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

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

ONE HUNDREDTH REPORT

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

Presented to Lok Sabha on...... 2024



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT **NEW DELHI**

February, 2024/ Magha, 1945 (Saka)

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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
- 2. Dr. Sagarika Dash
- 3. Shri M.C. Gupta

- Joint Secretary
- Director
- Deputy 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 One Hundredth Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

- 2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2023-2024) at their sitting held on 31 January, 2024 *inter-alia* considered Memorandum Nos. 17 to 36 containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 20 pending Assurances and decided to pursue 06 Assurances.
- 3. At their sitting held on 6th February, 2024 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;

06 February, 2024

17 Magha, 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 31st January, 2024 considered Twenty 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 06 Assurances:-

SI. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
1.	USQ No. 2418 dated 21.12.2022	Textiles	Cotton Value Chain Initiatives (Appendix-II)
2.	USQ No. 441 dated 03.02.2022	Civil Aviation	Development of Darbhanga Airport (Appendix-III)
3.	SQ No. 484 dated 28.04.2015 (Supplementary by Shri Kirti Jha Azad, M.P.)	Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports)	Mismanagement in National Para Athletic Championship Meet (Appendix-IV)
4.	USQ No. 95 dated 02.02.2022	Railways	Augmentation of GRP (Appendix-V)
5.	USQ No. 271 dated 24.06.2019	Tourism	Tourism Projects for Lakshadweep (Appendix-VI)

l. lo.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
6.	USQ No. 72 dated 02.02.2022	Mines	Amount of Royalty (Appendix-VII)

- 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 06 Assurances are given in Appendices -II to VII.
- 5. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee dated 31st January, 2024, whereunder the requests for dropping of the Assurances were considered, are given in Appendix- VIII.
- 6. The Committee desire that the Government should take note of the observations of the Committee as contained in Annexure-II of Appendix-VIII and take appropriate action for implementation of the Assurances expeditiously.

NEW DELHI; 06 February, 2024 17 Magha, 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 31st January, 2024

SI. No.	Memo No.	Question/ Discussion References	Ministry	Department	Brief Subject
1	17 USQ No. 2006 dated 28.07.2022		Housing and Urban Affairs	E. FO. C. Lucatus	Proposals for Projects of Metro and Mono Rail
2	18	USQ No. 1170 dated 09.02.2022	Earth Sciences		Eroding Coastlines
3	19	USQ No. 3795 dated 25.03.2022	Chemicals and Fertilizers	Department of Fertilizers	Regulation of Fertilizer Pricing
4	20	USQ No. 1723 dated 16.12.2022	AYUSH	1985 and 62 (1) 5. So (0) heavy	AYUSH Visa for Foreign Nationals
5	21	USQ No. 3468 dated 22.03.2023	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	Department of Food & Public Distribution	Linking Sugarcane Prices to Sugar Prices
6	22	USQ No. 2418 dated 21.12.2022	Textiles		Cotton Value Chain Initiatives
7	23	USQ No. 441 dated 03.02.2022	Civil Aviation		Development of Darbhanga Airport
8	SQ No. 147 dated 13.02.2023 (Supplementary by Shri Saumitra Khan, M.P.)		Labour and Employment	10	Workers Registered in E-Shram Portal
9	9 25 SQ No. 163 dated 19.12.2022 (Supplementary by Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb Patil, M.P.)		Labour and Employment		Improvement in the Life and Welfare of Farm Labourers
10	26	USQ No. 306 dated 03.02.2023	Law and Justice Legisla 23 Depart		Uniform Civil Code
11	27	USQ No. 162 dated 02.02.2023	Civil Aviation		Airports in Telangana

SI. No.	Memo No.	Question/ Discussion References	Ministry	Department	Brief Subject
12	28	USQ No. 2728 dated 22.12.2022	Road Transport and Highways		Scrapping of Government Vehicles
13	29	USQ No. 5407 dated 05.04.2023	Earth Sciences		Earthquake Early Warning System
14	30 USQ No. 1951 Finance Department Financial Services			Recovery of NPAs by Union Bank of India	
15	31	SQ No. 484 dated 28.04.2015 (Supplementary by Shri Kirti Jha Azad, M.P.)	Youth Affairs and Sports	Department of Sports	Mismanagement in National Para Athletic Championship Meet
16	32	USQ No. 95 dated 02.02.2022	Railways		Augmentation of GRP
17	33	USQ No. 271 dated 24.06.2019	Tourism		Tourism Projects for Lakshadweep
18	34 USQ No. 649 Defence dated 09.12.2022		Department of Defence	Modernization of Air Field Infrastructure	
19	35	General Discussion on Finance Bill dated 18.07.2019	Finance	Department of Revenue	Discussion on Finance Bill
20	36	USQ No. 72 dated 02.02.2022	Mines		Amount of Royalty

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH

MEMORANDUM No. 22

Subject:

Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2418 dated 21.12.2022 regarding "Cotton Value Chain Initiatives".

