

COMMITTEE

ON

GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

(2009-2010)

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

TENTH REPORT

REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF ASSURANCES

Presented to Lok Sabha on 27 August, 2010



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August 25, 2010 /Bhadrapada 3, 1932 (Saka)

CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
Composition of the Committee (2009-2010)	(iv)
Introduction	(v)
Report	1 - 4
Appendix-I	

Requests for dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)

(i)	Unstarred Question No. 1291 dated 16 November, 1987 regarding Amendment to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Unstarred Question No. 3747 dated 07 December, 1988 regarding Amendment to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Starred Question No. 188 dated 08 March, 1989 regarding Amendment to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, and Unstarred Question No. 4735 dated 05 May, 1995 regarding Amendment to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.	5-10
(ii)	Unstarred Question No. 3669 dated 15 April, 1999 regarding Operation Leech conducted in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.	11-13
(iii)	Supplementary to Starred Question No.441 dated 25 August, 2000 by Shri K. Yerrannaidu, M.P. regarding Cooperative Credit System.	14-17
(iv)	Unstarred Question No. 198 dated 22 February, 2001 regarding Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri.	18-19
(v)	Unstarred Question No. 1569 dated 7 March, 2001 regarding Foreign Tours by Ministers.	20-21
(vi)	Unstarred Question No. 397 dated 4 December, 2003 regarding Illegal Occupation of Waiting Rooms.	22-24
(vii)	Unstarred Question No.3017 dated 22 March, 2005 regarding Funds collected for calamity relief and Unstarred Question No.2820 dated 22 August, 2006 regarding Misuse of Calamity Relief Funds.	25-29
(viii)	Unstarred Question No.5600 dated 2 May, 2005 regarding EPF facilities to Workers of Small Companies.	30-32
(ix)	Unstarred Question No.7173 dated 13 May, 2005 regarding Cases against C&E Officers.	33-34

(x)	Unstarred Question No.4037 dated 20 December, 2005 regarding Complaints against Call Centres.	35-36
(xi)	Unstarred Question No.1574 dated 23 August, 2007 regarding Permission to Private Airlines to Fly Abroad, Starred Question No.260 dated 30 August, 2007 regarding Norms for Domestic Carriers to Fly Abroad, Unstarred Question No.68 dated 15 November, 2007 regarding Airlines to Fly Overseas; and Unstarred Question No.854 dated 22 November, 2007 regarding Application for Overseas Services.	37-42
(xii)	Unstarred Question No.492 dated 28 February, 2008 regarding Construction of Domestic and International Airports, Unstarred Question No.563 dated 28 February, 2008 regarding Setting up of International Airport; and Unstarred Question No.888 dated 23 October, 2008 regarding Construction of Civil Terminals in Uttar Pradesh.	43-47
(xiii)	Unstarred Question No.3149 dated 20 March, 2008 regarding Development of Angamaly Railway Station.	48-49
(xiv)	Unstarred Question No.4209 dated 23 April, 2008 regarding Assessment of Condition of NHs.	50-53
(xv)	Unstarred Question No.875 dated 23 October, 2008 regarding World heritage status to Kalka-Shimla Railway link.	54-55
(xvi)	Starred Question No.104 dated 24 October, 2008 and Starred Question No.24 dated 3 July, 2009 regarding RGGVY.	56-73
(xvii)	Unstarred Question No.2442 dated 15 December, 2008 regarding Electronic International Money Order Service.	74-75
(xviii)	Unstarred Question No.3571 dated 23 December, 2008 regarding Private Participation in Higher Education.	76-77
(xix)	Unstarred Question No.356 dated 19 February, 2009 regarding Revival of VISL and Unstarred Question No.728 dated 9 July, 2009 regarding Suspension of Operations by VISL.	78-80
(xx)	Calling Attention dated 26 February, 2009 by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, M.P. regarding Need to Re-examine Employees' Provident Fund Pension Scheme.	81-82
(xxi)	Unstarred Question No.290 dated 3 July, 2009 regarding Amendment in PFRDA.	83-86
(xxii)	Unstarred Question No. 1649 dated 16 July 2009 regarding Rail Museum in Shimla	87-88

(xxiii)	Unstarred Question No. 3471 dated 29 July 2009 regarding Establishment of Medical Services Corporations	89-90
(xxiv)	Starred Question No.3 dated 19 November, 2009 regarding Revival of NTC Mills.	91-93
(xxv)	Unstarred Question No.400 dated 20 November, 2009 regarding Income Tax Raids.	94-96
(xxvi)	Unstarred Question No.1267 dated 26 November, 2009 regarding Scrappage Scheme for Vehicle Owners.	97-99
(xxvii)	Unstarred Question No.2681 dated 12 March, 2010 regarding Implications of Introduction of GST.	100-101
(xxviii)	Unstarred Question No.3512 dated 16 April, 2010 regarding Implementation of Direct Taxes Code and GST.	102-104

Appendix-II

I	Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 6 August, 2010.	105-116
II	Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 25 August, 2010.	117-119

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*

(2009 - 2010)

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Anandrao Adsul
3. Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana
4. Shri Dara Singh Chauhan
5. Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar
6. Shri Mohan Jena
7. Shri Raghuvir Singh Meena
8. Shri Bishnu Pada Ray
9. Shri K.J.S.P. Reddy
10. Shri M. Raja Mohan Reddy
11. Rajkumari Ratna Singh
12. Shri Takam Sanjoy
13. Dr. M. Thambidurai
14. Shri Manohar Tirkey
15. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. | Shri P. Sreedharan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri R.S. Kambo | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri D.S. Malha | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Shri Kulvinder Singh | - | Sr. Committee Assistant |

* The Committee was constituted on 23 September, 2009 *vide* Para No. 580 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 23 September, 2009.

INTRODUCTION

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

2. The Committee (2009-2010) at their sitting held on 6 August, 2010 considered Memorandum Nos. 105 to 155 containing requests received from the Ministries/Departments for dropping of pending assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 25 August, 2010, the Committee (2009-2010) considered and adopted their Tenth Report.

4. The Minutes of the aforesaid sittings of the Committee form part of this report.

NEW DELHI;

August 25, 2010

Bhadrapada 3, 1932 (Saka)

MANEKA GANDHI
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. An assurance is required to be implemented by the Ministry concerned within a period of three months. Where a Ministry are unable to implement the assurances within the prescribed period of three months, they are required to seek extension of time. In case, the Ministry finds it difficult in implementing the assurances on one ground or the other, they are required to approach the Committee on Government Assurances requesting to drop the assurances. Such requests are considered by the Committee on merits and decisions taken to drop an assurance or otherwise.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2009-10) considered the following requests received from Ministries/Departments for dropping of assurances:-

Question/ Discussion Reference	Ministry/ Department	Subject in Brief
(i) USQ No. 1291 dt. 16.11.1987 (ii) USQ No. 3747 dt. 7.12.1988 (iii) SQ No. 188 dt. 8.3.1989 (iv) USQ No. 4735 dt. 5.5.1995	Labour & Employment	Amendment to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948
USQ No. 3669 dt. 15.4.1999	Defence	Operation Leech conducted in Andaman & Nicobar Islands
SQ No. 441 dt. 25.8.2000 (Supply by Shri K. Yerrannaidu, MP	Finance	Cooperative Credit System

USQ No. 198 dt. 22.2.2001	Law & Justice	Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri
USQ No. 1569 dt. 7.3.2001	External Affairs	Foreign Tours by Ministers
USQ No. 397 dt. 4.12.2003	Railways	Illegal Occupation of Waiting Rooms
(i) USQ No. 3017 dt. 22.3.2005 (ii) USQ No. 2820 dt. 22.8.2006	Home Affairs	Funds collected for Calamity Relief
USQ No. 5600 dt. 2.5.2005	Labour & Employment	EPF Facilities to Workers of Small Companies
USQ No. 7173 dt. 13.5.2005	Finance	Cases against Custom & Excise Officers
USQ No. 4037 dt. 20.12.2005	Home Affairs	Complaints against Call Centres
(i) USQ No. 1574 dt. 23.8.2007 (ii) SQ No. 260 dt. 30.8.2007 (iii) USQ No. 68 dt. 15.11.2007 (iv) USQ No. 854 dt. 22.11.2007	Civil Aviation	Permission to Private Airlines to Fly Abroad
(i) USQ No. 492 dt. 28.2.2008 (ii) USQ No. 563 dt. 28.2.2008 (iii) USQ No. 888 dt. 23.10.2008	Civil Aviation	Construction of Domestic and International Airports
USQ No. 3149 dt. 20.3.2008	Railways	Development of Angamaly Railway Station
USQ No. 4209 dt. 23.4.2008	Road Transport & Highways	Assessment of Condition of NHs
USQ No. 875 dt. 23.10.2008	Railways	World heritage status to Kalka-Shimla Railway link
(i) SQ No. 104 dt. 24.10.2008 (ii) SQ No. 24 dt. 3.7.2009	Power	RGVY
USQ No. 2442 dt.	Communicatio	Electronic International Money

15.12.2008	ns and Information Technology	Order Service
USQ No. 3571 dt. 23.12.2008	Human Resource Development	Private Participation in Higher Education
(i) USQ No. 356 dt. 19.2.2009 (ii) USQ No. 728 dt. 9.7.2009	Steel	Revival of VISL
Calling Attention dt. 26.2.2009 by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, MP	Labour and Employment	Need to re-examine Employees' Provident Fund Pension Scheme
USQ No. 290 dt. 3.7.2009	Finance	Amendment in PFRDA
USQ No. 1649 dt.16.7.2009	Railways	Rail Museum in Shimla
USQ No. 3471 dt. 29.7.2009	Health & Family Welfare	Establishment of Medical Services Corporations
SQ No. 3 dt. 19.11.2009	Textiles	Revival of NTC Mills
USQ No. 400 dt. 20.11.2009	Finance	Income Tax Raids
USQ No. 1267 dt.26.11.2009	Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	Scrappage Scheme for Vehicle Owners
USQ No. 2681 dt.12.3.2010	Finance	Implications of Introduction of GST
USQ No. 3512 dt.16.4.2010	Finance	Implementation of Direct Taxes Code and GST

3. The details of the assurances arising out of the replies and the reason(s) advanced by the Ministries/Departments for dropping of the assurances are given in Appendix-I.

4. The Minutes of the sittings of the Committee, whereunder the requests for dropping of the assurances, were considered are given in Appendix-II.

5. After having considered the request of the Ministries/Departments, the Committee are not convinced with the reasons furnished for dropping the assurances. They, therefore, desire that the Government should take appropriate action in the matter and implement the assurances expeditiously.

NEW DELHI;

25 August, 2010

Bhadrapad 3, 1932 (Saka)

MANEKA GANDHI
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

[i] Amendment to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948

On 16 November, 1987 Shrimati Prabhawati Gupta, M.P. and Shri Laliteshwar Prasad Shahi, M.P., on 07 December, 1988 Prof. Ramkrishna More, M.P., on 08 March, 1989 S/Shri M.V. Chandrasekhara Murthy and V. Sreenivasa Prasad, M.Ps. and on 05 May, 1995 Shrimati Sheela Gautam, S/Shri Ramesh Kumar & Rameshwar Patidar, M.Ps. addressed Unstarred Question Nos. 1291, 3747, Starred Question No. 188 and Unstarred Question No. 4735 to the Minister of Labour. The contents of the Questions alongwith their replies of the Minister of Labour, which were treated as assurances, are as given in Annexure I, II, III and IV.

2. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Employment on 17 January, 2005 regarding delay in implementation of the above pending assurances. Accordingly the Committee vide their 3rd Report of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha presented to Lok Sabha on 04 August, 2005 recommended that necessary amendments to the said Act may be finalized without further loss of time to improve the lot of millions of the workers in the country.

3. The Ministry of Labour and Employment however again requested to drop the above assurances *inter-alia* on the ground that all these assurances are pending due to non finalization of amendment in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. This request of the Ministry was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 27 June, 2007 and the Committee decided not to drop the assurances.

4. The Ministry of Labour and Employment *vide* their O.M. No. H-11012/1/2007-WC dated 29 June, 2010 have once again requested to drop the assurances on the following grounds:-

“That while the first three assurances are pending for more than fifteen years, the fourth one has also become pending for 15 years. The first three assurances were examined in a meeting taken by Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on 7 January, 2010 wherein it was advised that the Ministry may take up these assurances for deletion/dropping with the Committee on Government Assurances (CGA).

Based on the tripartite discussions, the Draft Note for Cabinet has been circulated for inviting comments/suggestions from all the Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments/Union Territory Administrations on January, 2010. The matter has been referred to the Committee of Secretaries (COS) and was discussed in its meeting held on 18 March, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary and it has been decided to set up Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) to study the impact of the proposed amendments to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 on the national economy as a whole, including different sectors of production and employment which depend on labour as one of their important inputs. In pursuance of the decision taken in the COS meeting, the IMG has been constituted on 5 April, 2010. The first meeting of the IMG held on 16 April, 2010, wherein it has been decided that the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute may carry out the impact study of the amendment proposals to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, especially relating to providing statutory status to the National Floor Level Minimum Wage on the national economy as a whole, including different sectors of production and employment which depend on labour as one of their important inputs and submit the report.

Amendment of an important Act like the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 needs consultation with and consideration by all stakeholders. It is highly time-consuming. Therefore, the Amendments time-frame cannot be laid down with certainty.

Keeping in view, the Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha Secretariat is requested to kindly drop/delete the four assurances.”

5. Accordingly, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of Labour and Employment, have requested to drop the assurances.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1291

ANSWERED ON 16.11.1987

AMENDMENT TO THE MINIMUM WAGES ACT, 1948

1291. SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA

SHRI LALITESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government propose to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948;
- (b) if so, the details of the amendments to be made in the proposed Act; and
- (c) to what extent the poor labourers will benefit from the proposed legislation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI P.A. SANGMA)

(a) to (c) : A number of suggestions have been made for amendment of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 to make it more effective and provide expeditious relief to the employees covered under the Act. These include *inter-alia*, reviewing the rates of minimum wages at short intervals unless these have variable component of Dearness Allowance, enhancement in the compensation amount, payment of interest in case of non-payment and short-payment of wages, deposit of a part of the claimed amount, restrictions on change in the conditions of service during the pendency of claims proceedings and enhancement of penalties, etc. The proposals for amendment are yet to be finalized.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3747

ANSWERED ON 07.12.1988

AMENDMENT TO THE MINIMUM WAGES ACT, 1948

3747. PROF. RAMKRIHSNA MORE

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government propose to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948;
- (b) if so, whether State Governments have also been consulted in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) when a legislation to this effect is expected to be brought forward?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY)

- (a) Certain proposals for amendment of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 are under consideration;
- (b) The State Governments have not been consulted in respect of proposals for amendment to the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948;
- (c & d) The details are yet to be finalized?

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 188

ANSWERED ON 8.3.1989

AMENDMENT TO THE MINIMUM WAGES ACT, 1948

*188. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government propose to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in consultation with State Governments;
- (b) whether any meeting with the State Labour Ministers was held for the purpose during the past few months, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which legislation to this effect is expected to be brought forward?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): The 37th Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference held on the 7th November, 1988 considered the proposals for amendment of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. These mainly relate to (a) enhancement in penalties, (b) provision of direct access to Courts to the aggrieved employee, registered voluntary organizations or registered trade unions, (c) interim relief and protection against termination, discharge etc. during the pendency of claims proceedings, and (d) reduction in the periodicity of revision of wages without the variable component linked to the Consumer Price Index. The amending Bill will be brought forward as soon as the proposals are finalized.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4735

ANSWERED ON 5.5.1995

AMENDMENT TO THE MINIMUM WAGES ACT, 1948

4735. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM

SHRI RAMESH KUMAR

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Union Government have finalized the proposal for amending the Minimum Wages Act, 1948;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Union Government to strengthen the above Act and to increase the wage rates?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.A. SANGMA)

(a) & (b) : The proposal to amendment of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 are under consideration of the Government.

(c) : Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Central as well as State Governments are the appropriate Governments for the implementation and enforcement of the Act for the Scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions. The Central Government has been impressing upon the State Governments from time to time to take various measures to effectively implement the Act. These include strengthening of the enforcement machinery, revision of minimum wages every two years unless there is a provision of variable dearness allowance linked to Consumer Price Index Numbers, and giving wide publicity to the provisions of the Act. The State Governments have also been requested to fix the minimum wages for the rural workers at not less than Rs. 20/- per day on the basis of prices prevailing during December 1990 as recommended by the National Commission on Rural Labour.

[ii] Operation Leech conducted in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

On 15 April, 1999 Dr. Saroja V., M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3669 to the Minister of Defence. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of Defence are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Defence within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Defence requested for dropping the assurance given in reply to USQ No. 3669 dated 15 April, 1999 earlier also on the ground that the subject matter of the assurance had become sub-judice, the request was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 5 October, 2006 but not acceded to and the Committee desired a detailed status report of the case may be furnished for their consideration (15th Report of 14th Lok Sabha was presented to Lok Sabha on 15 December, 2006).

4. The Ministry of Defence once again requested to drop this assurance alongwith request for dropping another assurance given in reply to USQ No. 856 dated 28 July, 2007 on the ground that the CBI had filed a case in Andaman Nicobar Islands Court, but was not acceded to by the Committee at their sitting held on 8 January, 2008 (2nd Report of 15th Lok Sabha was presented to Lok Sabha on 16 December, 2009).

5. The Ministry of Defence vide O.M. No. 11(13)/99/D(GS-I) dated 15 June, 2010 have once again requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That Operation Leech was a tri-service operation to intercept arms delivery meant for Indian insurgent groups of the North-East. A number of arms & ammunition had been recovered. Consequent to the operation, involvement of the members of the Arakan Army was uncovered in that arms consignment which was meant for the insurgent groups of Myanmar in India. 73 gun runners along with sophisticated communication equipments had been arrested from

Andaman & Nicobar Islands and 6 gun runners had been killed in the encounter. An FIR was lodged by the defence authorities with regard to this incident which was registered vide case No. 50/98 of Central Crime station, Port Blair under Section 120 B, 121 A, 122, 123 IPC read with Section 14 of Foreigners Act, Section 5 of Explosive Substance Act and Section 25 and 27 of the Arms Act. On the request of A & N Administration, the CBI took over the investigation of the case.

Out of the 73 accused persons handed over by the Defence Authorities 2 persons were Thai speaking and the rest of them were Burmese speaking. Investigation disclosed that out of 73 arrested persons, 37 including the 2 Thai speaking persons were genuine fishermen. Of the remaining 36 persons, 25 belong to the Arakanese Army and 11 to the Karen Nationalist Union (KNU). The above mentioned 37 fishermen while traveling in two fishing trawlers were captured along with their trawlers by the Arakanese Army and KNU militants who on gun point forced them to come to Indian waters. One of the trawlers was used by the militants/insurgents to transport the arms ammunition.

Due to unavailability of evidence, the 37 fishermen were discharged through the C.J.M. Port Blair on 7.5.99. The remaining 36 militants were lodged in Jail, Port Blair who were belatedly released on bail on 14.10.99. The arms and ammunition captured during the operation are kept under the safe custody of Army authorities at Brijgunj Cantt., Port Blair. The CBI after seeking sanction of the Lt. Governor, UT of A & N Administration and District Magistrate, A & N Administration filed charge sheet against foreign nationals under section 7 of explosive substances Act and under section 25 (1-B) of Arms Act. The case was subsequently transferred to the court of learned Sessions Judge, Port Blair. As per further directions of the Supreme Court of India, the trial of the case was transferred from Port Blair to Kolkata. The case is still under consideration in the court of learned Sessions Judge, Bichar Bhavan, Kolkata. The last hearing of the case has been held on 19.01.2010. Outcome of the hearing of the case is awaited from CBI.

Since the matter is sub-judice, no time frame can be fixed for the final disposal of the case. Therefore, taking into account the total uncertainty in final disposal of the Court case, it is requested that the Committee on Government Assurances may again be approached to consider dropping the above mentioned assurance from the list of pending assurances."

6. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Raksha Rajya Mantri, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3669

ANSWERED ON 15.4.1999

OPERATION LEECH CONDUCTED IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

3669. DR. SAROJA V.

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the probe into the controversial Operation Leech conducted jointly by the three services in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in February, 1998 has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken against those held responsible?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c) : A tri-services operation was launched in February 1998 to apprehend foreigners along with their arms, ammunition and equipments. A case, Crime No. 50/98, was registered in the Central Crime Station Andaman on 18.2.98 in this regard.

On the basis of certain information and in view of the possible international ramifications of 'Operation Leech', it was considered desirable that investigation into this episode be carried out by a Central investigating agency. Accordingly, the Government of India directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to take over investigation in this case. Accordingly RC 1(S)/98-Calcutta was registered in Special Crimes Branch, Calcutta on 27.2.98. Investigation in this case has not yet been completed.

[iii] COOPERATIVE CREDIT SYSTEM

On 25 August, 2000 S/shri Ajay Singh Chautala and Subodh Mohite, M.Ps., addressed a Starred Question No. 441 to the Minister of Finance. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance are as given in Annexure.

2. During discussion, Shri K. Yerrannaidu, M.P., raised the following Supplementary:-

“Sir, the hon. Minister hails from the village cooperative background. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Chairman of the Parliamentary Forum for Cooperatives has submitted any memorandum to the Government of India for the revival and the better functioning of the cooperatives. I am the Chairman of that forum. Not only me, a number of other Members sat together and prepared a memorandum which was submitted to the Government of India. I would like to know from the Government, has so far any justice been made to the demands or the items being incorporated in that memorandum.”

3. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil) *inter-alia* stated as follows:-

“We have received the memorandum and it is under active consideration of the Government. We have been examining as to how we can boost the cooperatives by giving some financial assistance.”

4. The above reply was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Finance within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

5. The Ministry of Finance vide O.M. No. 4/89/2009-AC(Assurance) dated 16 April, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the memorandum under reference from Shri K. Yerrannaidu, the then M.P. which was mentioned during the course of the discussion ten years ago, is not readily available in this Department. In the absence of this memorandum action on the points mentioned in the said memorandum could not be taken. In view of the long gap of ten years and the non-availability of the Memorandum, referred to by hon’ble M.P., it is not possible by this Department to fulfill the assurance. In view of the above, the Committee on Government Assurances may be requested to grant leave/exemption to this Department from fulfilling this assurance.

