

PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA **RAJYA SABHA**

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (COPLLOT), RAJYA SABHA

Shri Tariq Anwar, Chairman, Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (COPLLOT) of Rajya Sabha, presented the 129th, 130th and 131st Reports to the Rajya Sabha on Monday, 8th August, 2011. The 129th report of the Committee deals with the laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore; Sarva Shikshana Abhiyan (SSA), Karnataka and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore on the Table of Rajya Sabha.

130th Report deals with the laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Mumbai; Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), Kolkata; Industrial Investment Bank of India, Kolkata & Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata on the Table of Rajya Sabha.

The 131st Report deals with the laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh; Research and Information System (RIS), New Delhi and Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), New Delhi on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

The important recommendations of the Committee contained in these Report are as under: -

129th Report

Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore

- 1. The Committee directed the Ministry of Human Resource Development to streamline the system and ensure that each stage involved in preparation of Reports of IIM, Bangalore reached in time.**
- 2. The Committee also felt that A mechanism also needed to be evolved, in consultation with C&AG, to simplify and streamline the process of statutory audit, as well as internal audit. The matter may be taken up with C&AG, both by the Institute and the Ministry, to reduce the delay in furnishing the Audited Accounts and audit certificate, so as to lay the Reports before Parliament, within the stipulated time of nine months.**
- 5. The Committee was of the view that persistent delays in laying the papers were a serious matter for which the Ministry and the organisation were accountable. The**

responsibility for the persistent non-compliance of statutory requirements and Committee's recommendations in this regard should be fixed.

Sarva Shikshana Abhiyan (SSA), Karnataka

7. The Committee recommended that the review statement should have been comprehensive enough, giving broad performance, so as to apprise the Parliament of the true and fair picture of the organisation.

9. The Committee found that mere computerization of accounts did not ensure timely finalization of accounts. It required skilled manpower, having proficiency, for timely finalisation of accounts. The Committee was of the view that persistent delays in laying the papers, was a serious matter for which the Ministry and the organisation were accountable. The responsibility for the persistent non-compliance of statutory requirements and the Committee's recommendations in this regard should be fixed.

Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore

10. The Committee was of the view that persistent delay in laying the papers was a serious matter for which the Ministry and the organisation were accountable. The responsibility for the persistent non-compliance of statutory requirements and Committee's recommendations in this regard should be fixed.

130th Report

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Mumbai

11. The Committee was of the view that persistent delays in laying the papers was a serious matter for which the Ministry and the organisation were accountable. The responsibility for the persistent non-compliance of statutory requirements and Committee's recommendations in this regard should be fixed.

12. Further, the review of the performance of the organisation, made by the Ministry, should be analytical, instead of being a routine statement. The Ministry must comment upon the financial and functional performance of the organisation against the set annual targets, so as to present a true and fair picture regarding its performance.

Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), Kolkata

13. The Committee was constrained to note that despite the persistent delay, the Ministry of Power failed to comply with the Committee's directive in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of DVC, to seek extension of time, stating the valid reasons well in advance. The Committee felt that the Ministry remained oblivious of the systemic bottlenecks causing the delays every year. The Committee was of the view that a persistent delay in laying the papers was a serious matter for which the Ministry and the organisation were accountable. The responsibility for the persistent non-compliance of statutory

requirements and Committee's recommendations in this regard should be fixed. The Committee impressed upon the Ministry to approach the Committee to seek extension of time, sufficiently in advance, giving cogent reasons for the delay.

14. The DVC and the Ministry of Power should have ensured strict compliance of the time schedule, so that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Corporation were laid within the stipulated time. In the event of not laying of papers within the stipulated period, the Ministry of Power should have also laid a statement on the Table of Rajya Sabha, giving reasons for the delay.

15. The Committee further observed that the reviews of the performance of the Corporation made by the Ministry have been very routine statements. In the review statements Ministry should present a true and fair picture of the performance of the organization.

16. The problem of Audit, Printing and Translation should be properly attended to by the Ministry and the Damodar Valley Corporation, so that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Corporation were laid within stipulated time.

Industrial Investment Bank of India (IIBI), Kolkata

17. The Committee was of the view that persistent delay in laying the papers was a serious matter for which the Ministry and the organisation were accountable. The responsibility for the persistent non-compliance of statutory requirements and Committee's recommendations in this regard should be fixed.

18. The Ministry should also have laid a delay statement and a comprehensive review statement, enabling the Committee to comprehend the real picture of the performance of the organization.

Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata

19. The Committee was of the view that persistent delays in laying the papers, was a serious matter for which the Ministry and the organisation were accountable. The responsibility for the persistent non-compliance of statutory requirements and Committee's recommendations in this regard should be fixed. In exceptional circumstances, where it is not possible to do so, the Ministry should lay a statement explaining the reasons for not laying them on the Table of the House.

