

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

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

98

NINETY EIGHTH REPORT

[Action-taken by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their Forty-Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Ghani Khan Choudhury Institute of Engineering & Technology (GKCIET), Malda.]

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 05.08.2022)



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
August 2022/ Sravana 1944 (Saka)**

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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

LOK SABHA
(2021-2022)

Shri Ritesh Pandey - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Barq
3. Shri Margani Bharat
4. Dr. A. Chellakumar
5. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
6. Shri Chowdhury 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
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. Shri Sundar Prasad Das - Director
3. Shri Uttam Chand Bharadwaj - Additional Director

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 Ninety sixth Report on the action-taken by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their Forty-Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Ghani Khan Choudhury Institute of Engineering & Technology (GKCIET), Malda.

2. The Forty-Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 13.12.2021. The Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education furnished their replies on 14.06.2022 indicating the action taken on the observations/recommendations contained in the Forty-Ninth Report. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 01.08.2022.

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 Observation/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters at the end of the Report.

**New Delhi
01 August 2022
10 Sravana 1944 (Saka)**

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

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (2021-2022), LOK SABHA

Action-taken by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their Forty-Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Ghani Khan Choudhury Institute of Engineering & Technology (GKCIET), Malda .

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 (2021-2022) in its Forty-ninth Report (17th Lok Sabha) which, dealt with the matter of the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Ghani Khan Choudhury Institute of Engineering & Technology (GKCIET), Malda, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education and which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 13.12.2021.

2. The Committee had made eight Observations/Recommendations in its Forty-ninth Report (17th Lok Sabha). The action-taken replies to all the eight Observations/Recommendations of the said Report were received from the Government on 14th June, 2022. Accordingly, the reply showing the action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Forty-ninth Report (17th Lok Sabha) is given in **Appendix**.

3. **The Committee takes note of the submission made in the action-taken reply furnished by the Ministry that it issues letter to all its autonomous organizations to adhere to the time schedule provided for the purpose of finalization of Annual Report/Audited Accounts and monitors the same in periodic Finance Committee and Board of Governors meetings. Further, the Committee was also apprised through action-taken reply that the laid down procedure for laying of Annual Reports/Audited Accounts, as provided by the Ministry is now being followed by GKCIET without any deviation.**

4. The Committee observes that after appearing before this Committee, on 5.1.2021, to tender oral evidence regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Ghani Khan Choudhury Institute of Engineering & Technology (GKCIET), Malda for 2011-2012 to 2019-2020, both the Ministry and the GKCIET have made concerted efforts, in this regard, as a result of which the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of GKCIET Malda, for 2020-2021 were laid on 20.12.2021, within the stipulated time. The Committee appreciates the efforts, made by both the Ministry and the GKCIET, in this regard and expect that the requisite documents of GKCIET Malda for the forthcoming years will also be laid within the stipulated time.

**New Delhi
01 August 2022
10 Sravana 1944 (Saka)**

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

APPENDIX-I
(vide paragraph 02 of the Report)

Reply Showing Action Taken by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education on the Recommendations/Observations Contained in the Forty-ninth Report of the Committee on Papers on the Table (Lok Sabha), Seventeenth Lok Sabha.

(Recommendation Serial No. 19)

The Committee is highly disappointed to note that the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) has failed to lay the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the GKCIET, Malda, before the Parliament within the stipulated time, even once since its inception in the year 2010. The delays for the years 2011 – 2012 to 2018 – 2019 ranged from 03 month to more than 7 years. Also, the requisite documents for the year 2019 – 2020 have not been laid before the Parliament as yet. This is in complete transgression from the earlier recommendations of this Committee and also the General Financial Rules. The Committee strongly recommend that henceforth, the Ministry and the Institute should follow these recommendations and Rules meticulously, to ensure that the requisite documents are laid before the Parliament within the time period stipulated therein.

Reply of the Government

Ministry issues letter to all its autonomous organizations to adhere to the time schedule provided for the purpose of finalization of Annual Report/Audited Accounts and monitors the same in periodic Finance Committee and Board of Governors meetings. The laid down procedure for laying of Annual Reports/Audited Accounts, as provided by the Ministry are now being followed by GKCIET without any deviation. This is evident from the fact that the reports of the Institute for the year 2020-21 have been laid before both the Houses of Parliament within the prescribed time i.e. before 31.12.2021.

(Ministry of Education O.M. No. 8-2/2020-TS.VII Dated 14.06.2022)

(Recommendation Serial No. 20)

The Committee was apprised that the absence of a regular Director since its inception and non-convening of the meetings of BoG due to not nominating the new Chairman, BoG/ Members/ lack of quorum etc. during the years 2014 to 2017, were the main reasons for the delay. The Committee is astonished by the fact that such a long time is taken in the appointment of a regular Director and also about non-convening of the meetings of BoG in this Institute. Further, the Committee is of the considered view that the appointment of Director and convening of the meetings of BoG is a routine procedure and hence, it should have been dealt with well in advance by the Ministry/ Institute, as this had led to considerable delay in getting approval of the requisite documents and subsequently, in sending them to the Ministry for laying before the Parliament.

