

Submission of observations of 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).

Presenting the observations and measures taken by the minister in charge of the reports submitted by the parliament by the committee on the public accounts related to the ministries, departments, provincial councils and local government institutions.

Parliamentary Series No - 492

District Secretariat, Puttalam.

Shortcomings and directions pointed out by the committee on the public accounts	Present progress
Part One - 1. All audit inquiries submitted by the Auditor General had not been responded within a month. 2. The Audit Committee of all Divisional Secretariats under the District Secretariat had not convened even once. 3. The recommendations regarding surpluses, deficiencies and other recommendations revealed in the annual board of survey had not been implemented within the stipulated time. 4. The condemned vehicle has not been disposed of for at least 8 months since it became unusable. 5. There were outstanding loan balances for more than a year. 6. Action had not been taken in accordance with M.R.571 regarding the overdue deposits in the General Savings Account.	In providing answers to audit queries, there are cases where it is practically impossible to reply within a month. In such cases an interim reply is sent. Several meetings have been held, but few have been disrupted due to various reasons. By minimizing these issues in 2026, a total of 19 Audit Committee meetings have been held so far. As per Public Finance Circular 01/2020, the board of survey recommendation has been implemented within the stipulated time (15th June). (2025/06/11) Necessary steps will be taken to provide instructions and follow up on the disposal within the stipulated period in the future. Necessary steps are being taken to write off debt balances between 10-20 years, while necessary legal steps are being taken to recover other debt balances. All deposits over 02 years, except for Government Quarters deposits/due to court case (District Secretary - Rs. 540,000/-, Divisional Secretary Mundel - Rs. 17,100/- and Rs. 15,495/-) and land deposits, have been processed in accordance with F.R. 571.
Part Two - 1. Monthly District Coordination Committee meetings had not been held. 2. The District Housing Committee had not met monthly. 3. The District Fertilizer Coordination Committee had not met monthly.	The committee has been held on the fixed dates and it will be arranged to hold it on the assigned dates in future as well. The Meetings have been held only when requested by the Housing Development Authority and it will be arranged to hold meetings as per those requests in the future as well. This committee conducts 02 meetings in a year for two seasons, i.e., one per season. The same will be done in the future.

4. The District Pricing Committee had not met monthly.	Since this committee is held once in 06 months in a year, it has been held twice in a year. The same will be done in the future.
5. The audit opinion on the institution's accounts was categorized as subject, qualifying, or adverse.	All possible measures will be taken to obtain a clean audit opinion in the future.
6. The District / Divisional Drug Prevention Committee meetings had not been held quarterly.	Although the quarterly meeting has not been held, the issues raised have been discussed and solutions have been provided. Steps will be taken to hold it as scheduled in the future.
7. The District Child Development Committee on Child Rights had not met quarterly.	Although the quarterly meeting has not been held, the issues raised have been discussed and solutions have been provided. Steps will be taken to hold it as scheduled in the future.
8. The number of training opportunities provided out of the planned training opportunities was less than 50%.	Under the Public Expenditure Management, arrangements were made to provide only the training specified in the Service Minute based on the provisions received in the year 2023.
9. The recommendations of the Auditor General's report had not been implemented.	Replies have been provided to the recommendations of the Auditor General's report, and necessary steps have been taken as stated in the reply letters.
10. Arrangements had not been made to properly transfer officers who had completed their maximum service period.	All the transfers received as per the requests made by the officers under the Annual Transfer Scheme have been effected. Also arrangements have been made to forward the information of the officers who have completed 05 years to the appointing authority annually.


 District Secretary
 District Secretariat
 Puttalam

Y. I. M. SILVA
 District Secretary/Government Agent
 Puttalam District


 Chief Accountant
 District Secretariat
 Puttalam

A.M.W.K. PRASANNA
 CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
 DISTRICT SECRETARIAT
 PUTTALAM

Recommendation of the Secretary

Measures taken by the District Secretary are recommended and instructions have been given to District Secretaries to pay personal attention on the other shortcomings pointed out and to take corrective measures regarding them.



S. Alokabandara

Secretary

Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

S. Alokabandara
Secretary
Ministry of Public Administration,
Provincial Councils and Local Government

Recommendation of the Minister and the Action Taken

Instruction have been given by me to the Ministry Secretary to take necessary steps by paying special attention on the instructions given to the District Secretary by the Committee on Public Accounts, to ensure that such shortcomings may not occur again and it is expected that the such measures would enable the provable level to reach the optimum level within the year 2026.



Hon.(Prof).A.H.M.H.Abayarathna (M.P.)

Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Prof. A.H.M.H. Abayarathna
Minister of Public Administration, Provincial
Councils and Local Government
Independence Square, Colombo 07.