

**Name of the Institution : Ministry of Finance, Planning and
Economic Development**

Parliamentary Series : 79

**Submission of observations of Hon. Minister and steps taken
with regard to the reports tabled by the Committee on Public
Accounts in terms of Standing Order No. 119(4)**

Parliamentary Series 79
Committee on Public Accounts

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Name of the Department : Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

Shortcomings identified by the Committee	Action taken by the Institution to rectify the shortcomings/ current status
Register of Risk was not maintained up to date basis.	Register of Risk has been prepared for the year 2022.
The required number of Audit and Management Committee meetings had not been held per year.	Even if the relevant agenda was prepared for holding audit management committee meetings for the second quarter in relation to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Treasury Departments, the second quarter meeting could not be held as planned, due to the crisis prevailed in the country. Meetings related to other quarters have been held as follows. 1st quarter - 03.03.2022 3rd quarter - 22.08.2022 4th quarter - 19.12.2022
The emblem of the state had not been painted on all pool vehicles.	The emblem of the state has been painted on pool vehicles owned by the Ministry. The emblem of the state is not painted on the vehicles used by ministers and senior officials of the ministry, due to security reasons.
Existence of outstanding loan balances for more than one year.	As per the F.R.113, measures have been taken to recover and waive off a sum of Rs. 909,403.00, which was the loan balances of 21 officers so far, out of the total amount of Rs.3,528,314.00 that was to be collected from 26 officers who were transferred, died, retired and suspended for more than one year. The amount of Rs. 2,040,420.00 which is the sum of the outstanding balances of 09 officers is being recovered and a loan balance of Rs.469,418.00 of two officials has been submitted to the Department of Legal Affairs to deal with them. Loan balance of one other officer is being recovered.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.

Additional Director General

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

Name of the Department : Excise Department of Sri Lanka

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

Number	Shortcomings identified by the Committee mentioned in the report	Steps taken by the institute to rectify the shortcomings/present status
01	Fixed Assets Module of the CIGAS Programme was not maintained up to date basis, in terms of Para 8.1 and 8.2 of the guidelines No 05/2022 dated 13.12.2022 issued by the Department of State Accounts.	The fixed assets module of the CIGAS Programme is maintained up-to-date in terms the paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2 of the guidelines No 05/2022 dated 13.12.2022 issued by the Department of State Accounts.
02	Register of Risk was not maintained up to date basis.	The Register of Risk is maintained up to date.
03	In terms of State Account Circular No. 171/2004 of 11.05.2004 the first password related to the government payroll software package was not used only by the accountant or by an authorized staff officer. In terms of State Account Circular No. 171/2004 of 11.05.2004 the first, the second and the third passwords of the software system was not changed every three months.	According to the Public Accounts Circular No. 171/2004 dated 11.05.2024, the password of the government payroll software package is changed.
04	Answers had not been sent to all the audit queries of the Auditor General within one month after receiving such audit queries. There had been instances where internal audit queries had not been answered within a period of 1 month.	This department consists 108 regional offices in addition to the head office. Answers to audit queries are obtained from regional offices and replies to the audit. Audit queries have been answered as quickly as possible thus far. However, the shortage of officers in the Department has affected the delay in duties.
05	The relevant reports had not been submitted to the Auditor General by the due date after conducting Board of Survey in accordance with F.R. 756 (6) within the time frame mentioned in paragraph 11.1 of Part 1 of Public Finance Circular No. 01/2020 dated 28.08.2020. No actions had been taken for the recommendations on excesses and shortages & other recommendations revealed by the Board of surveys.	The annual board of surveys have been conducted as scheduled and the relevant reports have been submitted to the Auditor General as per Public Finance Circular 01/2020 dated 28.08.2020. The recommendations of excesses and shortages revealed in the annual board of survey have been informed to the relevant authorities.

06	Daily running charts and monthly summaries of running charts of fleet of vehicles had not been submitted for the Auditor General on regular basis. The emblem of the state had not been painted on all pool vehicles. Actions had not been taken on accidents occurred to motor vehicles owned by the government as per the Financial Regulations.	According to the letter dated 22.02.2022, the running charts have been submitted to the audit division separately. Since most of the vehicles of the Excise Department are allocated for seizure duties, the state emblem has to be withheld. The F.R. investigations at the time of sending the audit query have been done thus far.
07	Bank reconciliation statements had not been prepared, certified and submitted for audit on the due date.	Bank reconciliation statements are prepared, certified and submitted for audit on due dates. Presently, The July 2024 bank reconciliation statements have been submitted for audit on 09 th August 2024.
08	Financial provisions had been allocated to other institutes beyond the due date.	No allocated provisions to other institutions has been made outside the prescribed period.
09	The balances in arrears exceeding 1 year had not been settled.	The number of deceased officers is 06. • One officer has been referred to the Attorney General. • Arrangements are being made to recover death gratuity in relation to the other officers. The number of officers who were dismissed, resigned and vacated the service is 11. • Currently, 5 officers are being referred to the Attorney General. • The number of officers who have been referred to the Attorney General is 01. • 3 officers have been referred to the Secretary of the Ministry of Finance for write-off of loan balances as per Circular 01/2004. • Proceedings are in progress with regard to the remaining officers. The number of retired officers is 13. • Only two officers are left to be recovered thus far. The number of indicted officers is 14.

		• 3 officers have been referred to the Attorney General. • 5 officers are being referred to the Attorney General. • Two officers have been reinstated. • Loans of the other officers are being recovered.
10	Action had not been taken as per F.R.571 in relation to dormant accounts.	Actions have been taken as per F.R.571 in relation to dormant accounts.
11	The balance in the cash book at the end of the year under review, were not remitted on time to the Treasury Operations Department as per the TOD circular.	The year-end balance in the cash book is now remitted to the Treasury at the end of the year.
12	The ad hoc sub imprests issued as per F.R. 371 had not been settled within one month from the completion of the task.	Arrangements will be made to settle the sub imprests within one month.
13	The differences disclosed by the imprest reconciliation statement had not been identified and no action had been taken to rectify them.	Differences in the sub imprests statement are identified and rectified on a monthly basis.
14	The revenue that was collected had not been reimbursed in terms of respective provisions. The revenue collected had not been directly credited to the revenue or not been remitted to the Revenue account within a period less than one month having maintained them in the deposit account.	Revenues that are collected are properly accounted.
15	Necessary action had not been taken regarding foreign grants in terms of the provisions of the state Accounts Circular No. 30/94 dated 20.04.1994. All money received as foreign grants had not been remitted to the official bank account of the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.	This department has not received any foreign grants in the year 2022.
Part Two		
16	There were no records maintained to document complaints received about not furnishing information required by the public and to provide explanations on action taken with regard to such complaints.	All complaints lodged by the public to the 1913 Operations Room of the Excise Department are immediately entered into the ecms.excise.gov.lk system and immediately forwarded to the respective Assistant Commissioner of Excise, Superintendent of Excise and Officers In-Charge of Excise Stations through the system and an online data system related to complaints is

		maintained. It is possible to provide the information requested by the public from any excise station in the Island through the said system. Further, if necessary, it is also possible to record and file the particulars related to all the relevant complaints.
17	Citizen/ Client Charter had not been prepared or applied properly as per the circular number 05/2008 of Ministry of Public Administration and Management dated 06.02.2008 as amended by circular No. 05/2018(1) dated 24.01.2018. A methodology had not been formulated to monitor and evaluate the application of Citizen/ Client Charter by the institution.	Arrangements have been made to compile and implement a Citizen/Client Charter as per the guidelines of the circular.
18	A human resource plan drafted in keeping with the provisions of public administration Circular No 02/2018 dated 24th January 2018 was not available.	A human resource plan has been prepared.
19	Performance agreements covering the entire staff had not been drafted or entered.	Performance agreements have been prepared.
20	Out of the training opportunities planned, the extent of training opportunities granted, was less than 50%.	In 2021 and 2022, it was not possible to conduct the planned trainings due to the Corona pandemic situation in the country. However, in the years 2023 and 2024, the staff trainings have been conducted as planned.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Excise Department of Sri Lanka for Parliamentary Series No 79.

