

Presenting the observations and measures taken by the minister in charge of the reports submitted by the parliament by the committee on the public accounts related to the ministries, departments, provincial councils and local government institutions.

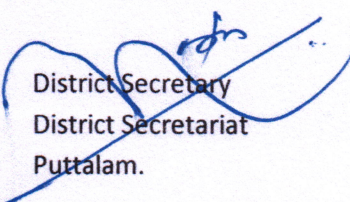
Parliamentary Series No -290

District Secretariat, Puttalam.

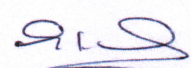
Shortcomings and directions pointed out by the committee on the public accounts	Measures taken by the Accounting officer	Present progress
Part One – 1. All audit queries submitted by the Auditor General were not answered within a month. 2. Instances of internal audit inquiries not being answered within a month were reported. 3. There were outstanding loan balances dating back more than a year. Part Two – 01. A human resources plan was not prepared as per the provisions of the Public Administration Circular No. 02/2018 dated January 24, 2018. 02. The prepared HR plan did not guarantee training opportunities for more than 50 percent of the staff for at least 12 hours per year.	The concerned staff have been informed to respond to the audit queries within a month Necessary actions have been taken to collect the arrears. According to 02/2018, no human resource plan was prepared for the year 2022, but a training plan was prepared including the training of District Secretariat and 16 Divisional Secretariats. From the year 2023, a human resource plan has been prepared as per the circular. Training opportunities were guaranteed in the year 2022, but due to the restriction of duties due to the economic crisis and due to the control of expenses according to the budget circulars 01/2023 and 02/2023 in the year 2023 and due to the restriction of training required according to paragraph 5 of the national budget circular 1/2024 in the year 2024, It has not been possible to conduct training as per the 02/2018 circular.	There are times when it is difficult to provide answers within a month when the projects and technical matters carried out with the support of various government institutions are to be checked and answered. Advice has been sought from the Attorney General on the files that require legal action. The human resource plan for the years 2023 and 2024 has been prepared as per the circular. The National Budget Circular 01/2024 issued for the year 2024 on public expenditure control is in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 05.

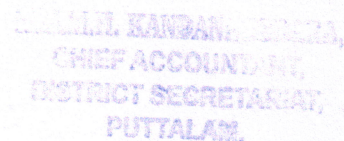
03. Performance contracts were not prepared and signed involving the entire staff. 04. There was no senior officer nominated in the organization to prepare human resource development plans and implement capacity and skill development programs. 05. The achievement of the identified Key Performance Indicator was less than 24%. 06. The No.of training opportunities given out of the planned training opportunities was less than 50%. 07.The recommendations of the Auditor General's report were not implemented. Reference to paragraphs of the report relating to the previous year 3.5(a) Official residence to be repaired The residence should be repaired in a suitable manner and arrangements should be	Contracts from the year 2023 have been made. Appointed in 2023 The nation was placed under lockdown because to the COVID-19 pandemic; while the identified Key Performance indicator in 2021 was missed, the Key Performance Indicator was met in 2022. Training opportunities were guaranteed in the year 2022, but due to the restriction of duties due to the economic crisis and due to the control of expenses according to the budget circulars 01/2023 and 02/2023 in the year 2023 and due to the restriction of training required according to paragraph 5 of the national budget circular 1/2024 in the year 2024 It is not possible to conduct training as per the 02/2018 circular. National Budget Circulars 01/2023 and 02/2023 and 01/2024 have restricted public expenditure so necessary repairs have been carried out.	Act according to the Circular No. 02/2018 (I) An officer has been appointed for the year 2023 and 2024. In the year 2022, the Key Performance indicator will be around 115%. Action is taken In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 05 of the National Budget Circular 01/2024 issued for the year 2024 on public expenditure control. Prioritize the provision given in the annual estimates and carry out repair works.
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made to earn income.		
3.5 (b) The land should be acquired and related works completed without delay.	A special discussion was held with the relevant parties on 07.06.2023 and decisions were taken about how to implement.	Estimates for construction of 04 new quarters have been forwarded to the Secretary of Puttalam Urban Council on 20.09.2023.
3.7 (a) As the 14th bill should have been paid as per the terms of payment, as interest had to be paid due to non-compliance, the responsible officers should be investigated and action should be taken.	Officials have acted as per the agreement as per the procurement Guidelines and manuals	The officials have acted as per the directions of the arbitration as per procurement Guidelines.
3.8 Relevant guidelines should be obtained at the time of feasibility study and further action should be taken considering whether the given guidelines are in accordance with accepted standards.	Responsible parties have been informed to conduct proper feasibility studies in the implementation of development projects.	Necessary recommendations have been given in the feasibility study.
3.9 (a) Overpayments shall be collected from responsible officers.	In the year 2021, the officials have acted according to the instructions given to act on the decisions of the provincial price committees. There is no overpayment.	Semi-annual pricing committees hold and make decisions.
3.9 (b) Necessary actions shall be taken in efficient manner.	The value of the rice that the government is to be received is being collected in cash per the recommendation of the Secretary of the Ministry of Finance.	It is planned to take legal action against the mill owners who continue to delay payment.


District Secretary
District Secretariat
Puttalam.

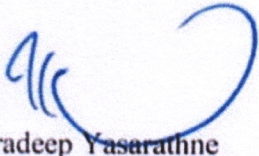
H.M.S.P. HERATH
District Secretary/Government Agent
Puttalam District


Chief Accountant
District Secretariat
Puttalam.


CHIEF ACCOUNTANT,
DISTRICT SECRETARIAT,
PUTTALAM.

Recommendation of the Secretary

Measures taken by the District Secretary are recommended and instructions have been given to District Secretaries to pay personal attention on the other shortcomings pointed out and to take corrective measures regarding them.



Pradeep Yasaratna

Secretary

Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs,

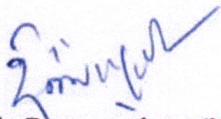
Provincial Councils and Local Government

Pradeep Yasaratna
Secretary

Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs,
Provincial Councils & Local Government
(Home Affairs Division)
"NILA MEDURA" Elvittigala Mawatha, Colombo 05.

Recommendation of the Minister and the Action Taken

Instruction have been given by me to the Ministry Secretary to take necessary steps by paying special attention on the instructions given to the District Secretary by the Committee on Public Accounts, to ensure that such shortcomings may not occur again and it is expected that the such measures would enable the provable level to reach the optimum level within the year 2024.



Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena (M.P.)

Prime Minister and

Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs,

Provincial Councils and Local Government