

**COMMITTEE
ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2023-2024)**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

NINETY-SEVENTH REPORT

**REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF
ASSURANCES
(NOT ACCEDED TO)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on.....19/12/2023



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2023/ Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)

CONTENTS

	Page
Composition of the Committee on Government Assurances (2023-2024)	(ii)
Introduction	(iii)
Report	1-2
Appendix-I Statement showing summary of requests received from various Ministries/Departments regarding dropping of Assurances and considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 17 November, 2023	3-4
Appendices-II to X	
<u>Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)</u>	
II. USQ No. 1548 dated 26.07.2022 regarding 'New Schemes in PPP Mode'	5-7
III. USQ No. 1606 dated 10.02.2022 regarding 'DDA Master Plan for Delhi'	8-11
IV. USQ No. 2222 dated 29.07.2022 regarding 'Single Voter List'	12-14
V. (i) USQ No. 2936 dated 10.07.2019 regarding 'National Welfare Board (NWB) for Traders'	15-18
(ii) USQ No. 5128 dated 24.07.2019 regarding 'Online E-Commerce'	
(iii) USQ No. 3818 dated 11.12.2019 regarding 'National Retail Policy'	
VI. USQ No. 287 dated 08.12.2022 regarding 'Upgradation of SH into NH'	19-20
VII. USQ No. 1515 dated 15.12.2022 regarding 'Conversion of SHs into NHs'	21-22
VIII. SQ No. 22 dated 08.12.2022 (Supplementary by Smt. Mahua Moitra, M.P.) regarding 'Suggestions to Improve Air Travel'	23-34
IX. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2023-2024) held on 17 November, 2023	35-40
X. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2023-2024) held on 14 December, 2023	41-42

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2023 - 2024)**

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL - - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
3. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
4. Shri Kishan Kapoor
5. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
6. Shri Kaushlendra Kumar
7. Shri Khagen Murmu
8. Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete
9. Shri Santosh Pandey
10. Shri M.K. Raghavan
11. Prof. Sougata Ray
12. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu
13. Shri Indra Hang Subba
14. Smt. Supriya Sadanand Sule
15. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri J.M. Baisakh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Dr. Sagarika Dash | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri M.C. Gupta | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Sanjeev Kumar Gulati | - | Under Secretary |

* The Committee has been constituted w.e.f. 09 October, 2023 vide Para No. 7533 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 11 October, 2023.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances (2023-2024), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Ninety-Seventh Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2023-2024) at their sitting held on 17 November, 2023 *inter-alia* considered Memorandum Nos. 2 to 16 containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 20 pending Assurances and decided to pursue 09 Assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 14 December, 2023 the Committee on Government Assurances (2023-2024) considered and adopted this Report.

4. The Minutes of the aforesaid sittings of the Committee form part of the Report.

NEW DELHI;

14 December, 2023

23 Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)

**RAJENDRA AGRAWAL,
CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES**

REPORT

While replying to Questions in the House or during discussions on Bills, Resolutions, Motions, etc., Ministers sometimes give Assurances, undertakings or promises either to consider a matter, take action or furnish information to the House at some later date. Such Assurances are required to be implemented by the Ministry concerned within a period of three months. In case, the Ministry finds it difficult to implement the Assurance on one ground or the other, it is required to request the Committee on Government Assurances to drop the Assurance and such request is considered by the Committee on merits and decision taken to drop an Assurance or otherwise.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2023-2024) at their sitting held on 17 November, 2023 considered Fifteen Memoranda (Appendix-I) containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 20 pending Assurances.

3. After having considered the requests of the Ministries/Departments, the Committee are not convinced with the reasons furnished for dropping of the following 09 Assurances:-

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
1.	USQ No. 1548 dated 26.07.2022	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)	New Schemes in PPP Mode (Appendix – II)
2.	USQ No. 1606 dated 10.02.2022	Housing and Urban Affairs	DDA Master Plan for Delhi (Appendix – III)
3.	USQ No. 2222 dated 29.07.2022	Law and Justice (Legislative Department)	Single Voter List (Appendix – IV)
4.	(i) USQ No. 2936 dated 10.07.2019 (ii) USQ No. 5128 dated 24.07.2019 (iii) USQ No. 3818 dated 11.12.2019	Commerce and Industry (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)	(i) National Welfare Board (NWB) for Traders (ii) Online E-Commerce (iii) National Retail Policy (Appendix – V)

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
5.	USQ No. 287 dated 08.12.2022	Road Transport and Highways	Upgradation of SH into NH (Appendix – VI)
6.	USQ No. 1515 dated 15.12.2022	Road Transport and Highways	Conversion of SHs into NHs (Appendix – VII)
7.	SQ No. 22 dated 08.12.2022 (Supplementary by Smt. Mahua Moitra, M.P.)	Civil Aviation	Suggestions to Improve Air Travel (Appendix – VIII)

4. The details of the Assurances arising out of the replies and the reason(s) advanced by the Ministries/Departments for dropping of the above mentioned 09 Assurances are given in Appendices -II to VIII.

5. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee dated 17 November, 2023, whereunder the requests for dropping of the Assurances were considered, are given in Appendix- IX.

6. The Committee desire that the Government should take note of the observations of the Committee as contained in Annexure-II of Appendix-IX and take appropriate action for implementation of the Assurances expeditiously.