Sgd.
Commissioner General
Excise Department of Sri Lanka

Name of the Department : Inland Revenue Department

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

	The shortcomings found in the report which have been identified by the committee.	Measures taken by the institute to rectify the shortcomings / present status
01	Fixed Assets Module of the CIGAS Programme was not maintained up to date basis, in terms of Para 8.1 and 8.2 of the guidelines No 05/2022 dated 13.12.2022 issued by the Department of State Accounts.	Fixed Assets Module of the CIGAS Programme is maintained up to date basis, in terms of Para 8.1 and 8.2 of the guidelines No 05/2022 of 2022 issued by the Department of State Accounts.
02	Register of Losses had not been updated & maintained.	Register of Losses is updated & maintained.
03	Register of Risk was not maintained up to date basis.	Action is being taken to prepare a Register of Risk.
04	Answers had not been sent to all the audit queries of the Auditor General within one month after receiving such audit queries	Every possible effort is made to answer the audit queries of the Auditor General on time. However, sometimes delays may be occurred due to the following reasons. • Limiting of officers from reporting to duty because of COVID pandemic. • Giving priority to achieve high revenue targets during the last several months of the 06 month duration. (Despite 1/3 of vacancies from the approved cadre prevailed) • In addition, spending a considerable time on other incentive targets to be achieved (tax registration etc.) • Spending time for the training sessions held for the staff time to time. • Since a number of audit queries were received by one unit, it is difficult to answer all the audit queries on time.

		Eg :- RAMIS
05	Answers had not been sent to all the audit queries of the Auditor General within one month after receiving such audit queries	Every possible effort is made to answer the audit queries of the Auditor General on time. However, sometimes delays may be occurred due to the following reasons. • Limiting of officers from reporting to duty because of COVID pandemic. • Giving priority to achieve high revenue targets during the last several months of the 06 month duration.(Despite 1/3 of vacancies from the approved cadre prevailed) • In addition, spending a considerable time on other incentive targets to be achieved (tax registration etc.) • Spending time for the training sessions held for the staff time to time.
06	The required number of Audit and Management Committee meetings had not been held per year.	I kindly state that in compliance with the Public Administrative Circular 16/2022 and the circulars which were issued subsequently, since calling officers to the duty was limited at the government offices, from the 04 Audit and Management Committee Meetings which were scheduled to be held in 2022, it was unable to hold the Audit and Management Committee Meetings relevant to the second quarter.
07	Information about purchases of assets and disposals relating to year 2018 had not been submitted to the Comptroller General's Office in terms of Paragraph 07 of the Asset Management Circular No. 01/2017 of 26.06.2017.	Arrangements are made to submit information on purchases of assets and disposals quarterly to the Comptroller General's Office in terms of the Asset Management Circular No. 01/2017
08	The relevant reports had not been submitted to the Auditor General by the due date after conducting Board of Survey in accordance with F.R. 756 (6) within the time frame mentioned in paragraph 11.1 of Part 1 of Public Finance Circular No. 01/2020 dated 28.08.2020.	Board of Survey for the year ended as at 31.12.2022 has been conducted and the reports have been submitted to the Audit Divisions by 11.05.2023. The reports on disposal of goods have been submitted on 11.11.2023.

09	No actions had been taken for the recommendations on excesses and shortages & other recommendations revealed by the Board of surveys.	Adjustments have been made with relevant to excesses and shortages for the year ended as at 31.12.2022 of several units which have been identified by the Board of Survey reports. Further, each unit has been informed to properly maintain inventories following the instructions of all the circulars pertaining to non-financial asset management and action has been taken to sufficiently supervise it.
10	The emblem of the state had not been painted on all pool vehicles.	Since these vehicles are used for investigations, the emblem of the state has not been painted on them.
11	Condemned vehicles had not been disposed of within a period of less than 8 months after condemning.	A Special Board of Survey has been appointed to identify the vehicles to be disposed and future action will be taken after obtaining the report consists of relevant recommendations.
12	Actions had not been taken on accidents occurred to motor vehicles owned by the government as per the Financial Regulations.	Action has been taken to appoint investigation boards and take relevant measures in terms of Financial Regulations.
13	The balances in arrears exceeding 1 year had not been settled.	Action is being taken in respect of the balances in arrears in terms of Public Finance Circular 01/2024 and to recover other loan balances with immediate effect.
14	Action had not been taken as per F.R.571 in relation to dormant accounts.	Action has been taken to date in respect of the dormant deposits in the General Deposit Account as at 28.02.2022 in terms of F.R. 571. The relevant institute has been informed to submit necessary documents to settle the amount of Rs. 5000/= which was deposited on 29 th March 2022.
15	The ad hoc sub imprests issued as per F.R. 371 had not been settled within one month from the completion of the task.	Action was taken to settle imprests within a period not less than 10 days from the issue of sub imprests .
16	Ad hoc interim imprests exceeding approved limits as per FR 371 were issued.	Action has been taken to issue ad hoc sub imprests within the limit of F.R.371.

Parliamentary Series No. :- 79

Name of the Institute :- Inland Revenue Department

Part II :- 76.00

	The shortcomings found in the report which have been identified by the committee.	Measures taken by the institute to rectify the shortcomings / present status
01	Performance agreements covering the entire staff had not been drafted or entered.	In terms of the Public Administration Circular 02/2018(I) signing of "Annual Performance Agreements" is not further required. Herewith attached a copy of the relevant circular. (Annexure – 01)
02	Out of the training opportunities planned, the extent of training opportunities granted, was less than 50%.	100% completed.
03	The audit opinion about the accounts of the institution had been a qualified opinion/disclaimed opinion/ an unfavorable opinion.	The following action has been taken in respect of "Auditor General's Summary Report – 1.6.1 and 1.6.2" regarding the audit opinion on the accounts of the institute.
04	Recommendations indicated in the Auditor General's Report had not been implemented.	1.6.1.1 & 1.6.1.2 It is observed that there are differences when comparing the tax revenue paid by the taxpayers related to each tax pertaining to tax administration (the revenue received by the government as per the statements of the department) and the revenue received by the Treasury as confirmed due to the following reasons. • A payment which is made after 3.00 p.m. of the last day in the month under OTTP is transferred to the Treasury on the first day of the following month and stating in the records of the Department as at the date of payment. • Taking time to make some settlements regarding bank errors. • Dishonoring of cheques. 1.6.1.3 It appears that the remaining balance of the control account is a general value relevant to the various types of taxes. Since it is difficult to

	recognize the net value of each tax, it is stated as a general value and a portion of VAT may be available within that balance. When paying tax, since the taxpayer makes it as VAT (000000000-7000) such tax could not be divided as financial services, production or other services. However, when the payment relevant to the said balance is credited to TIN in the following month, it will be reserved under the correct revenue code. Since this process is constant, this balance could never be made a zero balance. 1.6.2 Non-financial Assets • The land of Nuwaraeliya Regional Office has been estimated and accounted. The Inland Revenue Department does not possess a deed for the land where Kurunegala Regional Office is situated. However, Commissioner of Kurunegala Regional Office is making efforts to confirm the ownership of this land through deeds of the adjoining lands. It is expected to obtain an assessment report and take future measures after getting confirmed the accuracy. • The assets prevailed as at 31.12.2021 were removed and all the assets were re-accounted to the CIGAS programme in 2022. Even though these 05 vehicles have been transferred to the Police Department in 2022, when it had been re-entered in 2021 considering as a transfer, that amount had been removed by an oversight and opening balance had been entered. However, the value of vehicles had been stated accurately as Rs. 246,787,150/= as at 31.12.2022. Even though not included as disposals in the year, that amount had been
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		removed from the opening balance and under-valued. However, the closing balance is accurate.
05	The directives/ recommendations issued by the Committee on Public Accounts had not been implemented.	07 institutes have been linked under RAMIS as follows. 1. Sri Lanka Customs 2. Department of the Registrar of Companies 3. Bank of Ceylon 4. Ministry of Finance 5. LankaClear (Pvt.) Ltd. 6. Department of Motor Traffic 7. People's Bank There are 06 institutes to be linked under RAMIS. Viz; 1. Banks 2. Financial Institutes 3. Share Market 4. Department of the Registrar of Companies 5. Department of Immigration and Emigration 6. Excise Department - Receipt of cheques for income tax has been stopped in respect of dishonoured cheques in compliance with the circular No. 2378/33. (Annexure 02)
06	The necessary action had not been taken to recover the loss caused to the Government by the officers as per Financial Regulation 156 (1).	At the investigations conducted during the relevant time period, no incident of surpassing F.R. 156(1) was reported.
07	Surcharges ordered to pay as per FR 119 had not been recovered.	No incidents exceeding the relevant limit to recover surcharge was reported.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Inland Revenue **Department** of Sri Lanka for Parliamentary Series No 79.