The Committee desire to be apprised of the reasons as to why it took nearly 07 years for appointment of a regular Director and 03 years for non-convening of the meetings of the BoG. The Committee, further, desire to know that during the absence of a regular Director, why the OSD who was in the Institute till April 2015, till the joining of the regular Director in August, 2017, did not approve the pending requisite documents of the Institute, as this had rendered the very purpose of this temporary arrangement completely futile.

Reply of the Government

Ghani Khan Choudhury Institute of Engineering & Technology (GKCIET), Malda, , was established in 2010, under the mentorship of National Institute of Technology, Durgapur. The Audit of Accounts of the Institute was entrusted to C&AG only on 7th Oct., 2013. C&AG conducted audit of account of 2011-12 during 10th Dec., 2013 to 7th Jan., 2014 and instructed to recast the accounts on 27th March, 2014. The accounts were recast and were approved by the competent authority on 20th May, 2014 and the same was resubmitted to C&AG. Till April 2015, there was an

Officer On Special Duty as incharge of GKCIET. OSD was not competent authority to approve the annual accounts/annual reports as the competent authority to approve the same is BoG. For various reasons including absence of nomination of new Chairman, BoG/ Members/lack of quorum, etc., the meeting of BoG could not be held between 21st May, 2014 to 22nd September, 2017. Initially *there was no post of Director in the Institute. The post was got created on 5th September, 2013.* The appointment of regular Director was first attempted in Jan 2014. The post was advertised in the Employment News on 31st May, 2014. The Search-cum-Selection Committee, of which ChairmanBoG is ex-officio member, was also got constituted with the approval of Department of Personnel & Training on 11th July, 2014. However, in the meantime, term of the Chairman, BoG ended on 07th August, 2014 and the next Chairman could be appointed only on 11.02.2016. The fresh process for appointed of the Director was thereafter re-initiated and the regular Director was appointed in August 2017.

(Ministry of Education O.M. No. 8-2/2020-TS.VII Dated 14.06.2022)

(Recommendation Serial No. 21)

The Committee further note that the C&AG had asked GKCIET, Malda, to recast its accounts on two separate instances i.e., for the years 2011-2012 and 2012-13 and again for the years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. Also, it has been submitted by the Ministry in its written reply that there had been instances of mistakes/ errors in the accounting process of the Institute and that the Institute did not have “suitable staff for carrying out internal audit”.

The Committee, hence, recommend to the Ministry/ Institute to ensure that adequate professional manpower is appointed in the Institute at the earliest so that such mistakes/ errors in accounting process do not recur and accounts are accurately and timely compiled and handed over to the audit authorities.

Reply of the Government

GKCIET has already appointed additional administrative staff including two Assistant Registrars in November, 2021, one of the Assistant Registrar has been assigned the responsibility of the internal audit in the institute.

(Ministry of Education O.M. No. 8-2/2020-TS.VII Dated 14.06.2022)

(Recommendation Serial No. 22)

The Committee also note that the audit authorities took 4 ½ to 10 months in auditing the annual accounts of the Institute and furnishing the final Audit Reports for these years. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the matter of delay in the audit process for these years may be taken up with the audit authorities at the highest level to avoid similar delays in future.

The Committee would like to be apprised about the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The delay by audit authorities in respect of the year 2019-2020 *prima facie* appears to be due to COVID Crisis. Further, the report for the year 2020-2021 was timely received from audit because of which the requisite reports for the period could be laid within the prescribed time schedule. However, as recommended by the Committee the matter for the delay in respect of the year 2019-2020 would be taken up with the audit authorities.

(Ministry of Education O.M. No. 8-2/2020-TS.VII Dated 14.06.2022)

(Recommendation Serial No. 23)

The Committee is highly discontented with the past approach of the Ministry, in dealing with the matters pertaining to the functioning of the Institute. The Committee was apprised that the Ministry governs the Institute through their nominees in the Boards, etc. Hence, the Committee firmly believe that despite being fully aware of the issues of governance at the Institute, the Ministry had neglected the affairs of mis-governance at the Institute. The Committee strongly recommend to the Ministry to hold periodical meetings with the Institute to assist, guide and monitor its affairs to streamline the functioning of the Institute and also take necessary follow up action for a periodic review so as to avoid similar instances in future.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry assists, guides and monitors the affairs of the Institute by participating in the meetings of the Finance Committee & Board of Governors. The process of laying the annual reports and audited accounts has now been streamlined as is evident from the fact that the reports of the Institute for the year 2020-21 have been laid before both the Houses of Parliament within the prescribed time i.e. before 31.12.2021.

