

CHAPTER VI

FOLLOW UP ON AUDIT REPORTS

6. Follow up on Audit Reports

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) decided in 1982 that in order to ensure accountability of the executive in respect of all issues dealt with in various Audit Reports, the concerned Departments/Ministries should furnish final remedial/corrective action taken notes (ATNs) on all paragraphs contained therein.

PAC, while reiterating their earlier views in the Ninth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) presented to the Parliament on 22 April 1997, took a serious view of inordinate delays and failure to furnish ATNs within the prescribed time frame.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat also requested (July 1985) all the Ministries to furnish notes, (duly vetted by Audit) indicating remedial/corrective action taken by them on the various paragraphs/appraisals contained in the Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Commercial) laid on the table of both the Houses of the Parliament. Such notes were required to be submitted even in respect of paragraphs / appraisals which were not selected by the Committee on Public Sector Undertakings (COPU) for detailed examination.

The, COPU in its Second Report (1998-99 Twelfth Lok Sabha), while reiterating the above instructions of July 1985 issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, recommended that follow-up action taken notes duly vetted by Audit in respect of all the Reports of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Commercial) presented to Parliament, should be furnished to COPU within six months from the date of presentation of the relevant Audit Reports.

In the follow-up Action on the Reports of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Commercial), COPU in its First Report (1999-2000 – Thirteenth Lok Sabha) reiterated its earlier recommendation that Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) should set up a separate Monitoring Cell in the DPE itself to monitor the follow up action by various Ministries / Departments on the observations contained in the Audit Reports (Commercial) on individual undertakings.

A review of ATNs relating to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited under the administrative control of the Department of Telecommunications (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology) revealed that final ATNs in respect of 174 paragraphs, as detailed in Appendix -XXVII, were awaited as of October 2006.

New Delhi
Dated :

(C. V. AVADHANI)
Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General
cum Chairman, Audit Board

Countersigned

New Delhi
Dated :

(VIJAYENDRA N. KAUL)
Comptroller and Auditor General of India