

**COMMITTEE
ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2008-2009)**

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

TWENTY FIFTH REPORT

REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF
ASSURANCES

Presented to Lok Sabha on 22-10-2008



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

October, 2008/Asvina, 1930 (Saka)

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- II. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 06 May, 2008.
- III. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 24 September, 2008.

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2008-2009)**

Shri Harin Pathak - CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rashid J.M.Aaron
3. Shri Yogi Aditya Nath
4. Km. Mamata Banerjee
5. Shri Jigajinagi Ramesh Chandappa
6. Dr. K. Dhanaraju
7. Shri Biren Singh Engti
8. Shri Sunil Khan
9. Shri Vijoy Krishna
10. Shri Rasheed Masood
11. Shri A. Venkatesh Naik
12. Shri Nihal Chand
13. Smt. M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran
14. Shri Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh
15. Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Shri P. Sreedharan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Shri Rajeev Sharma | - | Director |
| 3. Shri D.S. Malha | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. Shri V.P. Goel | - | Deputy Secretary-II |

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- The Committee was constituted on 07 August 2008 *vide* Para No.5004 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 06th August 2008.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty Fifth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2008-2009) was constituted on 7 August, 2008.
3. The Committee (2007-2008) at their sittings held on 31 January, 2008 and 6 May, 2008 considered Memorandum Nos. 32 to 36 and 47 to 51 respectively containing requests received from the Ministries/Departments for dropping of pending assurances. Memorandum No.32 containing request of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for dropping the assurance given in reply to USQ No.3167 dated 11 May, 2006 regarding 'Irregularities in Purchase of Executive Jet Planes' has not been included in this Report since the assurance was implemented vide Statement No.IX/3 on 30 April, 2008.
4. At their sitting held on 24 September, 2008, the Committee (2008-2009) considered and adopted their Twenty-Fifth Report which was prepared on the basis of the decisions taken by the Committee on the aforesaid Memoranda.
5. The Minutes of the aforesaid sittings of the Committee form part of this report. (Appendices).
6. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

NEW DELHI;

(HARIN PATHAK)
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

24 September, 2008

2 Asvina, 1930 (Saka)

REPORT
CHAPTER – I
REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF ASSURANCES
(NOT ACCEPTED)

[i] VACANT EXECUTIVE POSTS IN PSUs

1.1 On 16 December, 2004, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, M.P., addressed the following Starred Question No.222 to the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises:-

- “(a) whether nearly 100 top executive posts in the Public Sector Undertakings are lying vacant for a long time affecting the effective functioning of these PSUs;**
- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and**
- (c) the steps being taken to fill these vacancies?”**

1.2 In reply, the then Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Shri Santosh Mohan Dev) stated as follows:-

“(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO THE LOK
SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 222 FOR REPLY ON
16.12.2004**

(a), (b) and (c)

One hundred and twenty six posts of top level executives were vacant in Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) as on 31.10.2004. These include 30 posts, which are kept in abeyance by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments by way of conscious decision. The concerned administrative Ministry/Department/PSU makes alternative arrangements to look after the work of the vacant posts so that the functioning of the PSU is not adversely affected. The details of the vacant posts are given in the Annex. Filling up of Board level vacancies in PSUs is a continuous process. A prescribed procedure is to be followed for appointments to Board level posts in PSUs. Selection is normally made by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), and appointments are made by the Administrative Ministries after obtaining vigilance clearance from CVC and approval of the competent authority. Completion of these formalities takes time. Selection has been made in 35 cases. In the remaining cases, the selection process is already underway, except where the posts are decided to be kept in abeyance.

Annexure referred to in reply to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 222 for 16.12.2004

Details of vacant executive posts in PSUs as on 31.10.2004

Chief Executives (34)

S. No. Name of the post

Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation

- 1 MD, National Seeds Corporation Ltd.
- 2 MD, State Farms Corporation of India

Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals

- 3 CMD, Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
- 4 MD, Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
- 5 MD, Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd.

Ministry of Coal

- 6 CMD Coal India Ltd.
- 7 CMD Central Coalfields Ltd.
- 8 CMD Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.

Department of Development of North Eastern Region

- 9 MD North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms

Department of Fertilizers

- 10 CMD, Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd.
- 11 CMD, Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.

Department of Heavy Industry

- 12 CMD, Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.
- 13 MD, Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.
- 14 MD, BharatWagon & Engg. Co. Ltd.
- 15 MD, Bridge & Roof Co. (I) Ltd.
- 16 MD, Burn Standard Co. Ltd.
- 17 CMD, Hel} .vy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.
- 18 CMD Hindustan Cab les Ltd
- 19 CMD, National Instruments Ltd.
- 20 CMD, NEPA Ltd.

Department of Information Technology

- 21 CMD, ET & T Ltd.

Ministry of Mines

- 22 CMD, Hindustan Copper Ltd.

Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources

- 23 CMD, Indian Renewable Energy Dev. Corporation Ltd.

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

- 24 MD Balmer, Lawrie &Co.
- 25 MD Ihdian Oil Blending Co. Ltd.

