Name of the Institution : Ministry of Power and Energy (119)

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. 119(4)

Evaluation by Online Information Management System of Financial Control and Performance of Government Institutions, Provincial Councils and Local Government Institutions - Presenting the Current Progress to the Parliament regarding the Financial Year 2021

Parliamentary Series No. - 290

Name of the Institution - Ministry of Power

Part One

Serial No.	Shortcomings Identified by the Committee	Explanations relating to the said Shortcomings
01	Annual Procurement Plan was not prepared.	The Procurement Plan for year 2021 was not submitted as offices were conducted under shift basis due to Covid Pandemic situation prevailed in the country, However Annual Procurement Plan of the Ministry for years 2022, 2023 and 2024 had been prepared. The Procurement Plans of years 2022, 2023 and 2024 have been approved respectively on 15.12.2021, 26.01.2023 and 12.12.2023 and sent to relevant sections.
02	As per Sub-section 40(4) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, copies of the Internal Audit Reports were not forwarded to the Department of Management Audit after the date of 01.08.2018.	Copies of the Internal Audit Reports were forwarded to the Department of Management Audit from the year 2022.
03	Daily Running Charts and monthly summary reports for reserve vehicles were not submitted to the Auditor General.	Annual Running Chart-books of vehicles for the years of 2021 and 2022 had been delayed due to Covid Pandemic situation. However such records have been submitted to the National Audit Office in January 2023 and from the month of May 2023, daily running charts and monthly summary notes of all the pool vehicles of the Ministry of Power are continually forwarded to the Auditor General at the end of every month and prior to the 15th day of the following month.

04	State symbol was not painted on every vehicle.	Measures have been taken in October of 2023 to paint the state symbol in all the pool vehicles of the Ministry of Power.
05	According to the provisions stated in Paragraph 3.1 of the State Administration Circular No. 2016/30 dated 29.12.2016, Fuel Combustion Tests were not done on vehicles owned by the institutions.	As per the 3.2 of the Circular, the fuel inspection should be conducted when the vehicle is engaged in an official tour that requires a running distance of 100Km or more than that. Owing to the Corona Pandemic situation and the intermittent curfew enforcements prevailed in the country in year 2021, Hence the ministry did not have official affairs requiring travelling of such a distance, and fuel inspection as per 3.2 had not been taken place.

Part Two

Serial No.	Shortcomings Identified by the Committee	Explanations relating to the said Shortcomings
01	The Citizens'/Clients' Charter was not properly prepared and implemented .	The Citizens'/Clients' Charter is being maintained in updated condition since year 2022 to present day and it has published in the website of the ministry, all the officers were informed to act accordingly.
02	The institution had not prepared a methodology for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Citizens'/Clients' Charter of the institution.	From the year 2022 until now, the staff officers in charge of the departments are supervising the implementation of the Citizens'/Clients' Charter of the ministry.

03	According to provisions of the Public Administration Circular No. 02/2018 dated 24th January 2018, a properly prepared Human Resource Plan was not available.	The Human Resource Plan has been prepared according to the provisions of the Public Administration Circular in 2022, accordingly performance evaluations are carried out. Since the Human Resource Plan need to be updated in two years, arrangements are being made for that.
04	By the Human Resource Plan prepared, training opportunities of not less than minimum of 12 hours were not asserted for more than 50% of the staff.	As a result of intermittent curfew enforcements that took place during that time due to the Corona Pandemic situation prevailed in the country in year 2021, offices were not being opened fully and officials were not reporting to service continuously, Hence training programs required by the staff could not be implemented. There were no adequate provisions to make officers participate in the programs organized by the training institutes for the year 2022 and 2023. However, by sharing the experience and knowledge of several experienced officials in the Ministry of Power and Energy, and with their resource-contribution, having inquired about training requirements from all the officials of the Ministry's staff , the necessary arrangements were made to provide a minimum training of 12 hours.
05	The performance agreements involving the entire staff were not prepared and contracted.	The performance agreements involving the entire staff have been signed in year 2023. It has been informed by P.A.C. 02/2018(I) that Annual Performance Agreements need not be signed in future.
06	From the planned training opportunities, training opportunities provided remained at a level less than 50%.	Due to Covid Pandemic situation in year 2021 and due to offices not being opened fully, training programs could not be conducted sufficiently, hence, Ministerial staff could not be provided the planned training opportunities. Likewise, in years 2022 and 2023, there were no sufficient provisions to make officers participate in programs organized by training institutes. However, in relation to the explanation given to the matter under above 04, 07 training programs of 02 hours duration were conducted covering all the sections and on subject areas of appointment types, how to proceed during the probationary period, sending on retirement, file-keeping, accounting affairs and planning affairs. Through that, training programs with 14 hour coverage were conducted successfully. Accordingly, the target planned for training courses in year