NEW DELHI;

14 December, 2023

23 Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)

**RAJENDRA AGRAWAL,
CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES**

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2023-2024)

Statement showing summary of requests received from various Ministries/Departments regarding dropping of Assurances and considered by the Committee on 17 November, 2023

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question/ Discussion References	Ministry	Department	Brief Subject
1	2	(i) SQ No. 83 dated 08.02.2022 (ii) SQ No. 99 dated 08.02.2022 (iii) USQ No. 3038 dated 22.03.2022	Cooperation		(i) Multi-State Cooperative Societies (ii) Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (iii) Winding Up of Multi State Cooperatives
2	3	USQ No. 1548 dated 26.07.2022	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	New Schemes in PPP Mode
3	4	USQ No. 1218 dated 14.12.2022	Electronics and Information Technology		Protection of Personal Data
4	5	USQ No. 3864 dated 21.12.2021	Social Justice and Empowerment	Department of Social Justice and Empowerment	SC/ST Scholarships
5	6	USQ No. 1606 dated 10.02.2022	Housing and Urban Affairs		DDA Master Plan for Delhi
6	7	USQ No. 1938 dated 19.12.2022	Finance	Department of Economic Affairs	Crypto Currency and Virtual Digital Assets
7	8	SQ No. 123 dated 10.02.2023 (Supplementary by Shri Tapir Gao, M.P.)	AYUSH		Setting Up of AYUSH Centres - Hospitals
8	9	USQ No. 2222 dated 29.07.2022	Law and Justice	Legislative Department	Single Voter List
9	10	(i) USQ No. 2936 dated 10.07.2019	Commerce and Industry	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade	(i) National Welfare Board (NWB) for Traders

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question/ Discussion References	Ministry	Department	Brief Subject
		(ii) USQ No. 5128 dated 24.07.2019 (iii) USQ No. 3818 dated 11.12.2019			(ii) Online E-Commerce (iii) National Retail Policy
10	11	USQ No. 287 dated 08.12.2022	Road Transport and Highways		Upgradation of SH into NH
11	12	USQ No. 1887 dated 09.12.2021	Housing and Urban Affairs		Scheme for Town Development
12	13	USQ No. 1515 dated 15.12.2022	Road Transport and Highways		Conversion of SHs into NHs
13	14	(i) USQ No. 1583 dated 19.12.2018 (ii) USQ No. 1641 dated 13.02.2019	Railways		(i) Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (ii) Expansion Plan for Konkan Railways
14	15	SQ No. 22 dated 08.12.2022 (Supplementary by Smt. Mahua Moitra, M.P.)	Civil Aviation		Suggestions to Improve Air Travel
15	16	USQ No. 78 dated 07.12.2022		Atomic Energy	Mining of Mineral Sand

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM No. 3

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1548 dated 26.07.2022 regarding "New Schemes in PPP Mode".

On 26 July, 2022, Shri Ramesh Chandra Majhi, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1548 regarding "New Schemes in PPP Mode" to the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The text of the Question alongwith the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) within three months from the date of reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) *vide* O.M. No. Z-11016/1/2022-Digital dated 29 March, 2023 has requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:-

"An EFC Memo alongwith Concept Paper on the Blended Capital Fund has been circulated to concerned Ministries/Departments/Agencies to furnish their comments/inputs on the EFC Memo. Accordingly, the policy will be formulated after completion of all due process and will be kept in public domain."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

Dated:- 09/11/2023

New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1548
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 26TH JULY, 2022

NEW SCHEMES IN PPP MODE

1548. SHRI RAMESH CHANDRA MAJHI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- whether the Government is proposing to launch a new schemes in Public – Private Partnership (PPP) mode under which farmers will be provided with digital and hi-tech services, if so, the details thereof;
- whether the Government is proposing a start-up fund with blended capital facilitated through NABARD for agriculture and rural enterprises, if so, the details thereof;
- whether the Government has proposed to promote the use of KISHAN DRONES; and
- the details of other steps being taken by the Government with an emphasis on the start-up ecosystem in agriculture?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- A Steering Committee has been constituted comprising of experts from different Ministries of Government of India, fields/domain, educational & research Institutes, private tech players and other stakeholders for advising on various initiatives that are being undertaken, especially India Digital Ecosystem in Agriculture (IDEA) and the proposed AgriStack, including implementation experiences across different fields and sectors.

Further, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare had organized a Digital Agriculture-Stakeholder Consultation meet on 11.07.2022 in New Delhi, to create a vision for Public Private Partnership for the delivery of digital and hi-tech services to farmers with the involvement of public sector research and extension institutions along with private agri-tech players and stakeholders of agri-value chain.

- Government of India has made an announcement in the Union Budget 2022 regarding the setting up of a fund routed through NABARD under a co-investment model to finance startups in the agritech space.

- (c) Looking into the unique advantages of Drone technologies in agriculture, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has released the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for use of drones in pesticide and nutrient application in public domain in December 2021, which provide concise instructions for effective and safe operations of drones. In order to make this technology affordable to the farmers and other stakeholders of this sector, financial assistance @ 100% for purchase of agricultural drones and its attachments (actual cost of expenditure and its attachments or Rs. 10.00 lakhs, whichever is lower) together with the contingent expenditure is extended under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) to the Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and @ 75% to FPO's for its demonstration on the farmer's fields. In order to provide agricultural services through drone application, financial assistance @ 40% of the basic cost of drone and its attachments or Rs. 4 lakhs, whichever is less also provided for drone purchase by existing and new Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs) and also a general category farmers and @ 50% of the basic cost of drone and its attachments or Rs. 5 lakhs for SC/ST/women/small and marginal farmers and the agriculture graduates.
- (d) A component called "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development" has been launched under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY-RAFTAAR) in 2018-19 with the objective of promoting innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem. Under this programme, start-ups are encouraged to use innovative technologies to resolve challenges faced in agriculture and allied sectors. A total of 799 start-ups have been selected in various areas of agriculture and allied sectors under this programme for providing financial support through Knowledge Partners and Agri Business Incubators appointed by the Department for implementation of this programme.

The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has been supporting Agri-based startups under the project called National Agriculture Innovation Fund (NAIF) initiated in year 2016-2017. It has two components viz. (I) Innovation Fund; (II) Incubation Fund and National Coordinating Unit (NCU):

- (i) Component I: 10 Zonal Technology Management Units and 89 Institute Technology Management Units (ITMUs) established in 99 ICAR institutes provide a single-window mechanism to manage innovations, showcase intellectual assets, and pursue matters related to intellectual property (IP) management and transfer/commercialization of technologies in these institutes.
- (ii) Component II: Agri-business Incubator Centres (ABICs) are set up to speed up the delivery of the new technologies to stake holders. The ABICs are the nodal point to provide the desired link for Agriculture Research & Development (R&D) Institutions for incubation/ commercialization of the validated technologies. So far, 50 Agri-Business Incubation Centers have been established and are operational in the ICAR network under the NAIF scheme.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM No. 6

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1606 dated 10.02.2022 regarding "DDA Master Plan for Delhi".