Sgd.
Commissioner General
Inland Revenue Department of Sri Lanka

Name of the Department : Sri Lanka Customs

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

	<u>Shortcomings, mentioned in the report and identified by the Committee</u>	<u>Steps, taken by the Institution to rectify shortcomings/ Current status</u>
Part I: 83.00		
1	Answers had not been sent to all the audit queries of the Auditor General within one month	There may be some delays as the final answer is prepared by collecting information from various directorates from the Department of Customs. However, actions have been taken to answer within one month for all the other occasions.
2	There had been instances where internal audit queries had not been answered within a period of 1 month	Relevant institutions are informed through covering letters to reply audit queries within 14 days and reminders are also sent. In addition, it is informed in Audit and Management Committee meetings too.
3	The required number of Audit and Management Committee meetings had not been held during the year under review.	It was impossible to hold meetings as scheduled as attendance of officers was limited and transport difficulties due to the fuel crisis, prevailed in the country and meetings in the year 2023 have been held as scheduled.
4	No actions had been taken for the recommendations on excesses and shortages & other recommendations revealed by the Board of surveys.	Relevant directorates have been informed properly on excesses and shortages, revealed by the Board of Surveys for the year ending on 31.12.2023 and it is expected to proceed accordingly. As such, a committee has been appointed to dispose of goods, mentioned in General 47 and actions are being taken now. It is expected to finalize that process expeditiously and to inform the Auditor General and the Director General of Public Finance.
5	The emblem of the state had not been painted on all pool vehicles.	It may be a hindrance to display state emblem or customs emblem on customs pool vehicles for secret customs raids and therefore it is not practical and the state emblem and customs emblem are displayed temporarily for general duty travels.
6	Condemned vehicles had not been disposed of within a period of less than 8 months after condemning	In terms of F.R. 770 (4) amended by Public Finance Circular 01/2020, a special board of survey has been appointed to identify vehicles to be disposed and 04 vehicles have been identified to be disposed. Accordingly, actions are being taken to appoint valuation boards and boards of disposals.

	<u>Shortcomings, mentioned in the report and identified by the Committee</u>	<u>Steps, taken by the Institution to rectify shortcomings/ Current status</u>
7	Actions had not been taken on accidents occurred to motor vehicles owned by the government as per the Financial Regulations.	Since the officers, appointed for investigations are busy, it will get delay to submit relevant investigation reports on time and therefore final reports of F.R. (104) have not been finalized within the prescribed period. Actions are being taken to conduct relevant investigations during the prescribed period and to finalize ongoing investigations expeditiously in the future.
8	Actions had not been taken on accidents occurred to motor vehicles owned by the government as per the Financial Regulations.	In terms of the Public Finance circular 01/2024 dated 29.05.2024, actions are being taken to recover loan balances in arrears.
9	The Ad hoc sub imprests issued as per F.R. 371 had not been settled within one month from the completion of the task.	Relevant officers have been informed to settle ad hoc sub imprests as soon as the completion of the task.
10	Ad hoc interim imprests exceeding approved limits as per FR 371 were issued.	When the interim imprests exceed approved limits under the approval of the Director General of customs, then actions have been taken to issue interim imprests after obtaining the approval of the Department of Treasury Operations.
Part 2 : 73.00		
1	The institution had failed to identify the sustainable development goals applicable to its scope.	Actions have been taken by Sri Lanka Customs to prepare a strategic plan targeting 2024-2028 years by the year 2023 and actions are being taken to achieve targets therein. Following Sustainable Development Goals relevant to such main targets have already been identified. 1. Duly collect state revenue. 2. Facilitate international trade. 3. Implement customs law and other relevant laws and take actions against frauds. 4. Take actions to protect social, environmental and national heritages.
2	The targets to be reached to achieve the identified sustainable goals had not been decided.	Targets, strategies and activities, identified to achieve main institutional targets connected with sustainable development goals mentioned above 1 have divided under sub topics. It has been referred to relevant directorates of the department to prepare Action Plan and Performance Plan to achieve targets, based on such aims and actions have been taken to evaluate such performances half yearly and annually.
3	The indicators to measure the progress of implementation of Sustainable Development Goals been had not been set.	Key Performance Indicators, relevant to achieve Sustainable Development Goals of the institution have been identified.
4	Citizen/ client charter had not been prepared or applied properly as per the circular	Duty of the Customs is directly connected with the international trade and it should be performed in

	<u>Shortcomings, mentioned in the report and identified by the Committee</u>	<u>Steps, taken by the Institution to rectify shortcomings/ Current status</u>
	number 05/2008 of Ministry of Public Administration and Management dated 06.02.2008 as amended by circular No. 05/2018(1) dated 24.01.2018.	accordance with international policies and international agreements. KYOTO Convention, Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO-TFA) signed with the World Trade Organization are some examples for this. Accordingly, conventions, prepared on supply of service shall be always consistent with the contents of international agreements and conventions. Sri Lanka Customs has already identified the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), regarding duties of Customs for clients and some of them have been published. Further, it has been scheduled to conduct a study on the duration to release imported goods in the future and this will enable the clients to access departmental web site to obtain information.
5	The human resource development plan that had been prepared, did not ensure at least a minimum training opportunity of not less than 12 hours per year for more than 50% of the member of the staff.	Skills development training programs and local training courses covering subject fields which exceed 12 hours for employees from primary level to senior posts are now being conducted in line with the annual Action Plan. In addition, Additional Director Generals of Customs who hold posts of Senior Management level participate in local and foreign seminars and workshops, organized under special subject fields. Further, necessary actions will be taken to enter local training courses on management for Additional Director Generals of Customs into the annual Action Plan and to organize such courses in the future.
6	Performance agreements covering the entire staff had not been drafted or entered.	Performance evaluation of all the officers will be done and it is expected to make required awareness and to take actions as per the Public Administration Circular No. 02/2018.
7	The audit opinion about the accounts of the institution had been a qualified opinion.	In terms of Section 11(1) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, actions are being taken to rectify the facts, used as the basis for the qualified opinion of the summary report of the Auditor General on Financial Statement of Sri Lanka Customs for the year ending on 31 st December 2023.
8	All public officers had not submitted their declarations of assets and liabilities. D	Actions are being taken to make aware and to collect Declarations of Assets and Liabilities of the officers concerned.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Sri Lanka Customs for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Commissioner General
Sri Lanka Customs

Name of the Department : Department of Census and Statistics

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

Part One: 92.00

Se. No.	Shortcomings Identified by the Committee	Action taken by the Institution to rectify the shortcomings / current status
01	Information about purchases of assets and disposals relating to year 2018 had not been submitted to the comptroller General's office in terms of Paragraph 07 of the Asset Management Circular No. 01/2017 of 26.06.2017.	Instructions have been given to look into the purchases of the year 2018 and the items purchased in the year 2023 have been accounted for.
02	A suitable liaison officer appointed to coordinate the implementation of the provisions of the circular and the details of the nominated officer were not sent to the comptroller General's office in terms of paragraph 13 of the aforesaid circular.	According to paragraph 13 of the asset management circular No. 01/2017, Mr. S.A.R. Sampath, the Accountant has been nominated as a coordinating officer to implement the circular provisions and it has been informed through a letter to the Comptroller General's office.
03	No actions had been taken for the recommendations on excesses and shortages and other recommendations revealed by the Board of Surveys.	Surpluses were recorded in the inventory but action had to be taken in respect of deficiencies, as per F.R. 104. Accordingly, a considerable time had to be spent by the committee appointed to investigate the relevant information and obtain statements. Accordingly, the preliminary report related to the investigation has been given by the committee and the relevant writings off are being done and further investigations are being carried out
04	The emblem of the state had not been painted on all pool vehicles.	The necessary information has been submitted to the Accounts Division to carry out the procurement activities for painting the State emblems on the vehicles.