However, as regards boost the cooperatives by giving some financial assistance, the Government of India is implementing the revival package for Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure in 25 States as per the recommendations of the Vadyananthan Committee Report. The Revival package is aimed at reviving the short term rural cooperative credit structure and make it well managed and vibrant medium to serve credit need of rural India, specially the small and marginal farmers. It also seeks to provide financial assistance to bring the system to the acceptable level of health, introduce legal and institutional reforms and which are necessary for their democratic self-relying and efficient functioning and take measures to improve the quality of management. As on 28.02.2010, Rs. 7561.39 crores has been released by National Bank for Agriculture and Development (NABARD) as the GoI share for recapitalization of 41,295 Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) in 12 States. 14 States has amended their respective State Cooperative Societies Acts. Other aspects of the package are related to training, accounting systems, computerization etc. of the PACS.”

6. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 441

ANSWERED ON 25.08.2000

COOPERATIVE CREDIT SYSTEM

*441. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the task force set up by the RBI to study the cooperative credit system has submitted its report to the Government:

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) the recommendations made by the task force;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the time by which the action is likely to be taken thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The report of the task force has been submitted to the Government on 24.07.2000,

(b) and (c) The task force which was constituted by the Government in April 1999 studied the functioning of the co-operative credit structure in the country as well as the supervisory and regulatory mechanism and held wide ranging discussions with all concerned, recommended various measures for revitalizing the co-operative banks in the country. Some of the major recommendations of the task force are as under;

(i) Removal of duality of control over the cooperative banks of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on the one hand and the State Governments on the other to bring all banking functions completely under the Banking Regulation Act.

(ii) Amendment of the State Co-operative Acts for adoption of the essential features of the Model Co-operative Societies Act to reflect the spirit of the democratization and self-reliance enshrined in the Model Act

(iii) Constant review of all guidelines issued by Government of India/RBI/NABARD/State Governments with a view to removing needless control over co-operative banks.

(iv) Effective supervision of and support to lower tiers of co-operative credit system by the higher tiers and introduction of audit of cooperatives by chartered accountants first at the State and District level and thereafter gradually at Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) level.

(v) Rehabilitation of potentially viable units by way of one time assistance, with the financial burden of rehabilitation being shared amongst members, State Governments and Central Government in the ratio of 20:40:40. The members` contribution to be in the form of additional share capital while assistance from Central and State Governments will be by way of soft loans.

(vi) The societies should be run professionally on sound business principles and decisions about interest rate investments etc to be taken internally so as to meet the costs and leave some surplus.

(vii) Setting up a Mutual Assistance Fund at State level by contribution from co-operative institutions in the State concerned.

(d) and (e) The report is under examination of the Government.

[iv] CIRCUIT BENCH OF CALCUTTA HIGH COURT AT JALPALGURI

On 22 February, 2001 Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 198 to the Minister of Law and Justice. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of Law and Justice are as given in Annexure.

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

3. The Committee on Government Assurances considered the request of the Ministry to drop the above assurance at their sitting held on 29 October, 2009 and decided not to drop the assurance and desired that a status report be furnished to the Committee.

4. The Ministry of Law and Justice vide O.M. No. K.15018/3/2001-US.I(Pt.) dated 22 July, 2010 have once again requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the Chief Justice, Calcutta High Court has yet to confirm the infrastructural facilities created by the State Government. In absence of such a confirmation, it is not possible for the Union Government to proceed further.”

5. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of Law and Justice, have once again requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 198

ANSWERED ON 22.2.2001

CIRCUIT BENCH OF CALCUTTA HIGH COURT AT JALPAIGURI

198. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs be pleased refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 728 dated 27 July, 2000 regarding Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri and Siligudi and state:-

(a) whether views of the Calcutta High Court have been received in the context of the setting up of the Circuit Bench;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a), (b) & (c): The Government of West Bengal and the Calcutta High Court have recommended for establishing a Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri. The matter is engaging the attention of the Government of India.

[v] FOREIGN TOURS BY MINISTERS

On 7 March, 2001 Shri Ramdas Athawale, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1569 to the Minister of External Affairs. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State for External Affairs are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of External Affairs within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of External Affairs vide O.M. No. AA/Parl/125/56/2001 dated 30 June, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That in this connection, this Ministry would like to state that in his Lok Sabha USQ No. 1569, the Hon’ble Member requested the External Affairs Minister to inform him whether the assurance given to him with reference to Lok Sabha USQ No. 470 had been fulfilled.

It may be recalled that CGA had already kindly agreed to drop the assurance given in reply to LS USQ No. 470 vide part (i) of Chapter-II of its Tenth Report dated February, 2006.

For fulfillment of assurance given in reply to LS USQ No. 1569, this Ministry had firstly forwarded an Implementation Report on 07.10.2008 and secondly on 28.05.2009. However in turn, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has advised that the matter may be taken-up with CGA for dropping of the assurance.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of External Affairs, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1569

ANSWERED ON 07.03.2001

FOREIGN TOURS BY MINISTERS

1569. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to refer to reply given to USQ No. 470 on November 22, 2000 and state:-

- (a) whether the information in this regard has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) - (d) : Sir, as the USQ No. 470 answered on 22.11.2000 involved collecting information from all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, it was circulated to them. Information is awaited from many of them. As soon as the information is received from them, it will be placed on the Table of the House.

[vii] ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF WAITING ROOMS

On 4 December, 2003 Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey, MP addressed an Unstarred Question No. 397 to the Minister of Railways. The contents of the question along with its reply are given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Railways within three months of the date of the reply. However, the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Railways vide their O.M. No. 2003/Sec(Spl)/120/8 dated 20 August, 2007 requested for dropping the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the eviction of waiting rooms is an ongoing problem, which does not seem to have quick solution for the reason that GRP personnel are performing train escort duties on various Zonal Railways and Railways have not been provided adequate accommodation. However, the DGPs and GMs of concerned Railways have been requested to take necessary action and ensure that the Waiting Hall/Retiring Room etc. occupied by the GRP personnel are vacated.”

4. The above request of the Ministry for dropping the assurance was not acceded to by the Committee at their sitting held on 8 January, 2008 as they desired that the Ministry should furnish a status report regarding Waiting/Retiring Rooms that were occupied by GRP personnel and got vacated later. The Ministry once again requested the Committee to drop the assurance which was again not acceded by the Committee at their sitting held on 29 October, 2009. Accordingly, the Ministry was apprised about the decision of the Committee.

5. The Ministry of Railways *vide* their O.M. No. 2003/Sec(Spl)/120/8 dated 10 November, 2009 with the approval of Minister of State for Railways, have once again requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That it is submitted that the information was called from 07 Zonal Railways and consolidated status report was submitted to Lok Sabha Secretariat specifying that out of 113 occupied Rooms/Halls, 48 Rooms/Halls have been vacated by the GRP.

However, the Chief Security Commissioners/RPF of concerned Railways have been requested to take up the matter with concerned authorities and ensure that all the Waiting Halls/Retiring Rooms etc, occupied by the GRP personnel are vacated. The last extension granted has expired on 3-6-2009.

This is an ongoing process and it will take a long time as the matter is a State subject. However, the desired information viz. status report is being furnished. Therefore, it is once again requested to drop the said assurance as well as grant extension of time upto 2-6-2010.”

6. Accordingly, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways, have requested to drop the assurances.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 397

ANSWERED ON 4.12.2003

ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF WAITING ROOMS

397. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government are aware that the large number of waiting halls/retiring rooms in Indian Railways has been under occupation by Government Railway Police or other unauthorized persons leading to depriving the public of this facility and the Railway Administration failed to get this premises vacated from the occupation of unauthorized persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL)

(a) to (c): Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha."

[vii] FUNDS COLLECTED FOR CALAMITY RELIEF

Request for dropping of assurances given in replies to

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 3017 dated 22 March, 2005 regarding "Funds collected for calamity relief" (Annexure-I), and
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 2820 dated 22 August, 2006 regarding "Misuse of Calamity Relief Funds" (Annexure-II).

The replies to the above Questions (Annexure I & II) were treated as assurances and required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Home Affairs within three months of the date of the replies. However the assurances are yet to be fulfilled.

2. The Ministry of Home Affairs vide O.M No. 42-20/2005-NDM-I and 42-35/2006-NDM-I dated 3 November, 2009 have requested for dropping the assurances on the following grounds:

"That the Planning Commission has informed that the first meeting of the Expert Group on feasibility of a new Central Law to serve as an alternative all-India statute for registering Voluntary Organizations, set up under the Chairmanship of Member Secretary, Planning Commission was held on 3rd October, 2008. The Group was of the view that a new law on registering development related VOs/NGOs is desirable and feasible. It was also suggested by the Expert Group that to draft a concept paper and draft legislation on the subject, a Task Force needs to be constituted. The Task Force is being constituted by the Planning Commission on the complex subject requiring in-depth study and more consultations. Further it is mentioned that the Task Force has completed its nine month term on 24th August, 2009, they have now requested for a six month extension of the term to prepare a concept paper and draft legislation on a new Central Law to register VOs which has been agreed to. It is expected that the Task Force would submit its report to the Expert Group within the revised time frame.

Similarly, the new FCRA bill, which will take care of foreign donations collected by private institutions of calamity relief, was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 18.12.2006 and referred it to the Department-related-Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for their consideration and recommendations. The Committee submitted its report in October, 2008, which has been examined in the MHA. The recommendation of the Committee and views of MHA thereon have been circulated to the concerned Ministries/Department/Organizations seeking their comments. There comments have since been received. Accordingly, a draft Cabinet Note for moving amendments to the Bill has been approved by the Hon'ble Home Minister. Now this matter at present stands referred to the Ministry of Law for drafting amendments to the Bill. This matter would also take considerable time for finalization."

3. Accordingly, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, have requested to drop the assurances.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3017

ANSWERED ON 22.03.2005

FUNDS COLLECTED FOR CALAMITY RELIEF

3017. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

DR. LAXMINARYAN PANDEY

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:-

(a) whether various N.G.Os and the State Governments have collected funds and relief materials in order to combat of national calamities;

(b) if so, the name of the State Governments and N.G.Os which collected and contributed funds for Gujarat earthquake;

(c) whether the Government has received any reports that several institutions or the State Governments have not contributed the amount collected in the name of Gujarat earthquake;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to formulate any policy to check the misuse of the funds collected for national calamity; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a): The NGOs and the State Governments do collect funds and relief material in the event of calamities;

(b): The State Governments and NGOs are not required to intimate the Ministry of Home Affairs about the funds or material collected by them and the utilization thereof;

(c)& (d): Ministry of Finance had earlier forwarded the request of an NGO, which had collected funds for Gujarat earthquake, for extension of time for utilization of funds. This Ministry had advised the Government of Gujarat and the Ministry of Finance that extension of the time limit should not be permitted and if an organization fails to utilize the funds, then the funds should be surrendered to the concerned State Government who may in turn spend these funds for the same purpose.

(e) & (f): The organizations which collect fund for calamities are required to file their accounts and or returns to the appropriate authorities where these are registered. However, the Government of India is considering the feasibility of enacting a legislation or formulating guidelines in this regard.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2820

ANSWERED ON 22.08.2006

MISUSE OF CALAMITY RELIEF FUNDS

2820. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the 191st Law Commission has recommended setting up of an authority to check misuse of calamity relief funds;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of Law Commission?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.

REGUPATHY)

(a) to (c): The Law Commission in its 191st Report has recommended, inter-alia, "enacting a Law and setting up of a Contributions Regulatory Authority to regulate the collection of funds including contributions and donations in cash and kind, collected or raised for the purposes of providing relief and rehabilitation to the victims of natural and manmade calamities or for welfare and rehabilitation of soldiers or their family members, who are killed or have become disabled in war or war like operations and also to monitor the proper utilization and distribution of such contributions so collected".