		2023 has been achieved by 100%. Opportunity was provided for every officer who requires this knowledge for routine official affairs as well as the Efficiency Bar Examinations.

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Ministry of Power and Energy

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Evaluation by Online Information Management System of Financial Control and Performance of Government Institutions, Provincial Councils and Local Government Institutions - Presenting the Current Progress to the Parliament regarding the Financial Year 2021

Parliamentary Series No. - 290
Name of the Institution - Ministry of Energy

Part One

Serial No.	Shortcomings Identified by the Committee	Explanations relating to the said Shortcomings
01	According to the provisions stated in Paragraph 3.1 of the State Administration Schedule No. 2016/30 dated 29.12.2016, an inspection about fuel combustion of vehicles owned by the institution had not been conducted.	As per 3.2 of the Circular, the fuel inspection should be conducted when the vehicle is engaged in an official tour with a distance of 100Km or more than. Since the ministry did not have official affairs for travelling of such a distance, as per 3.2 fuel inspection had not been conducted. It is not economically suitable to drive 100km or more just for the fuel inspection in such a situation where there is a shortage of foreign exchange and a high cost of fuel.
02	According to F.R. 94 (1), the remaining allocation limit after utilizing the allocation made for an Expenditure Head had been committed beyond the approved limits.	At present such commitments have not been made.
03	Existence of outstanding loan balances continuing for more than one year.	Only one loan balance exceeding one year remained and measures were taken to write off this outstanding loan balance as per the approval provided by the letter forwarded by the Department of Public Finance by the date 02.03.2023. (Annexure 01)

Part Two

Serial No.	Shortcomings Identified by the Committee/ Orders given by the Committee	The Measures taken by the Committee to Rectify Shortcomings/ Implement Recommendations/ Current Status
01	By the Human Resource Plan prepared, training opportunities of not less than minimum of 12 hours were not asserted for more than 50% of the staff.	Training programs have been planned to cover the Ministry staff as per the present Human Resource Plan.
02	The performance agreement involving the entire staff was not prepared and contracted.	The performance agreements involving the entire staff have been completed. However, it has been informed Annual Performance Agreements from the year 2024 no requirement to sign by Public Administration Circular No. 02/2018(I) dated 30.11.2023.
03	From the planned training opportunities, training opportunities provided remained at a level less than 50%.	Budgetary provisions were not provided during the recent past to train officers of the Ministry. Therefore, by the resource contribution of well experienced Staff Officers of this Ministry, training programs conducted for the officers of the staff to cover 12 hrs training requirement.
04	The audit opinion on the institution's accounts was in disclaimer or adverse level.	The present opinions of the Audit is that the financial performance and cash flow statement for the year 2022 reflect a true and fair view in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
05	Recommendations of the Auditor General's Report were not implemented.	The shortcomings/deficiencies pointed out by the Auditor General in the audit paragraphs have been rectified so far and relevant officers have been instructed to prevent such errors from recurring in the future. Further, regular follow-up is being carried out in that regard.

06	All the officers have not presented Statements of Assets and Liabilities	Twenty four Staff Officers have submitted Statements of Assets and Liabilities in the year 2021 submission of Annual Statements of Assets & Liability has been forward.