Ministry of Power

26 CMD, Power Finance Corporation Ltd.

Ministry of Railways

27 MD, Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.

Department of Secondary Education

28 CMD, Educational Consultants India Ltd.

Ministry of Shipping

29 CMD, Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

Ministry of Steel

30 CMD Bharat Refractories Ltd.

31 CMD MECON

Ministry of Textiles

32 CMD British India Corporation Ltd.

33 CMD National Jute Manufacturers Corpn. Ltd.

34 MD NTC (West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Orissa) Ltd.

Functional Directors (92)

Ministry of Atomic Energy

1 Director (Fin.), Indian Rare Earths Ltd.

Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals

2 Director (Tech), Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.

3 Director (CP&P), Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

4 Director (Fin.), Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Ministry of Civil Aviation

5 Member (Ope.), Airports Authority of India
6 Member (P&A), Airports Authority of India
7 Member (Ping.), Airports Authority of India
8 Director (Engg.), Air India
9 Director (Pel`s.), Air India
10 Director (Fin.), Air India
11 Director (Com.), Air India
12 Director (Pel`s.), Indian Airlines
13 Director (Fin.), Indian Airlines
14 Director (Com.), Indian Airlines

15 Director (Engg.), Indian Airlines

Ministry of Coal

16 Director (Pel`s.), Northern Coalfields Ltd.

Department of Commerce

17 Director (Pel`s.), State Trading Corporation of India

Department of Defence Production

18 Director (Mktg.), Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.
19 Director (Ope.), Goa Shipyard Ltd.

Department of Fertilizers

20 Director (Fin.), Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corpn.
21 Director (Fin.), Fertilizer Corporation of India
22 Director (Fin.), National Fertilizers Ltd.

Department of Heavy Industry

23 Director (Ping.), Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.
24 Director (Com), Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.
25 Director (Pel`s), Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.
26 Director (Tech), Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.
27 Director (Fin.), Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd.
28 Director (Tech.), Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd.

29 Director (Fin.), Bridge & Roof Co. (I) Ltd.
30 Director (Ope), Cement Corporation of India Ltd.
31 Director (Fin.), Cement Corporation of India Ltd.
32 Director (Prod.), Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.
33 Director (Mktg.), Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.
34 Director (Fin.), Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.
35 Director (Fin.), Hindustan Cables Ltd
36 Director (Pers.), Hindustan Cables Ltd
37 Director (Ope.), HMT Ltd.
38 Director (Fin.), HMT Ltd.
39 Director (Fin.), HMT Bearings Ltd.
40 Director (Tech), HMT Bearings Ltd.
41 Director (Mktg.), HMT Bearings Ltd.
42 Director (Tech), HMT (MT) Ltd.
43 Director (Fin.), HMT (MT) Ltd.
44 Director (HR), HMT (MT) Ltd.
45 Director (Mktg.), HMT (MT) Ltd.
46 Director (HR), HMT Watches Ltd.
47 Director (Fin.), HMT Watch(s Ltd.
48 Director (Mktg.), HMT WatGhes Ltd.
49 Director (Tech), HMT Watches Ltd.
50 Director (Int. Mktg.), HMT (International) Ltd.
51 Director (Inter. Proj.), HMT (International) Ltd.
52 Director (Fin.), Instrumentation Ltd.
53 Director (Engg. & Com), Jessop & Co. Ltd.
54 Director (Fin.), NEPA Ltd.
55 Director (Tech) Scooters India Ltd.

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

56 Director (Finance), National Film Development Corporation Ltd.

Ministry of Mines

57 Director (Operations), Hindustan Copper Ltd.
58 Director (Tech) Mineral Exploration Ltd.
59 Director (P&T), National Aluminium Company Ltd.
60 Director (Production), National Aluminium Company Ltd.

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

61 Director (Bombay) Balmer Lawrie &Co
62 Director (Pers.) Engineers India Ltd.
63 Director (Com.) Engineers India Ltd.
64 Director (Mkt.) IBP Co. Ltd.

Ministry of Power

65 Director (Tech), NTPC

- 66 Director (Com.), NTPC
67 Director (Eletrical), SatlujJal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.
68 Director (Fin.), Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.

Ministry of Railways

- 69 Director (Fin.), Indian Railway Finance Corpn.
70 Director (Fin.), Rail Vikas Nigam
71 Director (Operations), Rail Vikas Nigam
72 Director (Pers.), Rail Vikas Nigam
73 Director (Proj.), Rail Vikas Nigam

Ministry of Steel

- 74 Director (Tech.) National Mineral Dev. Corpn. Ltd.

Department of Telecommunications

- 75 Director (HR), ITI Ltd.
76 Director (Mktg.), ITI Ltd.
77 Director (Fin.), MTNL
78 Director (Tech.), MTNL.

Ministry of Textiles

- 79 Director (Finance) Cotton Corpn of India Ltd.
80 Director (Finance) Jute Corpn. ofIndia Ltd.
81 Director (Finance), National Jute Manufacturers Corpn. Ltd.
82 Director (Finance), NTC Ltd.
83 Director (Finance), NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd
84 Director (Tech.) NTC (West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Orissa) Ltd.
85 Director (Tech.), NTC (North Maharashtra) Ltd.
86 Director (Tech), NTC (Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan) Ltd.
87 Director (Tech.), NTC (Tamilnadu & Pondicherry) Ltd.

Department of Tourism

- 88 Director (Com.& Mktg.), India Tourism Dev. Corporation Ltd.
89 Director (Finance), India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.

Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation

- 90 Director (Fin.), HUDCO
91 Director (CP), HUDCO

Ministry of Water Resources

- 92 Director (Engg.), National Projects Construction Corpn. Ltd."