05	Condemned vehicles had not been disposed of within a period of less than 8 months after condemning.	The registration of vehicles bearing numbers GD-5581 and GD-5584 has been canceled from the Department of Motor Transport and handed over to the Vocational Training Authority for use for training purposes. The registration of the vehicle bearing number PB – 8063, has not been canceled by the Department of Motor Transport. The report 104(4) of the committee appointed regarding the vehicle No. PC – 2421 has been submitted to the Ministry of Finance and further activities are being done in respect of the recommendations given by the report.
06	The balances in arrears exceeding 1 year had not been settled.	The measures taken to settle the loan balance and the details related to the current situation are given under Annexure 01.
07	Necessary action had not been taken regarding foreign grants in terms of the provisions of the state Accounts Circular No 30/94 dated 20.04.1994.	• These allocations are utilized to cover the costs of the pilot study to be conducted in 2024 for implementing the decisions taken at the 19th, 20th and 21st International Conferences of Labor Statisticians. It is expected to utilize a portion of these allocations to purchase the necessary devices and establish the facilities in the Department, including the relevant questionnaires in the planning of the work and in preparing the work required to get assistance of international experts through remote online method for preparation of schedules. A request has already been forwarded to the Ministry Secretary to get the necessary approval for the same. Based on the results of the pilot survey, it is proposed to update the schedule and utilize the money for conducting the survey in the ensuing years. • The foreign funds allocated for the census of children in orphanages carried out in 2019 with the help of UNICEF at the request of the Department of Probation and Child

		Protective Services in 2019 were retained in the Deposit Account due to delay in receiving approval for payment. Since the approval has already been granted for payment measures are being taken to make payments.
08	All money received as foreign grants had not been remitted to the official bank account of the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.	Although these activities were expected to carry out during the last few years, the activities could not be implemented as planned due to the Covid-19 epidemic and the economic crisis in the country. Accordingly, you are kindly informed that it was required to further retain this money in order to carry out the said tasks by utilizing the said amount in the year 2024.

Parliamentary Series Number: 79

Name of Institution: Department of Census and Statistics.

Part Two: 71.00

Se. No.	Shortcomings Identified by the Committee	Action taken by the Institution to rectify the shortcomings / current status
01	The institution had failed to identify the sustainable development goals applicable to its scope.	The Department of Census and Statistics has the responsibility of achieving target 17.18 under the Goal 17 in the process of attaining the Sustainable Development goals. The indicator 17.18.2 and 17.18.3 have been identified by the department. Accordingly, the department undertakes the necessary actions to fulfill Sustainable Development target 17.18. In addition, the major role assigned to the Department of Census and Statistics in the process of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is to provide the necessary indicators for measuring progress towards the goals based on the censuses and surveys conducted by the department. Accordingly, the department is responsible for providing data for 35 Sustainable Development Goal indicators, out of which 12 indicators, prepared annually and were compiled in 2022. Regarding the year 2022, the previously mentioned details were not included in the
02	The targets to be reached to achieve the identified sustainable goals had not been decided.	
03	The Indicators to measure the progress of implementation of Sustainable Development Goals been had not been set.	

		departmental performance report for Chapter 5. However, steps have been taken to include these details in the 2023 performance report.
04	Citizen / client charter had not been prepared or applied properly as per the circular number 05/2008 of Ministry of Public Administration and Management dated 06.02.2008 as amended by circular No. 05/2018(1) dated 24.01.2018.	The citizen/clients charter has been prepared
05	A methodology had not been formulated to monitor and evaluate the application of citizen/ client charter by institution.	A system has been developed to monitor or report with regard to the implementation of the Citizen/Clients Charter in the institution.
06	A human resource plan drafted in keeping with the provisions of public administration Circular No 02/2018 dated 24 th January 2018 was not available.	The preparation of the human resource plan for the year 2022 could not be finalized due to the situation prevailed in Sri Lanka in the year 2022 and your attention is drawn on P.A.C. No. 10/2022, 14/2022, 15/2022 and 16/2022. Further your attention on the National Budget Circular No. 03/2022 issued by the Ministry of Finance from the date of 26.04.2022 is hereby drawn. • 15/2022 - Calling of officials to government offices was restricted. • 10/2022 - Calling of staff of government institutions was restricted to reduce expenditure due to lack of resources,. • 04/2022 - Electricity and fuel were used sparingly to manage public expenditure. • 14/2022 -Government officials were encouraged to take domestic and foreign leave • Public expenditure was controlled as per National Budget Circular 03/2022. By the year 2023, training programs were conducted according to the relevant plan. Therefore, I would like to mention that it is challenging to prepare a human resource plan in the year 2024 in accordance with the instructions given under the National Budget Circular No. 01/2024 - Public Expenditure Control Circular No. 05 and local Training Programs dated 2024.01.10 and related to not

		recruit public officials. The relevant plan for the year 2023 and 2024 is presented in Annexure 02.
07	The human resource development plan that had been prepared, did not ensure at least a minimum training opportunity of not less than 12 hours per year for more than 50% of the member of the staff.	Rs. 4.5 was requested for staff training under the Object 2401 for the year 2022 but only Rs. 0.232 was received at the beginning of the said year. Rs. 0.1 was received on 04.10.2022 again. Accordingly, a training opportunity of not less than 12 hours for all members of staff could not be guaranteed by incurring an amount of Rs. 0.332. Further, • 15/2022 - Calling of officials to government offices was restricted. • 10/2022 - Calling of staff of government institutions was restricted to reduce expenditure due to lack of resources. • 04/2022 - Electricity and fuel were used sparingly to manage public expenditure. • 14/2022 -Government officials were encouraged to take domestic and foreign leave • Public expenditure was controlled as per National Budget Circular 03/2022. You are kindly informed that the relevant targets could not be achieved according to the instructions given in the above circular. Similarly, I further inform you that the training programs mentioned in Annexure 03 have been conducted in the year 2022. It is also pointed out that 100% of the training programs for the year 2023 have been completed and the training programs for the year 2024 are still being conducted.
08	Performance agreements covering the entire staff had not been drafted or entered.	Performance agreements have been prepared. According to Public Administration Circular 02/2018 (I) it is not required to

		sign annual performance agreements from the year 2023.
09	Out of the training opportunities planned, the extent of training opportunities granted, was less than 50%.	You are kindly informed that the number of training opportunities provided out of the planned training opportunities is less than 50%. The reasons for that are given below. • 15/2022 - Calling of officials to government offices was restricted. • 10/2022 - Calling of staff of government institutions was restricted to reduce expenditure due to lack of resources. • 04/2022 - Electricity and fuel were used sparingly to manage public expenditure. • 14/2022 -Government officials were encouraged to take domestic and foreign leave • Public expenditure was controlled as per National Budget Circular 03/2022. You are further informed that the rest of the training programs could not be carried out because the department had to follow the instructions given in the above circulars. Also, you are further informed that the training programs mentioned in Annexure 03 have been conducted in the year 2022. I further mention that the training programs for the year 2023 have been conducted 100% and the training programs for the year 2024 are currently being conducted.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the Department of Census and Statistics, for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Director General
Department of Census and Statistics

Measures taken to rectify the deficiencies/ current status						
Deficiency identified	Current Status					
Existence of outstanding loan balances for more than one year.	Name and Designation	Balance state Rs.	Recovery of loan Rs.	2023 Balance as at the date of 4.07.31	Measures taken to recover loans	
(a) Officers deceased Rs. 571,239.00	1. K. wignashwaran (Code Clerk)	92,750.00	-	92,750.00	The dues of this officer have been referred to the Pension Management System for recovery of death gratuity.	
	2. A.P. Singakkutti Arachchi (I.C.T.A)	236,160.00	-	236,160.00	The dues of this officer have been referred to the Pension Management System for recovery of death gratuity.	
	3. E.S.C. Dayarathne (Statistical Officer)	65,900.00	65,900.00	-	it has been settled in October 2022.	
	4. W.A.S.R. Jayalal (Jayalal)	176,429.00	-	176,429.00	The dues of this officer have been referred to the Pension Management System for recovery of death gratuity.	
Total		571,239.00	65,900.00	505,339.00		
(b) . Officers who vacated posts Rs.634,661.00	1. W.M.J.C. Weerakoon (Statistical officer)	27,080.00	-	27,080.00	According to the Public Finance Circular 01/2024, a Departmental Committee has been appointed to prepare and submit a report containing recommendations related to the writing off the loan balances.	
	2. A.G.M.S. Kumara (Statistical Officer)	38,410.00	-	38,410.00	According to the Public Finance Circular 01/2024, a Departmental Committee has been appointed to prepare and submit a report containing recommendations related to the writing off the loan balances.	