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அரச நிதித் திணைக்களம்
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC FINANCE

අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජනරාල් [illegible] Director General Tel:94-11-2484614 Fax:94-11-2431454 Email: [illegible]treasury.gov.lk
කාර්යාලය [illegible] Office Tel:94-11-2484637 Fax:94-11-2431458

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General Treasury
Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies
The Secretariat, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka

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09 MAR 2023

මගේ අංකය / எனது இல / My No: PFD/RED/WO/2023/06
ඔබේ අංකය / உமது இல / Your No: PRD/1/3/2/49
දිනය / திகதி / Date: 2023.03.02

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09 MAR 2023
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උක්ත කරුණ සම්බන්ධයෙන් ඔබේ සමාංක හා 2023.02.16 දිනැති ලිපිය හා බැඳේ.

02. යොමුගත ලිපිය මගින්, ඛනිජ තෙල් සම්පත් සංවර්ධන අමාත්‍යාංශයේ සේවයේ නිරතව සිටි සේවය හැරගොස් ඇති එච්.ජී.පී. ඉන්දුලාල් මහතාගෙන් අයකර ගැනීමට නොහැකිව ඇති ණය ශේෂය අත්හැර දැමීම සඳහා ඔබගේ නිර්දේශය සහිතව ඉල්ලීමක් මෙම දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවට යොමු කර ඇත.

03. ඒ අනුව, එම නිලධාරියාට අයත් රු.67,884.00ක හිඟ ණය ශේෂය මු.රෙ.113 ප්‍රකාරව අත්හැර දැමීම සඳහා භාණ්ඩාගාර නියෝජ්‍ය ලේකම් අනුමැතිය ලබා දී ඇති බව කාරුණිකව දන්වමි.

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1. විගණකාධිපති, ජාතික විගණන කාර්යාලය
2. අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජනරාල්, ජාතික අයවැය දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව
3. අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජනරාල්, රාජ්‍ය ගිණුම් දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව

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10/03/2023

Ms. Dilini [illegible]

Evaluation by Online Information Management System of Financial Control and Performance of Government Institutions, Provincial Councils and Local Government Institutions - Presenting the Current Progress to the Parliament regarding the Financial Year 2021

Parliamentary Series No. – 290
Name of the Institution - State Ministry of Solar, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects Development

Part One

Serial No.	Shortcomings Identified by the Committee	Explanations relating to the said Shortcomings
01	Measures were not taken to install CIGAS computer program, prepare monthly accounts summaries and submit to the Public Accounts Department before the due date specified in the guidelines issued by the Public Accounts Department.	Owing to the Covid Pandemic situation prevailed, Cigas monthly account summaries in certain months of year 2021 have been delayed. However, it is observed that the monthly account summaries of some months of year 2021 have been submitted before the due date.
02	Cheques and Money Orders Receipts Register was not kept up to date.	Subsequent to updating the Cheques and Money Orders Receipts Register of the State Ministry of Solar, Wind and Hydro Power Generations Projects Development, the documents relevant to it has been handed over to the Accounts Section of the Ministry of Power and Energy.
03	Inventory was not maintained in updated condition.	The then State Ministry, subsequent to updating the inventory, the documents and books relevant to it has been handed over to the Accounts Section of the Ministry of Power and Energy on 04.09.2023.
04	The Document of Damages was not maintained in updated condition.	It is observed that the Ministry has not maintained the Document of Damages in updated condition. However, it is reported that there has been no damage in the

		year 2021 regarding the government vehicles that were given for the use of the State Ministry.
05	As specified by the State Accounts Circular No. 171/2004 dated 11.05.2004, the first password relevant to the Government Payroll Software was not used only by the Accountant or an authorized Staff Officer.	Agreed. The State Ministry has not complied to the requirement of using the password, by only the Accountant or an authorized staff officer.
06	Annual Action Plan was not prepared.	Agreed. As the State Ministry was working on shift basis due to Covid situation, The Annual Action plan had not been prepared.
07	Annual Procurement Plan was not prepared.	Agreed. As the State Ministry was working on shift basis due to Covid situation, The Annual Procurement plan had not been prepared.
08	For every audit query presented by the Auditor General, replies were not submitted within a month.	Although replies have been submitted for all the audit queries, it is observed that submitting replies within a month could not be adhered to.
09	Replies for internal audit queries were not submitted within a month.	Even though replies have been submitted, it is observed that replies have not been submitted within a month.
10	As per Sub-section 40(4) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, copies of the Internal Audit Reports were not forwarded to the Department of Management Audit after the date of 01.08.2018.	It is observed that despite the audits conducted by the State Ministry, copies of internal audit reports have not been submitted to the Department of Management Audit.
11	As per F.R. 134 (3), copies of internal audit reports were not submitted to the Auditor General.	Agreed. It is observed that the State Ministry had not submitted copies of the Internal Audit Reports to the National Audit Office.