1.3 During the Question Hour, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, M.P., raised the following points through a Supplementary:-

“Will he inform the Parliament as to how long it will take to fill up the posts so that the public sector undertakings have a programme for revival? How long will it take? Will there be a gap between the promise and the performance?”

1.4 In reply, the then Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Shri Santosh Mohan Dev) stated as follows:-

“We are taking steps and as soon as possible, all these posts will be filled up.”

1.5 The above reply to the supplementary question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises within three months of the date of the reply *i.e.* by 15 March, 2005. However, the assurance has neither been fulfilled so far nor any extension of time sought to fulfill the same.

1.6 The Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises *vide* their O.M. No.2(22)/04-GM dated 25 May, 2005 requested with the approval of the then Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, for dropping the assurance on the ground that filling up of Board level vacancies in the Public Sector Enterprises was the responsibility of the concerned administrative Ministry/Department. According to the Ministry, the Department of Public Enterprises were only a Nodal Department insofar as selection/appointment of Chief Executives and Functional Directors was concerned and the role of this Department was to monitor the vacancies on

quarterly basis and to advise the concerned Ministries/Departments to fill up vacant posts without delay. It has further been stated that this function was being performed by the Department and the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises had written to the concerned Ministers on 10 January, 2005 requesting them to take necessary action to fill up these vacancies expeditiously. As a result, some of these vacancies had since been filled up. The Ministry have also stated that the filling up of vacancies involve completion of a number of formalities like circulation of the posts, interviews by PESB, vigilance clearance from CVC and approval of the appointing Authority, etc. and as such there could be cases where it might not be possible to fill up the vacancies within any prescribed time limit. In the light of the facts explained above the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of State (Independent charge) for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises have requested that the statement of the Minister made in the instant case might not be treated as an assurance.

1.7 The Committee note that a question regarding vacant posts of top executives in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) was asked on 16 December, 2004. The question *inter-alia* sought information on the steps being taken to fill those vacancies. During the course of supplementaries on the question, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, MP desired to know the time by which the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises would fill up these vacant posts. In reply, it was stated by the Government that steps were being taken and as soon as possible, all these posts would be filled up. The above reply to the supplementary question was treated as an assurance.

1.8 The Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises requested the Committee to drop the assurance on the ground that filling up of Board vacancies in the PSUs was the responsibility of the concerned administrative Ministry/Department and Department of Public Enterprises were only a nodal Department insofar as selection/appointment of Chief Executives and Functional Directors was concerned. The Ministry further stated that the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises had written to the concerned Ministries on 10 January, 2005 requesting them to take necessary action to fill up these vacancies expeditiously. As a result, some of these vacancies had since been filled up. It was also stated that the process of filling up of vacancies involved

formalities like circulation of the posts, interviews by PESB, vigilance clearance from CVC and approval of the appointing Authority, etc. and there could be cases where it might not be possible to fill up the vacancies within any prescribed time limit. The Committee considered the above request of the Ministry at their sitting held on 31 January, 2008 and decided not to drop the assurance.

1.9 The Committee are constrained to point out that the Ministry have in their explanation mainly enumerated the procedures involved in filling up the vacancies only. It is unfortunate that even after a lapse of three years, the Committee have not been apprised of the precise results achieved in the fulfillment of the assurance. The Committee, therefore, desire that a detailed status report indicating the latest position of vacant top level executive posts in Public Sector Undertakings together with the reasons for not filling the same, be furnished to them at the earliest.

[ii] ALLEGED FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES IN ICCR

1.10 On 2 August, 2006, Shri Rasheed Masood, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No.1071 to the Prime Minister:-

- “(a) Whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has unearthed alleged financial irregularities in the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR);**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether people have been allegedly sent abroad illegally in the guise of cultural troupes; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?”**

1.11 In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Anand Sharma) stated as follows:-

“(a to d) The matter relating to the alleged past financial irregularities in the ICCR, including with regard to the sending of one cultural troupe abroad, has been entrusted to the CBI, whose investigation is still ongoing.”

1.12 The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of External Affairs within three months from the date of the reply *i.e.* by 1 November 2006. However, the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry had not sought any extension of time to implement the assurance.

1.13 The Ministry of External Affairs vide their letter dated 30 October, 2006 requested for dropping the assurance on the ground that as the reply to the Parliament question was in respect of a matter being investigated by an outside agency (CBI), the Council in its draft reply sent to the MoS (AS) gave the factual position without committing any Assurance. However, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs took the Council's reply to Unstarred Question as an Assurance which was required to be fulfilled before 1st November, 2006.

1.14 As the Council did not give any assurance in its reply approved by the MoS (AS) and in view of the fact that matter was under investigation by an outside independent agency (CBI), the Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha, might drop the above Assurance.

1.15 The Committee at their sitting held on 31 January, 2008 reviewed the above assurance and decided not to drop it.

1.16 The Committee note that a question regarding alleged financial irregularities in the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) was asked on 2 August, 2006. The question sought information regarding the details of the investigation carried out by CBI in unearthing alleged financial irregularities in the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the action taken by the Government in this regard. In reply, it was *inter-alia* stated that the matter had been entrusted to CBI whose investigation was still going on. This reply constituted an assurance. The Ministry of External Affairs requested for its dropping on the ground that the ICCR had given the factual position in its reply as the investigation was being carried out by an outside independent agency i.e., CBI. The Committee considered this request of the Ministry at their sitting held on 31st January, 2008 and decided not to drop the above assurance as they are of the opinion that apart from unearthing the alleged financial irregularities, there is an imperative need to take preventive measures by the Ministry to stop recurrence of such irregularities. The Committee, therefore, desire that they be apprised of the latest position of the outcome of the investigations carried out in this case as also of the steps initiated by the Ministry to obviate recurrence of such instances.

