

CHAPTER XIV

14 Follow up action on Audit Reports-Summarised Position

The Lok Sabha Secretariat issued instructions in April 1982 to all Ministries requesting them to furnish to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) notes indicating remedial/corrective action taken on various paragraphs, contained in the Audit Reports, soon after these were laid on the Table of the House.

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) reviewed the position of submission of Action Taken Notes (ATNs) during 1995-96 and observed inordinate delays and persisting failure on the part of a large number of Ministries in reporting ATNs on audit paragraphs. In their Ninth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) presented to the Parliament on 22 April 1997, PAC desired that submission of pending ATNs pertaining to Audit Reports for the years ended March 1994 and 1995 be completed within a period of three months and recommended that ATNs on all paragraphs pertaining to the Audit Reports for the year ended March 1996 onwards be submitted to them duly vetted by Audit within four months from the laying of Reports in Parliament.

A review of the position of receipt of ATNs on paragraphs included in Audit Reports (Autonomous Bodies) upto the period ended 31 March 1999 (**Appendix-XIII**) revealed that the Ministries did not submit remedial/corrective ATNs in respect of a large number of paragraphs relating to them inspite of above instructions. Out of 60 paragraphs on which ATNs were required to be sent, final ATNs in respect of 10 paragraphs were awaited while ATNs in respect of 50 paragraphs had not been received at all.

Out of 50 paragraphs on which ATNs were awaited, 37 paragraphs pertaining to Reports for the year ended March 1989 to March 1995 which relate to Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation.