportunities; and
- e) Development of infrastructure facilities.

The salient features of the SEZ Policy as per the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 are:

- a) SEZ is a designated duty free enclave to be treated as a territory outside the customs territory of India;
- b) SEZ Developers and Units will have Direct Tax and Indirect Tax concessions as prescribed in the SEZs Act, 2005;
- c) No license will be required for import of inputs for operations in SEZ;
- d) Domestic sales by SEZ units will be subject to applicable customs duties and Foreign Trade Policy in force;
- e) SEZ units will have freedom for subcontracting;
- f) No routine examination by customs authorities of export/import cargo; and
- g) The Unit in SEZ shall achieve Positive Net Foreign Exchange to be calculated cumulatively for a period of five years from the commencement of production;

2. On the questions of the Act, Rule, and Regulation and also on the provision and the time for laying the requisite documents of SEZs on the table of the House, the Ministry submitted as following:-

"Section 39 of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 stipulates as follows.

39. (1) Every Authority shall furnish to the Central Government at such time and in such form and manner as may be prescribed or as the Central Government may direct, such returns and statements and such particulars in regard to the promotion and development of exports and the operation and maintenance of the Special Economic Zone and Units as the Central Government may, from time to time, require

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (1), every Authority shall, as soon as possible, after the end of each financial year, submit to the Central Government a report in such form and before such date, as may be prescribed, giving a true and full account of its activities, policy and programmes during the previous financial year.

(3) A copy of every report received under sub-section (2) shall be laid, as soon as may be, after it is received, before each House of Parliament.”

3. Further, on the question about the pattern of funding to the organization by the Government, the Ministry in their reply submitted as under:-

“No regular budget is being sanctioned by the Government of India to SEZ Authorities for its normal functioning. The Lease Rental and other Maintenance Charges collected from the Units operating in the SEZ are the sources of funding for the SEZ Authorities.”

4. The Committee have, in their First Report (5th Lok Sabha) presented to the House on 08 March, 1976, 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 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.

5. The examination of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the four SEZs, i.e., (i) Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (VSEZ) Authority; (ii) Cochin Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) Authority; (iii) Kandla Special Economic Zone (KASEZ) Authority; and (iv) Madras Special Economic Zone (MEPZ) Authority for the years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020 by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (Lok Sabha) had revealed that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) had laid the requisite documents of these four SEZs for the years 2015-2016 upto 2019-2020 before the Parliament with delays ranging from 03 months to 13 months (approx.). Further, the requisite documents of all these four SEZs for the year 2019-2020 have not been laid till date.

The statement showing dates of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the abovementioned four SEZs, along with the respective extent of delays is placed at **Annexure-I**.

6. The Committee enquired about the reasons for delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the abovementioned four SEZs for the years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020. The Ministry in their reply submitted the following reasons:-

KASEZ Authority

The KASEZ Authority maintains its own funds/accounts under double entry system and generates its own resources. National Building Construction Corporation (I) Ltd (NBCC (I) Ltd.), a Navaratna CPSE, is the construction and maintenance agency for KASEZ. This office is in a position to complete the accounts and submit the same to the statutory auditor only after receipt of final accounts from that agency. There was delay in submission of the annual reports and accounts due to non-receipt of accounts from M/s NBCC (I) Ltd on time. Further, the COVID pandemic again delayed submission of accounts for the year 2019-20.

CSEZ Authority

The CSEZ Authority operates Estate, Power Distribution System and Integrated Water Management System. CSEZ Authority is a deemed power distribution licensee under Section 14(b) of the Electricity Act, 2003 and power distribution system is regulated by the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission. The objective behind obtaining the license is to attract investors to the SEZ by providing uninterrupted power supply and thus earn foreign exchange to the country. Similarly, CSEZ Authority manages an Integrated Water Management System which comprises of Water Treatment Plant, Common Effluent Treatment Plant, Incinerator and Biogas plant. Financial statements of each of these infrastructure facilities and a consolidated financial statement of CSEZ Authority have to be prepared. All these factors contribute to the delay in submitting the Annual Reports within the prescribed time which is not intentional. However, efforts have been taken to reduce to the time taken for preparation and auditing of accounts and translation and printing of annual reports.

VSEZ Authority

“Procedural delays and also due to the Lockdown imposed during 2019-20.”

MEPZ Authority

“Financial Year 2015-2016

- i. Delay in finalization of Accounts by Audit firm.*
- ii. Delay in Audit and Certification by CAG.*

Financial Year 2016-2017

- i. Delay in finalization of Accounts by Audit firm.*
- ii. Delay in Audit and Certification by CAG.*

Financial Year 2017-2018

- i. Delay in finalization of Accounts by Audit firm.*
- ii. Delay in Audit and Certification by CAG.*

Financial Year 2018-2019

- i. Delay in finalization of Accounts by Audit firm.*
- ii. Delay in Audit and Certification by CAG.*

Financial Year 2019-2020

- i. Delay in finalization of Accounts by Audit firm.*
- ii. Delay in Audit and Certification by CAG.*
- iii. Delay due to COVID-19 Pandemic.”*

7. The Committee also desired to know whether the Ministry agreed that 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 reply submitted that:-

“With due respect, the SEZ Authorities give utmost importance/priority to finalize the Annual Accounts, get them audited and submit them along with the Annual Report of Authority within stipulated time limits for being placed before the Hon'ble Parliament. However, all efforts are being made to ensure that the Reports are placed before the Hon'ble House before the given time lines. A schedule for finalization of annual accounts and annual reports was drawn in 2017 on the direction of Hon'ble Committee on Papers Laid on the Table and circulated among all Zonal Authorities for compliance. Since the finalization of reports involves various agencies, hence the delay occurs which is not willingly.”

