MINISTRY OF CIVIL SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

12.1 Interdicted Officers

I mentioned at paragraphs 5.2 and 12.1 of my Audit Report 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively that 241 public officers were under interdiction as at 30 June 2006 and were paid salaries totalling some Rs 34 million during financial year 2005-06.

In order to manage more efficiently and economically cases of interdiction of public officers we recommended that:

- Consideration be made to set up a Public Service Tribunal and
- The legal provisions for disciplinary procedures to be revisited

The Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms informed my Office in November 2007 that consideration is being given to put in place a Fast Track mechanism with the collaboration of all parties concerned, that is the Police, the Director of Public Prosecutions’ Office and the Judiciary to deal with cases of officers under interdiction requiring prosecution in an expeditious manner.

However, as of 9 October 2008, no fast track mechanism has been put in place. Moreover, there were 213 public officers under interdiction, 120 of whom were interdicted prior to June 2006 and 93 from July 2006 to June 2008.

I was informed of the following:

- Legislative measures would be required if it is intended to proceed with the withholding of the salary of public officers during their interdiction.

- The Committee considers that a better remedy would be to put in place a Fast Track mechanism so that disciplinary cases are concluded within a reasonable period of time. Appropriate policy instructions are being awaited on the matter.

- The Public Service Commission has issued on 28 August 2008 a Circular inviting all Responsible Officers to exercise their delegated power of interdiction judiciously.