(Ministry of Education O.M. No. 8-2/2020-TS.VII Dated 14.06.2022)

(Recommendation Serial No. 24)

The Committee further note that the Ministry took nearly 03 months in approving and sending the requisite documents of GKCIET, Malda, for the years 2011-2012 and 2013-2014 to 2017-2018 and nearly 05 months for 2012-2013, after receiving them from the Institute on 09.09.2019 for laying them before the Parliament.

Reply of the Government

The Annual Report/Audited Accounts for the year 2011-2012 to 2017-2018 were received in the Ministry on 09.09.2019 from the Institute. At the time of receipt of the reports the Parliament was not in session. The Reports were submitted for signatures of the then Hon'ble Minister of State (MoS) for Education. However, for the reasons beyond control, the report for the period 2012-2013, which was also to be signed by MoS could not be submitted to the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariat. Therefore, only the reports for the years 2011-2012 and 2013-2014 to 2017-2018 were sent to Secretariat of the Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha secretariat on 06.12.2019. The reports for the years 2012-2013 could be sent to the Secretariat on 05.02.2020 for laying in the Budget Session, 2020. The unintentional delay is, however, regretted.

(Ministry of Education O.M. No. 8-2/2020-TS.VII Dated 14.06.2022)

(Recommendation Serial No. 25)

At the same time, the Committee has also taken note of the efforts put in by the Ministry from the year 2017 onwards, in the matter, which has brought about considerable improvement in terms of laying requisite documents of the Institute before the Parliament. The Committee, hence, expect that as a result of this, the requisite documents for the year 2019-2020 will be laid during the Budget session, as per the assurance given by the representative of the Ministry during the oral evidence and also the time schedule as laid down in General Financial Rules regarding completion of work at each stage from finalization to laying of the requisite documents of GKCIET, Malda would be strictly followed in future.

Reply of the Government

The delay, in laying of these reports for the year 2019-2020, had been mainly due to the unforeseen circumstances arising out Covid 19 Pandemic and the nationwide lock down due to the same. The Institute initiated timely action and after completion of all the formalities, submitted the Annual Account for 2019-20 to the C&AG on 29.06.2020. However, the final audit report was received only on 18.03.2021, apparently due to COVID crisis, as a result of to which the documents could not be laid within the prescribed time and could be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 29.11.2021 & that of the Rajya Sabha on 09.08.2021.

The Committee is informed that the Annual Report of the GKCIET for the year 2020-21 have been laid before both the Houses of Parliament within the prescribed time i.e. before 31.12.2021.

(Ministry of Education O.M. No. 8-2/2020-TS.VII Dated 14.06.2022)

(Recommendation Serial No. 26)

The Committee also recommend to the Ministry to note that if due to unavoidable reasons, in case of delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Organisations/ Institutions etc., under its administrative control, 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 strictly within 30 days of the expiry of the said period or as soon as the House meets, whichever is later, as recommended by the Committee in its earlier reports.

Reply of the Government

It is informed that the delay statement, which includes the chronology of events is duly signed by Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Education & is invariably enclosed while laying the Annual Reports where such reports could not be laid within the prescribed time.

(Ministry of Education O.M. No. 8-2/2020-TS.VII Dated 14.06.2022)

The Extracts of the Minutes of the thirteenth sitting of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2021-2022) held on 01.08.2022.

Committee On Papers Laid On The Table (2021-2022)

The Committee sat on Monday, 1st August, 2022 from 15:00 hrs. to 15:30 hrs. in Committee Room "C", Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Ritesh Pandey - ***Chairperson***

Members

2. Dr. A. Chellakumar
3. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
4. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
5. Shri S. Ramalingam
6. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
7. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav

Secretariat

1. Smt. Suman Arora - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Uttam Chand Bharadwaj - Additional Director

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

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration, four draft Reports and nine draft Action-taken Reports on the following subjects:-

i.	X	X	X	X	X;
ii.	X	X	X	X	X;
iii.	X	X	X	X	X;
iv.	X	X	X	X	X;
v.	X	X	X	X	X;
vi.	X	X	X	X	X;
vii.	X	X	X	X	X;
viii.	X	X	X	X	X;
ix.	X	X	X	X	X;
x.	X	X	X	X	X;
xi.	X	X	X	X	X;

- xii X X X X X; and
 xiii Action-taken by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their Forty-Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Ghani Khan Choudhury Institute of Engineering & Technology (GKCIET), Malda.

4. After deliberations, the Reports and Action-taken Reports as mentioned above have been adopted by the Committee and the Chairperson has been authorized by the committee, as per the factual verification of (narration portion) the Reports and Action- taken Reports, to finalize and present these Reports and Action-taken Reports to Lok Sabha.

5 -10 X X X X X

The Committee then adjourned.
