

Submission of observations of the Hon.Minister and the measures to be taken to the Parliament under the Standing Order number 119 (4) with regard to the reports tabled by the Committee on Public Accounts of the Parliament.

Parliament Publication -290

Name of the Institution – Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation

	Deficiencies identified by the committee.	Measures taken to rectify the weaknesses / present status
01	The balance remained after utilization of a provision allocated to expenditure vote as per the Financial Regulation 94(1), had been spent exceeding the approved limits.	There were no liabilities with the external service supply stake holders due to unavailability of provisions for contractors. Action will be taken as per Financial Regulation 94(1)
02	Existence of outstanding loan balance over a period of one year	The balance loan amount of Rs. 119,200.00 recoverable from two officers whose date of transfer was not stated definitely was unable to be recovered by 31.12.2022 dates back to 1990's. A request was made to the Department of Public Finance to write off the loan balance and a Committee was appointed to write off the loan balance as per the recommendations made and the Committee Report was submitted on 18.10.2019, subsequent to studying the recommendations. As no information can be found with regard to the two loan balances, legal advice, death certificates and statements by the guarantors cannot be submitted. Therefore, a letter was forwarded to the Department of Public

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Secretary

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		Finance on 01.11.2023 requesting to advise to write off the two loan balances. An amount of Rs.293, 470.00 is due to be recovered from Mr.J.A Ariyasena who was interdicted. Based on the court decision taken on the case filed against him at the High Court by the Commission to investigate Bribery and Corruption, the case filed by the said officer at the Court of Appeal was heard on 08.03.2022 and the court decision issued stated that he was guilty. He was informed on 26.08.2022 and 29.11.2022 to pay the loan balance. A letter dated 18.07.2023 was forwarded to the Department of Pensions to obtain approval to recover the amount from the pension of his spouse and to make necessary arrangements in this regard.
03	Number of training opportunities granted out of the planned training opportunities had been less than 50%	The officers could not be sent for training programs as expected since the institutions which conduct these courses had postponed most of the training programs and conducted courses online due to risk of Covid -19 pandemic prevailed in the year 2021. Hence, the training programs provided out of the planned training opportunities provided for the year 2021 was less than 50% But, a level of 67% and 75% respectively had been achieved in 2022 and 2023. It is expected to take necessary action to achieve a percentage more than 75% in the next year (2024).



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