12	As per F.R. 134 (2), copies of internal audit reports were not submitted to the Auditor General.	Agreed. It is observed that the State Ministry had not submitted copies of the Audit reports to the National Audit Office.
13	According to paragraph 7 of the Assets Management Circular No. 1/2017 dated 26.05.2017, information about assets purchased and disposals in the year 2018 were not submitted to the Comptroller General's Office.	The State Ministry was established on 09 August 2020 and the assets purchased during the year 2021 and 2022 have been reported to the Comptroller General.
14	According to paragraph 13 of the Assets Management Circular No. 1/2017 dated 26.06.2017, measures had not been taken to appoint a suitable officer to coordinate implementation of circular provisions and inform the Comptroller General's Office of the said appointment.	Agreed. The State Ministry had not appointed a suitable officer according to the circular and informed the Comptroller General.
15	Within the time frame stated in Paragraph 11.1 of Part 1 of the Public Finance Circular No. 01/2020 dated 28.08.2020, Board of Survey was not conducted as per F.R. 756 (6) and relevant reports were not submitted to the Auditor General as of the due date.	Accepted. It is observed that the State Ministry has not carried out the verification according to the circulars. However, after the merge with the Ministry of Power and Energy, the Board of Survey was conducted and all the assets were handed over to the Ministry of Power and Energy on 13.09.2023.
16	Recommendations on surpluses, deficiencies disclosed by the Annual Board of Survey together with other recommendations were not implemented within the specified time periods.	It is observed that the State Ministry has not done so. However, it is confirmed that there is no excess or deficiency in the assets of the government as per the Board of Survey conducted after the merge with the Ministry of Power and Energy.

17	Log books for each vehicle were not maintained on an up-to-date basis.	According to the file relevant to year 2021, which has been forwarded to the Ministry of Power and Energy, it is observed that the vehicle log books were kept in updated condition. The State Ministry has updated the vehicle log books for year 2021 and handed over to the Ministry of Power and Energy.
18	According to the provisions stated in Paragraph 3.1 of the State Administration Schedule No. 2016/30 dated 29.12.2016, an inspection about fuel of the vehicles owned by the institution had not been conducted.	As per the 3.2 of the Circular, the fuel inspection should be conducted when the vehicle is engaged in an official tour that requires a running distance of 100Km or more than that. Owing to the Corona Pandemic situation and the intermittent curfew enforcements prevailed in the country in year 2021, since the ministry did not have official affairs requiring travelling of such a distance, it is observed that fuel inspection as per 3.2 had not been conducted.
19	With regard to balances disclosed by Bank Reconciliation Statements and which should have been adjusted, have not been settled within a month as per F.R.	The State Ministry had not done that. However, in year 2023, having prepared an amended cash book, the adjustments disclosed have been settled.
20	According to F.R. 94 (1), the remaining allocation limit after utilizing the allocation made for an Expenditure Head had been committed beyond the approved limits.	Agreed. It is accepted that commitment had been made beyond the allowable limits.
21	There were outstanding loan balances dating back more than a year.	There were loan balances belonging to two officers and according to the May 2022 account summaries, the loan balance of one officer has been settled and the loan balance of the other officer is being recovered.

