

පාර්ලිමේන්තු ප්‍රකාශන මාලා අංක: 492

ආයතනයේ නම : කෘෂිකර්ම දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව

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

பாராளுமன்ற வெளியீட்டுத் தொடர் இலக்கம் : 492

நிறுவனத்தின் பெயர் : விவசாயத் திணைக்களம்

பாராளுமன்றத்தின் அரசு கணக்குகள் குழுவினால் முன்வைக்கப்பட்ட அறிக்கை தொடர்பாக நிலையியற் கட்டளை இலக்கம் 119 (4) இன் கீழ் கௌரவ அமைச்சரின் அவதானிப்புக்களும் மற்றும் அது தொடர்பாக எடுக்கப்படும் நடவடிக்கைகளும் பாராளுமன்றத்திற்கு சமர்ப்பித்தல்

Parliamentary Series No: 492

Name Of the institution : Department of Agriculture

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)

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Form No. 01

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Name of the Institution : Department of Agriculture

Part One 80:00

A.A	Observation	Action Taken
01	The risk register has not been kept up to date.	A risk register is maintained internally and is updated. Risk registers are maintained under the number DOA/Int Audit/01/28 for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 and under the number DOA/Int Audit/01/56 for the year 2026.
02	Responses had not been provided within a month for each audit inquiry submitted by the Auditor General.	All director units have been informed to submit responses within the prescribed period. (Annexure 01)
03	There were cases where internal audit queries were not answered within a month.	Although 14 audit queries were not answered for more than a month during the year under review, the relevant officers were informed that in cases where there is a delay in sending a complete reply, steps should be taken to obtain a temporary reply.

04	The Audit and Management Committee meetings were not held as scheduled during the year under review.	During the year 2023, the Department of Agriculture has conducted 03 Audit and Management Committee meetings and the matters of the Department have been discussed in 03 Audit and Management Committee meetings held by the Ministry of Agriculture.
05	The documents confirming the ownership of all vehicles are not in possession.	Since arrangements have been made to obtain the registration certificates of all vehicles belonging to the Department of Agriculture to the head office, all directors have been informed by my letter No. DOA/Pa/2/12(1)/18/1 dated 16.12.2025 to refer to the head office if there are any registration certificates in the possession of the sub-units. (Annexure 02) Accordingly, arrangements are further being made to obtain the registration certificates of the sub-units and their information is being entered into the vehicle data system. Furthermore, arrangements are being made to obtain the registration certificates of the vehicles that are being taken over from the Ministry of Agriculture and other government institutions in the name of the Director General of Agriculture from the respective institutions. Accordingly, arrangements are being made to obtain registration certificates for all vehicles that no longer have registration certificates after checking the said documents and the vehicle data system.
06	The State Emblem had not been printed on all vehicles.	Out of the 14 sub-units of the Department of Agriculture, steps have been taken to print the State Emblem on all reserve vehicles related to 11 units. Steps have been taken to inquire from the relevant Directors through my letter No. DOA/Pa/2/12/1/15/1 dated 30.04.2026 to confirm that the State Emblem has been printed on the reserve vehicles of the remaining three sub-units. (Annexure 03)

07	A vehicle has not been disposed of in less than 08 months after being condemned.	✓ A special survey board appointed under the provisions of State Finance Circular No. 01/2020 dated 28.08.2020 and under F.R.770 (4) identifies the condemned vehicles. ✓ There, a classification should be made as wrecked vehicles, non-economically productive vehicles that are not in running condition and economically productive vehicles that are in running condition. ✓ Disposal of vehicles should be done through the bidding process in accordance with the 10.2 of the Circular Numbered 06/2023 and dated 29.12.2023 of the Finance Division Circular. ✓ You are kindly informed that it is quite difficult to collect information on the condemned vehicles belonging to the Department of Agriculture, which are spread across Sri Lanka, and auction the vehicles under the said bidding system in a period of less than 08 months. Actions taken – ✓ You are further notified that all directors have been informed to identify the state of disposal in relation to the disposal of condemned vehicles as soon as possible. (Annexure 04)
08	The expenditure had been incurred in excess of the provision limit.	In accordance with F.R. 500 (2), both the receipts and payments of each activity carried out on advance are accounted for under the appropriate advance account within the limits prescribed for it and therefore, the “cash transactions” of that activity are brought under one account as far as it is relevant to the Treasury, and since it is stated in F.R.500 (5) that the “cash transactions” of an advance account activity are recorded in the books of the Treasury as debits and credits to the relevant advance account, you are kindly informed that the relevant adjustments have been made so that only cash transactions are reported to the Treasury. However, it has been informed that the necessary steps for the revision of limits were taken promptly after the audit pointed out, but due to unavoidable reasons, the proposals could not be submitted before the deadline for the revision of limits, i.e. 31.05.2024, and therefore, it has been informed that the revision of limits cannot be agreed upon. (Annexure 06)