Existence of outstanding loan balances for more than one year.	(b) Officers who vacated posts Rs.634,661.00	3. W.A.J.S. Kumara (Code Clerk)	47,150.00	-	47,150.00	According to the Public Finance Circular 01/2024, a Departmental Committee has been appointed to prepare and submit a report containing recommendations related to the writing off the loan balances.
		4. K.M.D.R. Priyadarshani (Code Clerk)	78,200.00	-	78,200.00	Information about the residence of this officer could not be found and a reminder letter dated 22.02.2024 has also been sent to the Department of Emigration and Immigration in relation to the letter directed to find out whether the officer has gone.
		5. M.G.D. Priyakelum (O.W.A.)	104,250.00	-	104,250.00	Necessary action is being taken to write off the loan balance under F.R. 109.
		6. M.S.M.Safras (O.W.A)	59,784.00	-	59,784.00	The case has been referred to the Department of Attorney General for prosecution and the current situation has been inquired through letter dated 16.05.2024.

7. M.B.R.J. Bandara (Statistical Officer)	95,140.00	-	95,140.00	The case assigned under case number DMR/2724/2020 in the Colombo District Court regarding the recovery of the loan balance of this officer was further heard on 20.03.2024 and the case has called again on 01.08.2024 and the officer did not appear in the court. Due to the original loan application and loan agreement unrepresented to the court case has postpone to the month of December 2024 and instructed to present above mentioned original documents on that date. Department has taken action to conduct internal inquiry regarding this case.
8. T.N. Pitigala (I.C.T.A)	107,200.00	-	107,200.00	Information about the residence of this officer cannot be found and a letter dated 08.12.2023 has been sent to the Divisional Secretary to inquire about the residence of the officer from the relative of the family.
9. R.P.S.K. Senarathne (Statistical Officer)	3,200.00	3,200.00	-	Loan balance has been settled in September 2022
10. G.N. Perera (Statistician)	23,320.00	23,320.00	-	Written off from account books in June 2023
11. M.A.D.G. Perera (O.W.A.)	27,305.00	27,305.00	-	Written off from account books in December 2022
12. R.P.L.Susantha (O.W.A.)	17,050.00	17,050.00	-	Written off from account books in October 2023
13. T.H.Sarath (O.W.A.)	6,572.00	6,572.00	-	Loan balance has been settled in November 2022
Total	634,661.00	77,447.00	557,214.00	
(c). Retired Officers Rs.82,790.00	82,790.00	82,790.00	-	Loan balance has been settled in August 2022
Total	82,790.00	82,790.00	-	

Training Schedule of Department of Census and statistics from 2023 - 2024

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S n .	Training programme	2023																											
		Jan				Feb				March				April				May				June				July			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1	නිල සංඛ්‍යාති / දර්ශකාංක පිළිබඳ දැනුවත් කිරීම - "ක්ෂේත්‍ර සං.නි. ගේ අත්දැකීම හා මුහුණපාන අභියෝග" (online)																												
2	නිල සංඛ්‍යාති / දර්ශකාංක පිළිබඳ දැනුවත් කිරීම - "දෙමළ මාධ්‍ය වැඩසටහන ඉවතලා සමීක්ෂණ නිරපර සංවර්ධන දර්ශකාංක" (online)																												
3	නිල සංඛ්‍යාති / දර්ශකාංක පිළිබඳ දැනුවත් කිරීම - "අභියෝග හමුවේ ඉදිරි දකුණේ දත්ත රැස්කිරීම" (online)																												
4	නිල සංඛ්‍යාති / දර්ශකාංක පිළිබඳ දැනුවත් කිරීම - "සාපදා හා දේශගුණික විපර්යාස වලින් සංවර්ධන ක්‍රියාවලියට වන බලපෑම තක්සේරු කිරීමේදී DCS හි කාර්යභාරය" (online)																												

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Name of the Training Programme	Total Number of Trainees	Start Date	End Date	Type of Training Programme(Online/Face to Face)
SPSS (Basic)				Face to Face
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Gross Domestic Product and Agro-Industrial Sector"	36	2022.01.24		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Food Balance Sheet"	28	2022.01.31		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics/Indicators - "Time Changes in Manufacturing Industry Sector"	59	2022.02.07		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Contribution of Trade and Services Sector to the Economy"	72	2022.02.14		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Supply and Use Table"	59	2022.02.21		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Economic Growth Rate and Related Concepts"	43	2022.02.28		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Production Price Index"	38	2022.03.07		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "How Different Surveys Are Used in National Accounts"	42	2022.03.14		Online
Basic Excel	25	2022.03.28	2022.03.31	Face to Face
Awareness on Official Statistics / Indicators - "Colombo Consumer Price Index and Inflation"	60	2022.03.21		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Emerging Trends in Labor Force and Unemployment in Sri Lanka"	65	2022.04.25		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Findings of the Survey of Passport Applicants"	35	2022.05.09		Online

Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "What Happened to Our Economy"	73	2022.05.23			Online
Three days training for new development officers to make them aware of the departmental scope	54	2022.05.04	2022.05.		Online
Training on Indesign software	31	2022.05.05	2022.05.23		Face to Face
Basic Excel	11	2022.05.26	2022.05.27		Face to Face
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "National Consumer Price Index and Inflation"	55	2022.05.30			Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Inflation, Causes of Inflation and its Economic Consequences"	49	2022.06.13			Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Collection of information from non-profit organizations and preparation of estimates for those organizations"	36	2022.06.20			Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Poverty"	40	2022.06.27			Online
"Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Change in base year of GDP and changes of GDP under the new base year (2015)."	60	2022.07.04			Online
"Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Study on Persons Deprived of Citizenship in Sri Lanka."	21	2022.07.18			Online
"Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Sectoral Classification for Collection and Dissemination of Survey Results and Economic Statistics."	31	2022.07.25			Online
"Awareness on official statistics/indicators - "International Experiences in the Recovery from Economic Crisis."	50	2022.08.01			Online
Sampling Techniques for HH Surveys	28	2022.08.23,24,30,31,2022.09.06,07			Face to Face
Awareness of Official Statistics/Indicators - "Census and the Demographic Background of Sri Lanka."	36	2022.08.08			Online
Awareness on Official Statistics/Indicators - "Changes in the Population of Sri Lanka."	65	2022.08.15			Online

Awareness on Official Statistics/Indicators - "Geo-Spatial Distribution Pattern of Internal Migration in Sri Lanka."	43	2022.08.22		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Demographic Gratuity."	49	2022.08.29		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Official Poverty Line Update."	79	2022.09.05		Online
Data Visualization	16	2022.09.06		Face to Face
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "National Multidimensional Poverty Index."	52	2022.09.12		Online
Basic Statistics	26	2022.09.26	2022.10.04	Face to Face
STATA	28	2022.10.5,6,10,11,12		Face to Face
Answering audit queries	33	2022.09.14		Face to Face
Training on leave subject	34	2022.09.20		Face to Face
Awareness of Official Statistics/Indices - "Classification of Urban Areas based on Scientific Data and Information."	49	2022.09.26		
Awareness of Official Statistics/Indicators - "Demographical Gratuity - Background of Sri Lanka and Optimum Plans"	39	2022.10.03		
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Role of the Department in Sustainable Development."	30	2022.10.10		
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Sustainable Development Indicators calculated from the Sri Lanka Labor Force Survey."	52	2022.10.17		
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Household Income Expenditure Survey and Sustainable Development Indicators."	41	2022.10.31		
Traffic rules program for Drivers	20/28			
Tamil Training Course - Officers of Senior and Tertiary Service Levels (Batch II)	48	2021.04.21	2022.07.27	Face to Face
Tamil Training Course - Secondary Level Officers (Batch I)	47	2022.06.02		Face to Face