20. The Committee observed that the delay was attributed mainly to the inordinate time allotted in releasing the draft audit report to the Kolkata Port Trust. However, the Port Trust submitted its replies within the allotted time of 10 days, but again 40 days were allotted for releasing the Audit report. The Committee recommended that the Port Trust and the Ministry should evolve a standard procedure that fits into laying of the papers within stipulated time of nine months.

21. The Committee also recommended that the response to the audit queries must be included in the report, so as to give true and fair picture of the organisation.

22. The Committee stressed the need to evolve a monitoring mechanism in the Ministry, to ensure that the time schedule is strictly adhered to.

23. The Committee also recommended that a comprehensive review on the working of the organization covering broad performance of the organization and a brief description of the critical areas, should be laid along with the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts. A review may present a true and fair picture of the functioning of the organization.

131st Report

Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh

24. The Committee was of the view that persistent delays in laying the papers, was a serious matter for which the Ministry and the organisation were accountable. The responsibility for the persistent non-compliance of statutory requirements and Committee's recommendations in this regard should be fixed.

25. Regarding delay in Hindi translation of Reports, the University should have expedited appointment of requisite translators, as approved by its Finance Committee. The University may also consider outsourcing the Hindi Translation at a competitive price.

26. The Committee expressed its strong concern over the prevailing trend of delays in approval of reports, due to the delays in holding meetings of the governing body of the Universities. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the competent authority and the administrative Ministry should adhere to a time schedule of the meetings of the governing bodies.

27. The University also must adopt IT-based computer network for updated accounts-keeping at the University. The University Departments should be asked to furnish their updated information to the nodal accounts office of the University. This should resolve the delay in compilation of annual accounts.

28. The Committee recommended that in future, in the event of delay, the Department must seek prior extension from the Committee giving cogent reasons for the delay. However, the Department should not go for repeated extensions on similar grounds, initial the Department and the University should strive to resolve the bottlenecks in the way of timely laying of Reports.

Research and Information System (RIS)

29. The Committee was of the view that persistent delays in laying the papers was a serious matter for which the Ministry and the organisation were accountable. The

responsibility for the persistent non-compliance of statutory requirements and Committee's recommendations in this regard should be fixed.

30. The Committee impressed upon the Ministry and the RIS that their obligation towards Parliament must not be compromised for want of the support staff. The Committee was constrained to note that despite considerable and persistent delay, the Ministry of External Affairs failed to adhere to its long standing directive to seek extension of time for valid reasons well in advance. Despite persistent delays every year, the Ministry remained oblivious to the persistent violation of the Committee's directive. The Ministry should take all possible steps to ensure that all the pending Reports were laid on the Table of the House, as early as possible.

31. The Ministry and the RIS should put in place a proper mechanism so that Annual Report/Audited Accounts of RIS were available to the Ministry well within time. The Committee emphasized upon the need for timely convening of meetings of the Governing Council/General Body so that delays in submission of Reports to the Parliament were avoided in future. These bodies should meet regularly to monitor performance of the institution.

Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS)

32. The Committee directed the Ministry to effectively supervise the timely completion of all the stages involved in the preparation and laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Society so that such delays in the laying of the papers were avoided in future.

33. The Committee further recommended that in case of delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), New Delhi, the Ministry should approach the Committee sufficiently in advance for extension of time.

34. The Committee impressed upon the Ministry to lay a copy of the statement giving reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts within the stipulated time.

35. The Committee expressed its concern over the ever increasing arrears of pending Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS). It indicated indifference of the Ministry in addressing and resolving issues that had constrained it from fulfilling its statutory obligation of laying the Reports before Parliament.

36. The Committee noted that the Ministry had conceded to have made mistake in not using the flexibility available to them under the rules that the AGM could be convened by the Minister, in the absence of Hon'ble President of India. Yet, such flexibility was not utilized for years. Subsequently, despite assurance given by the Secretary of the Ministry during her evidence to use that provision to clear the arrears by the Budget Session, 2011,

the Ministry chose to seek another extension on the same plea of non-availability of Hon'ble President of India to convene the AGM to adopt the Reports.

37. The Committee recommended that the Ministry must scrupulously comply with the requirement under Section 4 of calling an AGM at least once a year, to adopt the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Society. If needed the Ministry should utilize the flexibility available to it under the rules.

38. The Committee also recommended that instead of seeking further extensions, the Ministry should clear the arrears of pending Annual Reports/ Audited Accounts by the Monsoon Session 2011 of Parliament.

40. The Committee was of the view that persistent delay in laying the papers was a serious matter for which the Ministry and the organisation were accountable. The responsibility for the persistent non-compliance of statutory requirements and Committee's recommendations in this regard should be fixed.