On 10th February, 2022, Shri Jagdambika Pal M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1606 regarding "DDA Master Plan for Delhi" to the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (Delhi Division) vide O.M.No. H-11016/02/2022-D.D-IV dated 09 January, 2023 has stated as under:-

"Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is the nodal agency for undertaking In-situ rehabilitation/redevelopment of viable Jhuggi Jhopri (JJ) Clusters on central government land. There are 376 JJ Clusters under the purview of DDA, which have about 1.72 lakh households. The inhabitants in these clusters live in un-hygienic and unplanned conditions.

Construction of EWS houses under In-situ rehabilitation programme is a continuous programme which involves many construction related activities i.e. survey of land, floating of RFP, Tenders, communication with other agencies for providing basic amenities in the constructed flats etc. and it is very difficult to achieve the goal in a given time or to assign a fixed time frame to complete the process. "

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister of State for Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

DATED:- 09/11/2023
NEW DELHI

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1606

TO BE ANSWERED ON FEBRUARY 10, 2022

DDA MASTER PLAN FOR DELHI

NO.1606. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the JJ Clusters on the Government land in Delhi;**
- (b) the details of schemes/ plans of the Government for their relocation/ in-situ redevelopment as per extant policy therefor along with the present status of their implementation;**
- (c) the details of DDA's Master Plan for Delhi-2041 along with the salient features of the plan;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes through Master Plan for Delhi-2041 to deal with the relocation/ in-situ redevelopment of JJ Clusters and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the steps taken/ proposed by the Government to develop/ rejuvenate the green areas in Delhi under the Master Plan?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

- (a) Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) has informed that there are 675 listed and 82 unlisted JJ Bastis in Delhi on the land of various Government land owning agencies including Delhi Development Authority (DDA).**
- (b) Land and colonization are State subjects, however, the Government under the vision of 'Housing for All' by 2022, is supplementing the efforts of the States/ Union Territories by providing Central Assistance under the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) [PMAY(U)], for construction of houses of all eligible families/ beneficiaries including slum dwellers since 25.06.2015. Under the 'In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR)' component of PMAY-U Mission, Central Assistance of ₹ 1.0 lakh per house is provided.**

DDA has informed that as per its Rehabilitation Policy, which is based on PMAY-U, viable JJ clusters out of the list notified by DUSIB are taken up for in-situ slum rehabilitation. The status is as under:

- **Survey of 376 JJ Clusters is underway to assess eligibility of JJ dwellers for flats/ pucca accommodation.**
- **Request for Proposal (RFP) for six (6) projects having approximately 10,300 households (HHs) in 10 JJ Clusters sites have been floated for inviting private developers to undertake 'in-situ rehabilitation' on PPP model.**
- **RFP for four (4) other projects covering 15,000 HHs approximately in 8 JJ Clusters Sites is under process.**

DUSIB has informed that JJ Bastis are rehabilitated/ relocated as per rehabilitation/ relocation policy applicable at the time of rehabilitation/ relocation. At present the Delhi Slum & JJ Rehabilitation and Relocation policy 2015 renamed as Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojana is applicable.

- (c) **DDA has informed that the vision for Master Plan for Delhi (MPD)-2041 is to foster a Sustainable, Liveable and Vibrant Delhi by 2041. Some of the key/ salient features of the plan are at Annexure.**
- (d) **DDA has informed that re-location/ in-situ redevelopment of JJ clusters has been proposed in the Draft MPD-2041 with focus on urban poor, flexibility with mix of uses and relaxed development controls.**
- (e) **MPD-2021 has provisions to develop lung spaces/ recreational areas and green belt to the extent of 15 to 20% of land use. Further, the master plan provides for detailed planning norms and standards for recreational areas/ parks from sub-city level to neighbourhood level and green belt. In addition to the MPD-2021 provisions, DDA also adopts new initiatives such as provision of STP water for horticulture purposes, solar lighting initiatives, waste management through vermi-compost units, wetland development and indigenous plantation.**

Draft MPD-2041 provides for enhancing green blue infrastructure (green assets) i.e., ecological features like forests, orchards, riverside development, planned parks, trees and landscaped areas, recreational greens, green belts, gardens, etc.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha unstarred question No.1606

Key/ Salient features of draft MPD-2041

1. Development control norms related to use premises and activities, flexibility in uses, parking requirements, mixing of uses, etc. have been simplified to meet future developments and requirement of public at large.
2. Provision of good quality green-blue areas for active/passive recreation and leisure.
3. Enhance Delhi's preparedness for Climate Change impacts and in tackling pollution.
4. Focus on non-ownership/ rental and small format/ affordable housing (particularly close to mass transit) with incentivising new formats like serviced apartments, condominiums, hostels, student housing, worker housing, etc.
5. Compact and sustainable development through Transit Oriented Development (TOD) based projects to bring jobs and homes closer to mass transit.
6. Regeneration in the old and dilapidated areas, re-densification of areas by providing incentives for planned redevelopment and/or retrofitting of areas; improve area-level safety and disaster resilience and increase availability of social infrastructure.
7. Regeneration of unauthorized colonies and specific relaxed provisions for in-situ rehabilitation.
8. Improving social infrastructure in existing areas, particularly dense areas like urban villages and unauthorized colonies.
9. Flexibility in Floor Area Ratio (FAR) loading and vertical mixing of uses to create innovative layouts
10. Special provisions for preservation and redevelopment within identified heritage and cultural precincts – focus on enhancement of cultural capital.
11. Mainstreaming urban design ideas such as active frontage, walkable block lengths, round the clock activity, etc., ensuring convenience and safety of users.
12. Augmentation of physical infrastructure promoting reuse of treated waste water for horticulture, irrigation etc, mandatory provision of dual piping system, green credits as part of incentivized development, minimize additional stress on water resources with optimal utilization of available water supply.
13. Enhancement of environment with focus on preservation and enhancement of ecological heritage (Yamuna riverfront development, biodiversity parks), tackling air, water and noise pollution adopting extremely strict codes and incentivize development of new green industry.

Appendix - IV

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM No. 9

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2222 dated 29.07.2022 regarding "Single Voter List".