Inter-Ministerial consultations are in progress to study various other similar existing Regulations / Acts, which are in operation, so that an appropriate mechanism to check the misuse of calamity relief funds, may be recommended to the Government for a final decision in the matter.

[viii] EPF FACILITIES TO WORKERS OF SMALL COMPANIES

On 2 May, 2005 Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu, MP addressed an Unstarred Question No. 5600 to the Minister of Labour and Employment. The contents of the question along with its reply are given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Labour & Employment within three months of the date of the reply. However, the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Labour and Employment vide their O.M. No. H-11016/38/2007-SS.II dated 28 April, 2008 have requested for dropping the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That while replying to aforesaid question, Ministry replied as under:-

‘it was *inter-alia* stated, the decision of the Government in this regard would be taken at an appropriate time, after taking into consideration the relevant parameters’.

The Ministry has been striving all efforts to fulfill the assurance. But despite all efforts, the comprehensive amendment proposal of EPF & MP Act, 1952 kept on changing. Though certain amendments in the EPF Schemes have since been carried out from time to time and every notification has been laid on the Table of the House, as per prescribed instructions, comprehensive amendments could not be made till now.

Since amendment is an ongoing process and Government has to see all the aspects of urgency, requirement and implications before taking a decision on any amendment this assurance may not be fulfilled within the given time-frame.”

4. The above request of the Ministry for dropping the assurance was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 29 October, 2009. The Committee after due deliberations decided to pursue the matter further and did not acceded to the request for dropping of assurance. The Committee presented its Fourth Report on 16 December, 2009.

5. The Ministry of Labour and Employment *vide* their O.M. No. H-11016/38/2007-SS.II dated 23 February, 2010 with the approval of Minister of Labour and Employment, have again requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That in this regard it is stated that Central Board of Trustees, Employees’ Provident Fund in its 183rd meeting held on 5th July, 2008 approved the proposal of reduction of the threshold limit from fifty to twenty persons in respect of cooperative societies working without the aid of power and from twenty to ten persons in respect of other establishments for coverage under the Employees’ Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. For giving shape to this proposal, an amendment is required in the Employees’ Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and accordingly a proposal was placed before the Cabinet. The matter was considered by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 16.10.2008 and the Cabinet directed that it may be re-examined in consultation with all concerned Ministries.

Thereafter, Ministry of Labour and Employment consulted all the Ministries/Departments concerned and the proposal was sent to the Cabinet again. In its meeting held on 23.7.2009 the Cabinet considered the Ministry’s Note and directed that, in the first instance, the matter be examined by Committee of Secretaries. Thereafter, the Committee of Secretaries deliberated upon the issue and formed a Group of Officers to look into the matter and submit its report. Soon thereafter, the Group of Officers discussed the proposal and has sought reports on administrative capacity and study/valuation of the Employees’ Pension Fund. Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation and Ministry of Labour and Employment are taking necessary action in consultation with Ministry of Finance on these directions and the reports will be submitted to the Group of Officers soon.

It may be seen that Ministry is taking all the necessary action to expedite the proposed amendment for reducing the threshold level for widening the coverage of the Employees’ Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. But, this matter may take some more time as after getting approval of the Cabinet, the proposed amendment Bill will be presented in the Parliament for consideration and passing.

The assurance is pending for quite some time and keeping in view the position stated above it may be seen that the exercise may take some more time. The Committee on Government Assurances is, therefore, requested to consider deleting this assurance.”

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5600

ANSWERED ON 2.5.2005

EPF FACILITIES TO WORKERS OF SMALL COMPANIES

5600. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:-

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce the requirement of minimum number of workers for coverage under Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Act, 1952 from 20 workers to 10 workers so as to provide EPF facility to workers of small companies/establishments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a) to (c): A proposal for carrying out amendments to the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 including reduction of minimum employees from 20 to 10 was considered by the Central Board of Trustees (Employees' Provident Fund) in its 157th meeting held on 09.07.2002. The decision of the Government in this regard would be taken at an appropriate time, after taking into consideration the relevant parameters.

[ix] CASES AGAINST CUSTOM & EXCISE OFFICERS

On 13 May, 2005 S/Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava and Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 7173 to the Minister of Commerce & Industry. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Finance within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Finance *vide* their O.M. No. H-11016/8/2005-Ad.V dated 7 June, 2010, requested to drop the assurance on the ground that the assurance has been partially implemented vide Statement SS-II/67/21.12.2005 and also on the following ground:-

“That as informed by CBI vide their letter dated 01.02.2010, 2 cases are still under investigation due to pending execution of Letters Rogatory. Since, the investigation in these two cases will take considerable time, therefore, in terms of para 8.12 Chapter 8 of Manual of Parliamentary Affairs, the assurance in so far as pending 2 cases is concerned may please be dropped.”

4. Accordingly, the Ministry of Finance, with the approval of the Minister of State for Revenue, have requested to drop the assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 7173

ANSWERED ON 13.05.2005

CASES AGAINST C & E OFFICERS

7173. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of cases registered by CBI against customs and excise officers during the last three years;

(b) the status of the inquiry; and

(c) the action against whom permission to initiate action has not been granted by the Government?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) to (c) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[x] COMPLAINTS AGAINST CALL CENTRES

On 20 December, 2005 Shri Nikhil Kumar, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4037 to the Minister of Home Affairs. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Home Affairs vide O.M. No. 16012/112/2005-UTP dated 26 April, 2010 and 07 July, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the Delhi Police had registered two cases in this regard vide FIR No. 370/05 dated 07.07.2005 u/s 409/420/120-B1 IPC and 72 IT Act, PS Anand Vihar and FIR No. 26/06 dated 10.01.2006 u/s 420/120-B IPC and 66 IT Act, PS Sarojini Nagar. Based on the Hon'ble Delhi High Court order, the first case registered in P.S. Anand Vihar has been quashed; the second case is still under investigation. The current position of the pending case is that Hard Disks has already been sent to CFSL, Chandigarh, for forensic examination and expert opinion vide RC No. 131/21 dated 17.2.2010 PS Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi and the same has also been delivered to CFSL, Chandigarh on 19.2.2010. The result of the same is still awaited and the matter is being pursued to get the result at the earliest. During the investigation of the case, efforts are being made to trace Saurav Vig whose examination will clarify further regarding the access to computer system for taking away the data. The investigation of this case cannot be finalized by Delhi Police owing to factors beyond their control. Therefore, Ministry of Home Affairs is unable to fulfill the assurance.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4037

ANSWERED ON 20.12.2005

COMPLAINTS AGAINST CALL CENTRES

4037. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the employees of Call Centres are indulged in allegedly stealing the data from the company;

(b) if so, the details of such complaints received by Delhi Police during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to put a check on such illegal activities of call centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b): No complaint regarding stealing of data from Call Centres by their employees was received by Delhi Police during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004. However, two such complaints have so far been received during the current year. On the basis of one of these complaints, Delhi Police registered a case FIR No. 370/05 at PS Anand Vihar on 07.07.2005 and arrested four accused persons who were later released on interim bail by the Court. The other complaint is under process.

(c) & (d): Section 66 of the Information Technology Act 2000 provides for stringent penalties for infringement of such activities including breaching of confidentiality, privacy and hacking of a computer system.

[xi] PERMISSION TO PRIVATE AIRLINES TO FLY ABROAD

Request for dropping of assurances given in replies to

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 1574 dated 23 August, 2007 regarding "Permission to Private Airlines to Fly Abroad" (Annexure-I),
- (ii) Starred Question No. 260 dated 30 August, 2007 regarding "Norms for Domestic Carriers to Fly Abroad" (Annexure-II).
- (iii) Unstarred Question No. 68 dated 15 November, 2007 regarding "Airlines to Fly Overseas" (Annexure-III), and
- (iv) Unstarred Question No. 854 dated 22 November, 2007 regarding "Application for Overseas Services" (Annexure-IV).

On 23 August 2007 Sardar Sukhdev Singh Libra, on 30 August, 2007 Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, on 15 November, 2007 Sarvashri Manoranjan Bhakta & Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy and on 22 November, 2007 Shri Nikhil Kumar, M.Ps. addressed Starred/Unstarred Questions to the Minister of Civil Aviation. The contents of the Questions alongwith their replies, which were treated as assurances, are as given in Annexure I, II, III and IV.

2. The Ministry of Civil Aviation vide O.M No. H.11016/14/2007-A dated 26 February, 2010 have requested for dropping the assurances on the following grounds:

"That the this Ministry has given assurances in reply to above Lok Sabha Questions that 'The issue is being addressed in the proposed National Civil Aviation Policy, which is presently under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GoM)'. All the above assurances relate to the relaxation of the eligibility criteria for Indian carrier for the international operations which stipulates the requirement of 5 years operation experience in the domestic sector and a fleet size of minimum 20 aircrafts.

Though the subject matter of the above assurances were being addressed in the then proposed National Civil Aviation Policy under the consideration of the erstwhile Group of Ministers (GoM), however after the formation of the new Government, it has been decided that there is no need to constitute a GoM for a new National Civil Aviation Policy, since most of the issues proposed in the then policy have been implemented. The Government has, therefore, decided to retain the eligibility criteria for Indian carriers for International operations. In view of the fact that there is no new proposed National Civil Aviation Policy, the assurances given in respect of the said policy are no longer relevant.”

3. Accordingly, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of Civil Aviation, have requested to drop the assurances.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1574

ANSWERED ON 23.08.2007

PERMISSION TO PRIVATE AIRLINES TO FLY ABROAD

1574. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA

Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:-

(a): whether domestic airlines are required to operate for a minimum period of five years to qualify for permission to fly abroad;

(b): if so, the details thereof ;

(c) : whether there is a move in the Government to lower down the operational period ;

(d) : if so, whether the said move will have an adverse effect on the effectiveness and viability of the airlines ;

(e) : if so, whether the Government would ensure that the operational period will not be lowered by down playing the safety and confidence of the international passengers thereby resulting in loss of traffic and revenue to aviation industry as a whole; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) & (b): Under the existing guidelines, Indian private scheduled carriers having experience of continuous operations of 5 years in the domestic sectors and having a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft are permitted to operate on international routes.

(c) : The issue is being addressed in the proposed National Civil Aviation Policy, which is presently under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GoM)

(d),(e)&(f): Do not arise at this stage.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 260

ANSWERED ON 30.08.2007

NORMS FOR DOMESTIC CARRIERS TO FLY ABROAD

260. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY

Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:-

((a): the norms laid down to allow domestic carriers for flying abroad;

(b): whether the Government proposes to relax the norms to allow domestic carriers for flying abroad;

(c): if so, the details thereof;

(d): the time by which such relaxations will be implemented in the aviation sector; and

(e): the manner in which the commuters will be benefited by such changes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a),(b),(c),(d) and (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 260 for reply on 30.08.2007 regarding ' Norms for Domestic Carriers to fly Abroad.'

(a): Under the existing guidelines, Indian private scheduled carriers having experience of continuous operations of 5 years in the domestic sectors and having a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft are permitted to operate on international routes.

(b) and (c): The issue is being addressed in the proposed National Civil Aviation Policy, which is presently under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GoM).

