පාර්ලිමේන්තු ප්‍රකාශන මාලා අංක-492

ආයතනයේ නම- අපනයන 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

பாராளுமன்றவெளியீட்டுதொடர் இலக்கம் - 492

நிறுவனத்தின் பெயர் : ஏற்றுமதிவிவசாயத் திணைக்களம்

பாராளுமன்றத்தில் அரசகணக்குகள் தொடர்பானசெயற்குழுவினால் முன்வைக்கப்பட்ட
அறிக்கை
தொடர்பாகநிலையானகட்டளை இலக்கம் 119(4) இன் கீழ் கௌரவஅமைச்சரதுஅவதானிப்புக்கள்
மற்றும்
மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டநடவடிக்கைகள்
பாராளுமன்றத்திற்குசமர்ப்பித்தல்.

Parliamentary Session No-492

Name Of the Institution- Department Of Export Agriculture

Presenting observations and actions taken regarding the report submitted to

Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of Standing

Order No 119(4).

Risk registers are not maintained in an updated manner.	I would like to inform you that the risk register of the Department of Export Agriculture has been maintained since the year 2023 and is being updated regularly whenever necessary.
Not all audit queries issued by the Auditor General had been replied to within one month.	As the Department was required to obtain relevant information from district and sub-offices in order to respond to audit queries issued by the National Audit Office, replies to certain audit queries had taken more than one month. However, by now, replies have been provided for all audit queries. I further wish to inform you that special attention will be paid to this matter in the future and necessary steps will be taken to provide replies within a period of less than one month as scheduled.
Instances where replies to internal audit queries had not been submitted within one month.	As it was necessary to obtain relevant details from district and sub-offices in order to respond to audit queries issued by the Internal Audit Division, replies to certain audit queries had taken more than one month. Nevertheless, all audit queries have now been answered. I kindly inform you that special attention will be paid to this matter in the future and steps will be taken to provide replies within a period of less than one month as scheduled.
A vehicle had remained idle but not disposed within a period of eight months.	The relevant vehicle has now been disposed . I would like to state that, in future, necessary action will be taken to dispose of unserviceable and unnecessary vehicles within the prescribed time period.
Bank reconciliation statements had not been prepared, certified, and submitted for audit on the due dates.	As bank receipts are required to be properly identified prior to reconciliation, delays in receiving receipts from the District Assistant Directors' Offices have made it difficult to submit the bank reconciliation statements on time. However, kindly note that special attention will be paid to this matter in future, and necessary steps will be taken to ensure that the bank reconciliation statements are submitted on or before the due dates.
There were outstanding loan balances that had remained unsettled for more	The number of officers who had left the service, as well as retired officers with outstanding loan balances exceeding one year, was 16. Details of the

than one year.	officers who had left the service are given in Annexure 01. The loan balances relating to officers numbered 1 to 3 have been referred to the Public Finance Department for write-off action. Recovery action in respect of the loan balances of officers numbered 4 to 6 and officer number 9 is being carried out through the guarantors. Further, special attention has been paid to officers numbered 7 and 8, and necessary steps are being taken to recover the outstanding balances.Details of the retired officers are shown in Annexure 02, and kindly note that action will be taken to recover the relevant loan balances upon the payment of retirement gratuities.
The balance in the cash book at the end of the year under review had not been remitted to the Treasury on the due dates specified in the relevant circular provisions.	However, I wish to inform you that, in accordance with the instructions issued by the Treasury, action has been taken to settle the relevant balances within the prescribed due dates during the years 2023, 2024, and 2025. Further, as stipulated in Treasury Operations Guideline No. 06/2020, the balances in the cash book at the end of each year should be handed over to the respective bank branch maintaining the official bank accounts of Ministries and Departments with sub-offices, and thereafter remitted to the Treasury within the prescribed time frame. Accordingly, the accounts were properly settled on the following dates:

Year of Settlement	Due Date as per Circular	Date of Payment / Remittance
2023	On or before 04 January	04.01.2024
2024	On or before 04 January	01.01.2025
2025	On or before 04 January	02.01.2026

Interim advances issued in terms of Financial Regulation 371 had not been settled within one month after the completion of the relevant tasks.

Details of the interim advances issued during the years 2023, 2024, and 2025, including the amounts settled on the due dates and the amounts not settled on the due dates, are given below. Further, I wish to inform you that necessary steps will be taken to ensure that future interim advances are settled on or before the due dates.

Year	Amount of Advance Paid	Amount Settled on Due Date	Amount Not Settled on Due Date
2023	96	52	44
2024	85	44	41
2025	88	69	19

Staff had been recruited in excess of the approved cadre.

Development Officers were attached to the Department in accordance with the instructions issued by the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government, through Letter No. PG/GT/2020 (Volume III) dated 03.01.2022. The relevant details have been submitted to the Department of Management Services for approval. Further, I kindly inform you that necessary action will be taken in future to avoid recruitment beyond the approved cadre limit of the Department.