09	Having entered into liabilities exceeding the provision limit remaining at the end of the year after utilization of the provision made for a vote in terms of F.R.94(1)	Since payment of water and electricity bills is essential for the smooth running of daily activities, you are kindly informed that these payments have been made. Since it is essential to make payments of water, electricity and telephone bills and due to late receipt of bills from other offices outside the head office of the department, these payments were made, however, in accordance with F.R.94(1), you are notified that all Directors have been informed , * not to incur any expenditure or enter into any obligation for any work, service or supply unless there is provision in the annual estimates, * the amount of liabilities and expenditure incurred for that purpose not to exceed the the provisions for the financial year for any reason, * not to incur expenses or enter into liabilities in the expectation of receiving additional provisions at the time when the money is due. (Annexure 06)
10	There were loan balances outstanding for more than a year.	As of 31.12.2023, the outstanding loan balances for more than 01 year relating to the Advance B Account of Government Officials amounted to Rs.4,037,413.15. Out of which, Rs.3,367,140.40 have been recovered as of 01.01.2026. Accordingly, the actions taken for the outstanding loan balances of Rs.670272.75 that is still to be recovered are given in Annexure 07 .
11	The ad-hoc sub imprest issued in terms of F.R.371 had not been settled within one month of completion of the work	The officers receiving advances have been regularly informed and followed up by the relevant directors to settle the advances they have received within 10 days of the completion of the program. (Annexure 08)
12	The number of training opportunities provided out of the planned training opportunities remained at a level of less than 50%.	Although training programs were organized at the beginning of the year to be held as per the annual training plan for the year 2023, due to the restriction of government expenditure as per the circular of the Secretary to the Treasury 1/2023 and dated 27.01.2023, the number of training opportunities that could be provided remained at a level of less than 50% due to the non-allocation of provisions for training programs.

13	The audit opinion on the accounts of the institution was at the level of Qualified /Disclaimer / Adverse	Action is being taken to correct the deficiencies pointed out.
14	All officers had not submitted their Asset and Liability Declarations.	Necessary steps were taken to obtain Asset and Liability Declarations from officers who had not submitted them on the due date.
15	Arrangements had not been made to properly transfer officers who had completed their maximum service period.	1. Sri Lanka Agricultural Service The revised transfer procedure of the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service has been forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture for approval by my letter No. Est /1/10/Ag.S./A.T.-2024 and dated 02.11.2025. The Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation has been informed to submit observations and recommendations in this regard by letter No. Agri/2/2/1/4/10/02 Ag.S.A.T and dated 2026.01.19 and it is informed that a committee has been appointed to provide observations and recommendations for this purpose and further work is being carried out. 2. Sri Lanka Technical Service (Special) While there was no approved transfer procedure for officers in the Agriculture Instructor (Special) grade, a transfer procedure has been prepared and approval has been obtained for the same by the Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture vide letter No. Agri/2/2/1/3/3/1/7-iii and dated 04.08.2025 The trade union representatives have submitted a proposal on 31.03.2026 regarding the matters that need further revision and further work is being done on how the relevant proposals should be incorporated into the transfer procedure. 3. Technical Service The Annual Transfer Board was held in 2023 and transfer proposals were made, but due to a complaint filed in court by the Agriculture instructors' Trade Unions, the transfers were suspended until the case was concluded.