(d) and (e): Do not arise at this stage.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 68

ANSWERED ON 15.11.2007

AIRLINES TO FLY OVERSEAS

68. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA

Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:-

(a): whether there is any proposal under consideration over relaxation in eligibility norms for India`s airlines flying overseas;

(b): if so, the details thereof; and

(c): the details of benefits likely to be achieved therefrom?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) & (b): The issue is being addressed in the proposed National Civil Aviation Policy, which is presently under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GoM).

(c): Do not arise at this stage.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 854

ANSWERED ON 22.11.2007

APPLICATIONS FOR OVERSEAS SERVICES

854. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR

Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Aviation Industry is not happy with the Government`s proposal to examine applications for overseas services on a case-to-case basis instead of going by the uniform domestic flying experience;

(b) if so, whether only big private airlines are given the benefit and the smaller private airlines are ignored;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a): The issue is being addressed in the proposed National Civil Aviation Policy, which is presently under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GoM).

(b), (c) and (d): Do not arise at this stage.

[xii] CONSTRUCTION OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

Request for dropping of assurances given in replies to

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 492 dated 28 February, 2008 regarding "Construction of Domestic and International Airports" (Annexure-I),
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 563 dated 28 February, 2008 regarding "Setting up of International Airport" (Annexure-II), and
- (iii) Unstarred Question No. 888 dated 23 October, 2008 regarding "Construction of Civil Terminals in Uttar Pradesh" (Annexure-III).

On 28 February, 2008 Shri Ananta Nayak, M.P., Shri Bachi Singh Rawat "Bachda", M.P. and on 23 October, 2008 Shri Santosh Gangwar, M.P., addressed Unstarred Question Nos. 492, 563 & 888 to the Minister of Civil Aviation. The contents of the Questions alongwith the replies of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, which were treated as assurances, are as given in Annexure I, II and III.

2. The Ministry of Civil Aviation *vide* their O.M. Nos. H.11016/09/2008-AD, H.11016/11/2008-AD & H.11016/100/2008-AAI all dated 14 June, 2010 have requested to drop the assurances on the grounds that these assurances were partly implemented *vide* Statement Nos. SS-VI/4/12.3.2010, SS-VI/5/12.3.2010 & SS-IV/6/12.3.2010 wherein the Ministry furnished the following facts:-

"(a), (b) & (c): Yes, Sir. The Union Cabinet has considered the proposal of State Government of Uttar Pradesh for 'in principle' approval for setting up of a Greenfield Airport at Greater Noida in its meeting held on 3rd January, 2008 and referred it to Group of Ministers. The Group of Ministers has desired to revise the Techno Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) submitted by State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The State Government has been asked to prepare a supplementary TEFR. As such, the action is required to be taken by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh."

3. The Ministry have further stated that since, the action for fulfillment of the assurance is solely dependent upon supplementary TEFR to be prepared by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and subsequent consideration of the same by Group of Ministers, hence, there is no action required on the part of this Ministry on the said portion.

4. Accordingly, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of State for Civil Aviation (Independent Charge), have requested to drop these assurances.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 492

ANSWERED ON 28.2.2008

CONSTRUCTION OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

492. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK

Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has identified the places in various States where both domestic and international airports are being constructed/proposed to be constructed in public-private partnership;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the year by which these airports are expected to be made operational?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(
SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a), (b) & (c) Proposals have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala for setting up of international airports. The new airports coming up at Hyderabad and Bangalore would become operational during this year. `In-principle` approval have since been accorded for new airports at Navi Mumbai airport in Maharashtra, Mopa in Goa and Kannur in Kerala. The proposal of UP Government to set up of an airport at Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar District is under consideration.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 563

ANSWERED ON 28.2.2008

SETTING UP OF INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

563. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"

Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:-

(a) the details of proposals received from the State Governments for setting up of international airport; and

(b) the time by which the proposals to set up new international airports would be decided?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(
SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a)&(b):- Proposals have been received from the State Governments Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala for setting up of international airports. Two such airports are coming up at Hyderabad and Bangalore are likely to become operational during the current year. `In principle` approval have been accorded for new airports at Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra, Mopa in Goa, and Kannur in Kerala. The proposal of Uttar Pradesh Government for setting up of an airport at Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar District is under consideration of the Government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 888

ANSWERED ON 23.10.2008

CONSTRUCTION OF CIVIL TERMINALS IN UTTAR PRADESH

888. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR

Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:-

(a) the names of the places in Uttar Pradesh for which proposals for construction of civil terminals have been received from the State Government;

(b) whether there is also a proposal for construction of international airport at Noida and a civil terminal at Bareilly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress made so far in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) No proposal has been received in recent past from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for construction of Civil Terminal at Defence airports.

(b) A proposal for construction of an airport at Jewar, near Noida, is under consideration for `in-principle` approval. However, there is, presently, no proposal to construct a Civil Enclave at Bareilly airport

(c) & (d) Do not arise.

[xiii] DEVELOPMENT OF ANGAMALY RAILWAY STATION

On 20 March, 2008 Shri P.C. Thomas, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3149 to the Minister of Railways. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Railways within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Railways vide O.M. No. 2009/W1/PQL/SR/3149 dated 2 July, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That in view of land acquisition problems in Angamali-Sabarimala new line project, diverse representations of local people in finalizing alignment of this new line and acute constraint of resources, work on this project is very slow and it is not possible to complete work on this project in near future. As such, it is not possible to fulfill the present assurance in near future.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Railways, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3149

ANSWERED ON 20.3.2008

DEVELOPMENT OF ANGAMALY RAILWAY STATION

3149. SHRI P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of traffic density of Angamaly Railway Station in Kerala under Southern Railway;
- (b) whether the Railway have any proposal to develop Angamaly Railway Station; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(DR. R. VELU)

(a): Details of Traffic density of Angamaly Railway Station is given below:

Total No. of Passenger/Express trains running on the section	38.
No. of Passenger trains stopping at Angamaly	4
No. of Express trains stopping at Angamaly	9
Total No. of Goods trains running on the section	10.7/day
No. of Goods rakes released at Angamaly	9.5 rakes/month
No. of passengers booked at Angamaly during 2006-07 is	11476/day.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c): i) The present Goods unloading capacity at Angamaly is less than half-rake. The work of augmentation of Goods unloading capacity to full rake is in progress and is targeted for completion by March 2009.

ii) Provision of a New Rail line between Angamaly and Sabarimala has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 517.17 crores in Works Programme 1997-98 and the work is in progress.

[xiv] ASSESSMENT OF CONDITION OF NHs

On 23 April, 2008 Shri Rakesh Singh , M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4209 to the Minister of Road Transport and Highways. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways are as given in Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways vide O.M. No. H-11016/7/2008-S&R(R) dated 29 March, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the above assurance is not likely to be fulfilled during the extended time granted to this Ministry, i.e. by 31.3.2010. The present status of the case as furnished by the implementing agencies i.e. NHAI and CRRRI is as under:-

(i) **NHAI:** The collection of information about the condition of the National Highways under National Highway Development Project are captured in Road Information System (RIS) of NHAI. RIS Software is an information management system. For updation of data base on 7800 Kms of completed stretches under National Highway Development Programme (NHDP), Expression of Interest for Automatic Data Collection and updation of Road Information System for NHDP Corridors was invited and received on 30.9.2009 for short listing purpose. The evaluation of EOI was done and 7 companies were shortlisted. The RFP has been prepared and submitted for approval. After approval of RFP financial bids will be invited from the shortlisted companies.

(ii) **CRR:** Progress till Feb. 28.2010 is as follow:

(a) Development of GIS based National Highways Information System software has been developed and the initial draft version has been demonstrated to the Ministry on Tuesday the 13th January, 2010. The system is under modification as per the suggestions made in the meeting.

(b) A total of 25,000 Km of Network Survey Vehicle Data (Primary) has been analysed and updated to the system (i.e. an addition 5,000 Km data during the month of February, 2010) distress analysis is completed for 10,000 Km of National Highways.

(c) Now the Network Survey Vehicle is in North-East region. Despite operational problems frequent break-down of Network Survey Vehicle (NSV) and conditions prevailing in the region only 500 Km. of data has been collected in the Month of February, 2010. Till date a total of 38,500 Km of NHs has been surveyed.

(d) Secondary data for about 4000 Km of National Highways has been completed during the month of February, 2010. So far about 15,400 Km of NHs has been covered.

Since data collection and updating the data base is a continuous process and considerable effort has already gone into it, it is requested that assurance may be considered as fulfilled."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4209

ANSWERED ON 23.4.2008

ASSESSMENT OF CONDITION OF NHs

4209. SHRI RAKESH SINGH

Will the Minister of Road Transport and Highways be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Union Government has conducted any survey through vehicles equipped with state- of-the-art technology to assess the condition of the National Highways in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the results of the said survey conducted in the country, State-wise, particularly in Madhya Pradesh; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for improving the condition of the National Highways?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) to (c) The Union Government through Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) had conducted a road inventory survey through instrumented vehicle including assessment of road condition on entire National Highways Network in the country, during 1984-87. Further, a research scheme for GIS based National Highway Information System has been sanctioned by the Ministry in the year 2005, which is being implemented through CRRI. Under this scheme, CRRI is collecting road inventory data including assessment of road condition using state-of-art technology with the help of network survey vehicle on National Highways network (excluding National Highways covered under NHDP Phase I & II). National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is also collecting data for the National Highways entrusted with NHAI. The collection of information about the condition of the National Highways is in progress. The details of the findings will be presented by CRRI while finalizing digitized GIS based National Highway Information System after collecting the complete information.

(d) The Development and improvement of National Highways is a continuous process and the works are taken up depending upon inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

[xv] WORLD HERITAGE STATUS TO KALKA-SHIMLA RAILWAY LINK

On 23 October, 2008 Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 875 to the Minister of Railways. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Railways within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Railways vide O.M. Nos. 2005/Heritage/Parl. dated 22 September, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following ground:-

“That the reply does not constitute to be an assurance.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Railways, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 875

ANSWERED ON 23.10.2008

WORLD HERITAGE STATUS TO KALKA-SHIMLA RAILWAY LINK

875. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:-

(a) whether United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has recognized Kalka-Shimla Railway as a world heritage and called it as a wonder of 19th century engineering;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are contemplating to start a rapid rail car or similar services to facilitate travel of foreign and domestic tourists from Delhi to Kalka and thereafter from Kalka to Shimla through linked rail services in minimum time;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. R. VELU)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A Rail Motor Service has already been introduced and this completes the journey in 4 hours and 05 minutes. In addition, the possibility of increasing the speed of trains is also being examined to reduce the journey time.

(d) Does not arise.

On 24 October, 2008 Sarvashri Tek Lal Mahto and S. Ajaya Kumar, M.Ps., addressed a Starred Question No. 104 to the Minister of Power. On 03 July, 2009 Sarvashri Nishikant Dubey and Kalikesh N. Singh Deo, M.Ps., addressed another Starred Question No.24 to the Minister of Power. The contents of the questions along with their replies of the Minister of Power (Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde) are as given in Annexures.

2. The replies to the questions were treated as assurances and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Power within three months of the date of the replies but the assurances are yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Power vide O.M. No.40/53/2008-RE dated 10 February, 2009 and O.M. No. 40/11/2009-RE dated 02 March, 2010 have requested to drop these assurances on the following grounds:-

“That the commencement of Phase-II of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) is subject to concurrence of Ministry of Finance (MOF) and Planning Commission and finally with the approval of Cabinet. The matter has been taken up with Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission. Both Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission are of the view that the targets of RGGVY-Phase I would be achieved only by 2012. Launch of Phase-II at the stage, while the targets of Phase I remain substantially unachieved, may not be advisable. The enhancement of the allocation for the RGGVY from the present allocation of Rs.28,000 Crore may be considered only after Phase-I of targets are achieved. MOF has advised that the Ministry of Power may, therefore, focus on early completion of the Phase-I targets. The position can be re-assessed at the time of the mid term appraisal of the 11th Plan, which in any case is to be undertaken shortly. In view of advice of Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission, it is not feasible to fulfill the assurances. Therefore, replies given for part (c&d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.24 dated 3 July, 2009 and reply given to supplementary raised by Shri Kalikesh N. Singh Deo and replies given for parts (f&g) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.104 dated 24 October, 2008 may not be treated as assurances.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Power have requested to drop the assurances.

5. In this connection, it is stated that request for dropping similar assurance given in reply to SQ 463 dated 25 April, 2008 regarding RGGVY was not acceded to by the Committee at their sitting held on 29 October, 2010.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF POWER

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 24

ANSWERED ON 03.07.2009

RGVY

24. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY

SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of villages electrified and those yet to be electrified under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGVY) in the country so far, State-wise;

(b) the allocation of funds made and utilized during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has received proposals from the State Governments under RGVY;

(d) if so, the details of the proposals sanctioned and those lying pending for approval of the Government, State-wise at present; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to speed up the electrification of villages in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF POWER(SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

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

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 24 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 03.07.2009 REGARDING RGGVY.

(a) : The state-wise details of electrification of villages are presented at Annexure-I.

(b) : There is no state-wise allocation of funds. However, the state-wise details of funds disbursed are presented at Annexure-II.

(c) & (d) : A total of 562 projects have been sanctioned during 10th Plan and Phase-I of 11th Plan as per details given in the Annexure-III. Any remaining projects can only be sanctioned under Phase-II of 11th Plan. The commencement of Phase-II of 11th Plan is yet to be decided by Govt. of India.

(e) : For effective implementation of RGGVY, the following steps have been taken:

i) A State level coordination committee headed by Chief Secretary of the State has been set up to review progress of RGGVY and resolve inter-departmental issues.

ii) States have been advised to set up district committees to monitor the progress of rural electrification works.

iii) The Government of India as also Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), the nodal agency for RGGVY, conduct frequent review meetings with all the stakeholders; the concerned State Governments, state power utilities and implementing agencies for expeditious implementation of the scheme on the agreed schedules.

iv) For speedier and effective implementation of projects, their execution has been taken up on turnkey basis. It has been proposed to compress the projects implementation schedule to 18 months for XI Plan projects.

v) To ensure qualitative execution of rural electrification works, a three tier quality control mechanism has been enforced under RGGVY.

vi) Grant amount of BPL connection has been enhanced to Rs.2200/- from Rs.1500/-.

vii) To take care of the cost escalation, cost norms for village electrification has been revised

upward as given below:

1.	Electrification of un-electrified village	Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
a	In normal terrain	13
b	In hilly, tribal, desert areas	18

ANNEX-I

ANNEX REFERRED TO IN PART (a) OF THE STATEMENT LAID IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 24 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 03.07.2009 REGARDING RGGVY.

State-wise number of villages where RE works have been completed under RGGVY

As on 16.06.2009

Sl. No.	State	Total un-electrified villages	Works completed	Balance no. of villages yet to be electrified
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2129	37	2092
3	Assam	8525	823	7702
4	Bihar	23211	16937	6274
5	Jharkhand	19737	7043	12694
6	Goa	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	0	0	0

8	Haryana	0	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	93	0	93
10	J&K	283	48	235
11	Karnataka	132	58	74
12	Kerala	0	0	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	806	84	722
14	Chhattisgarh	1132	50	1082
15	Maharashtra	6	0	6
16	Manipur	495	93	402
17	Meghalaya	1943	105	1838
18	Mizoram	137	0	137
19	Nagaland	105	0	105
20	Orissa	17895	1793	16102
21	Punjab	0	0	0
22	Rajasthan	4488	1923	2565
23	Sikkim	25	0	25
24	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
25	Tripura	160	0	160
26	Uttar Pradesh	30802	27673	3129
27	Uttaranchal	1469	1431	38
28	West Bengal	4573	3892	681
29	Delhi	0	0	0
	G.Total	118146*	61990	56156

* This is based on the coverage as per DPR. The figure is likely to undergo change during execution based on the field condition. Accordingly the balance villages (Column no. 5) yet to be electrified may also undergo change.

ANNEX-II

**ANNEX REFERRED TO IN PART (b) OF THE STATEMENT LAID IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 24
TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 03.07.2009 REGARDING RGGVY.**

State-wise and Year-wise Amount Disbursed under RGGVY

(in Rs. Crore)

As on 16.06.2009				
Sl. No.	Name of State	During 2006-07	During 2007-08	During 2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	94.35	265.44	76.08
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	179.83	95.22
3	Assam	39.21	64.99	514.15
4	Bihar	470.14	747.02	700.44
5	Chhattisgarh	36.19	50.91	113.89
6	Gujarat	13.36	17.93	52.66
7	Haryana	12.32	24.64	37.44
8	Himachal Pr.	7.48	0.00	80.00
9	Jharkhand	285.24	598.96	1001.71
10	J&K	19.59	29.82	182.80
11	Karnataka	87.36	324.91	68.46
12	Kerala	5.14	0.00	0.83
13	Madhya Pradesh	104.68	157.26	199.44
14	Maharashtra	10.02	16.60	140.61
15	Manipur	13.53	5.03	39.62
16	Meghalaya	0.00	19.94	12.24

17	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	78.76
18	Nagaland	4.23	5.57	59.84
19	Orissa	62.41	177.17	998.91
20	Punjab	0.00	0.00	57.37
21	Rajasthan	87.19	180.56	277.21
22	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	43.97
22	Tripura	0.00	0.00	24.45
23	Tamilnadu	0.00	100.77	17.72
24	Uttar Pradesh	1543.82	563.84	86.84
25	Uttarakhand	278.29	133.05	78.62
26	West Bengal	204.71	81.12	629.00

ANNEX-III

ANNEX REFERRED TO IN PARTS (c) & (d) OF THE STATEMENT LAID IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 24 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 03.07.2009 REGARDING RGGVY.

State-wise no. of projects sanctioned under RGGVY

Sr. No.	Name of State	Sanctioned during 10th Plan	Sanctioned during 11th Plan	Total No. of projects sanctioned
1	Andhra Pradesh	17	9	26
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2	14	16
3	Assam	3	20	23
4	Bihar	26	17	43
5	Chhattisgarh	3	11	14
6	Gujarat	3	22	25

7	Haryana	4	14	18
8	Himachal Pradesh	1	11	12
9	Jammu & Kashmir	3	11	14
10	Jharkhand	13	9	22
11	Karnataka	17	7	24
12	Kerala	1	0	1
13	Madhya Pradesh	8	24	32
14	Maharashtra	4	30	34
15	Manipur	2	2	4
16	Meghalaya	2	5	7
17	Mizoram	2	6	8
18	Nagaland	2	9	11
19	Orissa	4	27	31
20	Punjab	0	17	17
21	Rajasthan	25	16	41
22	Sikkim	2	2	4
23	Tamil Nadu	0	26	26
24	Tripura	1	3	4
25	Uttar Pradesh	64	0	64
26	Uttaranchal	13	0	13
27	West Bengal	13	15	28
TOTAL		235	327	562

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF POWER

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 104

ANSWERED ON 24.10.2008

RGGVY

104. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR

Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to have a social audit of the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) to ensure transparency in the implementation of the scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several States in the country are lagging behind in implementing the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to implement the scheme in an effective way;

(f) whether some of the States have demanded enhanced allocation of funds under the scheme; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon, State-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF POWER(SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) to (g) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.104 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 24.10.2008 REGARDING RGGVY.

(a) & (b) : The Ministry of Power has taken various steps, including the followings to introduce transparency and public involvement in the implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana(RGGVY):-

(i) The details of the villages covered and work done under RGGVY have been made available on the interactive website www.rggvy.gov.in. Public responses are received and attended to.

(ii) The State Governments are required to set up district committees pursuant to section 166(5) of the Electricity Act, 2003 to monitor the progress of rural electrification works. The district committees so constituted under the Chairmanship of the Chairperson of the Zila Panchayat/ District Planning Committee/Collector of the district should inter-alia have representation from various concerned district level agencies, consumer associations and other important stakeholders.

(iii) A certificate from the Gram Panchayat is required for certifying completion of the work under RGGVY.

(iv) The projects under the scheme are subjected to a 3-Tier Quality Monitoring Mechanism in the XI Plan.

(c) & (d) : The performance of RGGVY in some States has been lagging behind primarily because of the following reasons:

Delay in receipt of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).

Delay in finalization of BPL lists by some states.

Delay in forest clearance.

- # Delays in land acquisition for 33/11 KV sub-stations.
- # Limited number of good agencies available for execution of turnkey contracts.
- # Very high rates quoted by contracting agencies.
- # Shortage of material like poles etc. and high prices.
- # Delays in issuance of road permit and way bills by the States.
- # Delays by State Utilities in taking over physical assets created by Central Power Sector Undertakings (CPSUs).
- # Delays in issuance of Panchayat Certificates for village electrification.
- # Lack of awareness among villagers for taking new connections.
- # Very poor upstream rural electricity infrastructure in some states.
- # Delay or refusal to waive state and local taxes on line materials by some states.
- # Difficult terrain in some states and floods.

The State-wise and Year-wise physical and financial performance of RGGVY are at Annex-I and II respectively.

(e) : For effective implementation of RGGVY, the following steps have been taken:

- # Government of India has set up an inter-Ministerial Monitoring Committee which periodically meets to sanction projects and review progress of implementation.
- # States have been advised to set up district committees to monitor the progress of rural electrification works. Most of the states have notified formation of district committees.
- # The Government of India as also Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), the nodal agency for RGGVY, conduct frequent review meetings with all the stakeholders; the concerned State Governments, state power utilities and implementing agencies for expeditious implementation of the scheme on the agreed schedules.

For speedier and effective implementation of projects, their execution has been taken up on turnkey basis.

To ensure qualitative execution of rural electrification works, a three tier quality control mechanism has been enforced under RGGVY.

Grant amount of BPL connection has been enhanced to Rs.2200/- from Rs.1500/-.

To take care of the cost escalation, cost norms for village electrification have been revised upward.

National Workshop was organized in collaboration with IEEMA to ensure timely supply of materials.

Fund flow has been streamlined by use of e-transfer, to avoid package of funds.

Chief Ministers have been requested for expeditious implementation of the scheme.

Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of State Governments have been requested to constitute Coordination Committee under chairmanship of Chief Secretary to address state level issues for expeditious implementation of the scheme.

(f) & (g) : Government has provided Rs. 33,000 crore for RGGVY for X and Phase-I of XI Plan at this stage. This amount is sufficient to cover electrification of 558 projects covering 530 districts. Some States have reportedly prepared Supplementary Project Reports for intensive electrification of already electrified villages. Government can consider sanctioning such projects during Phase-II of XI Plan period which is yet to be approved.

