

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

83

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

EIGHTY THIRD REPORT

[Action-taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in the Twenty-Seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Legal Service Authority (NALSA), New Delhi]

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 26 July, 2022)



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

July, 2022/Sarvana, 1944(Saka)

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

Shri Ritesh Pandey - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

2. Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq
3. Shri Margani Bharat
4. Dr. A. Chellakumar
5. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
6. Choudhury Mohan Jatua
7. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
8. Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe
9. Shri Raja Amareshwara Naik
10. Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal
11. Smt. Aparupa Poddar (Afrin Ali)
12. Shri T.N. Prathapan
13. Shri Ramalingam S.
14. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
15. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Suman Arora - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. B. Visala - Director
3. Shri Raj Kumar Chaudhary - Under Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Eighty-Third Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee in the Twenty-Seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Legal Service Authority (NALSA), New Delhi.

2. The Twenty-Seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 23.09.2020. The Ministry of Law & Justice (Department of Justice) furnished their replies on 27.10.2020 indicating action taken on the observations/ recommendations contained in the Twenty-Seventh Report. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 4 April, 2022.

3. The Committee place on record their appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

4. The observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters at the end of the Report.

NEW DELHI
6 April, 2022
16 Chaitra, 1944 (Saka)

Ritesh Pandey
Chairperson
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

REPORT

This Report of the Committee deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations made in their Twenty Seventh Report (17thLok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of National Legal Service Authority (NALSA), New Delhi, which was presented to Lok Sabha on 23.09.2020.

2. The Action Taken Notes have since been received from the Government in respect of all the recommendations/observations contained in the aforesaid Report. Accordingly, the Statement showing the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Twenty Seventh Report (17thLok Sabha) is given in Appendix.

3. **The Committee in their Twenty Seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) had pointed out the failure of the Ministry of Law & Justice (Department of Justice) regarding the timely laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NALSA for the years 2015-16 to 2017-18 and recommended that the documents of the NALSA should be laid within the stipulated time in future.**

4. **The Committee appreciate that the Government have accepted all the recommendations of the Committee made in the said Report and have also taken steps for their implementation. The Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NALSA for the years 2015-2016 to 2017-2018 were laid with the delays ranging from 01 to 15 months and for the year 2018-2019, the said documents were laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated time period. However, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NALSA for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 were laid with the delays 2 months 17 days and 1 months 4 days. The Committee expect that the Ministry and NALSA to make concerted efforts to ensure timely laying of the documents of NALSA in future.**

**NEW DELHI
04 April, 2022
14 Chaitra, 1944(Saka)**

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

**STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/
OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THIS TWENTY SEVENTH REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

Recommendation Serial No. 13

The Committee note that the Ministry of Law & Justice have not adhered to the stipulated time line of laying of Annual Report and Audited Accounts of National Legal Service Authority (NALSA), New Delhi on the Table of the House within nine months of the closure of the accounting year. These documents for the years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 were laid on the Table of the House together, with delay of 15 months, 12 months and 01 months respectively. However, the documents for the year 2018-2019 were laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated time period (i.e. 27.11.2019).

Reply of the Government

The delay in laying of Annual Report and Audited Accounts of NALSA is regretted. It is submitted that NALSA will strictly adhere to the time schedule given as per the provision of General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017 in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of NALSA in the Parliament.

(Ministry of Law and Justice, OM No. A-60011/41/2018-LAP(JUS) Dated 27.10.2020)

Recommendation Serial No. 14

The Committee was apprised that the main reasons for the delay in laying the documents were mainly owing to procedural delay in connection with translation and printing of documents which takes considerable time, and the NALSA decentralized their set up all over the country in the form of State Legal Service Authority (SLSAs) at State Level and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) at district level. The Committee also note that the Authority has been requested to make suitable arrangements to ensure that these procedural delays do not occur in future. The Committee expects that concerted efforts of the Government shall continue to ensure timely laying of the documents of the aforesaid Authority in future also.

Reply of the Government

It is submitted that all efforts are being made to ensure timely laying of the documents of NALSA for the year 2019-20. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Annual Statement of Accounts of National Legal Aid Fund of NALSA for 2019-20 was sent to the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for certification on 16.09.2020. After audit by the CAG office and receipt of audit report, it will be translated into Hindi, printed and submitted for laying before the Parliament. All efforts are being made to complete this exercise before December, 2020.

(Ministry of Law and Justice, OM No. A-60011/41/2018-LAP(JUS) Dated 27.10.2020)

Recommendation Serial No. 15

The Committee also impress upon the Ministry that if due to unavoidable reasons, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the NALSA 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 within 30 days or as soon as the House meets, whichever is later.

Reply of the Government

It is submitted that all efforts are being made to ensure timely laying of the documents of NALSA for the year 2019-20. The suggestions of the Committee regarding actions to be taken in case of delay has been duly noted for future compliance.

(Ministry of Law and Justice, OM No. A-60011/41/2018-LAP(JUS) Dated 27.10.2020)

Committee on Papers Laid on The Table (2021-2022)**Minutes of the tenth sitting of the Committee**

The Committee sat on Monday, 4th April 2022 from 15:00 hours to 16:45 hours in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Ritesh Pandey - ***Chairperson***

***Members
(Lok Sabha)***

2. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
3. Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal
4. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
5. Shri Raja Amreshwara Naik

Secretariat

1. Smt. Suman Arora - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Sundar Prasad Das - Director
3. Shri Uttam Chand Bhardwaj - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the sitting and apprised them about the agenda.

3 . to 4. XX XX XX XX XX

6. Thereafter, the Committee considered the following Reports for adoption:

- (i) XX XX XX XX XX
- (ii) XX XX XX XX XX
- (iii) XX XX XX XX XX

(iv) Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2021-2022) in its Twenty-Seventh Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Legal Service Authority (NALSA), New Delhi.

After deliberations, the Report and Action-taken Reports were adopted by the Committee without any modification. The Committee authorised the Chairperson to finalise the Reports on the basis of the factual verification from the Ministry/Department concerned and present these to the Lok Sabha.

The Committee then adjourned.