On 21 December, 2022, Shri Girish Bhalchandra Bapat and Various M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2418 regarding "Cotton Value Chain Initiatives" to the Minister of Textiles. 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 Textiles within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.
- 3. In this regard, the Ministry of Textiles *vide* O.M. SI.No. 6/2/2023-Cotton Division dated 06 March, 2023 has stated as under:-

"Kasturi Cotton India project aims at improving the quality of India Cotton over three cotton seasons starting from 2022-23. The project is an industry-led initiative with part funding from Ministry of Textiles to encourage the principle of self-regulation by owning complete responsibility of Traceability, Certification and Branding of Indian cotton. MoU has been signed between CCI & TEXPROCIL for completion of project in 3 cotton seasons starting 1st October, 2022 onwards. A Quality Control Order (Cotton Bales) has been published in the Gazette notification on 28.02.2023 for mandatory certification of cotton."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

DATED:- 19/01/2024. NEW DELHI

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2418 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2022

COTTON VALUE CHAIN INITIATIVES

2418. SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT: SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES वस्त्र मंत्री be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of the cotton value chain initiatives and followed up on the actionable points discussed earlier, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to turn cotton into a Brand under Atmanirbhar Bharat programme and if so, the action plan prepared therefor;
- (c) whether the quality of Indian cotton fibre is improved after the implementation of cotton bales quality control provision in the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act, 2016 and if so, the facts in this regard; and
- (d) whether the Government is supporting the initiative relating to work on quality, traceability and branding of Kasturi Cotton with funds and if so, the details thereof?

उत्तर ANSWER वस्त्र राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती दर्शना जरदोश) THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SMT. DARSHANA JARDOSH)

- (a): A Textile Advisory Group (TAG) comprising stakeholders including industry has been constituted by the Government on 25th May 2022 to deliberate issues pertaining to the entire cotton value chain. The meetings of the TAG are held periodically and based on the deliberations suitable action is taken to address the issues.
- (b) to (d): With the objective of building the image of Indian cotton at Global level, making India Atmanirbhar and promoting vocal for local in the field of cotton, Ministry of Textiles announced "Kasturi Cotton India" Brand on the eve of World Cotton Day on 7th October 2020. To encourage Trade and Industry to work on the principle of self-regulation by owning complete responsibility. The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) the apex body to promote exports of Indian Cotton textile products including raw cotton across the world, has been designated as the implementing agency for Traceability, Certification and Branding of "KASTURI Cotton India.

In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and TEXPROCIL. Government will contribute equal share of Rs 15 crore over a period of three cotton season starting from 2022-23 to 2024-25 to provide complete traceability of Cotton from the origin to farm level, QR Code based Certification technology to validate "KASTURI Cotton India" as a premium brand by enhancing international perception and valuation of Indian Cotton. Quality Control Order (Cotton Bales) under Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016 is being finalised.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH

MEMORANDUM No. 23

Subject:

Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 441 dated 3.2.2022 regarding "Development of Darbhanga Airport".

On 3 February, 2022, Shri Gopal Jee Thakur, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 441 regarding "Development of Darbhanga Airport" to the Minister of Civil Aviation. 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 Civil Aviation within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.
- 3. The Ministry of Civil Aviation *vide* O.M. No. H-11012/12/2022-AAI-MOCA dated 26 May, 2022 had requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:-

"A factual position in the matter may be seen as under:

- i. A Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No. 10134 of 2021 had been filed in the High Court of Judicature at Patna wherein the petitioner requested to set aside the decision taken by both houses Bihar State Legislative Assembly as well as Bihar Legislative Council to name Darbhanga Air Port in the name of Vidyapati and thereafter give the name of Maharajadhiraj Kameshwar Singh Airport, Darbhanga.
- ii. Patna High Court vide order dated 20.07.2021 disposed of aforementioned petition directing the petitioner to approach the authority concerned.
- iii. This Ministry vide speaking Order dated 01.10.2021 informed the petitioner that the name of the said Airport as on date is Darbhanga Airport and being a sensitive matter, the naming of an Airport requires extensive consultation wherein the public sentiments have to be kept in mind, hence it is not possible to give fixed timelines for naming the Airport."
- 4. The above request for dropping of the Assurance was not acceded to by the Committee at their sitting held on 22 February, 2023. The Committee accordingly presented their 88th Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 27 July, 2023 and recommended the Ministry to pursue the matter vigorously with all concerned and implement the Assurance at the earliest.

5. In this regard, the Ministry of Civil Aviation *vide* O.M. No. H-11012/12/2022/AAI-MOCA (220787) dated 3 November, 2023 has stated as under:-

"As per extant practice, the proposals for naming/renaming the airports are considered based on the resolution passed in the Legislative Assembly of the corresponding State. Being a sensitive matter, the naming of an Airport necessitates thorough consultations, including taking into account the sentiments of the public. Considering the intricacies involved in this decision-making process, it is challenging to specify a fixed timeline for arriving at a decision for any proposal referred by a State Government.

The Committee is requested to contemplate dropping the Assurance in light of these complexities and the need for comprehensive deliberation."

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

The Committee may re-consider.

DATED:- 19 01 2024 New Delhi

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.: 441 (To be answered on the 3rd February 2022)

DEVELOPMENT OF DARBHANGA AIRPORT

441. SHRI GOPAL JEE THAKUR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

(a) the details of the works including land acquisition to be undertaken for the proper development of the airport in Darbhanga under the UDAN scheme; and

(b) whether the Government proposes to name Darbhanga airport as Kavi Kokil Vidyapati airport for which resolution has been passed by Bihar Legislature and if so, the time by which it is likely to be renamed?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a): Airports Authority of India (AAI) has developed the interim Terminal Building on a land pocket of 2.3 acres leased from Ministry of Defence along with strengthening of Runway, Apron, Shoulder etc. Civil flight operations started from Darbhanga on 08.11.2020. For proper development of Darbhanga Airport, AAI has requested 78 acres of land from Government of Bihar, which includes 54 acres of land for Terminal Building, Car Parking, Offices etc. and 24 acres of land for operational requirement.

(b): The proposal for renaming of Darbhanga airport as 'Vidyapati Airport' along with the Resolution passed by the Bihar Legislative Assembly has been received from the Government of Bihar. A decision on renaming of Airports is taken by the Union Cabinet after due consultation with the concerned Central Ministries/ Departments.

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

Subject:

Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Starred Question No. 484 dated 28 April, 2015 (Supplementary by Shri Kirti Jha Azad, MP), regarding "Mismanagement in National Para Athletic Championship Meet."

On 28 April, 2015, Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit and Shrimati Supriya Sule, M.Ps., addressed a Starred Question No. 484 regarding "Mismanagement in National Para Athletic Championship Meet" to the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

2. During the discussion, Shri Kirti Jha Azad, M.P., raised the following Supplementary Question to the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports:-

"The Honorable Member asked among other things, I want to know from the Honorable Minister through you that sports which has no caste and no religion, people play for their country and team. When will the Government bring in such National Sports Development Bill so that the filth happening can stop?"

3. In reply, the then Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports) (Shri Sarbananda Sonowal) stated as follows:-

"Let me inform the House that some more consultations are required on this Bill. Therefore, this august House will have to wait for some more time because this consultation stage is still on."

- 4. The above reply was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports) within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.
- 5. In this regard, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports) <u>vide</u> O.M.No 11016-4/2015/SP-1 dated 29 June, 2022 have stated as under:-

"Since the Ministry has decided not to pursue the National Sports Development Bill, it is requested to kindly drop the Assurance."

6. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, have requested the Committee to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

DATED: 19/01/2024 NEW DELHT

Annescure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 484 TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.04.2015

Mismanagement in National Para Athletic Championship Meet

*484. DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT: SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the ill treatment meted out to the differently-abled athletes due to poor conditions and lack of adequate basic facilities at the 15th National Para Athletic Championship Meet held recently in Ghazlabad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the funds allocated for the purpose;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any probe into the said incident, if so, the outcome thereof and the follow-up action thereon;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to frame any policy to lay down minimum standards for boarding, lodging, food and other facilities for athletes at such events and also undertake inspections before the event to ensure compliance of such standards and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that such incidents do not recur in future?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS
AND SPORTS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.484 FOR REPLY ON 28-04-2015 ASKED BY DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT AND SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE REGARDING MISMANAGEMENT IN NATIONAL PARA ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIP MEET.

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) & (C) The 15th National Para Athletics Championship was conducted by the Uttar Pradesh Paralympic Association from 20th to 22nd March, 2015 at Ghaziabad, U.P. under the aegis of Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), the National Sports Federation (NSF) for Para Sports. The PCI was sanctioned an amount of Rs.2.00 lakhs as per approved norms of assistance to NSFs, to supplement their resources for holding the event.

There were media reports about the pathetic infrastructure at the venue and lack of basic amenities for the athletes during the entire period of the event.

Sports Authority of India (SAI) conducted an enquiry and submitted its report to the Ministry. As per the report, the event was organised at the Janhit Para Sports Academy, Govindpuram, Ghaziabad (U.P.) which did not have facilities for conduct of a national championship and also lacked allied facilities required for differently-abled athletes such as ramps, disabled-friendly toilets, lodging facilities, etc. There was total lack of planning in conceptualisation and conduct of the event.

Based on the report submitted by SAI, a show-cause notice was issued to PCI on 16-04-2015. The Government received letter dated 15-04-2015 from the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) suspending PCI with immediate effect for an unlimited period of time. Keeping in view the serious complaints from different quarters including players and media, alleging poor management in the conduct of the 15th National Para Athletics Championship, 2015, enquiry report submitted by SAI and suspension of PCI by the concerned International Federation, the Government suspended the recognition given to PCI vide order dated 22-04-2015 with immediate effect. Further, in order to protect the interests of the para-athletes, the government has written to IPC on 22-04-2015 to either constitute an ad-hoc committee to work in place of PCI till a federation is granted recognition by IPC for parasports in India or to authorise the Government to constitute such a committee.

(d) and (e) Madam, NSFs are autonomous bodies registered under Societies/ Companies Act. Government does not normally interfere in their day to day activities which includes holding of various events. Also, Government funding for such events is only supplemental in nature. Nevertheless. Government has issued instructions making it mandatory for all NSFs to conduct national championnships every year and it is incumbent upon them to draw the calendar of events well in advance and display it on their website and also to take all measures for the smooth conduct of the championship with a vision to empower the athletes to reach their optimum potential. In view of reports of poor management at the 15th National Para Athletics Championship the Government has also issued instructions to all recognised NSFs for providing basic minimum facilities such as clean drinking water, adequate number of clean toilets, proper lighting and fans in the rooms for athletes, provision of neat and clean linen, proper transport facilities, provision of hygienic & healthy food, disabled friendly toilets and playing arena for differently-abled athletes, creation of grievance cell for players for the entire duration of the event, separate change rooms and toilets for boys and girls, round the clock first-aid facilities, etc. to the players and officials including physically challenged sportspersons during the conduct of various national and international events. These instructions have been made an integral part of the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011 (NSDCI), compliance of which has been made mandatory for all NSFs.

(Q. 484)

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: What happened in Ghaziabad was a very shameful and a very unfortunate incident. As per the reply, the Ministry seems to have taken action. I want an assurance from the hon. Minister that this sort of a thing never ever happens because differently-abled people are very important and relevant people in our society who are trying to participate with very little help, infrastructure and coaching. I would ask the hon. Minister that all the infrastructure in future, all of it, pan-India, should be inclusive and cater to all our differently-abled sportspersons. They should have enough access to it. Does the Ministry have any plan for giving special coaching to them because they do like to go but there is really no coaching facility available?

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Respected Madam Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the hon. Member of Parliament for bringing this particular sensitive issue to the notice of the House. Whatever had happened in Ghaziabad is a sorry state of affairs on the part of the National Sports Federation. It was a demonstration of the act of mismanagement, negligence and irresponsibility. We do agree with you on this issue. That is why, on our part, we have immediately taken action against them. We have suspended the Federation. At the same time, we have issued a show-cause for de-recognition.

In the near future, to ensure that para athletes do not suffer from this kind of a mismanagement or inconvenience, I have a special appeal to all the State Governments and, at the same time, to the National Sports Federation also, to take special care. As you know, 'sports' is a State subject for the development of infrastructure facilities is the primary responsibility of the State Government. In this regard, on our part, whatever best possible is there, we will always do it to the fullest extent.

At the same time, for their better coaching, we have decided to set up a coaching camp in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It will provide international facilities for all the para athletes in the country and also we have decided to include para

athletes in the SAI Training Centre as well as Special Area Games Centre so that in the near future they get all possible facilities like the other athletes.