On 29 July, 2022, Shri Bhagirath Choudhary, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2222 regarding "Single Voter List" to the Minister of Law and Justice. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Law and Justice within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) *vide* O.M. No. H-11016/28/2022-LegII dated 17 April, 2023 has stated as under:-

"The Law Commission of India in its 255th report has endorsed/recommended inclusion of common electoral rolls at elections conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the State Election Commissions (SECs). As per section 13D of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the electoral roll for every parliamentary constituency shall consist of electoral rolls for all the assembly constituencies comprised within that parliamentary constituency and it shall not be necessary to prepare or revise separately the electoral roll for any such Parliamentary Constituency.

Electoral rolls for conduct of elections to the urban local bodies and panchayat raj institutions are prepared by the respective State Election Commissions. As informed by the ECI, 26 States and 08 Union territories are presently using the electoral roll data prepared by the ECI for preparing the electoral roll for local bodies/panchayat elections. The said proposal is under examination with the concerned stakeholders. Further, it may also be stated that 'Electoral Reforms' is a continuous and ongoing process that involves a major policy decision in consultation with all stakeholders in the matter and cannot be implemented within a time frame."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Law and Justice, has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

DATED:- 09/11/2023
NEW DELHI

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Annexure

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2222

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 29TH JULY, 2022

Single Voter List

2222. SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Law Commission of India has suggested to prepare single voter list for all level of elections in its 255th report and if so, the progress made in this regard so far;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to prepare the single voter list in the country by making constitutional amendments under Article 243A and 243Z(a) and if so, the time by which it is likely to be done;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take concrete action by instructing the constitutional institutions, Election Commission and State Election Commission for conducting elections by single voter list and if so, the time by which it is likely to be done and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to address problem of bogus and duplicate voters by linking Voter Identity Card with Aadhaar Card and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) and (c): Yes sir, the Law Commission of India in its 255th report has endorsed/recommended inclusion of common electoral rolls at elections conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the State Election Commissions (SECs). As per section 13D of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the electoral roll for every parliamentary constituency shall consist of electoral rolls for all the assembly constituencies comprised within that parliamentary constituency and it shall be necessary to prepare or revise

separately the electoral roll for both Lok Sabha and the State Assembly Legislative Elections as of now.

Electoral rolls for conduct of elections to the urban local bodies and panchayat raj institutions are prepared by the respective SECs. As informed by the ECI, 26 States and 08 Union territories are presently using the electoral roll data prepared by the ECI for preparing the electoral roll for local bodies/panchayat elections. The said proposal is under examination with the concerned stakeholders.

As per article 324 of the Constitution, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of all the States and election to the offices of the President and Vice-President vests in the ECI. Further, as per article 243K and 243ZA of the Constitution, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Panchayats and Municipalities vests in the respective SECs.

(b): No such proposal to amend the Constitution is under consideration.

(d): In order to curb the menace of duplicate entry in electoral roll, the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 (49 of 2021) has been enacted by Parliament by amending section 23 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, which provides for linking of Aadhaar with Voter ID. It is a matter of fact that citizens moves from one location to another for various purposes and ECI facilitates entry in the electoral roll in all cases without much difficulty. In cases, already registered electors do not disclose their previous entries which lead to multiple entries, which is against the law. Aadhaar is available with most of the electors or eligible citizens, hence, it will be used to facilitate the electors in having single entry in the electoral roll.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM No. 10

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurances given in replies to:-

- (i) USQ No. 2936 dated 10.07.2019 regarding 'NWB for Traders' (Annexure-I);
- (ii) USQ No. 5128 dated 24.07.2019 regarding 'Online E-Commerce' (Annexure-II); and
- (iii) USQ No. 3818 dated 11.12.2019 regarding 'National Retail Policy' (Annexure-III).

The above mentioned Questions were addressed by Smt. Ranjan Ben Dhananjay Bhatt and various other MPs to the Minister of Commerce and Industry. The contents of the Questions along with the replies of the Minister are given in Annexures I to III.

2. The replies to the Questions were treated as Assurances by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) within three months from the date of the replies but the Assurances are yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) *vide* O.M. F.No.P-55016/3/2020-Internal Trade dated 12 January, 2021, F.No.P-55016/4/2020-Internal Trade dated 18 February, 2020 and F.No.P-55016/11/2020-Internal Trade dated 25 November, 2020 had requested to drop the Assurances on the following grounds:-

"The formulation of National Retail Trade Policy requires wide stakeholder consultations and it may not be possible to formulate the same within a definite frame of time."

4. The Committee at their sitting held on 12 April, 2021 considered the above request for dropping of the Assurances and decided not to accede to the same. The Committee accordingly presented their 51st Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 01 December, 2021 and *inter-alia* recommended the Ministry to pursue the matter vigorously and fulfil the Assurances expeditiously.

5. However, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) *vide* O.M. F.No.P-55016/3/2020-Internal Trade dated 27 March, 2023, F.No.P-55016/4/2020-Internal Trade dated 12 April, 2023 and F.No.P-55016/11/2020-Internal Trade dated 27 February, 2023 has stated as under:-

"The formulation of National Retail Trade Policy requires wide stakeholder consultations and it may not be possible to formulate the same within a definite frame of time."

6. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has requested the Committee to drop the above-mentioned three Assurances.

The Committee may reconsider.

DATED:- 09/11/2023
NEW DELHI

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2936.
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10TH JULY, 2019.

NWB FOR TRADERS

2936. SHRIMATI RANJAN BEN DHANANJAY BHATT:
SHRI SUBBARAYAN K.:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Welfare Board (NWB) for traders and National Policy for Retail Trade;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Government proposes to set up National Traders' Welfare Board and formulate a National Policy for Retail Trade. Stakeholder consultations are being held for the same.

(d) : Question does not arise.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5128.
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24TH JULY, 2019.

ONLINE E-COMMERCE

5128. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री

- (a) whether the advancement of online e-commerce giants have affected small traders and shopkeepers in India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the share of Delhi in total internal trade of the country is declining in the last few years and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government for encouraging internal and external trade with regard to Delhi in last five years?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a): No such assessment has been made by the Government.
- (b): This information is not centrally maintained.
- (c): Government proposes to formulate a National Retail Trade Policy and also set up a National Traders' Welfare Board to create conducive environment for retail trade in the country.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3818.
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 11TH DECEMBER, 2019.