22	The balance remained at the cash book as at the closure of the summary year were not remitted to the Department of Treasury Operations as at the specified date.	Due to not keeping the cash book in a formally updated condition by the State Ministry in year 2021, there has been a difference in the cash book. Having prepared a revised cash book to rectify it and after reconciling the Imprest account with the Treasury, the Imprest account was settled down in year 2023.
23	Imprest Reconciliation Statement which reconciles approved Imprest Accounts with books of the Treasury on quarterly basis was not submitted to the Department of Treasury Operations.	Imprest Reconciliation Statements were not prepared by the State Ministry functioned at that time. However, in year 2023, having reconciled the Treasury Imprest Account, it has been settled.
24	Measures had not been taken to identify the differences disclosed as per Imprest Reconciliation Statement and correct them.	In year 2021, as the State Ministry did not maintain the cash book in updated condition, in order to solve the problematic situation prevailed, a revised cash book was prepared. Accordingly, action has been taken to correct the identified differences in the Imprest Account and subsequent to relevant corrections; the official bank account of the State Ministry was closed down by the Ministry of Finance on 18.01.2024.
25	Written duty assignments were not given to everybody in the staff.	In 2021, written duty assignments were given to all the staff.
26	Details relating to the staff were not submitted to the Department of Management Services within a month of termination of a quarter as per Management Services Circular No. 04 of 2017 dated 20.09.2017.	Staff details for 2021 have been forwarded to the Management Services Department at the end of a quarter.

Part Two

Serial No.	Shortcomings Identified by the Committee	Explanations relating to the said Shortcomings
01	A website was not created and maintained to provide necessary information to the public	It is observed that the state Ministry has not created a website at that time as there was no adequate budgetary provision for that.
02	Opportunity was not provided to the public to record complaints or compliments in the website maintained by the institution.	Agreed. It has not been possible to do so as no website has been maintained.
03	The Citizens'/Clients' Charter was not properly prepared and implemented	Agreed. As the State Ministry was functioning on shift basis under the Covid situation, Citizens Charter was not prepared and maintained.
04	The institution had not prepared a methodology for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Citizens'/Clients' Charter of the institution.	Agreed. As the State Ministry was functioning on shift basis under the Covid situation, such monitoring and evaluation methodology was not prepared and maintained.
05	According to provisions of the Public Administration Circular No. 02/2018 dated 24th January 2018, a properly prepared Human Resource Plan was not available.	Agreed. It is observed that the state Ministry had not prepared a Human Resource Plan
06	By the Human Resource Plan prepared, training opportunities of not less than minimum of 12 hours were not asserted for more than 50% of the staff.	Due to the Covid epidemic situation in 2021, training opportunities could not be provided due to the minimum attendance of staff per shift.

07	The performance agreement involving the entire staff was not prepared and contracted.	It is observed that the State Ministry had not prepared performance Agreement.
08	A senior officer of the institution was not nominated for preparation of Human Resource Development Plans and to implement capacity and skills development programs.	Agreed. As the State Ministry was functioning on shift basis, a senior officer for this purpose had not been appointed.
09	From the planned training opportunities, training opportunities provided remained at a level less than 50%.	Due to the Covid epidemic situation in 2021, training opportunities could not be provided due to the minimum attendance of staff per shift.
10	The audit opinion on the institution's accounts was in disclaimer or adverse level.	Accepted
11	According to paragraph 12.1 of the Public Finance Circular No. 02/2020 dated 28.08.2020, three performance indicators that can measure the institution's progress while depicting clearly the role to be played by the institution were not identified.	Agreed. It is accepted that the State Ministry had not identified three Performance Indicators.
12	Recommendations of the Auditor General's Report were not implemented.	State Ministry has not functioned in that manner and based on the recommendations of the committee appointed to rectify this situation, which was identified as soon as the institution's merge with Ministry of Power and Energy; having corrected the problematic situation existed with the Bank Reconciliatory Statement and Imprest Account and having updated the Salary documents (P Ledgers), Inventory documents and Fixed Assets documents etc. have been handed over to the Ministry of Power and Energy.

13	All the officers have not presented Statements of Assets and Liabilities	The Statements of Assets and Liabilities of all the staff officers were taken over by the then Ministry of Power and kept secured.
14	Measures have not taken properly to transfer officers who have completed the maximum service period	Officers who have completed the maximum service period have been transferred properly.

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