

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 132nd, 133rd and 134th Reports of the Committee to the Rajya Sabha on Friday, the 19th August, 2011. The 132nd Report of the Committee deals with the laying on the Table of Rajya Sabha the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

The 133rd Report deals with the laying on the Table of Rajya Sabha the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS), New Delhi; National Commission for Minorities (NCM), New Delhi and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi

The 134th Report deals with the laying on the Table of the Rajya Sabha the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL), Kolkata; UT Mission Authority, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Andaman & Nicobar Islands; and Board of Apprenticeship Training (BOAT), Chennai.

The Committee has asked the Ministries of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Railways, Minority Affairs, Home Affairs, Chemicals and Fertilizer and Human Resource Development to put in place a mechanism to ensure timely laying of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the organisations under their control, i.e. within nine months from the date of closure of financial year. And that, in case of anticipated delay, they should seek extension from the Committee citing convincing reasons for delay.

The Committee, however, cautioned the Ministries that repeated delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts were a serious matter and responsibility must be fixed.

The Committee also asked the Ministries to lay a comprehensive Review of the performance of respective organisations, along with the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts.

In respect of GAIL and PNGRB, the Committee observed that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas were to blame for the delay, as both the organisations had submitted their Reports to the Ministry, well in time.

In respect of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM), the Committee expressed serious concern over the state of affairs, in as much as the National Commission for Minorities chose not to avail the annual Grants-in-aid, as provided for in the Act, and rather persisted in drawing money from the annual budget allocated to the Ministry. The Committee found this practice contrary to the provisions and the spirit of Act. Therefore, the Committee recommended that while the relevant Section 10 should be retained, the Commission must avail the Grants-in-aid, as provided for in the Act, and maintain its annual accounts as per the requirements of Section 11 (i), and place them before the Parliament, as required under Section 13 of the Act.

In respect of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Committee expressed concern over non-compliance of the statutory provisions of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

In respect of Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL), the Committee express distress that the Annual Reports were delayed due to shortage of skilled persons in Accounts Section of the BCPL. Finalisation of the accounts was delayed due to retirement/VRS of senior experienced persons in the recent past. The Committee recommended that steps should be taken to ensure finalisation of accounts within the fixed time schedule.

In respect to Board of Apprenticeship Training (BOAT), the Committee recommended that the BOAT should suitably strengthen its internal audit machinery so that the process of finalisation of the Annual Accounts could be completed by mid-June each year. As regards the delay in the receipt of the final audit certificate, the BOAT has been directed to pursue the matter with the office of the AG (TN) to ensure that the issuance of the final audit certificate is not unduly delayed. Once the audit certificate is received, the meeting of the Board of Governors should be held early, for adoption of the Annual Reports and the Audited Accounts. The BOAT should ensure that the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts are sent to the Ministry by the end of October each year.