		It is hereby kindly informed that it is not possible to transfer all officers who have completed 05 years of service in each service station at once, and the following reasons have led to this. I. Existence of officer vacancies. II. Having to maintain the service stations at maximum capacity with a limited number of officers. III. Maintaining the daily duties of each service station without interruption. IV. No transfer requests for very difficult and difficult service stations. V. Unable to provide successors for certain difficult service stations and some officers in such service stations have expressed their willingness to serve in the difficult service stations themselves. VI. Cancellation of the transfers in the year 2022 due to protests by the Agriculture Instructors' Trade Union. VII. 2022/2023 Annual Transfers Temporarily Suspended Due to Court of Appeal Application Filed by Agriculture Instructors' Association The annual transfers for the years 2022 and 2023 were consolidated and annual transfer committees were established and transfer orders were issued on 31.10.2022. As per the relevant transfer orders, 127 Agriculture Instructors were transferred. The transfer orders of Research Assistants and Technical Support Officers for the years 2022 and 2023 were issued on 31.10.2022. Accordingly, 23 Research Assistants and 91 Technical Support Officers were transferred. However, the relevant annual transfers were temporarily suspended due to an application filed by the Agriculture Instructors' Unions in the Court of Appeal. Due to the extension of the completion of the said proceedings until 02.02.2024, the transfers of Agriculture Instructors made for the years 2022 and 2023 could not be implemented, and since two months had already elapsed in the year 2024, the annual transfers for the year 2024 could not be implemented. Due to this litigation, obstacles also arose in the implementation of the transfer boards of Research Assistant and Technical Assistant officers for the year 2024. However, you are informed that these problems have been minimized by transferring officers in accordance with the Transfer Procedure.
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4. Combined Service

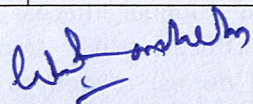
The Director General of Combined Services deals with the annual transfers of Management Service Officers, Development Officers, Drivers and Office Servants belonging to the Combined Service. The applications of officers applying for annual transfers are recommended and forwarded online and the list of officers with more than 5 years of service in this department is also prepared and forwarded to the Director General of Combined Services. Accordingly, the following transfer orders have been implemented in the year 2024/2025.

Designation	Number of officers
Development Officer	17
Management Services officer	37
Driver	18
Office Servant Service	04

Approval has been received from the year 2024 to implement the Department's annual internal transfer procedure for the posts of Management Service Officer and Development Officer. While transferring Development Officers of the Department to perform duties (office/field based duties) related to various directorate divisions, special attention is paid to the qualifications pursued by those officers (e.g. B.Sc (Agriculture), food technology, B.Sc, etc.) for subject-related knowledge. Since practical problems arise from transferring officers who have studied another subject without special qualifications from other directorate divisions, officers who applied for internal transfer and officers with more than 05 years of service in the same unit were also transferred in a way that does not hinder the duties of the relevant units. The call for internal transfer applications for the year 2027 is scheduled to be made before 30.06.2026.

Since the number of departmental posts in this department, namely Agriculture Monitoring Officer, Program Assistant, Farm Clerk, Media Assistant, Audio Visual Assistant, Hostel warden, Seed Technician, Painter, Photographer, Audio Visual Technician, Bee Demonstrator, Agricultural Extension Service Officer is less than 50 officers as per Section 250(II) of Chapter XVIII of the Code of Procedural Rules, it has been decided not to implement internal transfers at the discretion of the Head of the Department, but applications for internal transfer of officers in the post of Agricultural Monitoring Officer are being invited for the year 2024/2025 and arrangements have been made to convene the Transfer Appeal Committee.

		5. Primary Semi-Technical and Skilled (PL-02/03) and Primary Non-Technical (PL-01) Service Categories Since there was no formal transfer procedure with the approval of the Public Service Commission for the posts related to the Primary Semi-Technical and Skilled (PL-02/03) and Primary Non-Technical (PL-01) service categories, a formal transfer procedure has been prepared in accordance with Chapter XVIII of the Code of Procedural Rules and steps have been taken to obtain approval from the Public Service Commission in the year 2023. Accordingly, annual internal transfers have been implemented for the years 2024 and 2025/2026. The names of employees who have completed 05 years of service in relation to the Primary Semi-Technical and Technical (PL-02/03) and Primary Non-Technical (PL-01) posts were prepared and submitted to the Transfer Board. However, due to the following reasons, it was not possible to transfer all employees who had completed more than 05 years of service. • Problems in carrying out organizational activities by transferring all employees with more than 05 years of service at once. • Problems arise in matching successors based on service needs and vacancies in positions.
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