8. The Committee asked the Ministry to furnish the information in respect of the finalization of requisite documents, i.e. from approaching the Auditors to laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Four SEZs, for the years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020. The information showing the chronological sequence of the actual time taken at different stages submitted by the Ministry is placed at **Annexure-II**.

9. The Committee desired to know as to whether the Ministry/SEZs 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 the following :-

KASEZ Authority

“Yes. The reasons are stated as below:-

The KASEZ Authority maintains its own funds/accounts under double entry system and generates its own resources. National Building Construction Corporation (I) Ltd (NBCC(I) Ltd.), a Navaratna CPSE, is the construction and maintenance agency for KASEZ. This office is in a position to complete the accounts and submit the same to the statutory auditor only after receipt of final accounts from that agency. There was delay in submission of the annual reports and accounts due to non-receipt of accounts from M/s NBCC (I) Ltd on time. Further, the COVID pandemic again delayed submission of accounts for the year 2019-20.”

CSEZ Authority

“CSEZ Authority has identified that it takes more time for finalization of accounts. It is because of the reason that as compared to other Zones, CSEZ Authority has three infrastructure modules – Estate, Power Distribution and Integrated Water Management System. Steps have been taken to streamline the accounts of each of the above heads in an effective manner.”

VSEZ Authority

“Annexure attached depicting the stages of submission of reports and delays if any caused during the years”

MEPZ Authority

“Yes, the Ministry has identified the delay in submission of Annual accounts and instructed the SEZs to timely submission of Annual Report.

In this regard, Ministry has circulated the schedule for Finalising the Audited accounts and Annual Report of SEZ Authorities vide letter dated 01.11.2017.”

10. 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 these SEZs, during these years. The Ministry in their reply submitted that:-

"As per the existing Rules, only Comptroller and Audit General of India will audit the Annual accounts of SEZ Authority. Once the accounts are finalised, the Office of the Accountant General is informed about the same and are requested to appoint the Auditors. Hence, no delay"

11. The Committee further 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 submitted that:-

"After completion of Audit by CAG audit party, this office will follow up and send reminders to the Office of AG for submission of SAR for onward submission to Ministry for placing the same before Parliament."

12. On the question as to whether the process of accounting, to facilitate speedy and timely compilation of accounts of these SEZs, was computerized, the Ministry submitted the following:

-

KASEZ Authority

“KASEZ Authority maintains its own funds/accounts under double entry system. Software has been developed internally for the estate management, which is used for raising bills to the units.”

CSEZ Authority

“The accounts are prepared under double entry system as prescribed. CSEZ is using a popular accounting software viz. Tally for the purpose of finalization of accounts.”

VSEZ Authority

“The Accounts of VSEZ Authority are computerized.”

MEPZ Authority

“This office has already computerized the compilation of accounts. Tally software is being used by MSEZA.”

13. The Committee also enquired as to whether these SEZs 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 the following:-

KASEZ Authority

“Accounts of the KASEZ Authority are maintained by a Chartered Accountancy firm M/s. DRC & Co. to ensure timely compilation of accounts. Further, the accounts are internally audited by M/s. Satish Khushalani & Co., another Chartered Accountancy firm to minimize audit queries at the time of audit by the C&AG. After internal audit by the independent Chartered Accountancy firm the same is sent to the C&AG office for statutory audit.”

CSEZ Authority

“The annual accounts of the CSEZ Authority are prepared by engaging a Chartered Accountant firm to minimize the audit queries. Action has been initiated to put in place an internal auditing mechanism.”

VSEZ Authority

“No”.

MEPZ Authority

“No, this office is not having any Internal Audit Mechanism on its own for auditing MSEZ Authority Fund. However, Internal Audit from Ministry is being carried out periodically in respect of MSEZA.”

14. The Ministry were also asked as to whether any time schedule had been laid down by the Ministry/these SEZs indicating normative time for completion of the task of each stage (Annexure – III) involved in the finalization of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts. In reply, the Ministry submitted that:-

"The Ministry vide its letter No.H-11020/1/2017-SEZ dated 1st November 2017, intimated all the SEZ Authorities the time schedule to be maintained for submission of the documents in terms of Section 37 of the SEZs Act, 2005."

15. On being asked about whether there was any mechanism in the Ministry to monitor the progress of work and also, whether any remedial measures had been taken or proposed to be taken both by the Ministry and these SEZs to ensure timely laying of documents, the Ministry submitted that:-

On the recommendations of the Committee on Papers laid on the table of the house, This Ministry has drawn a schedule to finalize the annual reports and audited accounts by the SEZ Authorities. No further mechanism has been developed by this Ministry. "

16. The Committee also desired to be made aware of the latest position regarding finalization of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of these SEZs for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 and, also as to how soon the same is expected to be laid on the Table of the House. The Ministry submitted as under:-

KASEZ Authority

"Audited accounts for the year 2019-20 have already been forwarded to DOC on 02/06/2021.