Tamil Training Course - Officers of Senior and Tertiary Service Levels (Group III)	54	2022.09.16		Face to Face
Tamil Training Course - Secondary Level Officers (Batch II)	48	2022.09.16		Face to Face
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Anuradhapura"	77	2022.11.14		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Ratnapura."	45	2022.11.21		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Nuwara Eliya."	30	2022.11.28		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Kurunegala."	35	2022.12.05		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Industrial Sector."	32	2022.12.12		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Colombo."	20	2022.12.19		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Tamil Medium."	68	2022.11.09		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Tamil Medium."	44	2022.11.16		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Tamil Medium."	25	2022.12.21		Online
Awareness of Official Statistics / Indicators - "Tamil Medium."	15	2022.12.28		Online
Motivation program for Tamil officers	36	2022.12.23		Online
Basic Demographic Techniques				
Operation and Preventive Maintenance of Diesel Generators (SDFL)	1	22.12.2022		
Digital technologies for Disaster risk Management	1	21-25 Feb		
Eco-based adaptation and risk reduction	35	24,25 March		
TOT-Washington Group Questions-Disability Statistics	34	7,8,9 May		
One day workshop on Small Area Estimation		12 th Dec		

Name of the Department : Department of Government Valuation

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

	Shortcomings identified by the Select Committee, given in the Parliamentary Publication Series No: 290	Present Situation according to the steps taken to abolish the deficiencies by the Department
	First Part: 87.00	
01	Annual Action Plan was not prepared.	The Annual Action Plan was prepared in 2022, it was sent on 2021.12.23 and then the amended plan was sent on 2022.01.18 to the Ministry of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation.
02	The Audit Queries of the Auditor General were not answered within the month.	Up to now, actions are taken to answer for all the audit queries.
03	Government Emblem has not been printed on all the vehicles.	Action has been taken to print the government emblem on all the vehicles.
04	According to the Financial Regulations, the reimbursements were not settled according to the balances which were to be matched and not indicated in the Bank Reconciliation.	Even though the deposits of the fees for the valuations can be deposited from any branch of the Peoples' Bank to the account of the department maintained at the Maradana Branch of the Peoples' Bank, there is a delay in identifying the depositors and this situation is rectified as far as possible.
05	The collected amounts of income were not indicated as direct income for more than one month, but kept in the deposit account.	There is a delay in receiving the documents pertaining to the deposits made by the institutions receiving services all over the country to the account of the department. Now the process to identify the institutions is implemented.
06	Recruiting employees before the end of the approved period.	By the year 2022, the approved number of development officers to the department was 104. When the new development officers were appointed in 2022, this situation arose on the basis of the appointment of 124 development officers. However, the number of appointments approved by the Management Services Department was increased to 183.
	Second Part: 76.00	
07	There is no chance for the public in registering their complaints or the	The official website of the department has been re-developed and set up in the LGC-11 space, in 2023. The

	appreciations through the website of the institution.	opportunity has been given to the public in registering their complaints or the appreciations through the new website.
08	There is no system for supervising and assessment of implementing the Citizens / Client Charter.	The Citizens / Client Charter, which was prepared in 2023, has been re-developed by including the recommendations and advice of the Internal Auditor of the department. This new Citizens' Charter has been issued to all the provincial offices for implementation on 2023/11/08. Due to the re-development of the same, preparation of a system for supervising and assessment has been delayed and such a system is put forwarded for implementation.
09	The Performance Agreement was not prepared for the whole staff and not implemented.	In 2023, the Performance Agreement for the whole staff was regularly implemented. But, since 2024, in accordance with the amendment to para (1) in the Public Administration Circular No: 02/2018, the implementation of the Performance Agreement is not necessary.
10	The audit opinion of the accounts of the institution is being at an adverse level.	Other than the adverse level of certain matters which are specifically stated, the Accounts Statements are at the satisfactory level, and actions have been taken for the satisfactory audit opinion.
11	The recommendations of the audit reports were not implemented.	All the efforts for collecting arrears of income according to the recommendation on collecting arrears are taken, and actions are taken for that according to the Financial Regulations.
12	The statements of assets and liabilities of all the officers were not presented.	The officers who are obliged to submit the statements of assets and liabilities were instructed since 2021. But, only a portion of the officers submitted their statements of assets and liabilities. During the period from 2023 up to now (2022.04.01 – 2023.03.31), submitting of statements of assets and liabilities is improved. The list of officers, who submitted their statements of assets and liabilities for 2024 has been sent to the Finance Ministry.
13	The transfers of the officers, who completed the maximum service periods in their stations, were not implemented.	Transfers of the officers, who completed the maximum service periods in their stations, have been implemented in the annual transfers for 2024.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Department of Government Valuation for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Chief Valuer
Department of Government Valuation

Name of the Department : Department of Legal Affairs

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

Shortcomings stipulated in the Report that have been identified by the Committee	Steps taken by the Institution to rectify the Shortcomings/ Current Status
Part 1: 98.00	
Register of Risks has not been maintained in an updated manner.	Register of Risks has been updated.
Part 2: 98.00	
The targets have not been set out for the evaluation of progress on the implementation of the identified Sustainable Development Goals.	Taking into account the nature of the duties of the Department of Legal Affairs, there's no scope for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals directly by this Department. However, when the legal functions through this Department are being carried out and when amending the prevailing laws, we are taking action to formulate such legislative Acts in a manner so as to ensure compliance to the targets of implementation of the identified Sustainable Development Goals to the most possible extent. Further, when preparing observations to the Cabinet of Ministers relating to the Ministry of Finance, action has been taken to submit observations in the context of pertinent Sustainable Development Goals. Action is being taken to ensure the accomplishment of sustainable development goals on instances where proposals are made by the other Government Ministries pertaining to legal amendments and to submit new legal provisions.
Action had not been taken to formulate and implement the Citizens Charter/ Citizens Client's Charter. A methodology had not been formulated by the Institution towards monitoring and evaluation of implementing the Citizens Charter/ Citizens Client's Charter.	The Department of Legal Affairs engages in the function of coordination with the Legal Draftsman's Department and Attorney General's Department relating to formulation of various regulations and draft bills related to the financial management including the budget process as well as drafting of financial agreements, activities related to litigations and complaints relating to the Ministry of Finance and the Departments under its purview, and legal

	matters associated with various agreements. However, it is not dealing with general public in a direct manner. Therefore, it is observed that it is not necessitated to prepare a Citizens Charter/ Citizens Client's Charter.
A proper Human Resources Development Plan has not been prepared in terms of the Public Administration Circular No. 02/2018 dated 24.01.2018. The Human Resources Development Plan, which has been prepared by the Department, does not grant to undergo a training opportunity to a minimum duration of not less than 12 hours per annum for more than 50% of the staff.	A Human Resources Development Plan for the year 2023 had been prepared. In terms of the said plan, it was ensured that more than 50% of the entire staff to be provided with a training opportunity to a minimum duration of not less than 12 hours.
The annual performance agreements have not been prepared covering the entire staff and have not signed such agreements.	The performance agreements covering the entire staff had been prepared and entered into with them pertaining to the year 2023.
A senior official has not been nominated in the Institution to formulate the Human Resources Development Plan and to implement Capacity and Skills Development Programmes.	A senior officer was nominated 03.04.2023 and it was communicated to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government.
The percentage of training opportunities provided to staff out of the planned training opportunities was remained below 50%.	Non-budgetary training opportunities were provided to the most possible extent even in a context where any budgetary provisions were available for the local trainings under the expenditure head 2404 of this department during the year 2023 pursuant to the National Budget Circular No. 05/2022. Sufficient allocations are available for the year 2024. Accordingly, training opportunities, which have been applied by all the officers, are being provided in a manner that priority is given to the trainings that should be completed to fulfil requisite qualifications the officers concerned. Further, officers are encouraged all the time to obtain training opportunities related to their duties.