As you know the Government always gives equal importance to both – able athletes as well as physically challenged athletes. Whatever cash award is given, it is equally given. Whatever amount we give to the able sportspersons, the same amount is given to the differently-abled athletes also.

For your information, as my hon. senior Colleague, Shri Tomar, has informed me just now, in South Africa, when the Blind Cricket Team of India won the World Cup defeating Pakistan, at that time, our hon. senior Colleagues, Shri Ananth Kumar, Shri Tomar and myself went to the airport to receive them, and also on the same day, we have given the a cash prizes to 17 Cricketers. Similarly, when they won 33 medals at Incheon Asian Games, they have also been given cash awards on the same line.

HON. SPEAKER: Very good.

12 2

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: One of the blind boys of that Cricket Team, which you mentioned, was from my constituency and he was a part of that team. I know that he was felicitated by you.

One feels that 'differently-abled' means just one ramp is good enough. There are a lot of other requirements. So, would you get some special experts to improve your infrastructure or at least give some guidelines to the States on how you can make every sports facility available with the right interventions because just a ramp is not enough? We all believe that just adding one ramp means it is a solution for all the problems being faced by the differently-abled people. We have to make sure that they really feel included in this sports programme.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Madam Speaker, the Government is also running Special Centres for the Disabled in the country.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Not 'disabled', but 'differently-abled'.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: We are running the Special Centres for the differently-abled and physically challenged athletes. As you have suggested, in the

near future, whatever best modern facilities are there, they will be provided to the differently-abled athletes. That would be specially taken care of and that is a matter which would be looked into.

श्री कीर्ति आज़ाद: यह प्रश्न 'ड' भाग से जुड़ा हुआ है कि उन सब को रोकने के लिए आगे सरकार क्या कार्रवाई करेगी? केवल विकलांगों को ही तकलीफ नहीं होती है, बल्कि जो विकलांग नहीं हैं उनको भी तकलीफ होती है। स्पोर्ट्स का कोई भी डिसिप्लिन हो सबके साथ यह होता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं, उन्होंने पहले भी हमें एश्योरैन्स दिया था, मैं पूर्व के खेल मंत्री अजय माकन जी का धन्यवाद करता हूं कि वह 'नेशनल स्पोर्ट्स डेवेलपमेन्ट बिल', लेकर आये थे। वह किन कारणों से कैबिनेट में पास नहीं हुआ है, मुझे वह मालूम नहीं है, लेकिन जो 'नेशनल स्पोर्ट्स डेवेलपमेन्ट बिल' तैयार किया गया है, अगर उसे लाया जायेगा तो आपको उन समस्याओं का समाधान मिलेगा, क्योंकि प्रत्येक वर्ष सबको अपने कार्यक्रमों के बारे में बताना पड़ेगा।

मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि खेल जिसका न कोई जात होता है और न कोई मजहब होता है, लोग अपने देश और टीम के लिए खेलते हैं, ऐसे 'नेशनल स्पोर्ट्स डेवेलपमेन्ट बिल' को सरकार कब ले कर आयेगी, जिससे कि हो रही गंदिगयां थम सकें?

अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि वह ब्लाइंड प्लेयर्स को लेने गये थे, यह खुशी की बात है। जब मैंने इन्हें आई.पी.एल. के ओपनिंग सेरेमनी में देखा था तो मुझे और प्रसन्नता हुई थी।

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Madam Speaker, let me inform the House that some more consultations are required on this Bill. Therefore, this august House will have to wait for some more time because this consultation stage is still on.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG): There were media reports about the pathetic infrastructure at the venue and lack of basic amenities for the athletes during the entire period of the event. This has disturbed many. What to talk of giving extra assistance to help the differently-abled sportspersons, they have not even been provided with fans, water, ramps, disabled-friendly toilets and lodging facilities. Of course, the President of the Para Olympic Association was suspended. Is this enough? Would the hon. Minister highlight as to what innovative efforts have

15,00,2015

been made in the aftermath of such shocking incident concerning differently-abled sportspersons during the National Para Athletic Championship Meet?

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Respected Madam Speaker, this particular matter has deeply affected us and that is why we have immediately conducted an inquiry. We have sent a SAI team to the spot. They have assessed the whole situation and reported back to us. On the basis of their report, we have suspended the Federation and also issued show-cause for de-recognition.

This is a teaching which they should learn from their own misdeeds. In this august House, I would like to request all the respected National Sports Federations to get united, in spite of having the infighting within themselves. It is better to get united for the betterment of the sports in the country. Despite their infighting, our Government is always helping the players through SAI sending them to the different competitions. Whatever is taking place, it is because of the infighting within the Federations. That is why, the people of the country want that Federations should get united. The four important pillars of sports fraternity are the Central Government, State Governments, Indian Olympic Association and Federations. We must get united; we must move together. Yesterday - you must have gone through the report - the President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Thomas Bach came to India. During our introduction, he has also emphasised that autonomy and good governance should be ensured. Autonomy and good governance must go hand in hand. That is why, the Government and our Ministry is always respecting the autonomy of the Federation. But, at the same time, the transparency and accountability must be there in the day-to-day affairs. This is the desire of the people of the country, the sports lovers of the country.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH

MEMORANDUM No. 32

Subject:

Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 95 dated 02.02.2022 regarding "Augmentation of GRP".

On 02 February, 2022, Shri B.Y. Raghavendra and Various other M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 95 regarding Augmentation of GRP to the Minister of Railways. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as 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 Minister of Railways within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.
- 3. The Ministry of Railways *vide* O.M. No. 2022/Sec(Spl)/120/1 dated 23.03.2022 had requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:-

"A policy decision has been taken by Ministry of Railways that due to the austerity measures in view of the pandemic COVID-19, creation of fresh posts will not be feasible in near future."

- 4. The above request for dropping of the Assurance was not acceded to by the Committee at their sitting held on 22 February, 2023. The Committee accordingly presented their 88th Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 27 July, 2023 and recommended the Ministry to lay the Implementation Report on the Table of the House as the Ministry has taken a decision in the matter and the Assurance has been fulfilled.
- 5. However, the Ministry of Railways *vide* O.M.No.2022/Sec(Spl)/120/1 dated 30 May, 2023 has once again stated as under:-

"A policy decision has been taken by the Ministry of Railways that in view of the precarious financial condition of Indian Railways, sanction of posts of GRP would not be possible."

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

The Committee may reconsider.

DATED:- 19 01 2024 NEW DELHI

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 95 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2022

AUGMENTATION OF GRP

95. SHRI B.Y. RAGHAVENDRA:
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:
SHRI SHA.BRA. DR. JAI SIDDESHWAR SHIVACHARYA MAHASWAMIJI:
DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has taken any steps to augment the Government Railway Police (GRP) strength in the country;
- b) if so, the details thereof; State/UT-wise;
- c) whether there is any such proposal received from the Government of Karnataka;
- d) if so, the present status of the action being taken and if not, the time by when it will be considered/sanctioned?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) & (b): Government Railway Police (GRP) is a wing of State Police which functions under the control of respective States. The guidelines for creation of posts in GRP provide that State Government may submit their proposals to the General Managers of the Zonal Railways concerned after getting them approved by their respective finances. The General Managers will get these proposals examined in consultation with their associated finance for acceptance and, if considered feasible, forward it to the Railway Board for approval of the Ministry of Railways.

As such, any assessment of requirement of man power and initiation of proposal for augmentation of GRP falls in the domain of concerned States and considered by the Ministry of Railways as per extant provisions.

(c) & (d): Two proposals of 725 and 82 GRP posts of Karnataka have been referred back for clarification. Whereas other two proposals of 49 and 63 posts are yet to be approved due to austerity measures, enforced owing to onset of Covid-19 pandemic.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH

MEMORANDUM No. 33

Subject:

Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 271 dated 24.06.2019 regarding "Tourism Projects for Lakshadweep".

On 24 June, 2019, Shri Mohammed Faizal P.P., M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 271 regarding Tourism Projects for Lakshadweep to the Minister of Tourism. 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 Tourism within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.
- 3. In this regard, the Ministry of Tourism *vide* O.M. No. IDD/59/2020-IDD dated 19.12.2022 have stated as under:-

"Under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, no project is pending for the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. However, under Swadesh Darshan 2.0, the Central Sanctioning Monitoring Committee (CSMC) in its meeting held on 06.09.2022 has recommended Lakshadweep as a destination."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Tourism, have requested the Committee to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

DATED :- 19 01 2024 New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF TOURISM

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.271 ANSWERED ON 24.06.2019

TOURISM PROJECTS FOR LAKSHADWEEP

271. MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any new project or ongoing project is pending under the Ministry in "Lakshadweep";
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any special schemes are available for the tourism development in the Islands; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Tourism under its scheme of Swadesh Darshan and Assistance to Central Agency provides Financial Assistance to State Governments/Union Territories/Central Agencies for development of tourism infrastructure in the country including Islands.

The projects under the scheme are identified for development in consultation with the State Governments/ UT Administrations and are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier.

The Ministry has no ongoing project in Lakshadweep under the above schemes. The UT Administration has submitted a proposal for Development of Agatti, Kavaratti, Bangaram, Thinnakara Islands under Coastal Circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH MEMORANDUM No. 36

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 72 dated 02.02.2022 regarding "Amount of Royalty".

On 2 February, 2022, Shri Ritesh Pandey, MP, addressed an Unstarred Question No.72 regarding "Amount of Royalty" to the Minister of Mines. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure-I.

- 2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Mines within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.
- 3. In this regard, the Ministry of Mines *vide* O.M. No. 10/107/2023-M.V dated 3 November, 2023 has forwarded request for dropping the Assurance citing reasons which is placed at Annexure.
- 4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Mines, has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

DATED:- 19 01 2024 New Delhi "As per Section 9 of the MMDR Act, 1957, every mining lease holder pays royalty for major minerals removed or consumed as per the royalty rates specified in the Second Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957. As per Section 9 (3) of the MMDR Act, Central Government notifies the rate of royalty payable in respect of a mineral. The proviso to Section 9(3) stipulates that the Central Government shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. Therefore, it does not stipulate that royalty has to be revised every three years. Royalty rates for major minerals were last revised on 01.09.2014.

- 2. The various ways in which royalty is levied on minerals are: (i) royalty on per-tonnage basis, (ii) royalty on ad valorem basis, and (iii) royalty on the basis of percentage of London Metal Exchange (LME) price chargeable on the contained metal in ore. The royalty is collected and retained by the State Governments.
- 3. Royalty of only 6 major minerals, namely Asbestos, Graphite, Limestone, Limeshell, Marl and Tungsten are payable on per-ton basis. For all other minerals the royalty is fixed on ad valorem basis or on the basis of percentage of LME price chargeable on the contained metal in ore. For these minerals, the increasing value of minerals as per the market / LME price is automatically captured as royalty is fixed as a percentage of average sale price / LME price of minerals.
- 4. The cumulative royalty accrual for major minerals to the State Governments from 2016-17 to 2022-23 shows that the royalty accrual to the State Governments has increased over the years.

Cumulative royalty accrual to State Governments (in Rs. Crore)
9,474.00
11,945.00
17,104.00
16,979.00
18,733.00
45,970.00
36,932.00

P.T.O.

- 5. Further, through amendment in the MMDR Act on 12.01.2015, auction regime was introduced for grant of mineral concessions to improve transparency and to ensure that State Governments to get a fair share of revenue in terms of auction premium in addition to royalty revenue in allocation of natural resources. Due to operationalization of auctioned mines, the revenue to the State Governments from mineral sector has increased considerably. I t is stated that the royalty accrual to the States has notably increased since 2016-17 at CAGR of 21.46%. In this context, if all the mineral blocks available with the States are auctioned and auctioned blocks are operationalised, it will have a significant impact on the royalty accrual to the States.
- 6. Since the auction regime for grant of mineral concession came into existence in 2015 with the MMDR Amendment Act 2015, most of the mineral blocks auctioned and brought into operation are of minerals such as Limestone, Iron Ore, Bauxite, and Manganese however, the auctioned blocks of minerals such as Gold, Phosphorite, Potash, Graphite, Chromite, Copper, and PGE are yet to come into production. Therefore, it is difficult to ascertain the impact on the royalty collection from mineral blocks already auctioned with the notified royalty rate. Further, by the MMDR Amendment Act 2023, the Central Government has listed 24 minerals in Part D of First Schedule of the Act as critical minerals, and these mineral blocks will be auctioned by the Central Government. After completion of auction by the Central Government , royalty and other revenue from these blocks will also be accrued to the State Government only. Hence the revenue from mineral sector will continue to show an upward trend in all mineral rich States.
- 7. In view of the above, it is too early to gauge the impact on Royalty collection for minerals that have never been auctioned yet or the minerals that have been auctioned but blocks have not been operationalised yet. Further, the most of the auctioned mines are yet to come into production stage, the impact of the present royalty rates on the downstream industry cannot be determined at this stage. Hence, at present, it is not feasible to revise the rates of royalty for minerals."