The accounting work for the period 2020-21 is not yet completed as accounting staff of the Chartered Accountancy firm were not attending office regularly due to COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown. Accounts from NBCC (I) has been received only on 23/07/2021. This office is hopeful of compiling the data and sending the same to the internal auditor by 1st week of August, 2021 and will be in a position to forward the same to the C&AG office by end of November, 2021."

CSEZ Authority

"The Annual Report for the year 2019-20 has been sent to the Ministry on 02-03-2021. In the case of 2020-21 period, annual account is being completed and it is expected that the auditing will be completed by 30th September."

VSEZ Authority :

“Audited Annual Accounts and Annual report for the year 2019-2020 in the forms of booklets in Hindi and English editions were prepared and forwarded to Department of Commerce on 20.04.2021. The delay is due to Covid lockdown. For the year 2020-21, annual accounts are under finalization.”.

MEPZ Authority

“The Annual Report finalised by CAG and submitted to the Ministry for placing before the Parliament.

Preparation of Annual Report of MSEZA is in progress and it will be completed by 1st of week of August 2021. The delay in submission is caused due to second wave of Covid-19 pandemic. All efforts are being taken by this office to complete the same with in stipulated time”

17. Consequently, as a part of the mandate of Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, the Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and these four SEZs i.e., (i) Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone Authority; (ii) Cochin Special Economic Zone Authority; (iii) Kandla Special Economic Zone Authority; and (iv) Madras Special Economic Zone Authority, on 09th August, 2021 to consider the matter of the delays in laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of these four SEZs for the years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020.

18. During the evidence, the Additional Secretary, admitted the delays and enumerated the reasons for the same. Explaining the reasons for delay on the part of the Ministry, he submitted that:-

“...we were waiting for all the seven Zonal Annual Reports and in one go, we wanted to submit them.”

He also assured that:-

.....“We will definitely push it... Actually, we were thinking that we will definitely be able to do it by December 31st....”

Observations/Recommendations

19. Consequent upon the examination of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the (i) Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (VSEZ) Authority; (ii) Cochin Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) Authority; (iii) Kandla Special Economic Zone (KSEZ) Authority; and (iv) Madras Special Economic Zone (MEPZ) Authority, for the years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020, the Committee observe that the Ministry of Commerce has laid the requisite documents of these four SEZs for the year(s) 2015-2016 to 2018-2019 with delays ranging between 03 months and 13 months (approximately). Further, the requisite documents of these four SEZs for the year 2019-2020* have not been laid, as yet.

The Committee is very disappointed with these consecutive delays in laying the requisite documents by the Ministry. The Committee recommend that the Ministry and the SEZs should lay the pending requisite documents for the year 2019-2020 at the earliest and also ensure that, henceforth, the requisite documents of all the SEZs are timely laid before the Parliament, within 09 months of the closure of the respective accounting year. The Committee opine that the Secretary to the Ministry, will keep up with the assurance given during the evidence in this regard.

20. The Committee further notice that this is the second instance, when the Ministry of Commerce appeared for oral evidence before the Committee with regard to the delay in laying of the requisite documents of SEZs. Earlier, on 13.10.2017, the Committee took oral evidence of three other SEZs i.e., Falta SEZ Authority, Kolkata; SEEPZ SEZ Authority, Mumbai; and Noida SEZ Authority, Noida in respect of the delay in laying the requisite documents for the years 2009-2010 to 2015-2016. Hence, it is evident that the Ministry and all of the seven SEZs have neither seriously followed the provisions of the SEZ Act, nor have they followed the recommendations of the Committee with regard to the timely laying of the requisite documents before the Parliament.

The Committee consider this as an act of wilful neglect and taking a serious note of the same, recommend to the Ministry and all the SEZs to ensure that the deadline marked in the time schedule drawn up by the Ministry, as per the recommendation of the Committee, for completing each task with regard to the finalisation of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of all the seven SEZs are duly met.

* The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2019-2020 were laid before the Parliament on 01.12.2021.

21. The Committee observe that there had been instances when the Ministry had taken long time in laying the requisite documents after receiving them from the respective SEZs. During the evidence also, the Committee were apprised about the practice being followed by the Ministry regarding waiting for the requisite documents from all the SEZs for being laid before the Parliament, together. The Committee recommend to the Ministry to initiate the process of laying the requisite documents before the Parliament, as soon as they are received from the respective SEZs.

22. During the evidence, the Committee desired that the Ministry/SEZs should create a web portal for online submission of all the data from these SEZs to the Ministry and also for sending automated reminders by the Ministry to any such SEZ, that is lagging behind the deadlines, at any stage, earmarked in the time schedule. The Committee, therefore, recommend to the Ministry/SEZs to explore this avenue to ensure proper check on the functioning of all SEZs.

23. The Committee also strongly impress upon the Ministry to note that in case of delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Organisations/Institutions etc., under its administrative control, due to unavoidable reasons, 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 or as soon as the House convenes, whichever is later.