Action has not been taken in terms of F.R. 156(1) to recover the losses incurred to the government by the officials.	The committee, which was appointed in terms of F.R. 104(1) (a) for the inquiry and fixing of responsibility on the concerned matter, has compiled a report with their recommendations. According to the recommendations in the report, determination of those who were responsible for the misplacement should be in line with the Police Investigation which is mainly based on scientific evidence. Accordingly, the matter was enquired from the Fort Police Station frequently by way of reminders and future action will be carried out by the Department pursuant to the communication received from the OIC of the Police Station that investigations are being carried out further.
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I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Department of Legal Affairs for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Director General
Department of Legal Affairs

Name of the Department : Department of Management Services

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

Shortcomings indicated in the Report which were identified by the Committee	Measures taken by the Institution to rectify shortcomings / Current State
First Section: 95.00	
Register on Inventory has not been updated	Updated
Register on Damages has not been updated	Updated
State emblem had not been painted on all the vehicles	As a heavy expenditure has to be incurred for painting state emblem on vehicles and it is difficult to incur such expenditure within the available allocations, action was taken to put stickers carrying state emblem on vehicles
Second Section: 86.00	
Performance appraisal agreements had not been prepared and entered into with the entire staff	Although plans had been made to prepare performance agreements from year 2024, an intimation has been made to the effect that signing annual performance agreements is no longer required in terms of Para 03 of the Amendment to P.A.C. No. 02/2018 (1) dated 30.11.2023
Out of the planned training opportunities, number of opportunities provided remained below 50%	Amidst the prevalent unfavorable and unforeseen economic conditions, significant no. of training opportunities out of those planned could not be provided for the staff due to controlling expenditure in terms of Budget Circulars issued up to now aimed at confronting the difficulties encountered in public finance management. Still, training opportunities were provided for the entire staff on two occasions during the last year using departmental resource persons. Plans have been made to offer more training opportunities for the staff in year 2024.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Department of management Services for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Director General
Department of Management Services

Name of the Department : Import and Export Control Department

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

Deficiencies identified by the Committee	Measures taken by the institution to rectify deficiencies / Present Position
01. Register of Losses had not been updated & maintained.	Register of Losses has now been updated and is being properly maintained.
02. Answers had not been sent to all the audit queries of the Auditor General within one month after receiving such audit queries.	Relevant officers have been instructed to provide answers within the specified period for each audit query from the Auditor General.
03. Information about purchases of assets and disposals relating to year 2018 had not been submitted to the Comptroller General's Office in terms of Paragraph 07 of the Asset Management Circular No. 01/2017 of 26.06.2017.	The relevant information has been submitted to the Comptroller General's Office in terms of the Asset Management Circular No. 01/2017 of 26.06.2017.
04. A suitable liaison officer appointed to coordinate the implementation of the provisions of the circular and the details of the nominated officer were not sent to the Comptroller General's Office in terms of Paragraph 13 of the Asset Management Circular No. 01/2017 of 26.06.2017.	A liaison officer has been appointed in 2023 in terms of the circulars.
05. Documents to confirm ownership of all vehicles were not in possession.	Documents confirming ownership of all the vehicles are now in possession following the formal handover and possession of the vehicles.
06. The emblem of the state had not been painted on all pool vehicles.	The emblem of the state has been painted on all pool vehicles in 2023.
07. The balances in arrears exceeding 1 year had not been settled.	Arrangements are being made to seek legal advice to settle the distress loan balances of the suspended and dismissed officers.
08. The ad hoc sub imprests issued as per F.R. 371 had not been settled within one month from the completion of the task.	There have been delays in settling ad hoc sub imprests due to practical reasons, and arrangements have been made to settle them within 10 days after receiving the ad hoc sub imprests.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Department of Import and Export Control for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.

Controller General of Imports and Exports
Import and Export Control Department

Name of the Department : Department of Public Enterprises

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

First Part 96:00	
Deficiencies identified by the committee mentioned in the report	Step taken by the organization to rectify the deficiencies / current status
In terms of State Account Circular No. 171/2004 of 11.05.2004 the first, the second and the third passwords of the software system was not changed every three months.	Action has been taken to update the password of the Government payroll software every 03 months.
The emblem of the state had not been painted on all pool vehicles.	Action will be taken to print the emblem of state in all vehicles of this department.
Consequent to the utilization of provisions allocated for a vote as per FR 94(1), liabilities were exceeding the provisions that remained at the end of the year.	Recurrent expenses on travel and telephone bills in the month of December resulted in liabilities exceeding the remaining provisions at the end of the year. However, taken to manage the above expenses within the allocations for the forthcoming year.
The ad hoc sub imprests issued as per F.R. 371 had not been settled within one month from the completion of the task.	The officers receiving ad-hoc advance have been informed to settle the interim arrears settlement within one month after the completion of the related tasks. Moreover, arrangement have been made to issue reminders to the officers concerned in cases where 10days are exceeded after receiving the ad hoc advance

Second Part: 89.00	
Deficiencies identified by the committee mentioned in the report	Step taken by the organization to rectify the deficiencies / current status
There were no records maintained to document complaints received about not furnishing information required by the public and to provide explanations on action taken with regard to such complaints.	A complaint register is maintained at present and there are no complaints received to this department during the period concerned.
Performance agreements covering the entire staff had not been drafted or entered.	Action has been taken at present to sign the performance agreement with the staff of this department
A senior officer of the institution had not been named for the preparation of human resource development plans and to implement capacity and skill development programmes.	A senior officer has already been appointed in relation preparation of the human resource development plan and programmes
Actions had not been taken to properly transfer the officers who had completed the maximum service period.	The combined service officers are waiting to be transferred to the department of Customs which. Hence the officials have to be retained beyond the maximum service period, until the vacancies arise in the department of Customs.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Department of Public Enterprises for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Director General
Department of Public Enterprises

Name of the Department : Department of National Budget

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

Shortcomings identified by the Committee	Steps taken by the Institution to rectify the Shortcomings/ Current Status
Answers had not been submitted to all the audit queries referred by the Auditor General within one month after receiving such audit queries.	6 audit queries had been referred to this Department during the year 2022 (Annexure I). Of the said audit queries, replies had been given in respect of 4 audit queries. When submitting answers to the audit queries numbered as 4 and 6, it was compelled to take certain time to make use of the old subject files which had been sent to the Record Room. As a result, it was observed that submitting answers to the said audit queries had been delayed by 08 days and 05 days respectively. Necessary instructions have been provided to the officers concerned to take action avoiding such delays in the future.
The outstanding loan balances exceeding one year had been remained.	An outstanding loan balance of Rs. 353,241.60 was remained at the beginning of the year 2023 pertaining to three officers who were deceased and vacated their posts. Of the said amount Rs. 181,561.30 has already been recovered and a sum of Rs. 171,680.30 is remaining as the amount outstanding. - Of the said loan balances, the daughter of first marriage of a deceased officer had paid a sum equivalent to Rs. 101,561.30 being half of the loan amount. - Of the sum equivalent to Rs. 101,561.30, which should be recovered from the wife of the second marriage of the said deceased officer, Rs. 54,000 had been recovered. Even though the remaining loan balance was being recovered as monthly installments from the pension payment, the Department of Pensions has temporarily suspended the payment of this pension. In this context, the relevant parties have been informed to pay the outstanding loan amount as recovery of loan in installments from the pension is not being happened. - Rs. 26,000 had been recovered from the Office Assistant who vacated his post. Since this officer too does not pay the loan

	installments as agreed by him, further course of action pertaining to the remaining loan balance is being taken after obtaining asset confirmation from the Divisional Secretary.
Indicators had not been set out in order to measure the progress of implementing the identified Sustainable Development Goals.	The main task entrusted to the Department of National Budget is appropriation of financial allocations to the government institutions. Even though sustainable development goals are not directly related to this Department, it indirectly contributes to the success achieved by other institutions in respect of reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. However, as provided in Annexure II, the Sustainable Development targets pertaining to the Department of National Budget have been set out by the Department enabling to determine the success of achieving the said targets as introduced by the United Nations Organization.
Granting of training opportunities out of the planned training opportunities remained at a level less than 50%.	The number of training opportunities had been restricted in a context where only the essential trainings were granted due to the economic situation prevalent in the country during the year 2022 and the actions taken to comply with the National Budget Circular 03/2022 issued regarding the control of government expenditure in relation to it.
The Declarations of Assets and Liabilities had not been submitted by all the officers.	Action has been taken to duly obtain the Declarations of Assets and Liabilities of all the officers.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Department of National Budget for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Director General
Department of National Budget

