

Name of the institution : Rubber Development Department

Submission of observations of Hon. Minister and steps taken with
regard to the reports

tabled by the Committee of Public Accounts

in terms of Standing Order No.119 (4)

Am Jh.

Parliamentary Series No. 183

Rubber Development Department

Part 1 : 86.00

	Shortcomings identified by the Committee	Action taken by the institution to rectify the shortcomings / current status
01.	Register of Losses had not been updated and maintained.	Register of Losses has been updated.
02.	In terms of Paragraph 13 of the Assets Management Circular No. 1/2017 dated 26.06.2017, a suitable liaison officer had not been appointed to coordinate the implementation of the provisions of the Circular and informed the Comptroller General's Office.	In terms of Paragraph 13 of the Assets Management Circular No. 1/2017 dated 26.06.2017, an officer was appointed in the year 2021 to coordinate the implementation of the provisions of the Circular and informed the Comptroller General.
03.	Condemned vehicles were not disposed of within a period of less than 6 months after condemning.	Disposal of vehicles is in progress.
04.	Loan balances in arrears for over 1 year had not been settled.	Loan balances in arrears for over 1 year are to be recovered from only three persons and those loan balances are in arrears for over 29 years, 16 years and 02 years. i. Of which the loan balance for 29 years has been dealt with and actions have been taken to write off the loan balances in arrears. ii. The loan balance for 16 years has been caused by an officer who was interdicted, and the case has been handed over to the Attorney General's Department to take legal action regarding the settlement of the loan balance in arrears. iii. The loan balance for 02 years has been caused by an officer who has vacated the post, and the case has been handed over to the Attorney

		General's Department to take legal action regarding the settlement of the loan balance in arrears.
05.	The ad hoc sub imprests issued as per F.R. 371 had not been settled within one month from the completion of the task.	The relevant officials have been informed to settle the ad hoc sub imprests issued as per F.R. 371 within one month from the completion of the task and at present, the relevant settlements are being carried out correctly within the prescribed periods
06.	The Performance Reports to be tabled in Parliament for the year under review had not been submitted on due date.	Despite the delay in submitting the Performance Report for the year 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Performance Report for the year 2021 has been submitted to the Ministry to receive the covering letter of the Minister to table it in Parliament.

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Part 2 : 73.00

	Shortcomings identified by the Committee	Action taken by the institution to rectify the shortcomings / current status
01.	There was no register maintained to keep records of information provided/ not provided in response to the requests made by the public.	A register to keep records of information provided/ not provided in response to the requests made by the public has been updated from the year 2020.
02.	Performance agreements covering the entire staff had not been drafted or entered.	A performance agreement covering the entire staff has been drafted and entered.
03.	Out of the training opportunities planned, the extent of training opportunities granted, was less than 50%.	Due to the spread of the Corona pandemic in the year 2020/2021, health guidelines were issued to government offices to close the office from time to time, report for duty on a roster basis and minimize the gathering of personnel. Therefore, gathering of personnel in groups and conducting training programmes were restricted. As well, although training programmes were organized, the officials refused to participate in them due to the risk of spreading the COVID-19 pandemic. In such a situation, training programmes had to be limited and as a result, out of the training opportunities planned, the extent of training opportunities granted, was less than 50%.
04.	Shortcomings/ errors pointed out by the Auditor General in the paragraphs had not been rectified.	Shortcomings/ errors pointed out by the Auditor General in the paragraphs were rectified.



Janaka Dharmakeerthi
Secretary

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Checked by :- Chief Accountant



Recommended by :- Chief Financial Officer

