පාර්ලිමේන්තු ප්‍රකාශන මාලා අංක: 79

ආයතනයේ නම: පරිසර අමාත්‍යාංශය

පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ රජයේ ගිණුම් පිළිබඳ කාරක සභාව විසින් සභාගත කරන ලද වාර්තා සම්බන්ධයෙන් ස්ථාවර නියෝග අංක 119 (4) යටතේ ගරු ආයතන භාර අමාත්‍යවරයාගේ නිරීක්ෂණ හා ගනු ලබන පියවර පාර්ලිමේන්තුව වෙත ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම

பாராளுமன்ற வெளியீட்டுத் தொடர் இலக்கம்: 79
நிறுவனத்தின் பெயர்: சுற்றாடல் அமைச்சு

பாராளுமன்றத்தின் அரச கணக்குக் குழுவினால் முன் வைக்கப்பட்ட அறிக்கை தொடர்பாக நிலையியற் கட்டளை இலக்கம் 119 (4) இன் கீழ் நிறுவனங்களிற்குப் பொறுப்பான கௌரவ அமைச்சரின் அவதானிப்புக்களும் மற்றும் அது தொடர்பாக எடுக்கப்படும் நடவடிக்கைகளும் பாராளுமன்றத்திற்கு சமர்ப்பித்தல்.

Parliamentary Series No: 79
Name of the Institution: Ministry of Environment

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

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

Deficiencies Identified by the Committee	**Steps Taken by the Institution to Amend the Deficiency/Current Situation**
Part I	
Answers had not been sent to all the audit queries of the Auditor General within one month after receiving such audit queries	As per Public Administration Circular No.: 02/2021(ii) as officers were called to work on the roster basis, it has not been possible to provide answers within one month due to the delay in collecting the information required to answer these audit queries. However, all the queries by the Auditor General have been answered.
There had been instances where internal audit queries had not been answered within a period of 1 month.	Answers to all the audit queries by the Chief Internal Auditor had been provided.
No actions had been taken for the recommendations on excesses and shortages & other recommendations revealed by the Board of surveys.	Recommendations have been implemented.
Documents to confirm ownership of all the vehicles were not in possession.	The Ministry has 53 vehicles and among them the Ministry has documents denoting ownership for 50 vehicles in its possession. The information regarding the vehicles that do not have proof of ownership has been mentioned below. i. The motor vehicle bearing No. KO 8812 – It belonged to the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources Management and was temporarily taken over from Mahaweli Division to this Ministry. The Ministry of Environment has requested to legally hand over this vehicle to the ministry, however, no letter of consent has been received in this regard. ii. The Jeep bearing No. GW 1326 – This jeep, which was used for the duties of the project to Adapt The Agricultural Community Around The

	Mahaweli River Basin To The Adverse Effects Of Climate Change under the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, has been registered in the name of the then Ministry of Economic Development and was handed over to the Ministry of Environment after the completion of the project. Requests have been made to the Ministry of Economic Policy and Planning to take over this jeep, but no reply has been received. This jeep could not be taken over due to revision of ministry names. Measures are being taken as per Asset Management Circular No. 03/2018 dated 10.10.2018 and instructions of Comptroller General regarding acquisition of motor vehicles. iii. The motor vehicle bearing No. KB 7120 – A request has been made to hand over to the Secretary, Ministry of State Defense and Disaster Management. So far, the Ministry of Environment has not expressed its consent regarding the takeover. Therefore, measures are being taken as per Asset Management Circular No. 03/2018 dated 10.10.2018 and instructions of Comptroller General regarding acquisition of motor vehicles.
Daily running charts and monthly summaries of running charts of fleet of vehicles had not been submitted for the Auditor General on regular basis.	Daily running charts and monthly summaries have been arranged to be submitted to the Auditor General.
The emblem of the state had not been painted on all pool vehicles.	The state emblem will be painted on the vehicles that do not have the state emblem painted on them.
Condemned vehicles had not been disposed of within a period of less than 8 months after condemning.	1. Jeep No. 65-1578 - Quotations have been called and handed over to HI Tech Motors for repair. 2. Jeep No. HQ 4331 - It has been referred to United Motors, the local agents of the car. As a high cost is required in that regard, no decision has been taken to repair it. 3. Motor vehicle bearing No. HK 8894 - To be disposed of. The assessment report has been obtained with regard to that. 4. Motor vehicle bearing No. KK 9635 -