New Delhi
13th December, 2021
22 Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

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

Annexure-I
vide para 05 of the Report

Statement showing the dates of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone Authority (VSEZ) for the years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020.

Years	Due date of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts	Actual date of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts	Extent of delay (approximate)
2015-2016	31.12.2016	18.12.2017	12 months
2016-2017	31.12.2017	02.04.2018	03 months
2017-2018	31.12.2018	17.07.2019	07 months
2018-2019	31.12.2019	10.02.2021	13 months
2019-2020*	31.12.2020	Not laid as yet	<i>N.A.</i>

Statement showing the dates of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Cochin Special Economic Zone Authority (CSEZ) for the years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020.

Years	Due date of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts	Actual date of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts	Extent of delay (approximate)
2015-2016	31.12.2016	18.12.2017	12 months
2016-2017	31.12.2017	23.07.2018	07 months
2017-2018	31.12.2018	17.07.2019	07 months
2018-2019	31.12.2019	10.02.2021	13 months
2019-2020*	31.12.2020	Not laid as yet	<i>N.A.</i>

* The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2019-2020 were laid before the Parliament on 01.12.2021.

Statement showing the dates of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Kandla Special Economic Zone Authority (KASEZ) for the years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020.

Years	Due date of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts	Actual date of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts	Extent of delay (approximate)
2015-2016	31.12.2016	18.12.2017	12 months
2016-2017	31.12.2017	17.12.2018	12 months
2017-2018	31.12.2018	11.12.2019	12 months
2018-2019	31.12.2019	10.02.2021	13 months
2019-2020*	31.12.2020	Not laid as yet	<i>N.A.</i>

Statement showing the dates of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Madras Special Economic Zone Authority (MEPZ) for the years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020.

Years	Due date of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts	Actual date of laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts	Extent of delay (approximate)
2015-2016	31.12.2016	18.12.2017	12 months
2016-2017	31.12.2017	30.07.2018	07 months
2017-2018	31.12.2018	11.12.2019	12 months
2018-2019	31.12.2019	10.02.2021	13 months
2019-2020*	31.12.2020	Not laid as yet	<i>N.A.</i>

* The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2019-2020 were laid before the Parliament on 01.12.2021.

Annexure-II
vide Para 08 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 (i) Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone Authority (VSEZ); (ii) Cochin Special Economic Zone Authority (CSEZ); (iii) Kandla Special Economic Zone Authority (KASEZ); and (iv) Madras Special Economic Zone Authority (MEPZ) for the years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020.

KANDLA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

Sub-Que-s-tion	Points	Financial Years				
		2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
7(i)	Date of approach to the Audit Authorities	28/03/2017	16/01/2018	14/11/2018	21/10/2019	11/11/2020
	Time taken after the closure of Accounting year	Approx 11 months	Approx. 9 months	Approx.8 months	Approx.7 months	Approx. 8 months
7(ii)	Date of appointment of statutory auditors	21/04/2017	12/02/2018	13/12/2018	13/11/2019	08/12/2020
	Time taken after the approaching the audit authorities for appointment of auditors	Less than 1 month	Approx. 1 month	1 month	Less than one month	Less than one month
7(iii)	Date of compilation of annual accounts	21/03/2017	28/12/2017	30/10/2018	29/08/2019	05/11/2020
	Time taken after the closure of the Accounting year	Approx. 1 year	9 months	8 months	7 months	8 months
7(iv)	Date of submission of annual accounts to auditors	28/03/2017	16/01/2018	14/11/2018	21/10/2019	11/11/2020
	Time taken after closure of respective Accounting year	Approx 11 months	Approx. 9 months	Approx.8 months	Approx.7 months	Approx. 8 months
7(v)	The date and duration for auditing the annual accounts by statutory auditors	21/04/2017 to 28/04/2017 - (8 days)	12/02/2018 to 21/02/2018 - (8 days)	13/12/2018 to 27/12/2018 - (2 weeks)	13/11/2019 to 26/11/2019 - (2 weeks)	08/12/2020- to 21/12/2020 - (2 weeks)
7(vi)	The date of queries raised by auditors during auditing/after completion of the Annual Accounts	21/04/2017 to 28/04/2017	12/02/2018 to 21/02/2018	13/12/2018 to 27/12/2018	13/11/2019 to 26/11/2019	08/12/2020- 21/12/2020

