

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
KRISHI BHAVAN : NEW DELHI-1

No. 21 - 11/2007 - CDN

Dated the 11 April, 2007.

Sub :- Committee on Petitions, Rajya Sabha – regarding to ensure that utmost priority is given to all Parliamentary matters.

A copy of the D.O. letter of Cabinet Secretary vide No. 491/1/2007 – CA – V dated 5.3.2007 enclosed with the D.O. letter No. RS.8(1)/2007 – Com-II dated 6.2.2007 on the above cited subject is enclosed for putting in the ICAR Web-site.

  
( P. K. JAIN )  
UNDER SECRETARY ( GAC & CASH )

Dr. B.N. Chatopadhyay,  
Media & Information Unit,  
Krishi Bhavan,  
New Delhi

Dr. Sankar



सत्यमेव जयते

B. K. CHATURVEDI

मंत्रिमंडल सचिव  
CABINET SECRETARY  
NEW DELHI

D.O. No. 491/1/2007-CA. V  
5<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

25 C 2007  
6/3/2007

Dear Secretary,

Enclosed herewith is a copy of D.O. letter No.RS.8(1)/2007-Com-II dated 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 received from Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, M.P. Chairman, Committee on Petitions, Rajya Sabha, regarding furnishing of Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on the recommendations/observations of the Committee.

2. Ministries/Departments are expected to ensure that utmost priority is given to all Parliamentary matters and that the communications sent by the Secretariats of the Parliament and its Committees are dealt with promptly and the information desired therein or action to be taken on the reports is completed in the prescribed time frame. The Chairman has already expressed his unhappiness with the handling of these matters in certain Departments.

3. I am desired to request you to kindly ensure effective monitoring of these matters and take prompt action so that Action Taken Reports (ATRs) are furnished to the Committee on Petitions in the prescribed time.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

B. K. Chaturvedi  
(B. K. Chaturvedi)

Dr. Mangla Rai,  
secretary,  
Department of Agri. Res & Education.

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~~Dr.~~ - on tour abroad  
AS(D)

*[Handwritten signature]*

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5-3811/07  
19/11

C.No. 3811/CASE  
21-2-07

D.O.No.RS.8(1)/2007-Com-II

Dated the 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2007

Dear Shri

Chaturvedi  
Namesthe

In a Parliamentary Democracy, it is the innate right of a citizen to petition Parliament on matters of general public interest falling within the domain of the Government of India. Chapter X of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States provides the instrument of the Committee on Petitions to examine such petitions and make reports thereon to the House. After the reports are presented by the Committee to the House, copies thereof are sent to the Ministries/Departments of the Government concerned for furnishing Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on the recommendations/observations of the Committee. For quite some time, it has, however, been observed that the Reports of the Committee are not being given due attention by the Ministries/Departments concerned and what to say of furnishing the ATRs in time, they are not even responding to any of the communications sent by the Secretariat of the Committee on its behalf, much less acknowledging them despite the fact that the communications by the Secretariat have been addressed to the respective Secretaries by name. To cite a few recent cases, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas took more than a year to furnish the ATR on the 123<sup>rd</sup> Report; the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Women and Child Development took nearly eight months to furnish ATRs on the 128<sup>th</sup> and 129<sup>th</sup> Reports of the Committee and that also after the Committee summoned their Secretaries to explain the reasons. Surprisingly, none of these Ministries either acknowledged or responded to the communications/reminders addressed to their Secretaries. Similarly, the Ministry of Urban Development also did not acknowledge or respond to a communication sent by the Secretariat of the Committee for more than a year, much less furnishing the status of the action taken on the recommendation of the Committee as contained in its 119<sup>th</sup> Report. The Secretaries of all these Ministries tendered their apologies before the Committee for this lapse but the Committee had a feeling that somewhere down the line the general apathy/unresponsiveness had crept into the working of the Ministries and they seem to be unconcerned about their duties towards Parliament and its Committees. Surprisingly, one Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Development who appeared before the Committee alongwith the Secretary of the Ministry on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2007 strangely came up with the explanation that the communications about the ATR on the 129<sup>th</sup> Report of the Committee sent by the Secretariat of the Committee had not been acknowledged because the Ministry was not asked to acknowledge them, forgetting in the process that when the ATR had been called from the Ministry, for which a reminder had also been sent to them, they had either to furnish the ATR as desired or at least send an interim reply and if necessary seek extension of time or issue an acknowledgement. To say the least, if delays of this nature continue, the petitioners will lose interest in submitting petitions and the credibility of the Committee on Petitions will be at stake.

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I believe there exist adequate provisions in the 'Manual for Handling Parliamentary Work in Ministries' brought out by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs impressing upon all the Ministries/Departments of the Government to give utmost priority to all references received from the Secretariats of Parliament and the Ministry has from time to time reiterated instructions to this effect but unfortunately they seem to remain on paper and are not being adhered to by the Ministries/Departments of the Government as borne out by the aforesaid Instances.

The Committee in its meeting held on January 22, 2007 took a serious view of this lackadaisical approach of the Ministries and authorized me to write to you for urgent remedial/corrective action. I trust that having regard to the feelings of the Committee, you will do the needful in the matter on priority basis to ensure that the Ministries/Departments of the Government accord top priority to the Parliamentary matters and respond promptly to the communications sent by the Secretariat of the Committee with whatever information is desired from them.

I would appreciate if the Committee could be apprised of the action taken in the matter.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(M. Venkaiah Naidu)

**Shri B.K. Chaturvedi,**  
**Cabinet Secretary**  
**Rashtrapati Bhavan,**  
**New Delhi.**