	To be disposed of and the assessment report has been obtained for the same. 5. Motor vehicle bearing No. KB 7120 – Has been repaired by the provisions of a project under this Ministry and used for the needs of that project 6. Motor vehicle bearing No. KH -9235 - To be disposed of and the assessment report has been obtained. 7. Motor vehicle bearing No. CAC – 0172 – This vehicle has been referred to Liyanage Motors for repair and repair work has started. 8. Cab bearing No. GI – 4576 – Has been repaired and measures have been taken to deploy it in service.
Actions had not been taken on accidents occurred to motor vehicles owned by the government as per the Financial Regulations.	The following vehicles have been involved in accidents and the measures taken in this regard are given below. (i) The final report of losses under F.R. 104 (4) has been forwarded to the Public Finance Department on 22.07.2024 regarding the accident involving the motor vehicle bearing CAC 0172. (ii) The accident of the motor vehicle bearing No. KO 8812 took place on 17.08.2023. The car has been handed over to HI Tech Motors for repair. The said institution has checked the parts to be repaired and given an estimate on 10.12.2023 and measures have been taken to provide F.R. 104 (04) inspection report on that day. Accordingly, the full report on 12.01.2024 has been submitted to the Director General, Public Finance Department. (iii) The motor vehicle bearing KX 7689 was involved in an accident on 04.05.2023 and the Inspection Report under F.R. 104 (4) was given on 04.12.2023. Accordingly, the full report on 18.12.2023 has been submitted to the Director General, Public Finance Department. (Vi) The right side mirror of the motor vehicle bearing No. KX 7665 was broken and the said side mirror has now been repaired by Liyanage Motors. Therefore, under F.R. 104 (4), the final report of the losses will be submitted.

Financial provisions had been allocated to other institutes beyond the due date.	At present provisions are not released to other institutions outside the prescribed period.
Action had not been taken as per F.R.571 in relation to dormant accounts.	Measures have been taken as per F.R. 571 and the retention charges for the "Sobadam Piyasa" building need to be released. Arrangements will be made to release the retention charges after the final bill related to the construction of the building is paid.
The staff had been recruited/attached exceeding the approved limits	By letter No. 02/02/ADM/ විවිධ -10 dated 15.12.2020, the Department of Management Services has been requested to approve 30 Development Officers under F.R. 71 for the Ministry of Environment in addition to the number of Development Officers currently approved for the Ministry of Environment. Also considering the request made by the District Secretaries to appoint an Environment Officer for each Divisional Secretariat, an application has been made under F.R.71 through my letter No. 02/02/ADM/ විවිධ -10 dated 04.05.2021, to create 391 Development Officer posts for the Ministry of Environment. By the letter No. DMS/CM/11 dated 25.01.2023 of the Management Services Department approval has been received by this Ministry for 299 Development Officers. Even though the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government has assigned 597, receiving approval for 299 has become problematic, therefore, the Public Service Recruitment Process Review Committee has been informed by letter No. ADM/02/02/01 dated 14.08.2023 to give approval for excess development officers or else there is no objection regarding placement in another duty station.
Part II	
Out of the training opportunities planned, the extent of training opportunities granted, was less than 50%.	Based on the National Budget Circular No. 03/2022, various allowances, planned trainings were restricted for the purpose of controlling public expenditure. Due to the shortage of fuel in the country at that time, the number of training programs planned for the relevant year was limited as the officers were reporting for duty based on the roster system.
The audit opinion about the accounts of the institution had been a qualified opinion/disclaimed opinion/ an unfavorable opinion.	A qualified opinion has been received for the accounts of the Ministry. The facts on which this opinion is based are set out in the Auditor General's Summary Report and the action taken / current status is shown below.

	(i). Measures have been taken to correct the expenditure incurred for the lands not belonging to the Ministry of Environment in the accounts of the Ministry. (ii). Requests have been made from the Urban Development Authority to legally hand over the building in which the Ministry of Environment is maintained. After the land is legally acquired, measures will be taken to disclose it in the financial statements. (iii). The outstanding imprest balance of Rs.260,361.36 has been settled in full. (iv). Stock book and other documents are maintained up to date. (v). Securities register containing information of government officials and employees is maintained.
The directives/ recommendations issued by the Committee on Public Accounts had not been implemented.	The orders given in the meeting of the Committee on Public Accounts held on 19.11.2021 have been implemented. All the reports ordered to be sent to the Committee on Public Accounts have been sent in accordance with the orders of the Committee on Public Accounts. Actions taken on other matters mentioned in the task note are given below. 1. Due to the submission of research reports that the composition of harmful gases in the city of Kandy is higher than the standard concentrations, the program prepared for its control has been commenced by now and is currently being implemented. 2. An e-waste management project is being planned in the country with Korean grants regarding e-waste management. 3. The financial statements for the year 2020 of Sri Lanka Climate Fund Private Company established under the Ministry of Environment have been submitted to the Auditor General later. 4. It has been informed to the Secretary of the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation, which is the most appropriate body to draft a new bill to prevent the entry of harmful invasive species of plants and animals into Sri Lanka and to destroy those plants and animals.

	5. Necessary technical support is being obtained for the computers provided by the Climate Change Mitigation Partnership Project and these computers are currently being used. 6. The Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) has approved the "Smart City Project Proposal" presented by the Kurunegala Urban Council, which was the most suitable proposal among the 03 project proposals submitted for the project proposals, called by the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) in 2017. 7. All related studies have been implemented under the preparation program for the National Adaptation Plan for the establishment of the "Climate Adaptation Fund" proposed to be established under the National Adaptation Plan for the impact of climate change in Sri Lanka.

B.K. Prabath Chandrakeerthi
Secretary