

Copy of Punjab Government Circular letter No. 7820-6GS-63/21608, dated the 27th June, 1963 from the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab to all Heads of Departments etc., etc.

Subject :—Expeditious disposal of cases involving financial liability of Government Delays in taking disciplinary action.

I am directed to invite your attention to the instructions contained in Punjab Government letter No. 5356-G(C)-56/1986, dated the 26th/31st July, 1965 and No. 6757-6GS-60/31334, dated the 27th September, 1960, which inter alia laid down that cases involving financial liability of Government should receive your personal attention for fixing responsibility on the Government servants concerned, taking timely action against all the delinquents and that it should be handled at all levels at the highest possible priority so as to eliminate any chance of loss owing to delayed action against those who are found guilty of negligence of duty in this behalf. The Public Accounts Committee have again pointed out that notwithstanding their repeated observations regarding inordinate delays in undertaking investigations into the irregularities immediately after they come to notice, inordinate delays continue to occur in regard to investigation and fixation of responsibility for various lapses. Such a state of affairs cannot be viewed with equanimity. They have further observed that in the Engineering Departments in particular, investigation and departmental proceedings have been allowed to drag on by which Government might find itself handicapped in taking action against the officials concerned either because they might retire or the relevant records might not be available. The Committee have noticed a general tendency, particularly on the part of Engineering Departments to cover up lapses on the part of the officials/officers and to give evasive or equivocal explanations. Government have taken a very serious view of such state of affairs.

2. All Departments are expected to investigate the irregularities as soon as they come to their notice and to take prompt and suitable action against the delinquent officials so that the decision taken could be fully implemented. With a view to remedy the situation to which the Committee has drawn attention, it has again been considered necessary to impress upon you (especially the Engineering Departments) to ensure speedy investigation of all cases involving financial irregularities committed by Government employees and timely action against all lapses.

3. The receipt of this Communication may kindly be acknowledged.