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF MINES LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 72 ANSWERED ON 02.02.2022

AMOUNT OF ROYALTY

72. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to amend the amount of royalty being paid to States for minerals and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has constituted a study group for the purpose of amending the royalty rate for major minerals;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this direction by the said group; and
- (d) the time by which the royalty rates for minerals are likely to be amended/increased?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (d): Ministry of Mines vide Order dated 27.10.2021 has constituted a committee for reviewing of rates of royalty of those minerals where royalty is calculated on per tonne basis.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2023-2024)
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)
FIFTH SITTING
(31.01.2024)

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 0000 hours in Committee Room 'C', PHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Agrawal - Chairperson

MEMBERS

- 2. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
- 3. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
- 4. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
- 5. Shri Khagen Murmu
- 6. Shri Santosh Pandey
- 7. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri J.M. Baisakh	-	Joint Secretary
2.	Smt. Sagarika Dash	-	Director
3.	Shri M.C. Gupta	_	Deputy 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 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 Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports) regarding pending Assurances.

2. Thereafter, the Committee took up 20 Memoranda (Memorandum Nos. 17 to 36) 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 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-I* and to pursue the remaining 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 31.01.2024

Kemarks	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.	(17 th Lok Sabha) presented to the House on 27,07,2023 the Ministry was directed to pursue the matter vigorously and fulfil the Assurance 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 upon expect the Ministry to accord utmost priority to the matter. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation
Subject	Cotton Value Chain Initiatives		Darbhanga Airport
Ministry/ Department	Textiles		Civil Aviation
SQ/USQ No. and date	USQ No. 2418 dated 21.12.2022		USQ No. 441 dated 03.02.2022
Memo No.	22		23
S.No.	+i		7

the Ministry pursue the matter vigo fulfil the Assurance expeditiously.	The Assurance is about National Sports Development Bill. The Ministry have informed that it has been decided not to pursue the National Sports Development Bill further and therefore, requested to drop the Assurance. The Committee find that the Ministry has taken a decision in the matter and desire that the Implementation Report be laid on the Table of the House.	The Ministry have requested for dropping of the Assurance on the ground that a policy decision has been taken by the Ministry of Railways that in view of the precarious financial condition of Indian Railways, sanction of posts of GRP is not possible. The Committee find that the Ministry has taken a decision in the matter and the Implementation Report be laid on the Table of the House.	The Ministry have informed that under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, no project is pending for the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. However, under Swadesh Darshan 2.0, the Central Sanctioning Monitoring Committee (CSMC) in its meeting held on 06.09.2022 has recommended Lakshadweep as a destination. The Committee desire that since,
	Mismanagement in National Para Athletic Championship Meet	Augmentation of GRP	Tourism Projects for Lakshadweep
	Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports)	Railways	Tourism
	SQ No. 484 dated 28.04.2015 (Supplementary by Shri Kirti Jha Azad, M.P.)	USQ No. 95 dated 02.02.2022	USQ No. 271 dated 24.06.2019
	31	32	33
	r.	4.	r,

Lakshadweep has been taken as a destination, the Ministry need to take vigorous and earnest efforts to develop it and fulfil the Assurance at the earliest.	The Ministry have informed that it is too early to gauge the impact on Royalty collection for minerals that have never been auctioned or the minerals that have been auctioned but blocks have not been operationalised yet. Further, the Ministry have informed that the most of the auctioned mines are yet to come into production stage, the impact of the present royalty rates on the downstream industry cannot be determined at this stage and hence, at present, it is not feasible to revise the rates of royalty for minerals. The Committee feel that the contention of the Ministry to drop the Assurance is untenable as the matter should be brought to its logical conclusion. The Committee desire that the Ministry should consult all stakeholders sincerely and take a decision regarding revision of royalty rates at the earliest and fulfil the Assurance.
	Amount of Royalty
	Mines
	USQ No. 72 dated 02.02.2022
	36

MINUTES COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2023-2024) (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA) SIXTH SITTING (06.02.2024)

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 Gaurav Gogoi
- 4. Shri Kaushlendra Kumar
- 5. Shri Khagen Murmu
- 6. Shri Santosh Pandey
- 7. Prof. Sougata Ray
- 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

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 Four (04) draft Reports without any amendments:-

- (i) Draft Ninety-Eighth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Women and Child Development';
- (ii) Draft Ninety-Ninth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)';

- (iii) Draft One Hundredth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)'; and
- (iv) Draft One Hundred-First Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports).
- 2. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to present the Reports during the ongoing Session.

The Committee then adjourned.