<table>
<tr>
<td>The Human Resource Development Plan prepared by the Department had not ensured that more than 50 percent of the staff received at least 12 hours of training per year. Further, the training opportunities provided were less than 50 percent of the planned training opportunities.</td>
<td>In terms of Budget Circular No. 01/2023, the recurrent expenditure allocations for the year 2023 had been reduced by 6 percent, and accordingly, training opportunities had to be limited in accordance with Paragraph 6(c) of the Government Expenditure Management Circular. However, I kindly inform you that, in preparing future Human Resource Development Plans, necessary steps will be taken to ensure that more than 50 percent of the staff are provided with training opportunities of at least 12 hours per year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The recommendations contained in the Auditor. General's Report had not been implemented.</td>
<td>I wish to inform you that the following actions have been taken with regard to the recommendations made in the Auditor General's Report.
<table>
<tr><th>Order / Recommendation</th><th>Date Given</th><th>Progress in Implementation</th></tr>
<tr><td>Bank reconciliation statements had not been prepared, certified, and submitted for audit within the due dates.</td><td>18.06.2024</td><td>As bank receipts are required to be properly identified prior to processing, delays in receiving receipts from the District Offices had affected the timely submission of bank reconciliation statements. However, all outstanding bank reconciliation statements have now been submitted. Further, I kindly</td></tr>
</table>
</td>
</tr>
</table>

			inform you that special attention will be paid to this matter in future and necessary steps will be taken to ensure that bank reconciliation statements are submitted on or before the due dates.
	Passwords relating to the Government payroll preparation software had not been changed every three months in accordance with Public Accounts Circular No. 171/2004 dated 11.05.2004.	18.06.2024	I kindly inform you that the password of the Department's payroll processing software is currently being changed once every three months in compliance with Public Accounts Circular No. 171/2004.

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="3">The recommendations and directives of the Committee on Public Accounts had not been implemented.</td><td colspan="3">I would like to inform you that the recommendations and directives issued by the Committee on Public Accounts have been implemented as follows:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Order / Recommendation</td><td>Date Given</td><td>Progress in Implementation</td></tr>
<tr><td>Preparation of plans to achieve export revenue targets.</td><td>18.06.2024</td><td>A six-year plan covering the period from 2024 to 2030 has been prepared by identifying and minimizing the shortcomings observed in the plan prepared in 2016, while also taking into consideration new trends in local and international markets and global market demand.</td></tr>
</table>

	Regular promotion of the cultivation of Wallapatta and the export of other export agricultural crops.	18.06.2024	The legal management of the Wallapatta plant has currently been vested with the Department of Forest Conservation. Further, the Attorney General's Department has submitted amendments to the Export Agriculture Crops Promotion Act No. 46 of 1992 in order to transfer the relevant authority to the Department of Export Agriculture.
	Removal of existing legal obstacles.		The relevant amendment draft is currently pending submission by the Ministry of Agriculture for Cabinet approval. However, the Ministry of Agriculture has not yet officially announced the transfer of the Wallapatta plant to the Department of Export Agriculture.
	Failure to take action to acquire 29 plots of land belonging to the Government and private parties.	18.06.2024	Out of the 29 plots of land, 18 plots belong to the Land Reform Commission and other institutions. In terms of the Land Acquisition Act, acquisition activities relating to 03 plots are currently in the final stages, while acquisition proceedings relating to the remaining plots are being carried out at various stages.
	Although a substantial amount of money had been spent on the purchase of 300 tablet computers and the development of computer software, the expected outcomes had not been achieved.	18.06.2024	The tablet computers currently in the possession of officers of the Department of Export Agriculture are being utilized for data entry activities, departmental field surveys, online meetings, awareness programmes, progress monitoring, and other official functions. Necessary measures are being taken to further enhance their utilization. In addition, an investigation is currently being conducted through the Ministry regarding the procurement of the 300 tablet computers and the development of the related computer software.

Order / Recommendation	Date Given	Progress in Implementation
		through the Ministry regarding the procurement of the 300 tablet computers and the development of the related computer software.
Not all officers had submitted their declarations of assets and liabilities.		I acknowledge this observation. Accordingly, prior notices have already been issued to obtain the pending declarations, and action is currently being taken to ensure full compliance.
Arrangements had not been made to properly transfer officers who had completed their maximum service period.		Transfers of officers have been carried out in accordance with the approved annual transfer procedure. However, due to the non-availability of suitable replacements, it has not been possible to transfer some officers who have completed their maximum service period. Further, I kindly inform you that details of all officers who have completed more than five years of service, in line with the annual transfer procedure for combined service officers, will be submitted to the Director General of Combined Services for necessary action.

M.K.S.R.D. Samarasinghe
Director General
Department of Export Agriculture
12.06.2026

Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock,
Land & Irrigation

D.P. Wickramasinghe
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