Name of the Department : Department of Management Audit

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

Shortcomings identified by the Committee as mentioned in the report	Measures taken by the Institute to rectify such shortcomings/ to implement recommendations/ Present status
01. There had been instances where internal audit queries had not been answered within a period of 1 month. The required number of Audit and Management Committee meetings had not been held per year.	Agreed. The audit queries of the Auditor General's department and internal audit reports received by this department are answered within one month period by Department of Management Audit. However, one internal audit report was not addressed within a month due to an oversight. The relevant officials are advised on this matter and I kindly assure that all the queries received by this department will be sorted within the stipulated time frame. There were 640 Audit and Management Committee meetings initially scheduled for the year under review, however the number of meetings revised to 558 as per the gazette number 2289/43 of 22.07.2022, which has reduced number of state ministries of the government. 387 Management Committee meetings were actually held out of 558 scheduled for the year. Department of Management Audit has emphasized that each audit entity should conduct 04 Audit and Management Committee meetings, quarterly within year under review as per Department of Management Audit Circular DMA/01-2019 dated 12.01.2019. The treasury representatives participating from Department of Management Audit have been emphasizing this need and importance of conducting Audit and Management Committee meetings. It is a main responsibility of of the Chief Accounting Officers, Accounting Officers and Board of Directors to adhere to this requirement.
01. A human resource plan had not been properly prepared, as per the provisions of	Even if a human resources plan was not prepared as per the relevant format, this department had identified training needs related to human resource development for the year 2022 and

Public Administration Circular No. 02/2018 dated January 24, 2018. Performance contracts involving all staff had not been prepared and contracted	prepared a human resource development plan for the department (A Copy is attached). Due to the Covid epidemic situation and the fuel shortage occurred due to the economic crisis prevailed in 2022, most of the officials were engaged in duties online and the attendance of the officials was very limited, and there was not an opportunity to work under a formal human resource plan prepared as per the relevant format. Also, due to the limited attendance of officers, there were difficulties in reaching specific agreements related to the performance. However, a human resource plan has been prepared for the year 2023 as per the provisions of the P.A.C. No. 02/2018 and, the performance is contractual.
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I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Department of Management Audit for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Director General
Department of Management Audit

Name of the Department : Department of Fiscal Policy

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

Short comings identified by the committee.	Action taken by the Institution to rectify the short comings / current states.
The website maintained by the institution did not provide an opportunity for the public to record inquiries or commendations.	A dedicated web page in the Ministry of Finance web site has been inbuilt to send inquiries and commendation by the General if required. Therefore, facilities are already existing to upload commendations / inquiries related to this department through that web page.
There was no system in place to monitor or evaluate the implementation of the Citizen / Service Beneficiary Charter in the institution.	Measures have been already taken to appoint an officer for this task.
Performance contracts including all staff were not prepared and contracted	It is noted that performance appraisal bonds have not been signed in the said year. However, it is noted that that performance appraisal bonds between employee and employer are not a necessary requirement as per the directions given by the public administration circular No: 02/2018(1) dated.2023.11.30,
The number of training opportunities allocated for the planned training opportunities was less than 50%.	The country's economy was affected due to the COVID 19 epidemic situation that lasted for two years. In that case the Government expenditure had to be curtailed and the cash imprest was limited only for the essential services. Moreover, the continuous interruptions occurred in the public transport services due to the limited supply of fuel, the calling of staff to government offices was limited. Therefore, it was unable to send staff for the training as planned.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Department of Fiscal Policy for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Director General
Department of Fiscal Policy

Name of the Department : **Comptroller General's Office**

Parliamentary Series Number : **79**

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

Deficiencies identified by the committee mentioned in the report	Action taken by the institution to rectify the deficiencies/ current status
Register of Risk was not maintained up to date basis. Internal audit programme had not been prepared at the beginning of the year after consulting the Auditor General in terms of Financial Regulation 134(2)	By Circular Letter no. DMA/01-2019/1 dated 9 th June 2021, the Management Audit Department has issued instructions to all the Chief Internal Auditors and Internal Auditors regarding the preparation of Risk Register and the annual internal Audit Plan. As per the amendments made to the ministerial portfolios, this office established under the Ministry of Finance was assigned to the Ministry of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation from July 2021 to April 2022. As this office had not been informed of the annual Audit Plan and the Risk Register prepared for that short period, the questioner on the online information management system of the Committee on Public Accounts has been answered, accordingly. Further, above mentioned function with respect to this office is fulfilled by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National policies.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Comptroller General's Office for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Comptroller General
Comptroller General's Office

Name of the Department : Department of Development Finance

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

Shortcomings identified by the committee/directives given by the committee	Action taken by the committee to rectify the shortcoming/implement the recommendations/current status
Part 01 The required number of Audit and Management Committee meetings had not been held per year. Daily running charts and monthly summaries of running charts of fleet of vehicles had not been submitted for the Auditor General on regular basis. The emblem of the state had not been painted on all pool vehicles.	Participated all the Audit and Management Committee meetings which were organized by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies. The running charts and summery notes of the Corona epidemic period 2022 have been sent to the Auditor General on 19.04.2023 The state emblem is pasted on left side of the departmental vehicles.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Department of Development Finance for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Director General
Department of Development Finance

Name of the Department : Department of Project Management and Monitoring

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119 (4)

Shortcomings identified by the Committee	Action taken by the Institution to rectify the shortcomings/current status
The risk register is not kept up to date.	As per the special gazette 2241/7 issued on 16.08.2021, this department was under the purview of the Ministry of Development Coordination and Monitoring, and again by the gazette 2289/43 dated 22.07.2022, this department has come under the purview of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy. Accordingly, Risk register was not possible to maintain an update during the 2022 due to this department falling under two ministries in a very short period of time, it will be maintained by this department up-to-date from the year 2023.
The number of training opportunities provided out of the planned training opportunities was less than 50%	According to the training needs of the officers of the Department, the training plan for the year 2022 was prepared. However, this department has been provided training program with the limitation due to the budget provision was inadequate to complete the training programs as plan for during the year 2022.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Department of Development Finance for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Director General
Department of Development Finance

Name of the Department : Department of External Resources

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119

Shortcomings identified by the Committee/directives given by the Committee	Action taken by the Committee to rectify the shortcomings/implement the recommendations/ current status
<u>Part 2 : 98.00</u> All public officers had not submitted their declarations of assets and liabilities.	Most of the officers in this Department who are responsible for providing Declaration of Assets and Liabilities for 2022 have been given as required. However, all the relevant staff officers attached to the Department have duly given those Declaration related to the years 2023 and 2024.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Department of External Resources for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Director General
Department of External Resources

Name of the Department : Department of National Planning

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119

Shortcomings identified by the Committee/directives given by the Committee	Action taken by the Committee to rectify the shortcoming/ implement the Recommendations/ Current status
Register of Risk was not maintained up to date basis.	The Internal Audit Division of the Ministry of Finance has prepared the risk register for the Ministry of Finance and Treasury Department for the first time in the year 2022 and since the National Planning Department was under the Ministry of National Policy and Economic Affairs during that period, the risk register prepared in that year was not given to the department. But again after this department was gazette on 22-07-2022 under the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy, the risk document for the year 2023 was received from the Internal Audit Division on 25-10-2023. As there has been no major change in the action plan, the risk register has not been updated by the Internal Audit Division of the Ministry for the year 2024. However, according to Audit Management Circular No. DMA/1-2024 and Circular No. 6 dated 21.06.2024, from the year 2025, this work will be done by this department to prepare the risk register.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Department of National Planning for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Director General
Department of National Planning

Name of the Department : **Department of Public Finance**

Parliamentary Series Number : **79**

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119

Shortcomings identified by the Committee	Action taken by the Institution to rectify the shortcomings / current status
The emblem of the state had not been painted on all pool vehicles.	All Department vehicles display printed state emblem on the windscreen at present. However, arrangements are been made for the state emblem to be displayed on the body of the vehicles as a printed sticker.

I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Department of Public Finance for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Director General
Department of Public Finance

Name of the Department : Department of Trade and Investment Policy

Parliamentary Series Number : 79

Submission of observations and steps taken with regard to the reports presented to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of the Standing Order No.119

First Part: 99.00	
Shortcomings identified by the Committee as mentioned in the Report	Action taken by the Institution to rectify the Shortcomings/ Present Status
01. The state emblem had not been painted on all pool vehicles.	Action had been taken in 2023 to paint the state emblem on all pool vehicles. (03 Vehicles)

Second Part: 100.00	
Shortcomings identified by the Committee as mentioned in the Report	Action taken by the Institution to rectify the Shortcomings/ Present Status
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I kindly submit the above information regarding the measures taken and observations regarding the reports submitted by the Committee on Public Accounts under Standing Order No. 119(4) in relation to the, Department of Trade and Investment Policy for Parliamentary Series No. 79.

Sgd.
Director General
Department of Trade and Investment Policy