

ආයතනයේ නම : වන සංරක්ෂණ දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව

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

නிறுவනத்தின் பெயர் : வனப் பாதுகாப்புத் திணைக்களம்

பாராளுமன்றத்தின் அரசாங்கக் கணக்குகள் பற்றிய குழுவினால்
சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்ட அறிக்கை தொடர்பில் நிலையியற் கட்டளை 119(4)
இன் கீழ் கௌரவ அமைச்சரின் அவதானிப்புகளையும் எடுத்த
நடவடிக்கைகளையும் பாராளுமன்றத்திற்கு சமர்ப்பித்தல்.

Name of the institution: Department of Forest Conservation

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. 199(4)

Weaknesses pointed out by the financial and progress review report submitted for the financial year 2020.	Actions taken for that / Present status
Section 1	
1. Non submission of annual financial statement by the scheduled date.	➤ It has been submitted by the scheduled date.(by 28.02.2021)
2. Non submission of Public officer's Advance Account by the scheduled date.	➤ It has been submitted by the scheduled date.(by 28.02.2021)
3. Answers have not been given for all the audit queries produced by the Auditor General with in a period of one month.	➤ Most of the audit queries were related to Regional offices, Divisional Forest offices and various Divisions. Hence, it takes some time to collect those information. As a result, it is impossible to answer audit queries practically within in a period of one month. It is expected to answer the audit queries within a minimum time period.
4. Answers have not been given for internal audit queries With in a period of one month.	➤ Due to heavy load of work in the Accounts Division ,sometimes it was unable to answer some audit queries within two month. Most of the audit Queries were answered with in tow months. Most of the audit queries were related to Regional offices, Divisional Forest Offices and various Divisions.so it takes some time to collect relevant information. Hence, it is impossible to answer audit querie practically with in one month Every action has been taken to answer them within a minimum time period.
5. A vehicle has not been disposed within a time period less than six months after condemnation .	➤ Disposal of condemned vehicles has been initiated in year 2022 work of disposal assessment committees have been completed in 19 districts up to now.
6. Fuel consumption of Department vehicles has not been checked as per Pub.Admin circular 30/2016.	➤ Due to Covid – 19 pandemic situation and fuel crisis fuel consumption of vehicles has not been checked. Fuel consumption test has been initiated in year 2023.Due to the decision of issuing fuel on the basis of a fuel quota, it is difficult to carryout fuel consumption tests.
7. Bank reconciliation statements have not been prepared by the due date.	➤ Due to an issue related to updating of CIGAS programme for 2020,this delay was observed for couple of months. However, those statements were submitted by the due date later.
8. Inactive bank accounts that prevailed from the year under review or from several years prior to that have not been cleared.	➤ Actions are being taken to clear all the inactive bank accounts.25 bank accounts have been opened by Regional and Divisional offices related to projects implemented by the Department Some of those accounts are in inactive state now. Details of those accounts were requested from Regional offices.

	Actions will be taken to close down the inactive accounts as per the provisions of the Financial Regulations within six months on the receipt of information.
9. Actions have not been taken to clear Adjustable balances revealed from the bank reconciliation statement as per F.R. within one month.	➤ Most of the Adjustments revealed from the bank reconciliation statements were cleared later on. Necessary actions have been taken to complete all Adjustments by bank reconciliation statements of the month of February of the Financial year 2023.
10. There were deficit loan balances that prevail from more than one year.	➤ Actions are being taken to recover those deficit loan balances from the relevant officers or from guarantors. Otherwise, actions are being taken to recover them through legal actions. A committee has been appointed to speedup future activities related to this.
11. Actions have not been taken as per F.R.571 regarding the expired deposits of the General deposit Account.	➤ Actions have been taken to credit above deposits identified as per F.R.571 to Government income.
12. Non submission of performance Report of the year under review to the parliament by the due date.	➤ Basic Draft of the Performance report of year 2020 was completed by the due date. However, due to issues related to Tamil translation, printing and proof reading it took an extra time. Actions will be taken to avoid this situation in the future.

Section 2

1. There is no Chance to the General Public to make complains or to make compliments through the Web Site maintained by the Department.	➤ A web site was developed in 2018 to provide General information, technical information, data, maps, information related to biodiversity ecotourism and legal side of the Department to the general public. However, it was revealed that the web site was not user friendly and due to poor maintenance and update as well as due to various technical issues this web site is not up to the standards. However, due to the great requirement of a web site, a Procurement process was carried out in year 2022 to develop a web site by preparing a TOR based on the evaluation of a technical committee. However, due to economic crisis of the country, money allocated for this process was taken back during second quarter of 2022 in order to control Government expenses. As a result, the process of developing a web site was abandoned. A request was made again for allocations in this year too. But it was not successful. However, as this is an essential task an attempt is being made to get allocation. Meanwhile compilation of technical facts and Procurement process have already been initiated.
2. Non availability of Human Resources plan prepared	➤ Due to Covid – 19 pandemic situation, offices were not functioned properly. A proper Human Resources plan has

according to the provisions of the public administration.	been prepared for year 2022.
3. A minimum of 12 hours training has not been given for each and every employee by the prepared Human Resources plan.	➤ A training plan was prepared as required by collecting information of the officers at the Head office and of field officers in 2020. However ,it was unable to implement this training plan due to Covid – 19 pandemic situation.
4. performance agreements have not been prepared for the entire Staff & the Staff has not entered in to any such agreements.	➤ Performance agreements have not been prepared and the staff has not been entered into such agreements in year 2020 due to pandemic situation prevailed in the country. However , performance agreements were prepared and entered into agreement for year 2023.
5. Only less than 50% of the planned training opportunities were given to the staff.	➤ A training plan was prepared in- 2020 by collecting information of the officers at the Head office and of the Field officers. This training plan was not implemented due to Covid - 19 pandemic situation.
6. Shortcomings/errors given by the Auditor General in paragraphs have not been corrected.	➤ Actions have been taken to correct shortcomings/ errors given by the Auditor General in paragraphs as much as possible.
7. Achievement of identified first performance indicator is less than 50%.	➤ Due to Covid – 19 Pandemic situation , functions of the officers were not up to the stranded level. Hence , it was unable to reach to the expected stranded of the performance indicator . Actions are being taken to reach the expected standards of the performance indicator in year 2023.
8. Achievement of identified second performance indicator is less than 50%.	➤ Due to Covid – 19 Pandemic situation , functions of the offices were not up to the stranded level. Hence , it was unable to reach to the expected standards of the performance indicator . Actions are being taken to reach the expected standards of the performance indicator in year 2023.
9. Achievement of identified third performance indicator is less than 50%.	➤ Due to Covid – 19 Pandemic situation , functions of the officers were not up to the standards level. Hence , it was unable to reach to the expected stranded of the performance indicator . Actions are being taken to reach the expected standards of the performance indicator in year 2023.

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