

**COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES**

***FIRST REPORT***

**(SECOND LOK SABHA)**

**(Presented on the 9th May, 1958)**



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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

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## **Personnel of the Committee on Government Assurances**

1. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava—*Chairman*.
2. Shri Anirudha Sinha.
3. Shri Mulchand Dube.
4. Shri Bhakt Darshan.
5. Shri C. R. Basappa.
6. Shri P. Subbiah Ambalam.
7. Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri.
8. Shri Naval Prabhakar.
9. Shri Jaswantraj Meta.
10. Shri Motilal Malviya.
11. Shri Kamal Singh.
12. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
13. Shri Ramji Verma.
14. Shri R. K. Khadilkar.
15. Shri P. K. Vasudevan Nair.

### **SECRETARIAT**

Shri S. L. Shakhder—*Joint Secretary*.

Shri Avtar Singh Rikhy—*Deputy Secretary*.

# REPORT

## I

### Introduction

1, the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances, having been authorised by the Committee to present the report on their behalf, present this first report of the Committee.

2. The Committee was nominated by the Speaker on the 5th June 1957.

3. The first sitting of the Committee was inaugurated by the Speaker on the 8th August, 1957.

## II

### Sittings of the Committee

4. So far the Committee has held seven sittings (namely, on the 8th and 20th August, 6th September, 27th November and 17th December, 1957, 19th March and 7th May, 1958). At these sittings the Committee considered the nature and extent of implementation of a number of assurances and reviewed the pending assurances pertaining to First Lok Sabha and First to Third Sessions of Second Lok Sabha.

## III

### Assurances, which constitute Statutory Obligations

5. At their sitting held on the 27th November, 1957 the Committee considered the following two suggestions made by the Department of Parliamentary Affairs :—

- (i) that where non-implementation of an assurance within two months is self-explanatory, no explanatory note stating reasons for delay in implementation thereof might be insisted upon ; and
- (ii) that an assurance which also constitutes a statutory obligation need not be treated as an assurance.

6. The Committee agreed to the first suggestion but in respect of the second suggestion observed that once an assurance was given on the floor of the House, the House should be informed about the action taken by Government in implementation thereof, even though the assurance constituted a statutory obligation.

7. On the request of the Department of Parliamentary Affairs the matter was again considered by the Committee at their sitting held on the 19th March, 1958. The Committee felt that one of the main reasons for members asking questions about reports of statutory bodies was the fact that there was lot of delay in such reports being placed on the Table, despite the statutory obligation.

8. If in response to such a question, the Minister gives a reply which falls within the scope of the standard forms of assurances approved by the Committee, then it should be included in the statement of assurances and the Department of Parliamentary Affairs should as usual place on the Table a statement showing action taken in implementation thereof.

#### IV

#### **Assurances given in Lok Sabha on the 22nd December, 1956 during Discussion on the Delhi Tenants (Temporary Protection) Bill**

9. The Delhi House Owners Federation, Model Basti, New Delhi in a representation dated the 9th December, 1957 addressed to the Chairman, Committee on Government Assurances had invited attention of the Committee to the alleged non-implementation of assurances given by the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply in Lok Sabha on the 22nd December, 1956, to set up a Committee to examine the question of house rents in Delhi and landlord-tenant relationship and the introduction of necessary legislation.

10. The Committee at their sitting held on the 17th December, 1957 considered the views expressed by the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply in their note of 14th September, 1957 (Appendix I) and were of the opinion that the real assurance given by the Government was in respect of bringing forward new legislation as early as possible and the assurance relating to the constitution of a Committee was only ancillary and had reference to the method of work.

11. They were, therefore, of the view that they should not insist upon the constitution of the Committee in view of the circumstances explained by the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply and recommended that the question of expediting the introduction of the bill promised by the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply should be pursued with the Ministry.

12. The work relating to Rent Control and Evictions in Delhi has been taken over on the 21st March, 1958 by the Ministry of Home Affairs from the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply in accordance with Presidential Order dated the 8th March, 1958. The Ministry of Home Affairs have in their note dated the 14th April, 1958 stated that the proposed bill is under active consideration and if possible, will be introduced during the current Session of Parliament.

#### V

#### **Implementation of Assurances**

13. A statement showing the position regarding the implementation of assurances relating to the First Lok Sabha, First, Second and Third Sessions of Second Lok Sabha is appended (*vide* Appendix II) to this Report.

#### VI

#### **Time Limit for Implementation of Assurances**

14. The Committee reiterate the recommendations made in para 15 of the First Report and para 12 of the Third Report of the Committee of the First Lok Sabha to the effect that assurances should normally be implemented within two months but where it was not possible to do so, the circumstances should be explained to the Committee.

THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA,

Chairman,

Committee on Government Assurances.

NEW DELHI ;

The 9th May, 1958.

## APPENDIX I

(See para 10)

“The question of setting up of a committee, in pursuance of the assurance given by the then Minister of Works, Housing and Supply while piloting the Delhi Tenants (Temporary Protection) Bill, 1956 in Parliament during last year, has been considered and it is felt that formulating the terms of reference, constituting a regular Committee, giving it time to make its recommendations, specifying a time-limit within which government should examine those recommendations and moving the legislature, if necessary, to carry out amendments to the rent legislation, will take a considerable amount of time. It has accordingly been decided that in view of the urgency of the problem, the question of house rents in Delhi and the relationship between the landlords and the tenants should be examined quickly by the Government of India itself and proposals formulated in consultation with official and non-official opinion on the subject. Informal consultations with some of the organisations of the tenants and landlords have already begun”.

(Extract from note of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply dated the 14th September, 1957).

## APPENDIX II

(See para 13)

Statement showing the position regarding the implementation of assurances pertaining to First Lok Sabha, First, Second and Third Sessions of Second Lok Sabha.

	Total No. of Assurances given.	No. of assu- rances still outstanding.
First Lok Sabha . . . . .	About 5,000	5
First Session (Second Lok Sabha) .	97	16
Second Session (Second Lok Sabha) .	314	89
Third Session (Second Lok Sabha) . . . . .	234	112

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