25	Uttar Pradesh	7355	7503	21956	16620	4000	2862	1964	414	35275	27399
26	Uttarakhand	230	87	850	798	350	341	198	98	1628	1324
27	West Bengal	656	352	3240	2108	1500	724	769	329	6165	3513
	Total	10000	9819	40101	28706	15000	9301	21625	3114	86726	50940

ANNEX REFERRED TO IN PARTS (c) & (d) OF THE STATEMENT LAID IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 104 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 24.10.2008 REGARDING RGGVY.

State-wise and Year-wise Amount Disbursed under RGGVY

As on 01.10.08

Sr. No.	State	Amount Disbursed under RGGVY					Total (Rs. In crores)
		During 2004-05	During 2005-06	During 2006-07	During 2007-08	During 2008-09	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	9.12	94.35	265.44	24.64	393.55
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	2.25	0.00	179.84	0.00	182.09
3	Assam	0.00	1.80	39.23	64.99	27.58	133.60
4	Bihar	200.24	185.00	470.14	747.03	16.73	1619.14
5	Chhattisgarh	0.00	16.94	36.27	47.44	71.68	172.33
6	Gujarat	0.00	0.23	13.36	17.93	16.08	47.60
7	Haryana	0.00	0.74	12.33	24.66	0.00	37.73
8	Himachal Pr.	0.00	0.18	7.48		0.00	7.66
9	Jharkhand	0.00	4.94	285.24	598.96	200.48	1089.62
10	J&K	0.00	0.00	19.59	29.81	19.59	68.99
11	Karnataka	0.00	72.59	87.36	324.91	0.00	484.86
12	Kerala	0.00	15	5.12		0.84	20.96
13	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	2.02	104.66	156.19	0.00	262.87
14	Maharashtra	0.00	0.4	10.02	16.61	46.92	73.95
15	Manipur	0.00	0.00	13.53	5.05	13.53	32.11
16	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.93	9.59	29.52
17	Mizoram	0.00	0.64	0.00	0.00	78.75	79.39

18	Nagaland	0.00	0.27	4.23	5.57	0.00	10.07
19	Orissa	0.00	3.50	62.40	177.19	396.82	639.91
20	Punjab	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
21	Rajasthan	9.33	47.21	87.19	180.56	104.90	429.19
22	Tripura	0.00	1.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.08
23	Tamilnadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.77	0.00	100.77
24	Uttar Pradesh	639.96	172.64	1543.82	563.84	0.00	2920.26
25	Uttrakhand	0.00	63.04	278.28	133.04	30.64	505.00
26	West Bengal	114.49	0.93	204.76	81.10	102.72	504.00
27	Agency Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		964.02	603.52	3379.37	3740.86	1161.49	9849.15

[xvii] ELECTRONIC INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDER SERVICE

On 15 December, 2008 Shri S.K. Kharventhan, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2442 to the Minister of Communications and Information Technology. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of Communications and Information Technology are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.
3. The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology vide O.M. No. 6-2/2008-CF dated 5 February, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That expansion of money order service through IFS (International Financial System) is an ongoing process. Countries are gradually accepting IFS and have initiated contacts with each other to start the service. The service is based on bilateral agreements and entering into one is time consuming process. It involves negotiations which may, or may fail to result in a successful agreement. Relations between countries also play a role in this. Under such circumstances it may not be feasible to specify the time frame for expansion of the service.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2442

ANSWERED ON 15.12.2008

ELECTRONIC INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDER SERVICE

2442. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN

Will the Minister of Communications and Information Technology be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has launched Electronic International Money Order Service between India and United Arab Emirates;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith its features thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has proposed to expand the same with other countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI A. RAJA)

- (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Post has launched Electronic International Money Order Service from United Arab Emirates to India from 26th April 2008.
- (b) (I) The service has commenced in metro cities Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai, and in the state of Kerala.
(II) The remitter can send money orders to the address of beneficiary residing in metro cities Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai, and in the state of Kerala from Post Offices in United Arab Emirates.
- (III) The maximum limit of a single inward money order is fixed at US Dollar 2500/-. A maximum of 12 money orders may be sent in a calendar year to a payee.
- (c) A few proposals received are under active consideration.
- (d) The proposals received are at a conceptual stage and have not been finalized.

On 23 December, 2008 Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3571 to the Minister of Human Resource Development. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Human Resource Development vide O.M. Nos. H-11014/17/2008-CDN dated 19 March, 2009 and 19 March, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the figures projected in the aforesaid reply relate to the full period XIth Five Year Plan (XIth Five Year Plan period : 2007-2012) i.e. it is proposed to establish 300 new Polytechnic, 374 new Degree colleges and 20 new Indian Institute of Information Technologies during the XIth Five Year Plan period under the public-private partnership mode.

It may please be appreciated that any further feed back with reference in the achievements there against can only be furnished after the end of the XIth Five Year Plan period i.e. in 2012. It is, therefore, requested that the reply to the aforesaid Question may not be treated as an assurance.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Human Resource Development, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3571

ANSWERED ON 23.12.2008

PRIVATE PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

3571. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY

Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state:-

(a) whether there is any proposal/ plan to tap sources of finance, other than the Central Government and State Government funds, to set up new institutions and to expand the existing institutions in education, especially higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce comprehensive legislation to encourage private investment in the sector;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the time by which such legislation is likely to be finalised?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D.PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (e): The Central Government has decided to set up certain model schools at the Block level under public private partnership (PPP) mode during the XI Five Year Plan. It is also proposed to establish 300 new polytechnics, 374 new degree colleges and 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) during this plan period under PPP mode.

[xix] REVIVAL OF VISL

On 19 February, 2009 Shri Basudeb Acharia, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No.356 to the Ministry of Steel and on 9 July, 2009 Shri Basudeb Acharia, M.P., addressed another Unstarred Question No. 728 to the Minister of Steel. The contents of the questions along with their replies are as given in Annexure I and II

2. The replies to the questions were treated as assurances and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Steel within three months of the date of the replies but the assurance are yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Steel vide their O.M.No.3(5)/2009-SAIL-RS dated 12th May, 2010 and O.M.No.3(9)/2009-SAIL-RS dated 27th April, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the process for grant of mining leases has been started afresh by the Government of Karnataka. The decision to sanction the mining lease will be taken by the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India under Section 5(1) of the MM (D&R) Act, 1957 and under other relevant provisions of the Act and Mineral Concessions Rules, 1960. At the same time, the process is dependent also on the statutory clearances (as detailed in column no.4 of the enclosed Implementation Report) and will need to be given by the Central/State Governments before the leases are finally issued. It is not possible to indicate any firm time limit for final clearances of the issues by the State Govt./Central Govt. or other wise. Moreover, the matter now does not involve any such issue which requires a close scrutiny by the Committee on Govt. Assurances. In view of factual status mentioned above, it is requested that the enclosed implementation Report may be placed before the Committee on Government Assurances to get this assurance dropped.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of Steel, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF STEEL

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 356

ANSWERED ON 19.02.2009

REVIVAL OF VISL

356. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of Steel be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the operations in Kemmangundi Iron ore mines at Karnataka allocated to Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd. (VISL), have been suspended under the direction of the Ministry of Environment & Forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any permission has been sought from the Government for leasing of captive Iron ore mine at Karnataka in favour of VISL for its revival;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure availability of Iron ore from captive source to save the said Public Sector Undertaking?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The iron ore mine at Kemmangundi allotted to Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd (VISL) was in operation since inception in 1923. This mine, located in the proximity of Bhadra Wild Life Sanctuary, was closed in the year 2004 at the direction of Ministry of Environment & Forests.

(c)to(e): VISL had applied for allotment of mining lease in NEB range, Sandur Taluk, Bellary District (area 140 Ha) on 24.1.2007. Government of Karnataka had recommended to the Ministry of Mines, Government of India that the area be reserved for SAIL. Against the recommendation of the State Government, some of the applicants filed revision applications with Government of India. The final decision in the matter is awaited

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF STEEL

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 728

ANSWERED ON 09.07.2009

SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS BY VISL

728. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of Steel be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the operations in Kemmangundi iron ore mines at Karnataka allocated to Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd. (VISL) has been suspended under the direction of Ministry of Environment and Forests:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether VISL has sought permission from the Government for leasing of captive iron ore mine at Karnataka;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure availability of iron ore to this Public Sector Undertaking?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The iron ore mine at Kemmangundi allotted to Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISP) was in operation since its inception in 1923. This mine, located in the proximity of Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, was closed in the year 2004 on the directions of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(c)to(e): Yes, Sir. VISP had applied for the allotment of a mining lease (area 140 Ha) in NEB Range, Sandur Taluk, Bellary District on 24.1.2007. The Government of Karnataka had recommended to the Ministry of Mines, Government of India that the area be reserved for the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). Against the recommendation of the State Government, some of the applicants filed revision applications with the Ministry of Mines, Government of India. The final decision is awaited. The issue has been taken up with the Ministry of Mines for an early decision.

[xx] NEED TO RE-EXAMINE EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND PENSION SCHEME

On 26 February, 2009 Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, M.P., raised *inter-alia* the following matter through Calling Attention regarding 'Need to Re-examine Employees' Provident Fund Pension Scheme' to the Minister of Labour and Employment:-

"What about Government allocation."

2. In reply, the then Minister of State of the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri Oscar Fernandes) stated as follows:-

"Two committees are going into this matter and after we get their recommendations, we will be able to take a decision, I thank the Hon'ble Members for sharing their concern in this House. Thank you very much."

3. The reply to the Calling Attention was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

4. The Ministry of Labour and Employment vide O.M. No. H-11018/1/2009-SS.II dated 23 February, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"That there is a standing Sub-Committee, namely- Pension Implementation Committee under the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund. This Committee looks into the aspect of implementation of the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 and gives recommendations during its course of observing the implementation of the Scheme in all the eligible establishments. Ministry of Labour and Employment takes appropriate action on the recommendations in consultation with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation as and when the same are received. Recently, Ministry of Labour and Employment has not received any recommendations on the re-examining the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

Further, a Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Special Secretary (Labour & Employment) was constituted to review the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 entirely on 11.03.2008. This Sub-Committee deliberated upon all the aspects of the Scheme but could not make any recommendation except that an Expert Committee may be constituted for the purpose. Thereafter, on 12.06.2009 Ministry of Labour and Employment constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (Labour & Employment) comprising of actuaries, representatives of employees, employers and social and insurance sectors. Later on, after demitting the office by Special Secretary (L&E), Additional Secretary (Labour & Employment) was made Chairman of this Committee. Two meetings of this Expert Committee have been held. During the second meeting, after considering all the suggestions and inputs, it has been decided that there should be a valuation of the Scheme. Final recommendations of this Expert Committee are awaited.

It may be seen that Ministry is taking all the necessary steps for reviewing the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 urgently. But, some more time may be taken as after receiving the recommendations of the Expert Committee, these has to be examined and discussed with all the concerned before taking a final view.

The assurance is pending for quite some time and keeping in view the position stated above it may be seen that the exercise may take some more time. Committee on Government Assurances is, therefore, requested to consider deleting this assurance."

5. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of Labour and Employment, have requested to drop the above assurance.

[xxi] AMENDMENT IN PFRDA

On 3 July, 2009 Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 290 to the Minister of Finance. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Finance within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Finance vide O.M. No. 9(3)/2010-PR dated 24 June, 2010 and 6 July, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That to establish Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) as a statutory body, Government had introduced the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 2005 (PFRDA Bill) in Lok Sabha on the 21 March, 2005. The PFRDA Bill basically provided for establishing a statutory regulatory body to be called the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) which will undertake promotional, developmental and regulatory functions in respect of pension funds. The PFRDA Bill, 2005 was referred by the Speaker, Lok Sabha to the Standing Committee on Finance on the 24 March, 2005 for examination and report thereon.

