



# **TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS  
LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE**

**BROCHURE**

**Legislative Assembly Secretariat  
Chennai-600009**



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## **COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE**

### **PREAMBLE**

Notifications, Reports, Annual Reports and Audit Reports are laid on the Table of the House in pursuance of Constitutional authority or under statutory obligation. While the Public Accounts Committee, the Public Undertakings Committee and the Delegated Legislation Committee examine the various aspects of the different kinds of the reports/ notifications placed on the Table of the House either by the Government or by the Public Undertakings within their ambit and scope, the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table of the House scrutinizes whether all the provisions of the statutes, rules and regulations have been fully complied with in placing the reports on the Table of the House.

Whereas the Public Accounts Committee and the Public Undertakings Committee examine reports mainly from the point of view of accounts of Government and the functions of Public Undertakings and the Delegated Legislation Committee considers the notifications from the view of legal jurisdiction examining whether the rules/ sub rules are issued by the Executive within the scope of the powers delegated to it under the Constitution and different statutes, the Committee on Papers laid on the Table of the House looks into the aspects of delay in placing the report in the House.

There was so such Committee as Committee on Papers Laid on the Table of the House constituted in Parliament till 1975 and in Tamil Nadu Legislature till 1985.

### **GENESIS**

In accordance with the recommendations made by the Rules Committee of the Seventh Assembly, necessary amendments have been incorporated in the rules during the term of the Eighth Assembly, to constitute a Committee on Papers Laid on the Table of the House. The rules came into being with effect from 7-3-1985. Rules 268, 269 and 270 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules pertain to the composition and functions of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table of the House. For the first time, the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table of the House for the year 1986-87 was constituted by the Speaker on 13th May 1986.

### **CONSTITUTION**

The Committee consists of eleven members and the Chairman of the Committee will be nominated by the Speaker from among the Members of the Committee. The person so nominated will preside at the meetings, and in his absence, one of the Members elected by the Committee will preside.

The Committee will be nominated by the Speaker and will hold office for a term not exceeding one financial year. The term of office of the Committee shall expire at the end of the financial year and there shall be a fresh nomination before the end of the year for constituting the Committee for the ensuing financial year and if under any circumstances, such a nomination is not made, the existing members will continue to hold office until a new Committee is constituted.

In order to conduct a meeting of the Committee, the quorum shall be four including the Chairman or the member presiding.

### **FUNCTIONS**

To scrutinize whether the papers are placed on the Table of the House within the time limit specified in the relevant statute or rule or regulation and to examine if there has been any unreasonable delay.

In case there is a delay, to see whether a statement explaining the reasons for such delay has also been placed and after consideration if the reasons for the delays, are found acceptable, they may be agreed to the Committee.

If the Committee is not satisfied with the above statement and decide to elicit further information with regard to delay, the Departments of Secretariat concerned maybe directed to furnish more details. The Committee may record such replies provided they are satisfactory.

In case the replies received from the Departments are also not satisfactory, the Secretary to Government and the officers of the Undertaking/ Institution concerned maybe requested to appear before the Committee to furnish information as required by the Committee. With regard to cases in which replies provided by the officers are not acceptable, the Committee may report the same to the House with its recommendations.

The Committee has to proceed with follow up action on matters left out by the previous Committee in addition to scrutiny of the reports placed on the Table of the House during its tenure.

The Committee also takes up for consideration the reports received from the Departments concerned on the action taken by the Departments on the recommendations made by the Committee in its reports presented to the Assembly. The Committee will perform such other functions in respect of papers laid on the Table as may be assigned by the Hon. Speaker from time to time (Rule 270).

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