	Time taken by auditors in raising the queries during auditing/after completion of the Annual Accounts to Audit Authorities	7 days (during audit)	2 weeks (during audit)	2 weeks (during audit)	2 weeks (during audit)	2 weeks approx (during audit)
7(vii)	The date on which the replies to the audit queries were furnished to the Auditors	21/04/2017 to 28/04/2017	12/02/2018 to 21/02/2018	13/12/2018 to 27/12/2018	13/11/2019 to 26/11/2019	08/12/2020 to 21/12/2020
	The time taken to resolve the queries	1 week (during audit)	2 weeks (during audit)	2 weeks (during audit)	2 weeks (during audit)	2 weeks (during audit)
7(vii)	The date on which draft Audit Report was issued by Audit Authorities	18/05/2017	20/03/2018	29/03/2019	09/12/2019	04/01/2021
	Time taken after auditing of the annual accounts	1 month	1 month	3 months	2 weeks approx	2 weeks approx
7(ix)	The date on which the final Audit Report received by the Organization	24/07/2017	21/08/2018	18/06/2019	04/02/2020	22/03/2021
	Time taken after issue of draft report	approx. 2 months	Approx 4 and half months	approx 2 and half months	45 days approx	3 months approx
7(x)	Total time taken by the audit authorities after receiving of the annual accounts to furnishing the final audit report to the organization	Approx. 4 months	6 months approx	5 months approx	Three & half months	Approx. 5 months
7(xi)	Date of finalization of the Annual Report	20/03/2017	04/01/2018	02/01/2019	04/10/2019	20/08/2020
	Time taken after the closure of the financial year; and also	approx. 11 months	9 months	9 months	8 months	4 months & 20 days
	Time taken after the receipt of the final audit report	Prior to receipt of final audit report	Prior to receipt of final audit report	Prior to receipt of final audit report	Prior to receipt of final audit report	Prior to receipt of final audit report
7(xii)	The date on which documents were got approved from the competent Authority	25/07/2017	21/08/2018	01/07/2019	06/02/2020	23/03/2021
	Time taken after finalization of Annual Report	4 months	7 months	6 months	5 months	6 months
	Time taken after receipt of final audit report	1 day	3 days	15 days	2 days	1 day

7(xii i)	The date on which documents were taken up for translation & printing	16/10/2017	21/08/2018	02/07/2019	11/02/2020	24/03/2021
	The time taken for completing the task at each stage	1 month for translation & printing	2 weeks for translation & 1 month printing	2 days for translation & 1 month for printing	1 month translation & 2 months printing	49 days
7(xiv)	The date for sending the documents to the Ministry for being laid in the House after the completion the task at each stage	27/11/2017	12/09/2018	03/10/2019	25/06/2020	02/06/2021
	Time taken by the organization in sending the documents to the Ministry	20 months approx	17 months approx	18 months	17 Months	14 Months
7(xv)	The date of laying the documents in the House	18.12.2017	17.12.2018	11.12.2019	10.02.2021	Yet to be laid
	Time taken after receipt of the documents from the Organization	Reports has been laid on the table of the Houses at the next session after receipt of the reports				

COCHIN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

Sub-Questions	Points	Financial Years				
		2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
7(i)	Date of approach to the Audit Authorities	28-09-2016	23-08-2017	31-08-2018	18-07-2019	24-09-2020
	Time taken after the closure of Accounting year	6 months	5 months	5 months	3.5 months	6 months
7(ii)	Date of appointment of statutory auditors	06-10-2016	31-08-2017	14-09-2018	25-07-2019	08-10-2020
	Time taken after the approaching the audit authorities for appointment of auditors	8 days	7 days	14 days	7 days	14 days
7(iii)	Date of compilation of annual accounts	17-08-2016	02-08-2017	07-08-2018	04-07-2019	22-09-2020
	Time taken after the closure of the accounting year	4.5 months (138 days)	4 months	4 months	3 months	6 months
7(iv)	Date of submission of annual accounts to auditors	28-09-2016	23-08-2017	31-08-2018	18-07-2019	24-09-2020
	Time taken after the closure of respective accounting year	6 months	5 months	5 months	3.5 months	6 months
7(v)	The date and duration for auditing the annual accounts by statutory auditors	24/10/2016 to 01/11/2016 (9 days)	11/09/2017 to 19/09/2017 (8 days)	17/09/2018 to 04/10/2018 (18 days)	08/08/2019 to 26/08/2019 (19 days)	12/10/2020 to 23/10/2020 (12 days)
7(vi)	The date of queries raised by auditors during auditing/after completion of the Annual accounts	24/10/2016 to 01/11/2016	11/09/2017 to 19/09/2017	17/09/2018 to 04/10/2018	08/08/2019 to 26/08/2019	12/10/2020 to 23/10/2020
	Time taken by auditors in raising the queries during auditing/after completion of the Annual Accounts to audit Authorities	9 days	8 days	18 days	19 days	12 days
7(vii)	The date on which the replies to the audit queries were furnished to the Auditors	24/10/2016 to 01/11/2016	11-09-2017 to 03-10-2017	17/09/2018 to 05/10/2018	08/08/2019 to 26/08/2019	12/10/2020 to 23/10/2020
	The time taken to resolve the queries	9 days	13 days	19 days	19 days	12 days
7(viii)	The date on which draft Audit Report was issued by Audit Authorities	15-11-2016	19-10-2017	24-10-2018	16-10-2019	12-11-2020

