Committee on Public Accounts

Contact Committee Secretary

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This committee has lapsed.
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Committee Reports

The Committee on Public Accounts consists of sixteen Members nominated by the Committee of Selection.

The duty of the Committee on Public Accounts shall be to examine the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by Parliament to meet the public expenditure and such other accounts laid before Parliament as the Committee may think fit, with the assistance of the Auditor-General.

The Committee on Public Accounts shall, from time to time, report to Parliament on the accounts examined, the finances, financial procedures, performance and management generally of any department, local authority and on any matter arising therefrom.

A report of the Committee on Public Accounts, once tabled in Parliament shall be referred to the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance and the Ministers in charge of the institutions who shall submit their observations and steps taken therein contained to the Parliament within a period of eight weeks.

The Committee on Public Accounts may when it considers necessary appoint Sub-Committees consisting of its own Members to examine and report to the Committee on all accounts and the finances and management of such departments and local authorities as the Committee may direct.

Members who are not Members of the Committee on Public Accounts may be allowed to observe the proceedings of the Committee with the permission of the Chair.

The Committee on Public Accounts or any of its Sub-Committees shall for the performance of its duties have the power to summon before it and question any person and call for and examine any paper, book, record or other document and to have access to stores and property.

The quorum of the Committee on Public Accounts shall be four Members.

Examination by the Committee and Report

The Public Accounts Committee also examines financial performances of each and every government institution together with the report of the Auditor-General thereon.

The Secretaries to the respective Ministries who are the Chief Accounting Officers, will be required be present in person before the Committee, together with the respective Heads of Departments and other responsible officers. It is the duty of the Chief Accounting Officers to personally appear before the Committee in order to explain and justify the financial activities of the Departments under the purview of their Ministries.

The Committee is regularly assisted by the Auditor General, Directors-General of Public Finance, State Accounts and National Budget or their nominated representatives.

The recommendations of the Committee may contain directives to Government Departments and Ministries and such directives are deemed to be those of the Parliament.

Copies of Committee reports are distributed among the respective Officers of the Ministries, Departments, Provincial Councils and Local Authorities.

Web based evaluation programme

From the last Session of Parliament, the Committee implemented a web based financial performance evaluation programme in respect of all government Ministries, Departments and other Institutions.

Performance of each and every institution will be evaluated and graded according to a stipulated and pre determined marking scheme.

[Refer to Standing Order No. 119]