[iii] PETRO CHEMICAL COMPLEXES

1.17 On 7 May, 2007, Shri Ananta Nayak, MP, addressed the following Unstarred Question No.4295 to the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers:-

- “(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up some petro chemical complexes during 2007-08;**
- (b) if so, whether any of those projects are also being set up by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL); and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof?”**

1.18 In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers & Minister of State of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri B.K. Handique) stated as follows:-

- “(a) to (c) The Government has approved a policy for setting up of Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Regions in March, 2007. The Government has approved, during the year 2006-07, Assam Gas Cracker Project at Lepetkata, Distt. Dibrugarh, Assam, with Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) as the lead promoter, with equity arrangement of GAIL: 70% , Oil India Limited (OIL), Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) and Assam Industrial Development Corporation (Government of Assam): 10% each. The total project cost is Rs. 5460.61 Crores (fixed cost). Capital Subsidy of Rs. 2138 Crores for the project during construction period of 5 years and Feedstock subsidy of Rs. 908.91 Crores for the project spread over 15 years of operation period has been approved. The project will produce polypropylene (PP) 60,000 TPA and High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/Linear Low Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) 220,000 TPA. A Joint Venture Company i.e. M/s Brahmaputra Cracker &**

Polymer Limited (BCPL) has been constituted for this purpose. The implementation will take 60 months.”

1.19 The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers within three months of the date of the reply *i.e.*, by 6 August, 2007. However, the assurance is yet to be fulfilled. The Ministry have not sought extension of time beyond 7 November, 2007 to implement the assurance.

1.20 The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers *vide* O.M. F.No. 40014/3/2007-PCI dated 2 November, 2007 have requested to drop the assurance on the ground that the progress made in respect of Assam Gas Cracker Project is as follows:-

- (a) GAIL informed that the necessary Environmental and Pollution clearances both from State & MoEF for the revised configuration have been obtained;
- (b) Registered Office at Guwahati and Project Office at Dibrugarh has been opened and made operational;
- (c) 2692 bighas (approx 890 Ares) of land, out of approx 1108 Acres needed for the project has been acquired by BCPL;
- (d) Oil Industries Development Board has agreed to offer a term loan of Rs. 327 Crore;
- (e) The company Bank Account has been opened with SBI at Dibrugarh and Centurion Bank of Punjab at Guwahati;
- (f) Feedstock Gas Supply Agreements (GSA) with M/s Oil India Limited (OIL) and Naphtha Supply Term Sheet with M/s Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) signed on 19 September, 2007. Feedstock Gas

Supply Agreement with M/s ONGC was signed on 15 October, 2007;

- (g) The Brahmaputra Cracker & Polymer Limited (BCPL) has awarded Project Management Consultant (PMC) job to M/s EIL on nomination basis on reimbursable basis on 10 September, 2007; and
- (h) Certificate of commencement of Business has been obtained on 12 September, 2007.

1.21 In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State (C&F), have requested to drop the assurance.

1.22 The Committee note that a question was asked on 07 May, 2007 seeking information whether the Government had any proposal to set up some petro-chemical complexes during the year 2007-2008, and whether any of those projects were being set up by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL). In reply, it was *inter-alia* stated that the Government had approved a policy for setting up of Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Regions in March, 2007 and that Assam Gas Cracker Project was approved by the Government during 2006-07 with GAIL as the lead promoter. It was further stated that a Joint Venture Company has been constituted for this purpose and the implementation would take 60 months. The reply was treated as an assurance. The Ministry have now elaborated on the progress made in respect of Assam Gas Cracker Project which, *inter-alia*, includes obtaining the necessary environmental and pollution clearances, opening and operationalisation of Registered office at Guwahati and Project office at Dibrugarh, acquisition of land by BCPL and obtaining certificate of commencement of business, etc. and they have accordingly, requested for dropping of the assurance. The Committee considered the request of the Ministry at their sitting held on 06 May, 2008. Taking note of the fact that the Ministry have not sought any extension of time beyond 7 November, 2007 to implement the assurance, the Committee desire that the Ministry should in the

first instance, seek extension of time before the Committee take a final decision on the request of the Ministry for dropping this assurance.

CHAPTER – II
REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF ASSURANCES
(ACCEPTED)

[i] CLEARANCE TO STORM WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM

2.1 On 03 March, 2005, Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 511 to the Minister of Defence:-

- “(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka in 2003 for development of storm water drainage system (SEDS);**
- (b) if so, the reasons for not giving clearance to the said proposal; and**
- (c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?”**

2.2 In reply, the then Minister of Defence (Shri Pranab Mukherjee) stated as follows:-

- “(a) Yes, Sir.**
- (b) Local Military Authorities had requested the Bangalore Mahanagar Palika (BMP) to submit a detailed proposal in this regard. However, the same is yet to be received from BMP.**
- (c) The request of the Government of Karnataka would be considered after the detailed and final proposal is received from BMP.”**

2.3 The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Defence within three months of the date of the reply *i.e.* by 02 June, 2005.