NATIONAL RETAIL POLICY

3818. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:
SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री

- (a) the State-wise details of retail trade in the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to formulate a National Retail Policy (NRP) to support the growth of domestic retail trade and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to support the development of retail sector in order to benefit millions of small traders in the country;
- (d) the details of the extent to which the policy helps to promote and organize retail trade in the country;
- (e) whether there are apprehensions amongst small retail traders that the policy might permit foreign retailers in the sector; and
- (f) if so, the details on how the Government will allay such apprehensions?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): State-wise details of retail trade in the country is not centrally compiled.

(b) to (f): Yes Sir. The Government proposes to formulate National Retail Trade Policy. Stakeholder consultations are being held. Government has set up a National Traders' Welfare Board with the objectives of welfare of traders and their employees, simplification of the acts and rules applicable to traders, reduction of compliance burden and improvement in access to funds for traders.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH

MEMORANDUM No. 11

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 287 dated 08 December, 2022 regarding "Upgradation of SH into NH".

On 08 December, 2022, Shri Chandra Prakash Choudhary, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 287 regarding "Upgradation of SH into NH" to the Minister of Road Transport and Highways. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways *vide* O.M. No. RW/Ranchi/LS/USQ/287/2022 dated 15 June, 2023 has stated that State roads, including State Highways (SHs), are declared as new National Highways (NHs) from time to time on the basis of well-established principles. The criteria for State roads for declaration as new NHs may include some of the following: -

- i. Roads running through length / breadth of the country.
- ii. Connecting adjacent countries, National Capitals with State Capitals / mutually the State Capitals, major ports, non-major ports, large industrial centres or tourist centres.
- iii. Roads having important strategic requirement in hilly and isolated area.
- iv. Arterial roads which enable sizeable reduction in travel distance and achieve substantial economic growth.
- v. Roads which help in opening up large tracts of backward area and hilly region.
- vi. Synergy with PM Gatl Shakti National Master Plan (NMP).

Ministry receives several requests for declaration of State roads as National Highways from different States / UTs including from the State of Jharkhand. Ministry declares some of them as National Highways depending upon factors such as traffic density, optimizing the efficiency of freight and passenger movement, enhancing the socio-economic development of the area, connecting roads to existing highways, roads important for tourism development, roads important for regional development, etc. The proposals will be assessed on the basis of these components for prioritization and inclusion in the National Highway construction programs of the Ministry.

The Policy formulation / modification is a time taking process.

4. In view of this position, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, has requested the Committee to drop the above mentioned Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI

DATED: 09/11/2023

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 287
ANSWERED ON 08TH DECEMBER, 2022

UPGRADATION OF SH INTO NH

287. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to grant in-principle approval to upgrade State Highway (SH) connecting Jainamore in Bokaro district with Phusro, Nawadih into National Highway (NH);**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be approved and the funds allocated/sanctioned for the purpose;**
- (c) the present status of work on widening of Jainamore to Ramgarh section of NH-23 which is pending for many years along with the reasons for such a long pendency; and**
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to complete the said project within the stipulated time period?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) & (b) Ministry receives several requests for declaration of State roads as National Highways from different states / UTs including from the state of Jharkhand. Ministry declares some of them as National Highways depending on requirements of connectivity, inter-se-priority and availability of funds. The policy for declaration of new NHs is under consultation in Government of India. All proposals for declaration of new NHs including the said road will be considered accordingly after finalization of the said policy.

(c) & (d) Widening of existing carriageway to 2-lane with paved shoulders from Jainamore to Ramgarh section of NH-23 has already been completed on 29.11.2017.

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH**

MEMORANDUM No. 13

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1515 dated 15 December, 2022 regarding "Conversion of SHs into NHs".

On 15 December, 2022, Shrimati Veena Devi, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1515 regarding "Conversion of SHs into NHs" to the Minister of Road Transport and Highways. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways *vide* O.M. No. H-11016/40/Bihar/2022/East-I dated 07 August, 2023 has stated that State roads, including State Highways (SHs), are declared as new National Highways (NHs) from time to time on the basis of well-established principles. The criteria for State roads for declaration as new NHs may include some of the following: -

- i. Roads running through length / breadth of the country.
- ii. Connecting adjacent countries, National Capitals with State Capitals / mutually the State Capitals, major ports, non-major ports, large industrial centres or tourist centres.
- iii. Roads having important strategic requirement in hilly and isolated area.
- iv. Arterial roads which enable sizeable reduction in travel distance and achieve substantial economic growth.
- v. Roads which help in opening up large tracts of backward area and hilly region.
- vi. Synergy with PM Gatl Shakti National Master Plan (NMP).

The Policy formulation / modification is a time taking process.

4. In view of this position, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, has requested the Committee to drop the above mentioned Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI

DATED: 09/11/2023

Ahmedpur

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1515
ANSWERED ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2022**

CONVERSION OF SHs INTO NHs

1515. SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of proposals received by the Government from the State Government of Bihar for conversion of State Highway (SH) during the last three years and the current year;**
- (b) the details of proposals which are approved and those which are under consideration; and**
- (c) the time frame set for completion of the pending proposals and projects?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (c) Ministry receives several requests for declaration of State roads as National Highways from different States/UTs including the State of Bihar. Ministry declares some of them as National Highways depending on requirements of connectivity, inter-se-priority and availability of funds. The policy for declaration of new NHs is under preparation in Government of India. State Government of Bihar has sent one proposal for declaration of Arrah-Khaira-Sahar-Arwal (State Highway-81) as new National Highway in Bihar. All proposals for declaration of new NHs including the said road will be considered accordingly after finalisation of the said policy.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM No. 15

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Starred Question No. 22 dated 08 December, 2022 (Supplementary by Sushri Mahua Moitra, MP) regarding "Suggestions to Improve Air Travel".

On 08 December, 2022, Shri Jagannath Sarkar, M.P., addressed a Starred Question No. 22 to the Minister of Civil Aviation. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

2. During discussion, Sushri Mahua Moitra, M.P., *inter-alia* raised the following Supplementary Question:-

"For example, if you are travelling British Airways from here to Paris and the changeover is at London, your luggage is booked through to Paris. You do not have to take it out in London. So, is this something that we really need to take up with international airlines that you are having to break this? The older and disabled persons have to face huge problems while taking out luggage themselves."

