

பார்லிமேன்තු ப்ரகாஸன மாலா ஂ஁: 222

஁ாஸகனயே நம : பரீவாஸ ஁ ஁மாரக்ஷக ஁ஸீவா ஁ேபார்நமேன்஁ுவ
பார்லிமேன்஁ுவே ர஁யே ஁ஷூமீ பீ஁ி஁஁ காரக ஁ஸாவ வீ஁ின் ஁ஸா஁க கரந
஁஁ வார்நா ஁மீ஁ன்஁யேன் ஁ீவாவ நியே஁஁ ஂ஁ 119(4) ஁஁னே ஁ர்
஁மாவவர஁யா஁ நீரீக்ஷ஁ ஁ ஁஁ ஁஁ன பீ஁வர பார்லிமேன்஁ுவ஁
஁஁ரீபன் கீரீம

பாரா஁மன்ற வெளியீ஁ுத் ஁ா஁ர் இலக்கம் : 222

நிறுவனத்தின் பெயர் : நன்ன஁த்தை ஁ற்றும் ஁ிறுவர் பராமரிப்பு
஁ேவைகள் திணைக்களம் பாரா஁மன்றத்தின் அரச கணக்குக்
஁ு஁ுவினால் ஁ுன்வைக்கப்பட்ட அறிக்கை ஁ா஁ர்பாக நிலையியற்
கட்டளை இலக்கம் 119(4) இன்கீழ் கௌரவ அமை஁்சரின்
அவதானிப்புக்களும் ஁ற்றும் அது ஁ா஁ர்பாக ஁஁க்கப்படும்
ந஁வ஁க்கைகளும் பாரா஁மன்றத்திற்கு ஁஁ர்ப்பித்தல்.

Parliamentary series No:222

Name of the institution : Department of Probation and Child Care
Services

Submission of observations of Hon.Minister and steps taken with
regard to the reports tabled by the committee on public Accounts in
terms of Standing Order
No. 119(4)

Shortcomings identified by the committee	Action taken by the institution to rectify the shortcomings/present status
i. <u>Establishment of an Internal Audit Unit</u> Establish and report an Internal Audit Unit in the Department of Probation and Child Care Services before June 25, 2023.	Internal Audit activities are carried out by the Internal Audit Division of the Ministry covering the activities of the department as per the F.R. 133(b). In addition, the Audit and Management Committee has been appointed, and 2 committee meetings were held in year 2023 and 4 in 2024 and 02 more have been held this year.
ii. <u>Not utilizing the data system of UNCRC</u> The UNCRC data system had not been used which had been assigned to the department in year 2018 for the need of presenting a timely and accurate reports to the United Nations Committee on Child Rights relevant to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by incurring a cost of Rs. 2,350,000 including consultation fees.	A contract has been signed with Open Mind Solutions (Pvt) Ltd on 30.10.2023 to host the data system. In preparing the periodic report to be submitted in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the UNCRC data system assigned to the Department of Probation and Child Care in 2018, training has been provided to relevant officials of all institutions that are required to submit information regarding data entry. A committee was appointed on 2024.08.20 to provide recommendations and solutions regarding the said computer application, by carrying out a study to identify practical and technical issues faced by institutions in entering data into the computer application developed to prepare the UNCRC data system. The relevant committee met on 23.10.2024 and has decided, the amount of money that would be cost to fix the errors in the computer application developed to prepare the UNCRC data system and make it suitable for use, and that a formal study should be conducted to determine whether it is financially viable and that a consultancy service should be obtained from a university computer institute for this purpose. However, there is again a problem as to whether it is effective to incur another cost in this regard, too. In this regard, a letter has been sent to the Ministry of Digital Economic Affairs, currently established under the new government, seeking technical assistance. (Annexure 01). A discussion was made with the officials of the Ministry of Digital Economic Affairs on 23.07.2025, and it was agreed that the necessary officers would be provided to the Department's IT officers to obtain advice regarding the relevant data system. Accordingly, the Department has submitted proposals to take the necessary steps to develop the UNCRC database to a usable state, in line with the digitalization of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs.