2.4 The Ministry of Defence *vide* their O.M.No.H-110126/5/D(Parl) dated 6 November, 2007 requested for dropping of the assurance on the ground that the State Government (Bangalore Mahanagar Palika) had not yet submitted the detailed proposal for development of Storm Water Drainage System, in the absence of which, it was not feasible to fulfil the assurance.

2.5 In view of the above, the Ministry with the approval of the Raksha Mantri, requested that the reply to the above said question might be dropped from the list of pending assurances. The Ministry requested for extension of time for fulfilling the assurance upto 05 May, 2008 or till the assurance is dropped.

2.6 The Committee note that a question regarding 'Clearance to Storm Water Drainage System' was asked on 03 March, 2005. The question sought information about the receipt of any proposal by the Ministry of Defence from the Government of Karnataka in 2003 for development of storm water drainage system (SWDS). In reply, it was *inter-alia* stated that local military authorities had requested the Bangalore Mahanagar Palika to submit a detailed proposal and the request of the Government of Karnataka would be considered after the detailed and final proposal was received from Bangalore Mahanagar Palika. The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance but the Ministry requested for dropping of the assurance on the ground that it was not feasible to fulfill the assurance as the State Government had not yet submitted the detailed proposal for development of storm water drainage system. This request was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 31 January, 2008 and having been satisfied with the reason advanced by the Ministry, the Committee acceded to the request of the Ministry to drop the assurance.

[ii] SALE OF EQUITY OF JESSOP AND COMPANY

2.7 On 5 August, 2005, S/Shri Ajoy Chakraborty and Gurudas Dasgupta, MPs, addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 2065 to the Minister of Finance:-

- “(a) whether Government is considering to sell the remaining Government equity in Jessop and Company to its strategic partner Ruias;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether workers of Jessop & Company have gone to the Supreme Court questioning the disinvestment process of the company; and**
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?”**

2.8 In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri S.S. Palanimanickam) stated as follows:-

“(a)&(b) As per the Share Purchase Agreement/ Shareholders Agreement between Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited (BBUNL), Indo-Wagon Engineering Limited (the strategic partner) and Jessop & Company Ltd. (JCL), BBUNL has a `put option` to sell its remaining shareholding in JCL to the strategic partner. This `put option` is valid between 29.08.04 and 28.08.06.

As per information made available by the Department of Heavy Industry, a final decision has not been taken regarding sale of BBUNL`s remaining equity in JCL.

- (c) Yes, Sir.**
- (d) Reply affidavit has been filed by the Union Government”.**

2.9 The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Finance within three months of the date of reply, i.e. by 4 November, 2005; but the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time up to 29 August, 2008 to implement the assurance.

2.10 The Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Heavy Industries) to whom the assurance was transferred have requested for dropping of the assurance on the ground that in the case of M/s. Jessop & Company Limited (JCL) is sub-judice and the Government is yet to take a decision for disinvestment which will take some more time.

2.11 In view of above, the Ministry have stated that the fulfillment of the assurance is likely to take considerable time and accordingly, requested that the assurance may be deleted. The Ministry have also stated that it had the approval of the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

2.12 The Committee note that a question was asked on 05 August, 2005 seeking information whether Government was considering to sell their remaining equity in Jessop and Company to its strategic partner Ruias. The question also sought information whether the workers of Jessop and Company had gone to the Supreme Court questioning the disinvestment process of the company. In reply, it was, *inter-alia*, stated that a final decision had not been taken in the matter. This reply to the question was treated as an assurance. As the assurance remained unimplemented, the Ministry requested for dropping the assurance on the ground that the matter was *sub-judice* and the Government was yet to take a decision for disinvestment which would take some more time. The request of the Ministry was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 06 May, 2008 and having been satisfied with the reasons furnished by the Ministry, the Committee decided to drop this assurance.

[iii] REGIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE AT MANGALORE

2.13 On 7 December, 2006, Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 2385 to the Minister of Culture:-

- “(a) whether the proposal for Regional Science Centre at Mangalore is pending with the Union Government ;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof ; and**
- (c) the reasons for delay even after the State Government has released its share of amount for the purpose?”**

2.14 In reply, the Minister for Tourism and Culture (Smt. Ambika Soni) stated as follows:-

- “(a) to (c) : A request to set up a Regional Science Centre at Mangalore, was initially received from the Government of Karnataka in March, 2004. The Government of Karnataka was requested to furnish details of the proposal as per the norms of the scheme. The detailed project proposal has now been received from Government of Karnataka in October, 2006 and the same has been forwarded to National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Kolkata for their examination and comments.”**

2.15 The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Culture within three months of the date of the reply, *i.e.*, by 6 March, 2007. However, the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time upto 6 March, 2008 for implementation of the assurance.

2.16 The Ministry of Culture vide their OM No. F.5-17/2006-M-II dated 10 September, 2007 have requested for dropping the assurance on the ground that the "detailed project proposal received from the Government of Karnataka in October, 2006 on the above subject has been forwarded to National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Kolkata for examination and comments. After examining the proposal, NCSM has informed that the proposal does not conform to the approved norms/guidelines. The State Government of Karnataka has been informed accordingly". The Ministry have further stated that as the assurance given in the Lok Sabha i.e., examination of the proposal by NCSM has been fulfilled, it has been decided with the approval of Minister for Tourism and Culture, to process for dropping of this assurance.