	Time taken after auditing of the annual accounts	14 days	1 month	20 days	1.5 months	20 days
7(ix)	The date on which the final Audit Report received by Organization	02-03-2017	18-01-2018	08-02-2019	31-12-2019	24-02-2021
	Time taken after issue of draft report	3 months	3 months	3.5 months	2.5 months	3 months
7(x)	Total time taken by the audit authorities after receiving of the annual accounts to furnishing the final audit report to the organisation	5 months	5 months	5 months	5 months	5 months
7(xi)	The date of finalization of annual report	03-08-2017	20/03/2018	15-03-2019	28-01-2020	26-02-2021
	Time taken after the closure of the financial year; and also	16 months	11 months	11 months	10 months	11 months
	Time taken after the receipt of the final audit report	5 months	2 months	1 month	1 month	2 days
7(xii)	The date on which documents were got approved from the Competent Authority	20-07-2017	20-03-2018	15-03-2019	28-01-2020	26-02-2021
	Time taken after finalization of Annual Report	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Time taken after receipt of final audit Report	5 months	2 months	1 month	1 month	2 days
7(xii)	The date on which documents were taken up for translation and printing	20-07-2017	20-03-2018	27-03-2019	12-02-2020	26-02-2021
	The time taken for completing the task at each stage	5 days	2 days	6 days	2 months	4 days
7(xiv)	The date for sending the documents to the Ministry for being laid in the House after the completion the task at each state.	25-07-2017	22-03-2018	03-04-2019	27-05-2020	02-03-2021
	Time taken by the organisations in sending the documents to the Ministry	9 months	5 months	5 months	7 months	0 days
7(xv)	The date of laying the documents in the House	18.12.2017	06.04.2018	17.07.2019	10.02.2021	Yet to be laid
	Time taken after receipt of the documents from the Organisation	Reports has been laid on the table of the Houses at the next session after receipt of the reports				

VISAKHAPATNAM SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

Sub-Questions	Points	Financial Years				
		2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
7(i)	Date of approach to the Audit Authorities	17-08-2016	18-07-2017	17-07-2018	02-08-2019	03-09-2020
	Time taken after the closure of Accounting year	4 months 17 days	3 months 17 days	3 months 16 days	4 months 1 day	5 months 2 days
7(ii)	Date of appointment of statutory auditors	23-08-2016	25-07-2017	06-08-2018	09-10-2019	07-10-2020
	Time taken after the approaching the audit authorities for appointment of auditors	6 days	7 days	19 days	2 months 07 days	1 month 4 days
7(iii)	Date of compilation of annual accounts	09-08-2016*	10-07-2017*	10-07-2018*	12-07-2019*	03-09-2020*
	Time taken after the closure of the accounting year	4 months 9 days	3 months 9 days	3 months 9 days	3 months 11 days	5 months 2 days
7(iv)	Date of submission of annual accounts to auditors	17-08-2016	18-07-2017	17-07-2018	02-08-2019	03-09-2020
	Time taken after closure of respective accounting year	4 months 17 days	3 months 17 days	3 months 16 days	4 months 1 day	5 months 2 days
7(v)	The date and duration for auditing the annual accounts by statutory auditors	01-09-2016 to	27-07-2017 to	08-08-2018 to	09-10-2019 to	19-10-2020 to
		16-09-2016	09-08-2017	21-08-2018	29-10-2019	06-11-2020
7(vi)	The date of queries raised by auditors during auditing/after completion of the Annual Accounts	09-09-2016 to 15.09.2016	27-07-2017 to 08-07-2017	10-08-2018 to 20-08-2018	09-10-2019 to 22-10-2019	23-10-2020 to 02-11-2020
	Time taken by auditors in raising the queries during auditing/after completion of the Annual Accounts to Audit Authorities	9 to 15 days	1 to 10 days	2 to 11 days	1 to 13 days	4 to 13 days
7(vii)	The date on which the replies to the audit queries were furnished to the Auditors	15-09-2016	07-08-2017	21-08-2018	24-10-2019	02-11-2020
	The time taken to resolve the queries	1 to 6 days	1 to 10 days	1 to 10 days	2 to 15 days	1 to 9 days

7(vii i)	The date on which draft Audit Report was issued by Audit Authorities	29-09-2016	19-09-2017	30-09-2018	18-11-2019	18-12-2020
	Time taken after auditing of the annual accounts	14 days	1 month 10 days	1 month 9 days	19 days	1 month 11 days
7(ix)	The date on which the final Audit Report received by Organization	30-11-2016	06-12-2017	13.02.2019	21-01-2020	26-02-2021
	Time taken after issue of draft report	2 months 1 day	2 months 17 days	4 months 12 days	2 months 3 days	2 months 8 days
7(x)	Total time taken by the audit authorities after receiving of the annual accounts to furnishing the final audit report to the organization	3 months 13 days	4 months 18 days	6 months 25 days	5 months 19 days	5 months 24 days
7(xi)	Date of finalization of the annual report	30-11-2016	06-12-2017	13-02-2019	21-01-2020	26-02-2021
	Time taken after the closure of the financial year; and also	8 months	8 months 6 days	10 months 13 days	9 months 20 days	10 months 25 days
	Time taken after the receipt of the final audit report	7 days	13 days	1 month**	16 days	21 days
7(xii)	The date on which documents were got approved from the Competent Authority	07-12-2016	19-12-2017	14-03-2019	07-02-2020	19-03-2021
	Time taken after finalization of Annual Report	7 days	13 days	1 month**	16 days	21 days
	Time taken after receipt of final audit report	7 days	13 days	1 month**	16 days	21 days
7(xii i)	The date on which documents were taken up for translation & printing	07-12-2016	19-12-2017	14-03-2019	07-02-2020	19-03-2021
	The time taken for completing the task at each stage.	1 month	2 months	2 months 16 days	4 months 15 days	1 month
7(xiv)	The date for sending the documents to the Ministry for being laid in the House after the completion the task at each stage.	31-10-2016	31-10-2017	31-10-2018	31.10.2019	31-10-2020
	Time taken by the organizations in sending the documents to the Ministry (#)	4 months 13 days	4 months 4 days	7 months 9 days	8 months 5 days	5 months 19 days
7(xv)	The date of laying the	18.12.2017	02.04.2018	17.07.2019	10.02.2021	Yet to be