3. In reply, the Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia) stated as follows:-

"I think, that the hon. Member has put forward a very valuable suggestion. We will certainly look into that matter. For us, our elderly folks are an extremely important segment of our population and it is our job to make sure that travelling becomes seamless and a very flexible process for them. So, I shall certainly take that suggestion on board."

4. The above reply was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Civil Aviation within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

5. In this regard, the Ministry of Civil Aviation *vide* O.M.No AV-32017/2/2023-A-MOCA dated 20 July, 2023, has stated as under:-

"For passengers travelling abroad, the airlines in India can offer through checked-in facility subject to certain conditions. The baggage of such passengers is through checked-in.

However, for incoming flights to India, on his/her arrival the passenger is first cleared by Immigration Officer. Thereafter as per Customs Baggage Rules, 2016, every passenger entering India has to pass through Customs. Since each passengers are required for the Customs clearance of his/her own baggage, therefore, they have to take the delivery of his/her baggage from the conveyer belts & pass through Customs.

In view of the above, it is stated that all the airlines are mandated to abide by these immigration and customs rules. As such the requirement of collection and recheck-in of baggage cannot be relaxed as it has been necessitated due to the Immigration and Customs requirements."

6. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, has requested the Committee to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

DATED: 09/11/2023
NEW DELHI

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. : 22
(To be answered on the 8th December 2022)**

SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE AIR TRAVEL

***22. SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether suggestions are received through the website of the Ministry of Civil Aviation especially with reference to the announcement made during the air journey inviting suggestions to make the air travel more comfortable and if so, the details thereof; and
(b) the details of the number of suggestions received including the number of suggestions implemented so far?

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

(Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

(a) to (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION
NUMBER 22 FOR 8th DECEMBER 2022**

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Air Sewa Portal operated by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) is used for redressal of complaints of air passengers. Complaints received through Air Sewa Portal are monitored by the Air Sewa Cell in the Ministry for their redressal in a time bound manner. Some of these complaints also contains suggestions. All such complaints and suggestions are shared with the concerned airline, airports or stakeholder.

During the period of April-November 2022, 6755 complaints/suggestions were received of which 6671 complaints/suggestions have been addressed.

(Q 22)

श्री जगन्नाथ सरकार: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा जो संसदीय क्षेत्र है – नवद्वीप, वहां स्वयं भगवान श्रीकृष्ण का चैतन्य अवतार हुआ। इसलिए वह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र है। अभी वहां पर एम्स बन रहा है और विश्व का सबसे बड़ा मन्दिर बन रहा है। इसलिए वहां विमान परिसेवा के लिए सरकार की तरफ से क्या प्लानिंग है और क्या स्थिति है? यही मैं जानना चाहता हूं।

श्री ज्योतिरादित्य एम. सिंधिया: अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह प्रश्न हमारे यात्रियों की सेवा और उनकी जो कठिनाइयां हैं, उनके समाधान के विषय में है। अगर सांसद महोदय मुझे आकर मिलेंगे तो उस पर हम लोग चर्चा करेंगे।

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity. The Minister has been very active. My question pertains to redressing of the complaints received from the passengers. Post-COVID 19, air traffic has increased incredibly. Throughout India, every city's airport is now jampacked at peak times. I have been seeing the statements given by the Minister to address the problem. I do understand that it is a daily, ongoing process. Every day, passengers are queuing up just to clear the security part of it. Sometimes, passengers are missing their flights because of the traffic. This is quite a concern for all of us.

No step has been taken in this regard. You had time during COVID when you could have expanded the security area, especially during peak traffic hours, but nothing has been done.

Secondly, when will you inaugurate new Chennai Terminal, which is nearly ready? It is of great importance to us.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Sir, I would like to say that the Question is on customer service and the AirSewa portal. However, the learned Member has raised two extremely pertinent and important queries. One is related to the resurgence of traffic in the area of civil aviation.

As we are all aware, we have gone through one of the most turbulent times in civil aviation across the world during COVID, when all planes were stranded on the ground. It is probably one of the industries that was the worst affected. Suffice to say, because of the policies of the Government as well as the desire of customers to travel, we have experienced today a V-shaped recovery.

I would also like to report to this House that during pre-COVID, in 2019, India experienced roughly about 4.07 lakh passengers, the highest number of travellers per day in its history. We have broken that barrier three days ago and we have reached the target of 4.13 lakh passengers per day. This talks to a great deal in terms of this Government's and the Prime Minister's prerogative of, first of all, democratising the area of civil aviation, increasing the breadth as well as the depth of civil aviation. That, of course, brings with it issues with regard to crowding at airports. We have to also understand that civil aviation has an additional factor of seasonality to it. The festive season, starting from October until February, is the peak season. We then have a normal season

from March till roughly about May. And, then we have a lean season in the monsoon from roughly about June to the end of September.

I have had a very detailed meeting with not only our airport operators yesterday, but along with that with immigration and CISF personnel, and I have requested them that we must put in a plan in terms of peak hour planning for arrivals and departures, not based upon just an airport's capability of runway take off and landings but on the whole process capability, right from when a passenger enters the airport to when he goes in for security check, baggage drop off, and then goes to the gate. We should look at the whole process based on which we should manage our number of arrivals and departures in peak hour traffic. There is a great degree of volatility today. We need to smoothen out that volatility curve. All the airports have pretty much come on board, and very similar to the fog planning that we do in the winter schedule, I have requested them to also do the peak hour planning. Today, as we speak, that process is on, and I am quite sure that we will be able to manage in India the resurgence of traffic, unlike what we experienced in the US, Europe, and many developed parts of the world, when there was a resurgence of traffic, there was mayhem at airports, baggage was getting lost. Our airports in India did a yeoman's job during that process. Even now, with this new height of passenger traffic, we will smoothen out that process in the days to come. I am very confident with our airport operators.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, my second question has not been replied....

(Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: I am sorry. The second question was with regard to the Chennai Terminal.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : मंत्री जी, आप इनके बाद उत्तर दे दीजिएगा ।

SUSHRI MAHUA MOITRA: Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to ask a supplementary. This is related directly to customer service. A lot of aged people in India have children staying abroad and they travel once a year. If you wish to buy Vistara air ticket from Kolkata to London, there is no direct flight. The flight routes via Delhi. So, you have to purchase a Kolkata-Delhi-London ticket. A 70-80 years old couple, on the way back will have to land in Delhi, wait at the baggage belt, take out their luggage, and then rebook it to Kolkata. If you are going by British Airways, it is fine. For example, in the case of Vistara, if the flight is via Bangalore, they have to be at the baggage belt in Bangalore airport, take out heavy suitcases on their own and then rebook the luggage to Kolkata.

For example, if you are travelling British Airways from here to Paris and the changeover is at London, your luggage is booked through to Paris. You do not have to take it out in London. So, is this something that we really need to take up with international airlines that you are having to break this? The older

and disabled persons have to face huge problems while taking out luggage themselves.

So, this is something if you could please take up. Thank you, Sir.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : मैं सभी माननीय सदस्यों को बोलने का मौका देता हूँ, पर कई माननीय सदस्य Twitter पर बहुत जल्दी लिखते हैं कि स्पीकर बोलने का मौका नहीं देते हैं। मेरा आप सभी से इतना ही आग्रह है कि आप कम से कम उसका ध्यान रखें कि Twitter पर कभी स्पीकर के बारे में न लिखें। यह अच्छा होगा।

...(व्यवधान)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I think, that the hon. Member has put forward a very valuable suggestion. We will certainly look into that matter. For us, our elderly folks are an extremely important segment of our population and it is our job to make sure that travelling becomes seamless and a very flexible process for them. So, I shall certainly take that suggestion on board.

Now, I come to Mr. Maran Ji's question that remained unanswered and which is, the 'B' part of his question. Let me commit to him that we have a very aggressive expansion plan for the current Chennai Terminal. We are spending almost Rs. 2,895 crore for that expansion plan, and the probable date of completion is somewhere in 2024. As soon as that gets done, we will certainly inaugurate it.

Along with that, let me also suggest him and request him that we would like to build a Greenfield Airport in Chennai as well. There is a new site that has been co-located between the State Government as well as the Central Government. Four sites have been offered. We have focussed on one, which is, Parandur. TIDCO has sent its proposal for site clearance to us. We have reverted to them with comments last month. If you can hasten up that process, it will help us very much.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much.

I think, this is an excellent omnibus question, covering all the suggestions that people are giving for airlines. I would like to mention one particular thing with respect to the UDAN Scheme, which of course, serves underserved airports. We, in Kerala, are unable to benefit from this because none of our airports is technically underserved. But actually, there are routes that are underserved or not even served at all. A question is coming up about Coimbatore a little later this morning. This is a classic example. There are no flights from any airport in Kerala to Coimbatore, even though it would actually be beneficial to people in Eastern Kerala -- in Palakkad, for example -- where Coimbatore is the nearest airport. Could we not extend the benefits of the subsidy provided under the UDAN Scheme to well-served airports with underserved routes? So, for example, when the Governor of Kerala, Shri Sathasivam, had to go to Coimbatore, he had to fly to Chennai, change flight there, and fly back to Coimbatore which meant almost as long as going by

road. In these kinds of things, we can easily have had a Trivandrum-Coimbatore flight for example, or indeed, routes within Kerala from Trivandrum via Cochin, Kozhikode, up to Kannur, four international airports, which do not benefit at the moment from any UDAN connectivity or subsidy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Member for his question on the UDAN scheme which again is not related to the core question. But I am more than happy to answer that. It is our prerogative under the hon. Prime Minister's leadership -- as I have mentioned - - to both broaden as well as deepen civil aviation in India. Now, if we are to do that, we need to take the call. Are we going to do that with currently well-served airports in the country? Or, are we going to both increase the penetration in rural areas as well as deepen that penetration in rural areas? Let me give a couple of examples of that. Many airports that have been wiped off the Civil Aviation map, post World War-II and prior to Independence in India, have resurfaced on the Civil Aviation map all because of hon. Prime Minister's 'Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik Programme'.

In the last six years, we have built out 70 airports, waterdromes and heliports under the UDAN Yojana, airports that one would never have conceived of - Rupsi in Assam, Jharsuguda in Odisha, Kishangarh in Rajasthan and Darbhanga - airports that today give robust connectivity to earlier unserved population across the length and breadth of our country

ranging between 50,000 passengers to five and a half lakh passengers reach.

We have limited resources. UDAN yojana was given Rs. 4,500 crore in terms of capex and a Viability Gap Funding Programme. Within that, today, we have transported in the last six years 1.1 crore passengers in our country that probably have never flown before in their lives. We have flown close to 2,15,000 flights in the last six years that would have never flown before. We have connected 70 airports along the length and breadth of India and it is our target, let me commit to our House, I hope that in the next 3-4 years, we will connect another 100 airports, waterdromes and heliports in India.

Prior to 2013-14, we had 74 airports in our country. Today, in a matter of eight years, we have built out a total of 71 additional airports, waterdromes and heliports making it 145. So, we are committed but it is important to identify what our priority is. Once we increase our breadth, increase our depth, then certainly we will look at these areas without doubt.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 23,

Shri Malook Nagar

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2023-2024)
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)
SECOND SITTING
(17.11.2023)

The Committee sat from 1100 hours to 1200 hours in Committee Room 'C', PHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Agrawal - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

2. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
3. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
4. Shri Khagen Murmu
5. Prof. Sougata Ray
6. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri J.M. Baisakh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri M.C. Gupta | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 3. | Smt. Vineeta Sachdeva | - | Under Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Sanjeev Kumar Gulati | - | Under Secretary |

XXXXX
XXXXX
XXXXX
XXXXX

XXXXX
XXXXX
XXXXX
XXXXX

XXXXX
XXXXX
XXXXX
XXXXX

XXXXX
XXXXX
XXXXX
XXXXX

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened to (i) consider 15 Memoranda containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 20 pending Assurances and (ii) take oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Women and Child Development regarding pending Assurances.

