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Secretary

Committee On Public Accounts

Sri Jyawardhanapura

Kotte

Parliamentary session No: 76

Name of the Institution Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs

S No	Shortcomings identified and guidance offered by the committee in evaluating finances and performance	Measures taken/ recommendations implemented for addressing such shortcomings/ current situation
01	Not properly maintaining details of mosques, which donated money to Muslim Charity Fund.	Details of the relevant mosques are appended as Annexes A and B. As per the recommendation of the Committee, an accepted method was formulated and it is in operation now. Accordingly, the Department has commenced the process of computerizing the details of all registered mosques in the island. A physical inspection was conducted for this purpose employing Development Officers attached to the Divisional Secretariats and departmental officers. As of now, information from nearly 50% of mosques has been obtained and computerization of same is in progress. This information can be accessed through the department's website.
02	In the year 2015, financial assistance amounting to Rs. 29 million was disbursed among mosques through 59 Divisional Secretariats and there had not been departmental level follow up as to how such funds were utilized.	In respect of years 2015-2016, the department released money through a cheque for development activities of selected mosques to the Divisional Secretary of the relevant division. Though it was informed to submit to the Department, progress reports outlining the physical and financial progress subsequent to the completion of the

	Out of Rs. 36 million provided by the department in the year 2015 for the development of mosques and religious schools, bills had been submitted only for one million rupees.	project and certified copies of bills and all other documents relevant to the payment of expenses of the project, it is difficult to trace the documents so submitted from the files. Taking in to consideration the irregularities in submitting bills and other practical issues, the Department implemented a new programme from the year 2017 onwards. Accordingly, giving money directly to the relevant mosques was halted and financial provisions are released to the District Secretariats where they are located. The District Secretariat then takes measures to provide the relevant money to the selected mosques through the Divisional Secretariats. Therefore the need for obtaining bills does not arise and close coordination between the District Secretariat and the Divisional Secretariat is ensured. Similarly, in order to review the progress of projects implemented using capital funds, the relevant form is forwarded to the Divisional Secretaries for the evaluation of physical and financial progress before the 5th of each month.
03.	Current situation of the Haj Fund.	For the regularization of the Haj pilgrimage, an online system was introduced from the year 2017. After creating awareness amongst people regarding the system through mosques and newspapers, action was taken to receive all applications through this system with effect from 30.11.2018. Accordingly, as of now, applicants are afforded at least one opportunity to undertake the Haj pilgrimage.

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