)	documents in the House					laid
	Time taken after receipt of the documents from the Organisation	Reports has been laid on the table of the Houses at the next session after receipt of the reports				

NOTE:

*7(iii) Date of approval by the VSEZ Authority.

7(xiv) Time taken for submission after cut off date.

2017-18:

** 7 (xi & xii) Development Commissioner Smt. Sobhana Rao got retired and meanwhile the Charge was given to DC, APIIC SEZ.

2019-20:

All the timelines got delayed due to prolonged lockdown conditions. And only 1/3rd Staff was attending offices.

MEPZ SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

Sub-Questions	Points	Financial Years				
		2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
7 (i)	Date of approach to the Audit Authorities	01/09/16	21.09.2017	12.11.2018	01.08.2019	24.09.2020
	Time taken after the closure of Accounting year	5 Months	6 Months	8 Months	5 Months	6 Months
7(ii)	Date of appointment of statutory auditors	31.10.2016	23.10.2017	11.12.2018	01.10.2019	26.10.2020
	Time taken after the approaching the audit authorities for appointment of auditors	2 Months	1 Month	1 Month	2 Months	1 Months
7(iii)	Date of compilation of annual accounts	22.08.2016	06.09.2017	11.10.2018	07.06.2019	02.09.2020
	Time taken after the closure of the accounting year	5 Months	6 Months	7 months	3 Months	6 Months
7(iv)	Date of submission of annual accounts to auditors	31.10.2016	23.10.2017	11.12.2018	01.08.2019	24.09.2020
	Time taken after closure of respective accounting year	7 Months	7 Months	9 Months	5 Months	6 Months
7(v)	The date and duration for auditing the annual accounts by statutory auditors	31.10.2016	23.10.2017	11.12.2018	01.10.2019	26.10.2020
		To	To	To	To	To
		11.11.2016	06.11.2017	28.12.2018	(25 Days)	20.11.2020
		(12 days)	(15 days)	(18 days)		(18 Days)
7(vi)	The date of queries raised by auditors during auditing/ after completion of the Annual Accounts	31.10.2016	23.10.2017	11.12.2018	01.10.2019	26.10.2020
		To	To	To	To	To
		11.11.2016	06.11.2017	28.12.2018		20.11.2020
		12 days	15 days	18 days	25 days	18 days
7(vii)	The date on which the replies to the audit queries were furnished to the Auditors	31.10.2016	23.10.2017	11.12.2018	01.10.2019	26.10.2020
		To	To	To	To	To
		11.11.2016	06.11.2017	28.12.2018		20.11.2020
		The time taken to resolve	12 days	15 days	18 days	25 days

	the queries					
7(vii i)	The date on which draft Audit Report was issued by Audit Authorities	08.12.2016	01.12.2017	25.01.2019	29.11.2019	19.12.2020
	Time taken after auditing of the annual accounts	1 Month	1 Month	1 Month	1 Month	1 Month
7(ix)	The date on which the final Audit Report received by Organization	03.02.2017	24.01.2018	18.07.2019	26.02.2020	22.03.2021
	Time taken after issue of draft report	2 Months	2 Months	6 Months	3 Months	3 Months
7(x)	Total time taken by the audit authorities after receiving of the annual accounts to furnishing the final audit report to the organization	3 Months	3 Months	7 Months	7 Months	6 Months
7(xi)	Date of finalization of the annual report	03.02.2017	09.02.2018	18.07.2019	26.02.2020	22.03.2021
	Time taken after the closure of the financial year; and also	10 Months	10 Month	16 Months	11 Months	12 Months
	Time taken after the receipt of the final audit report	1 day	15 days	1 day	1 day	1 day
7(xii)	The date on which documents were got approved from the Competent Authority	15.02.2017	25.05.2018	26.07.2019	17.03.2020	15.04.2021
	Time taken after finalization of Annual Report	12 days	3 Month 17 Days	8 Days	21 Days	25 Days
	Time taken after receipt of final audit report	12 Days	4 Month 2 Days	8 Days	21 Days	25 Days
7(xii i)	The date on which documents were taken up for translation & printing	22.02.2017	21.04.2018	19.07.2019	20.03.2020	Translation :30.03.2021 Printing :10.05.2021
	The time taken for completing the task at each Stage.	7 Days	35 Days	7 Days	3 Days	25 Days
7(xiv)	The date for sending the documents to the Ministry for being laid in the House after the completion the task at each stage.	27.02.2017	28.05.2018	01.08.2019	19.06.2020	11.05.2021

	Time taken by the organizations in sending the documents to the Ministry	5 Days	3 Days	5 Days	3 Months	1 Day
7(xv))	The date of laying the documents in the House.	18.12.2017	30.07.2018	11.12.2019	10.02.2021	Yet to be laid
	Time taken after receipt of the documents from the Organization	Reports has been laid on the table of the Houses at the next session after receipt of the reports				

Annexure – III

Statement indicating normative time for completion of the task of each stage involved in the finalization of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of all SEZs.