i. Obtaining information at the provincial and national levels to implement recommendations for compulsory school attendance for children. The Committee approved that the Ministry of Education should maintain up-to-date data on the school absenteeism of children who are required to receive compulsory education and take action on it and that the Department of Probation and Child Care Services should formulate national policies to ensure child education.	I. Out of the members appointed by the Provincial Director of Education for the establishment of School monitoring committees in each school, as per the Gazette notification no. 1963/30 issued by the Ministry of Education, a senior officer representing the Divisional Secretary has been included in the committee. Letters have been sent to the Divisional Secretaries informing them to nominate the Child Rights Promotion Officer/Child Rights Promotion Assistant as the officer to be nominated by the Divisional Secretary. Although discussions were held to include the positions of these officers in the gazette notification, the Ministry of Education stated that a lengthy process must be followed for this. It was stated at a meeting held on 19.09.2023 with the participation of officials of the Ministry of Education that it is the direct responsibility of the Ministry of Education to enroll children who don't attend in school. Based on that meeting, the Ministry of Education has issued a letter on 02.10.2023. Accordingly, the Child Rights Promotion Officer/Child Rights Promotion Assistant should refer children identified as not attending school, to the School Monitoring Committees. They should enroll children to school and then the information should be provided to the Child Rights Promotion Officers. In this way, the officials of this department will be taking actions to follow-up regarding those children. II. A discussion was made with the Secretary to the Ministry of Education on 16/05/2025. A pilot program is being prepared to develop School Counseling and Guidance Units to develop a methodology for identifying children's problems within the school, and this department has also been represented as committee members of this program.
III. <u>Appointment of a full-time officer to the position of Legal Officer.</u>	The gazette notification for filling the vacancies was published on 2025.06.27 and according to the said announcement, the closing date for receipt of applications was 2025.07.27. The appointment of interview board committees has now been referred to the Public Service Commission (Annexure 2).
IV. Preparation of a procedure for implementing steering committees to provide solutions to child-related problems/complaints.	Probation officers work under the Provincial Probation and Child Care Services Departments and their regular workplace is the Probation Offices. However, the contribution and participation of these officers is obtained, for the divisional, district, provincial

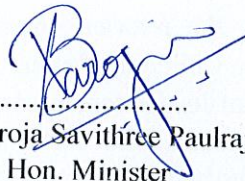
	committees on child rights, which are the committee structure that discuss the issues related to children. • Child Rights Promotion Officers/Assistant Officers work in an integrated approach, to identify the unsafe and vulnerable children at the Divisional Secretariat Division level, with all the officers of the Women and Children's Affairs Unit of Divisional Secretariats through various methods. Maintaining a national system for reporting child-related issues falls under the purview of the National Child Protection Authority.
V. <u>Setting up the institutional database of the National Child Protection Authority</u>	The report relevant to the database has been submitted to the Committee on Public Accounts by the letter no. PCC/2/2/10 dated 13/11/2023. The report received from the National Child Protection Authority regarding current progress. (Annexure 03)
VI. Expediting the revision of laws and regulations, including the Child Adoption Ordinance, to suit the needs of the time.	The committee has completed drafting the Children and Youth Ordinance and submitted the final draft to the Ministry of Justice. These amendments to the Act are carried out by the Ministry of Justice, and the Department participates in them only as one committee member. However, the relevant committee has finalized the draft to amend the Children's Act and has now been handed over to the Ministry of Justice for further action. However, the work related to the amendment of the Child Adoption Ordinance has not been completed. Therefore, it has also been requested from the Ministry of Justice to expedite the activities in this regard. The Children's Act and Child Adoption Act have been gazetted by the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, and the Department of Probation and Child Care Services only provide the technical contribution in the process of drafting the relevant Acts.
02. Maintaining National Child Training and Counselling Services Center – Paratta.	Although the women's hostel was renovated by the Western Provincial Council under ADB assistance, due to a payment related issue, those work has been discontinued. As soon as the relevant issue is solved, the remaining work can be completed. However, despite these renovations, the entire building is in need of repair and is therefore unsuitable for housing children. Accordingly, a project report has been prepared and submitted to the National Budget Department to completely renovate the National Child Training and Counselling Services Center, Paratta and make it suitable for housing children and further work is scheduled to be carried out once the funds are received.

03. Holding the Provincial Monitoring Committees

District and Provincial Monitoring Committees were held in 2023 as per the orders of the Committee on Public Accounts, held on 04th July 2023 and instructions have been given to hold the committees formally in 2024, and report on holding the committee has been submitted from Annexure 04.

The Ministry of Women and Child Affairs has introduced an agenda for holding these committees through Circular No. 01/18 dated 10.01.2018. Accordingly, the Provincial committee meetings are being held.

Monitoring Committees on Child Rights are operated at rural, divisional, district, provincial and the national level. When problems related to children are identified by the village committees, those problems that can be addressed at the committee level are resolved, and those that are difficult to resolve are referred to the divisional committee for resolution. Unresolved issues at the divisional level are referred to the district, provincial and national levels, respectively.



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