

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

84

**SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**EIGHTY FOURTH REPORT**

[Action-taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in the Twenty-Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority(APEDA), 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. Shri Munish Kumar Rewari - Additional Director
3. Shri Kundan Kumar - Committee Officer

## 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-Fourth Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee in the Twenty-Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), New Delhi.

2. The Twenty-Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 23.09.2020. The Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Commerce) furnished their replies on 21.12.2020 indicating action taken on the observations/ recommendations contained in the Twenty-Fourth 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**  
**06 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 by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in their Twenty Fourth Report (17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), New Delhi, which was presented to Lok Sabha on 23.09.2020.

2. The Action Taken Notes have 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 Fourth Report (17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) are given in Appendix.

3. **The Committee in their Twenty Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) had pointed out the failure of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Commerce) in timely laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Organisation since the year 2013-2014 and recommended that the documents of the APEDA should be laid within the stipulated time in future.**

4. **The Committee appreciate that the Government has accepted all the recommendations of the Committee made in the said report and has also taken steps for their implementation and the documents for the year 2017-18 laid on the Table of the House in stipulated time period i.e. 31.12.2018. The Committee also note that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the years 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 which were required to be laid on the Table of the House within 9 months from the closure of the respective financial years were laid on 11.03.2020, 10.03.2021 and 09.02.2022 with delays 02 months 11 days, 02 months 10 days and 1 month 09 days. The Committee suggest to the Ministry and APEDA to lay the Annual Report and Audited Accounts on the Table of the House together in future and shall continue concerted efforts to ensure timely laying of the documents in future.**

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

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

**STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATION/ CONCLUSION CONTAINED IN THIS TWENTY FOURTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.**

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority(APEDA), New Delhi

(Recommendation Serial No. 12)

The Committee has observed that despite repeated recommendations made by the Committee in their First Report (5<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) in Paras 1.16 and 3.5; Second Reports (5<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) in Paras 4.16 and 4.18 of and Second Report (6<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) in Paras 1.12. and 2.6 to 3.8 presented to the House on 08.03.1976, 12.05.1976 and 22.12.1977 respectively, that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Autonomous Bodies and Statutory Bodies are required to be laid within nine months from the closure of the accounting year, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the APEDA for the Years 2013-14 to 2016-2017 were laid on the Table of the House with delay ranging from 2½ months to 11½ months. It is, therefore, appeared that the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Commerce) as well as Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), New Delhi have not adhered to the recommendations made by the Committee from time to time.

Reply of the Government

Laying of Annual Accounts and Annual Report of APEDA for 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2016-17 were delayed due to delay in receipt of Audit Certificates. The longest delay occurred in laying the Annual Accounts and Annual Report for 2015-16, which was due to revision of Accounts as per the decision of APEDA Authority. To ensure that such delays do not occur in future, APEDA has been advised to adhere to a strict time schedule for various stages of finalisation of Annual Accounts and Annual Report.

(Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce  
O.M. No. 7/20/2020-EP (Agri.IV) Dated 21.12.2020)

(Recommendation Serial No. 13)

13. While examining the reasons for delay in laying of documents of APEDA the Committee note that there have been some delay for the years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2016-17 due to time taken in compiling information asked for by CAG audit team and issuance of CAG Certificate. The Committee also note the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the APEDA for the year 2015-16 were delayed more than 11 months due to the decision of APEDA Authority, to treat Basmati Development Fund (BDF) as specific fund, which was merged in APEDA accounts earlier on the advise of C.A.G. The Committee feel that the Ministry should have devised appropriate system to obviate such kind of delay as they are duty bound to fulfil Parliamentary Obligations to lay these documents within the stipulated time line. The Committee were, however, happy to note that the documents for the year 2017-18 were laid on the Table of the House by 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018 within stipulated time period. However, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2018-19 have not been laid yet.

### Reply of the Government

The Hon'ble Committee's observations regarding devising of a system to obviate delays in laying of Annual Report and Annual Accounts has been noted for a compliance. Department of Commerce, vide letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 (Annexure-I), has stipulated a time-frame for various stages of preparation and finalisation of annual accounts. APEDA has been advised to strictly adhere to the stipulated time-frame so that there is no delay in laying of Annual Report and Annual Accounts.

APEDA's Annual Reports and Annual Accounts, for the year 2018-19, have been laid on the tables of both the houses of Parliament-on March 11, 2020 in Lok Sabha and on March 13, 2020 in Rajya Sabha. The delay occurred as the Audit Certificate from the Principal Director of Audit was received only on 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. The delay is deeply regretted and this Department will take all possible steps to ensure that such delays do not occur in future.

(Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce  
O.M. No. 7/20/2020-EP (Agri.IV) Dated 21.12.2020)

(Recommendation Serial No. 14)

The Committee also observed that no specific time schedule has been laid down by APEDA for compilation of Annual Accounts, Auditing of Accounts, approval of documents from competent authority, translation, printing and processing. The Committee, however, feel that a time schedule is must for timely completion of these works for the sake of accountability. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a time schedule, on the lines of other organizations should be framed to avoid delay in future

### Reply of the Government

The Hon'ble Committee's recommendation has been noted for compliance. Department of Commerce, vide letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 (Annexure-I), has stipulated a time-frame for various stages of preparation and finalisation of annual accounts. APEDA has been advised to strictly adhere to the stipulated time-frame so that there is no delay in laying of Annual Report and Annual Accounts.

(Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce  
O.M. No. 7/20/2020-EP (Agri.IV) Dated 21.12.2020)

(Recommendation Serial No. 15)

The Committee also impressed upon the Ministry that if due to unavoidable reasons, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the APEDA 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 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

The Hon'ble Committee's recommendation has been noted for compliance.

(Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce  
O.M. No. 7/20/2020-EP (Agri.IV) Dated 21.12.2020)

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

The Committee sat on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> 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) Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2021-2022) in its Twenty-Fourth Report (17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), New Delhi; and

(iv) XX XX XX XX XX

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.