1	Preparation of annual accounts	30 th April
2	Auditing of account by independent CA	31 st May
3	Forwarding to Auditors and requesting Auditors to depute team	30 th June
4	Auditing by audit team	31 st August
5	Submission of draft SAR by Auditors	20 th September
6	Reply by Authority for Draft SAR	25 th September
7	Submission of final SAR by Auditors	30 th September
8	Getting translation in Hindi	10 th October
9	Forwarding to DoC for laying before the Parliament	31 st October

APPENDIX-I

THE EXTRACTS OF THE MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (2020-2021) HELD ON 09.08.2021

The Committee sat on Monday, 09th August, 2021, from 1500 hrs. to 1600 hrs. in Committee Room '01', Block-A, Parliament House Annexe Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Ritesh Pandey - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
3. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
4. Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal
5. Smt. Aparupa Poddar

SECRETARIAT

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

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE) AND THE (I) VISAKHAPATNAM SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (VSEZ); (II) COCHIN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (CSEZ); (III) KANDLA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (KASEZ); (IV) MADRAS SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (MSEZ).

1. Shri S. Kishore - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Amitabh Kumar - Joint Secretary
3. Shri Senthil Nathan S - Director
4. Dr. M.K.S. Sundaram - Development Commissioner, Madras SEZ
5. Dr. A.R.M Reddy - Development Commissioner, Vizag SEZ
6. Shri Akash Taneja - Development Commissioner, Kandla SEZ
7. Shri D.V. Swamy - Development Commissioner, Cochin SEZ

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

3-4. X X X X X

5. Thereafter, the Committee took up the case of the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the four SEZs i.e., (i) Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone Authority (VSEZ); (ii) Cochin Special Economic Zone Authority (CSEZ); (iii) Kandla Special Economic Zone Authority (KASEZ); and (iv) Madras Special Economic Zone Authority (MEPZ) for the years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020 pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce).

Then, the Committee called the representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) and the above-mentioned four SEZs to take oral evidence with regard to the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of these four SEZs for the years from 2015-2016 to 2019-2020.

6. The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of the Ministry and the four SEZs to the sitting of the Committee and informed 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.

7. Thereafter, the representative of the Ministry made a brief Power Point presentation on the above-mentioned subject. Then, the Chairperson mentioned about the delays in laying the requisite documents by three other SEZs i.e., Mumbai, Noida and Kolkata, who had appeared before the Committee to tender oral evidence in the year 2017 and pointed out the failure of the Ministry and the concerned SEZs, in not adhering to the rules under which they are supposed to lay the papers on time.

The representative of the Ministry admitted and apologized for the delays and also enumerated the reasons therefor. The representative also submitted that laying of the documents of all the SEZs together, was also one of the reasons for delays. They informed the Committee that they had, therefore, decided to lay the requisite documents of every SEZ without waiting for the others.

It was also informed to the Committee that efforts were being made by them to ensure that the requisite documents of the SEZs would be laid by 31st December every year. However, the Chairperson, was not satisfied with the response of the Ministry in the matter and reiterated that a concrete plan should be drawn to avoid similar delays.

The Chairperson then enquired about the feasibility of a portal through which automatic reminders could be sent to the organizations concerned with regard to timely laying of the requisite documents. The representative of the Ministry submitted that an e-portal had already been introduced by them for the SEZs i.e. www.sezindia.com to ensure timely laying of the documents and assured that the suggestion of the Committee will be definitely looked into.

8. Lastly, the Chairperson directed the Ministry to make efforts 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 above mentioned four SEZs for the useful discussion in connection with the examination of the subject.

The witnesses then withdrew.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX-II

THE EXTRACTS OF THE MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (2021-2022) HELD ON 13.12.2021

The Committee sat on Monday, 13th December, 2021 from 1500 hours to 1630 hours in Committee Room "C", Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Ritesh Pandey - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri PallabLochan Das
3. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
4. Shri Raja Amareshwara Naik
5. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka

SECRETARIAT

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

XX XX XX XX

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

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up the Ten (10) draft Reports/Action Taken Reports regarding the delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the following organisation for the consideration :-

- i. X X X X;
- ii. X X X X;
- iii. X X X X;
- iv. X X X X;
- v. X X X X;
- vi. X X X X;
- vii. X X X X;
- viii. Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (VSEZ) Authority; Cochin Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) Authority; Kandla Special Economic Zone (KSEZ) Authority; and Madras Special Economic Zone (MEPZ) Authority.;
- ix) X X X X; and
- x) X X X X.

4. After deliberations, the Committee adopted the all Ten (10) draft Reports/Action Taken Reports without modifications.

XX	XX	XX	XX
XX	XX	XX	XX

The Committee then adjourned.
