

**Observations stated in the Report Tabled at the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts according to Standing Orders No. 119(4) and Presentation of Relevant Measures taken**

Parliamentary Series Number : 183

Name of the Institution : Ministry of Environment

Shortcomings identified by the Committee	Action taken by the Institution to rectify the shortcomings /current status
According to the State Accounts Circular No. 171/2004 dated 11.05.2004, the first, second and third passwords related to the computer software for processing government salaries were not changed once in three months.	Although this was not operational at that time due to various practical problems, according to the audit inspection, the relevant passwords were prepared and the salary processing computer software was implemented.
Answers for the audit queries raised by the Auditor General were not provided within a month.  Responses to internal audit queries were not submitted within a month.	In the year 2020, due to the spread of the Covid-19 epidemic, the country was locked down and due to the obstacles in the performance of duties in all government offices, the government officials were called for duty on a roster basis. In some cases, when providing answers to audit queries, information from other government agencies is also obtained and the answers prepared by various departments are combined to prepare the final report. Therefore, there have been cases of delays in providing answers to audit queries, but efforts will be taken to prevent such delays in future.
A vehicle has not been subjected to expulsion within 06 months of being condemned	The ministry had decided to give the vehicles that were decommissioned and recommended for disposal to the National Youth Service Council for practical training of students studying motor mechanics. Accordingly, the car number 18-3797, of which the chassis number has been removed and the registration canceled, has been given to the National Youth Service Council for training purposes through my letter No. 02/02/Pra/01/Vol VI (Vehicle Disposal), dated 28.02.2020.  Car No. 18 – 1358 has also been deregistered and given to National Youth Service Council through my letter No. 02/02/Pra/01/Vol VI and dated 25.03.2022 for training purposes but has not been

	collected by them so far due to transportation difficulties. A reminder dated 31.12.2022 has also been forwarded.
Revenues collected were not repaid in accordance with the relevant provisions.	This ministry is not a revenue generating ministry. But in some cases, tender deposit money, small income received from projects has been credited monthly to the government income through account summaries.
The performance agreement including the entire staff was not prepared and contracted.	Although the necessary activities should be done to prepare and maintain contractual performance agreements including the entire staff, since no performance agreements have been prepared annually in this ministry, it is expected to conduct a study and prepare performance agreements.
There was no senior officer nominated in the organization to prepare human resource development plans and implement capacity and skill development programs.	The Human Resource Development Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Public Administrative Circular 02/2018. A senior officer of the institution has been nominated to prepare human resource development plans and implement capacity and skill development programs.
The amount of training opportunities given out of the planned training opportunities was less than 50%	In the face of the Covid-19 epidemic, the practical implementation of planned training programs related to human resource development activities has become problematic during the relevant period, and subsequently, due to the restrictions imposed by the National Budget Circular No. 03/2022 dated 2022.04.26 issued by the Ministry of Finance in relation to controlling public expenditure, the planned training programs had to be revised and some training programs had to be suspended. But training programs are expected to be implemented as planned for the year 2023.

  
**Dr. Anil Jasinghe**  
Secretary