2.17 Accordingly, the Ministry have requested to drop the assurance.

2.18 The Committee note that a question was asked on 07 December, 2006 seeking information on the proposal for Regional Science Centre at Mangalore. In reply, it was, *inter-alia* stated by the Ministry that the detailed project proposal received from Government of Karnataka had been forwarded to National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Kolkata for their examination and comments. This reply to the question was treated as an assurance. The assurance remained unimplemented. The Ministry have now made a request for dropping the assurance on the ground, that after examining the project proposal received from the Government of Karnataka, NCSM has informed that the proposal did not conform to the approved norms/guidelines. The Ministry have also stated that the assurance in the instant case involved only examination of the proposal by NCSM and the same has been fulfilled. The Committee considered the above request of the Ministry at their sitting held on 06 May, 2008 and having been satisfied with the reasons adduced by the Ministry, decided to drop the assurance.

[iv] DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROGEN AS AN ALTERNATIVE FUEL

2.19 On 17 August, 2007, Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal, Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao Gawali, S/Shri Abu Ayes Mondal and Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre, MPs, addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 925 to the Minister of New and Renewable Energy:-

- “(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a roadmap to promote the use of Hydrogen as an alternative source of fuel for vehicles in the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the target fixed for running the vehicles on hydrogen fuel;**
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to provide subsidy for the development of hydrogen fuel keeping in view the high cost on its development;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the initiatives taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?”**

2.20 In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (Shri Vilas Muttemwar) stated as follows:-

- “(a)&(b): A National Hydrogen Energy Road Map for development of hydrogen energy in India has been prepared under the guidance of the National Hydrogen Energy Board. The National Hydrogen Energy Road Map has identified research, development, demonstration and other efforts required for bridging the technological gaps in different**

areas of hydrogen energy, including its production, storage, transportation, delivery, applications, safety, codes and standards and capacity building for the period upto 2020. The National Hydrogen Energy Road Map has also recommended two major initiatives for use of hydrogen as a fuel in vehicles and for power generation. The Road Map has envisaged that about one million hydrogen fuelled vehicles would be on the Indian roads by 2020.

(c)&(d): As the technology for use of hydrogen as a fuel in vehicles is still in the research and development phase, there is no plan at present to provide subsidy for introduction of hydrogen as a fuel in the vehicles.

(e): The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been supporting a broad based research, development and demonstration programme on different aspects of hydrogen energy technologies for over two decades and holding regular interactions with various stakeholders for promotion of hydrogen energy in the country”.

2.21 The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy within three months of the date of reply *i.e.*, by 16 November, 2007; but the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have not sought extension of time to implement the assurance.

2.22 The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy *vide* their OM No. 107/85/2007-NT dated 21 January, 2008 have requested for dropping of the assurance on the ground that the answer given in part (e) of the unstarred question “does not constitute an assurance as interactions held by the Ministry of

New and Renewable Energy with various stakeholders for promotion of hydrogen energy in the country are a continuous process”.

2.23 The Ministry further stated that the “programme on hydrogen energy being implemented by the Ministry is essentially of research, development and demonstration nature at present and it covers different aspects of hydrogen energy technologies with demonstration of some prototypes developed under the programme. The focus of the programme is to develop technologies for use of hydrogen as a clean fuel for transportation and power generation applications, with emphasis on developing public-private partnership projects in this new technology area.

During the last two years, the following major interactions were held/initiatives were taken with different stakeholders on development of Hydrogen Energy technologies:

- (i) A National Hydrogen Energy Road Map for the country was prepared by a Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan Tata, Chairman of Tata Sons under the guidance of the National Hydrogen Energy Board (NHEB) and was accepted by NHEB in January, 2006. In the preparation of the National Hydrogen Energy Road Map, different stakeholders in the hydrogen energy sector were involved. These included Government representatives, industry, experts, academicians and research and development organizations. The Road Map provides a broad pathway for development of hydrogen energy in the country up to 2020.
- (ii) A Conclave on the National Hydrogen Energy Road Map with different stakeholders was organized by the Ministry on the 4 June, 2007 in Delhi in association with the Society of Indian Automobile

Manufacturers (SIAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).

- (iii) Interactions were held with Indian Oil Corporation Limited and five major automobile manufacturers in the country for setting up hydrogen dispensing station and developing vehicles suitable for use of hydrogen-CNG blend as automotive fuel.
- (iv) The Ministry provides financial support for implementation of research, development and demonstration projects on different aspects of hydrogen energy to academic institutions, research organizations, private and public sector industry and industry associations. Projects recommended by the experts and the Research, Design and Development Project Appraisal Committee (RDPAC) of the Ministry are considered for providing financial support. A total of 11 research and development projects on hydrogen energy and fuel cell technologies were sanctioned by the Ministry to different R&D organizations during this period.
- (v) The progress of the projects is monitored by the Ministry through regular interactions with project investigators, review meetings and through specifically constituted Project Monitoring Committees for certain selected projects. Academic institutions and research organizations are encouraged to involve industry in the implementation of R&D projects for possible commercialization."

2.24 The Ministry have also stated that "there is no finality of action that can be reported but it is a series of actions continuously. Even the reply that was given is evident to this effect. Hence, it may be appreciated that no specific conclusive action in the subject matter is possible or even to be reported as fulfillment of assurance."

2.25 In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State, New and Renewable Energy (NRE), have stated that the reply given in this case does not constitute an assurance and hence the same may be dropped.