2. Thereafter, the Committee took up 15 Memoranda (Memorandum Nos. 2 to 16) containing 20 Assurances for consideration regarding dropping or otherwise of the relevant Assurances. After consideration of a few Memoranda, the Committee authorized Hon'ble Chairperson to decide the dropping or otherwise of the remaining Memoranda. The Chairperson subsequently decided to drop 11 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-I* and to pursue the remaining 09 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-II for implementation by the Ministries/Departments concerned.

3.	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX
4.	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX
5.	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX
6.	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX
7.	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX

The Committee then adjourned.

* Not related to this Report.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2023-2024)

Statement Showing Assurances not dropped by the Committee on Government Assurances (2023-2024) at their sitting held on 17.11.2023

S.No.	Memo No.	SQ/USQ No. and date	Ministry/ Department	Subject	Remarks
1.	3	USQ No. 1548 dated 26.07.2022	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)	New Schemes in PPP Mode	The Ministry has requested for dropping the Assurance on the ground that an EFC Memo along with concept paper on the Blended Capital Fund has been circulated to concerned Ministries/Departments/Agencies to furnish their comments/inputs on the EFC Memo. Accordingly, the policy will be formulated after completion of all due process and will be kept in public domain. The Committee feels that taking considerable amount of time for a policy formulation cannot be a valid ground for dropping an Assurance. Committee understands that such matters take time but the Ministry needs to take sustained action with alacrity within specific timeline to pursue the matter with all concerned and implement the Assurance at the earliest.
2.	6	USQ No. 1606 dated 10.02.2022	Housing and Urban Affairs	DDA Master Plan for Delhi	The Ministry has requested for dropping the Assurance on the ground that construction of EWS houses under In-situ rehabilitation

					programme is a continuous programme which involved many construction related activities and it is very difficult to achieve the goal in a given time or to assign a fixed time frame to complete the process. The Committee feels that an Assurance cannot be dropped merely on the ground that its implementation may take more than the specified period of three months. The Committee desire that the Ministry provide information as assured by them at that particular time and bring the matter to its logical conclusion.
3.	9	USQ No. 2222 dated 29.07.2022	Law and Justice (Legislative Department)	Single Voter List	The Ministry has requested to drop the Assurance on the ground that the proposal for inclusion of common electoral rolls at elections conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the State Election Commissions (SECs) is under examination will all stakeholders. It has also stated that 'Electoral Reforms' is a continuous and ongoing process that involves major policy decision in consultation with all stakeholders in the matter and cannot be implemented within a time frame. The contention of the Ministry is untenable since an Assurance cannot be dropped merely on the ground that its outcome and finality is not known. The Committee feels that once an Assurance is given it should be brought to its logical end. The Committee desire that the

					Ministry should pursue the matter in a time bound manner and fulfill the Assurance at the earliest.
4.	10	(i) USQ No. 2936 dated 10.07.2019 (ii) USQ No. 5128 dated 24.07.2019 (iii) USQ No. 3818 dated 11.12.2019	Commerce and Industry (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)	(i) National Welfare Board (NWB) for Traders (ii) Online E-Commerce (iii) National Retail Policy	The Committee note that in their 51st Report (17th Lok Sabha) presented to the House on 01.12.2021 the Ministry was directed to pursue the matter vigorously and fulfill the Assurances expeditiously. However, instead of fulfilling the Assurance the Ministry has once again requested for dropping the Assurance on the same ground which reflects that scant attention is given by the Ministry to the Reports of the Parliamentary Committee. The Committee deplores this form of attitude and disregard for Parliamentary Assurances/Reports. Nevertheless, the Committee now expect the Ministry to accord utmost priority to the matter. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Ministry pursue the matter vigorously and fulfil the Assurance expeditiously.
5.	11	USQ No. 287 dated 08.12.2022	Road Transport and Highways	Upgradation of SH into NH	The Ministry has requested to drop the Assurance on the ground that the policy formulation/modification is a time taking process. The Committee feel that the matter is of crucial national importance and need to be pursued till the final decision is arrived at. Moreover once an Assurance is given it is incumbent upon the Ministry to bring to its

					logical conclusion with all the agencies concerned. The Committee understands that such matters take time but the Ministry needs to pursue the matter with alacrity and specific timeline and implement the Assurance at the earliest.
6.	13	USQ No. 1515 dated 15.12.2022	Road Transport and Highways	Conversion of SHs into NHs	The Ministry has requested to drop the Assurance on the ground that the policy formulation/modification is a time taking process. The Committee feel that the matter is of crucial national importance and need to be pursued till the final decision is arrived at. Moreover once an Assurance is given it is incumbent upon the Ministry to bring to its logical conclusion with all the agencies concerned. The Committee understands that such matters take time but the Ministry needs to pursue the matter with alacrity and specific timeline and implement the Assurance at the earliest.
7.	15	SQ No. 22 dated 08.12.2022 (Supplementary by Smt. Mahua Moitra, M.P.)	Civil Aviation	Suggestions to Improve Air Travel	The Committee feel that in sum and substance the Assurance has been fulfilled. The Committee desire that the requisite Implementation Report may be laid on the Table of the House.

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2023-2024)
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)
THIRD SITTING
(14.12.2023)

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1545 hours in Room No. 216, (Chairperson's Chamber), 'B' Block, EPHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Agrawal - Chairperson

Members

2. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
3. Shri Kishan Kapoor
4. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
5. Shri Khagen Murmu
6. Shri Santosh Pandey
7. Shri M.K. Raghavan
8. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu

Secretariat

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri J.M. Baisakh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Dr. (Smt.) Sagarika Dash | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri M.C. Gupta | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Smt. Vineeta Sachdeva | - | Under Secretary |
| 5. | Shri Sanjeev Kumar Gulati | - | Under Secretary |

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the following Seven (07) draft Reports without any amendments:-

- (i) Draft Ninety-First Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)';
- (ii) Draft Ninety-Second Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education)';
- (iii) Draft Ninety-Third Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)'; and

- (iv) Draft Ninety-Fourth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acquired to)';
 - (v) Draft Ninety-Fifth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Railways';
 - (vi) Draft Ninety-Sixth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acquired to)'; and
 - (vii) Draft Ninety-Seventh Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acquired to)';
2. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to present the Reports during the ongoing Session.

The Committee then adjourned.