2.26 The Committee note that a question was asked on 17 August, 2007 regarding 'Development of Hydrogen as an Alternative Fuel'. The question, *inter-alia*, sought information about the proposal of the Government to launch a roadmap for the use of Hydrogen as an alternative source of fuel for vehicles in the country and the initiatives taken/being taken by the Government in this regard. In reply, it was, *inter-alia*, stated that the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy had been supporting a broad based research, development and demonstration programme on different aspects of hydrogen energy technologies for over two decades and holding regular interactions with various stakeholders for promotion of hydrogen energy in the country. This reply to the question was treated as an assurance. As the assurance remained unimplemented, the Ministry requested for dropping the assurance on the ground that the reply did not constitute an assurance and the interactions between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and various stakeholders were a continuous process. The request of the Ministry was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 06 May, 2008. Taking note of the fact that there could be no finality of action on the subject matter within a limited time frame, the Committee decided to accede to the request of the Ministry to drop the assurance.

[v] HOLIDAY CURTAILMENT OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

2.27 On 23 November, 2005, Shri P. Mohan, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.184 to the Prime Minister:-

- “(a) whether holiday curtailment of Government employees is under active consideration;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether staff associations were consulted in the Joint Consultative Machinery in this regard; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereon?”**

2.28 In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Suresh Pachouri) stated as follows:-

- “(a) & (b): Holiday policy in respect of the Central Government Administrative Offices is under review.**
- (c) & (d): Consultations with the staff side of the National Council (JCM) are under progress.”**

2.29 The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions within three months of the date of the reply *i.e.*, by 22 February, 2006. However, the assurance is yet to be implemented.

2.30 The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions have requested to grant them extension of time up to 31 March, 2008 to fulfill the assurance.

2.31 The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions *vide* their letter No.F.No.9/12/205-JCA dated 28 February, 2008 have also stated that the Government has taken several steps to review various aspects of the holiday policy for the Central Government offices through a process of consultation with all stakeholders, including the staff side and the public. Meeting of Committee of Secretaries (CoS) was also convened twice, to comprehensively analyse the various alternatives. After making all the above efforts, a decision has been taken to remit the entire issue related to the Holiday Policy to the 6th Central Pay Commission.

2.32 The Ministry, have further stated that the review by the Government has come to an end with the decision to remit the matter for consideration of the 6th Central Pay Commission. The Ministry have therefore, with the approval of the Minister of State (PP), requested that the assurance may be treated as closed.

2.33 The Committee note that a question regarding 'Holiday Curtailment of Government Employees' was asked on 23 November, 2005 seeking information whether holiday curtailment of Government employees was under active consideration. In reply, the Ministry stated that Holiday Policy in respect of the Central Government Administrative Offices was under review. The above mentioned reply was treated as an assurance. As it remained unimplemented, the Ministry requested for dropping the assurance on the ground that several steps were taken by the Government to review various aspects of the holiday policy including convening of the meeting of Committee of Secretaries twice to comprehensively analyse the various alternatives. According to the Ministry, after making all those efforts, a decision had been taken to remit the entire issue related to the Holiday Policy to the Sixth Central Pay Commission. The Committee considered the above request of the Ministry at their sitting held on 06 May, 2008 and having been satisfied with the steps taken in this regard, they decided not to pursue the assurance.

NEW DELHI;

(HARIN PATHAK)
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

24 September, 2008

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MINUTES
FIFTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2007-2008) held on 31 January, 2008 in Committee Room 'E' Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1130 hours to 1230 hours on Thursday, 31 January, 2008.

PRESENT

CHAIRMAN

Shri Harin Pathak

Members

2. Shri J.M. Aaroon Rashid
3. Shri Jigajinagi Ramesh Chandappa
4. Dr. K. Dhanaraju
5. Shri Sunil Khan
6. Shri Vijoy Krishna
7. Shri Rasheed Masood
8. Shri Rajiv Ranjan ` Lalan` Singh
9. Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli

Secretariat

1. Shri S. Bal Shekar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Hardev Singh - Director
3. Shri B.S. Dahiya - Deputy Secretary

4. Shri V.P. Goel - Deputy Secretary-II

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and apprised them briefly about the agenda for the sitting and reminded them about the study visit of the Committee to Bangalore, Mumbai and Goa from 4 to 8 February, 2008. The Committee discussed the tour programme of the Committee. The Chairman requested the members of the Committee to join the study visit and make it successful. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following five Memoranda containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of the assurances:-

Memorandum No.32 Request for dropping of assurance given on 11 May, 2006 in reply to USQ No. 3167 regarding 'Irregularities in Purchase of Executive Jet Planes'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Ministry has stated that they had already submitted the replies to statutory audit and no action is due at this stage. The Committee expressed their displeasure on this statement of the Ministry that the assurance falls under the jurisdiction of the PAC. The Committee observed that it was not for the Ministry to question the jurisdiction of the Committee. The Committee also noted with concern that the Ministry had not sought extension of time beyond 11 August 2006 to implement the assurance and desired that the Ministry should seek extension of time urgently. The Committee accordingly decided not to drop the assurance

and also decided to call the representatives of the Ministry for oral evidence to hear their views on the pending assurance.

Memorandum No.33 **Request for dropping of assurance given on 16 December, 2004 in reply to supplementary to SQ No. 222 regarding 'Vacant Executive Posts in PSUs'.**

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that thirty-four posts of Chief Executives and ninety two posts of Functional Directors were lying vacant as on 31 October, 2004. The Committee did not agree with the contention of the Ministry that they were not directly responsible for filling up the vacant posts and desired the Department of Public Enterprises to pursue the concerned Departments/Ministries to fill up the said vacant posts. The Committee, therefore, desired a detailed status report on the vacancies as on date together with the reasons for not filling the vacancies. Accordingly, the Committee, decided not to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No.34 **Request for dropping of assurance given on 2 August, 2006 in reply to USQ No. 1071 regarding 'Alleged Financial Irregularities in ICCR'.**

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Ministry had stated that the matter was under investigation by an outside independent agency (CBI). The Committee were not convinced with the reason furnished by the Ministry and accordingly decided not to drop the assurance. The Committee also note with concern that the Ministry had not sought any

extension of time to fulfil the assurance and desired the Ministry to seek necessary extension of time to fulfil the assurance at the earliest.

Memorandum No.35 Request for dropping of assurance given on 3 March, 2005 in reply to USQ No. 511 regarding 'Clearance to Storm Water Drainage System'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the State Government (Bangalore Mahanagar Palika) has yet to submit the detailed proposal for development of Storm Water Drainage System and in its absence it was not feasible for the Ministry to implement the assurance. Accordingly, the Committee decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No.36 Request for dropping of assurance given on 28 July, 2005 in reply to USQ No. 704 regarding 'Investigation on Jet Airways'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Directorate of Enforcement was investigating the alleged irregularities. The Committee, therefore, desired to know the present status of the investigation and decided not to drop the assurance and also decided to call the representatives of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for oral evidence. The Committee also decided to ask the Ministry to seek further extension of time beyond 27 July, 2007 to implement the assurance.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES
EIGHTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2007-2008) held on 06 May, 2008 in Committee Room No. '139' Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1600 hours on Tuesday, 06 May, 2008.

PRESENT

Chairman

Shri Harin Pathak

Members

2. Shri J.M. Aaroon Rashid
3. Shri Vijoy Krishna
4. Shri Nihal Chand
5. Shri Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh
6. Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli

Secretariat

1. Shri S. Bal Shekar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Rajeev Sharma - Director
3. Shri B.S. Dahiya - Deputy Secretary
4. Shri V.P. Goel - Deputy Secretary-II

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and apprised them briefly about the agenda for the sitting. The Chairman also briefed the Members about the ensuing study visit of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took

up the following five Memoranda placed before them for considering the requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of assurances:-

Memorandum No. 47 Request for dropping of assurance given on 05 August, 2005 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2065 regarding 'Sale of Equity of Jessop and Company'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that in the case of M/s Jessop and Company Ltd, the matter was sub-judice. Accordingly, the Committee decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 48 Request for dropping of assurance given on 07 December, 2006 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2385 regarding 'Regional Science Centre at Mangalore'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Kolkata which examined the detailed project proposal for setting up of a Regional Science Centre at Mangalore had informed the Ministry "that the proposal does not conform to the approved norms/guidelines." The Committee, therefore, decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 49 Request for dropping of assurance given on 17 August, 2007 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 925 regarding 'Development of Hydrogen as an Alternative Fuel'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and expressed their displeasure over the request of the Ministry to drop the assurance on the ground that the reply did not constitute as assurance. The Committee expressed the

view that it was not for the Ministry to question the decision of the Committee to treat a particular reply as an assurance. The Committee also noted that there could be no finality of action on the subject matter within a limited time frame and they, therefore, decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 50 Request for dropping of assurance given on 23 November, 2005 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 184 regarding 'Holiday Curtailment of Government Employees'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Government had taken a decision to remit the entire issue related to the holiday policy to the Sixth Central Pay Commission. The Committee, however, noted that the Ministry has not sought extension of time beyond 22 February 2006 and they, therefore, desired that the Ministry should be asked to seek necessary extension of time to implement the assurances in future. The Committee also decided not to pursue the assurance.

Memorandum No. 51 Request for dropping of assurance given on 07 May, 2007 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4295 regarding 'Petro Chemical Complexes'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Ministry has not sought the extension of time beyond 07 November 2007 to implement the assurance. The Committee, therefore, desired that the Ministry should seek necessary extension of time before making any request for dropping the assurance. The Committee, therefore, decided not to drop the assurance.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES
SECOND SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2008-2009) held on 24 September 2008 in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1130 hours to 1230 hours on Wednesday 24 September 2008.

PRESENT

Chairman

Shri Harin Pathak

Members

2. Shri Biren Singh Engti
3. Shri Sunil Khan
4. Shri Vijoy Krishna
5. Shri Rasheed Masood
6. Shri Nihal Chand
7. Smt. M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran
8. Shri Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh
9. Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli

Secretariat

1. Shri P. Sreedharan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Rajeev Sharma - Director
3. Shri Dal Singh Malha - Deputy Secretary

4. Shri V.P. Goel - Deputy Secretary-II
2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and apprised them briefly about the agenda of the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter the Committee took up for consideration the draft Twenty Fifth and Twenty Sixth Reports regarding requests for dropping of assurances and after discussion adopted both the Reports without any amendment. The Committee also authorised the Chairman to finalise both the Reports and present the same to the House in the ensuing Part-II Session of the Lok Sabha. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following ten Memoranda containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping the pending assurances:-

XXXXX

XXXXX

XXXXX

The Committee then adjourned.