The Standing Committee on Finance approved the PFRDA Bill, 2005 and made several recommendations, including recommendations to amend certain provisions of the PFRDA Bill, 2005 in its report submitted on 26 July, 2005. The Government accepted some recommendations fully, some partially. One recommendation to allow withdrawal from Tier-I account also, was not accepted. The Government decided to move official amendments to the PFRDA Bill, 2005, based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance and the official amendments were sent to Lok Sabha in January, 2009 with the request that amendments may be considered and adopted after the notice for consideration of the Bill is adopted. However, since the Bill and the amendments could not be considered by Lok Sabha, the Bill has lapsed on dissolution of the 14th Lok Sabha.

The query in Part (a) of the question was specific to "the ensuing Budget Session" i.e. the Budget Session of February-May, 2010, and reply by the Government indicated the intention of the Government to bring a legislation "without specifying any time frame or limit" in this regard. It may kindly be appreciated that the prerogative to bring a legislation, or not to do so, rests with the Government. Government has not taken a decision to re-introduced the PFRDA Bill in the Parliament. However, as indicated in the following Paras, Government has already taken steps to promote old age income security by establishing, developing and regulating pension funds.

Pending the passage of the Bill, PFRDA has created the institutional arrangement of NPS Trust, Central Record Keeping and Accounting Agency, Pension Fund Managers, Trustee Bank and Custodian. 28 State Governments and Union Territories have adopted the NPS for their employees and are in the process of plugging into the NPS institutional architecture. Autonomous institutions are also mandated to adopt the NPS and join the NPS institutional architecture. NPS has been launched for all citizens of the country including un-organised sector workers, on voluntary basis, with effect from 1st May, 2009.

As the Government of India is deeply concerned about the old age income security of the working poor and is focused on encouraging and enabling them to join the NPS, the following announcements have been made by the Government in the Budget 2010-11:-

'To encourage the people from the un-organised sector to voluntarily save for their retirement and to lower the cost of operations of the New Pension Scheme (NPS) for such subscribers, Government will contribute Rs. 1000 per year to each NPS account opened in the year 2010-11. This initiative, "Swavalamban" will be available for persons who join NPS, with a minimum contribution of Rs. 1000 and a maximum contribution of Rs. 12000 per annum during the financial year 2010-11. The scheme will be available for another three years. Accordingly, I am making an allocation of Rs. 100 crore for the year 2010-11. It will benefit about 10 lakh NPS subscribers of the un-organised sector. The scheme will be managed by the interim Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority. I also appeal to the State Governments to contribute a similar amount to the scheme and participate in providing social security to the vulnerable sections of the society.'

To implement the above announcements and the Swavalamban Scheme, PFRDA has since finalized the Operational Guidelines. A Roadmap for implementation of the Swavalamban Scheme has been drawn indicating the definite time-lines for achieving milestones towards its implementation.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State (Finance), have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 290

ANSWERED ON 03.7.2009

AMENDMENT IN PFRDA

290. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring a legislation for amending Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA) during the ensuing Budget Session; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed legislation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) The Government proposes to bring a legislation to establish a statutory to promote old age income security by establishing, developing and regulating pension funds.

(b) The legislation would, *inter alia*, propose to establish a statutory Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and empower it (i) to regulate the New Pension System and other pension schemes not covered under any other Act; (ii) to register and regulate pension funds and the central record keeping agency; and (iii) to levy monetary penalties for violations of various provisions of the PFRDA Act.

[xxii] RAIL MUSEUM IN SHIMLA

On 16 July, 2009 Sarvashri Anurag Singh Thakur and Virender Kashyap, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1649 to the Minister of Railways. The contents of the question along with the reply of the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Shri K.H. Muniyappa) are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Railways within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Railways vide O.M. No. 2005/Heritage/Parl. dated 23 September, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the reply as given by this Ministry to the above question does not constitute to be an assurance. It was stated in the reply that the plan is under finalization and the work is being expedited. This action is already being taken.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Railways, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1649

ANSWERED ON 16.7.2009

RAIL MUSEUM IN SHIMLA

1649. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the railways propose to set up a rail museum in Shimla; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the facts in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) : Yes, Madam.

(b) : The work was sanctioned at the total cost of Rs. 47.68 lac in the year 2004-05. The plan is under finalization and the work is being expedited.

[xxiii] ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATIONS

On 29 July, 2009 Dr. P. Venugopal, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3471 to the Minister of Health and Family Welfare. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare vide O.M. No. H-11012/01/2009-EPW dated 16 December, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the proposal for establishment of a Medi Park is in conceptual stage. At this stage, it is not feasible to fulfill the assurance. Accordingly, this Ministry proposes to request the Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha to drop the above mentioned assurance. Hence, as per the standing instructions of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, it is requested that the proposal may please be placed before the Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha for dropping the above cited assurance.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister for Health and Family Welfare, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3471
ANSWERED ON 29.7.2009

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATIONS

3471. DR. P. VENUGOPAL

Will the Minister of Health and Family Welfare be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to establish Medical Services Corporations for procurement of medicines and other medical accessories for distribution to all the Medical Institutions in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

- (a) Yes.
- (b) A Cabinet Note has been prepared in this regard. It has been circulated to the other Ministries/Departments for their comments and inputs.
- (c) Does not arise.

[xxiv] REVIVAL OF NTC MILLS

On 19 November, 2009 S/Shri Vitthalbhai Hansrajbhai Radadiya and Mansukhbhai D. Vasava, M.Ps., addressed a Starred Question No. 3 to the Minister of Textiles. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of Textiles are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Textiles within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Textiles vide O.M. No. 1/6/2009-NTC dated 24 May, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That it may be stated that vide their order dated 16.12.2009 BIFR has approved extension of implementation period of the sanctioned scheme upto 31.03.2011. Action for obtaining requisite approval of the Cabinet is in progress. However, this may take some time and it may not be possible to fulfill the assurance shortly. Since BIFR approval for extension of the implementation period upto 31.03.2011 has already been received.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Textiles, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 3

ANSWERED ON 11.11.2009

REVIVAL OF NTC MILLS

- *3. Shri Vitthalbhai Hansrajbhai Radadiya
Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava

Will the Minister of Textiles be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the revival plan for the National Textile Corporation (NTC) as approved by the Board of Industrial and Financial Restructuring (BIFR) has since been implemented;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons, if any, for the delay in the implementation of the revival plan; and
- (d) the further action proposed in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 3 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.11.2009

(a) & (b): The scheme for revival of National Textile corporation Ltd. (NTC) was approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in the year 2002, and modified in the years 2006 and 2008. The scheme is currently under implementation. The present status of implementation of the scheme is given in the Annexure.

(c) & (d): The Revival Scheme is self-financing and mainly depends on generation of resources through sale of surplus land of NTC, as envisaged in the scheme. Sale of surplus land requires permission from various State Governments. Implementation of the scheme has been delayed mainly due to delay in receipt of such permissions and partly due to delay in getting formal approval under the Industrial Disputes Act for closure of unviable mills, retirement of workers in these mills under the Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) etc. The recent recession in real estate market has also adversely affected the sale of land, thus delaying the implementation schedule. Proposal for extension of the implementation period is in process for seeking approval of Government/BIFR.

On 20 November, 2009 Sarvashri Ravindra Kumar Pandey, Sudarshan Bhagat and Yashbant N.S. Laguri, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 400 to the Minister of Finance. The contents of the question along with its reply are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Finance within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Finance vide O.M. No. H-11016/19/2009-ED dated 15 February, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That in part (a) and (b) of the reply, it was stated that “the seized material/documents are being further investigated”. The said reply has been treated as an assurance. In this regard, it may be mentioned that the documents/materials seized by Income Tax Department are examined in depth and spot search enquiry is often conducted to gather corroborative evidences. Thereafter, the assessing officer initiates the assessment proceedings u/s 153A and 153C of Income Tax Act, during the course of which all the material gathered is examined and confronted to the assessee and a reasonable opportunity being heard is given as per the principle of Natural Justice. As per Section 153B of Income Tax Act, the assessment has to be completed within a period of two years from the end of the Financial Year in which the search was concluded. Thereafter, the assessments are subject matter of appellate proceedings before Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeal), Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, High Court and Supreme Court. In view of the above facts, the final outcome of the investigation conducted and the utilization of seized materials/documents is likely to take considerable amount of time which may run into years.

In part (c) and (d) of the reply, it was stated that "suitable action as per Law would be taken against those found guilty". The said reply has been treated as an assurance. In this regard, it may be mentioned, in continuation with the facts stated in the preceding para, that appropriate penalty proceedings under Income Tax Act and prosecution proceedings under Income Tax Act/IPC etc. are initiated in suitable cases. These proceedings are usually initiated once the assessments are completed and additional income brought to tax is confirmed by the first appellate authority i.e. Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeal). Keeping in view the fact that completion of assessment and disposal of first appeal may take considerable amount of time running into years, it would be appreciated that initiation of penalty/prosecution or any other suitable proceeding/action can taken place only after considerable period of time."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Finance (Revenue), have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 400
ANSWERED ON 20.11.2009
INCOME TAX RAIDS

400. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT

SHRI YASHBANT NARAYAN SINGH LAGURI

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate and the Department of Income Tax have conducted raids in various States of the country recently and confiscated incriminating documents and seized property worth crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether cases related to Hawala transaction and acquisition of properties disproportionate to the known sources of income have come to light at the time of Income Tax raids during the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 till date; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guilty persons?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) & (b): The Income Tax Department, assisted by the Enforcement Directorate, has conducted searches and seizure operation recently in various States of the country. Various lockers, bank accounts and premises are under prohibitory orders as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The seized documents/ materials are being further investigated.

(c) & (d): The search actions in some cases, prime-facie, indicate Hawala transactions and that the properties are more than the income earned. Search and Seizure action, as per the Income Tax Act, 1961, are a continuous and ongoing process based on information in the possession of the Income Tax Department. The evidences gathered during search and seizure actions are used in assessment or re-assessment proceedings of the relevant persons, as per Income Tax Act, which becomes final when assessments before the Assessing Officer and appeals before CIT (Appeals), ITAT, High Courts or Supreme Court are completed. Suitable action as per Law would be taken against those found guilty.

[xxvi] SCRAPPAGE SCHEME FOR VEHICLE OWNERS

On 26 November, 2009 S/Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi, B.B. Patil and Eknath M. Gaikwad, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1267 to the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises vide O.M. No. 9(13)/2009-AEI dated 4 February, 2010 and 19 May, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the matter has been considered in the Department and it is viewed that the issue of modernization of vehicle fleet pertains to wider policy area of end of life policy for vehicles. At present, India does not have any end of life policy for automobiles. This issue is very complex and has linkages to other issues like impact of old vehicles on the environment, road safety, regulations and laws relating to these areas which is covered under CMVR, financial implications, infrastructural issues and implications for the automobile manufacturing industry. This being very complex involves matters pertaining to a number of Ministries. Therefore, this Ministry had constituted a group consisting of representative from different Ministries and also with the option to co-opt members from the Industry and testing agencies for undertaking a preliminary study of the issue involved and to go into various facets of the entire matter. This is, therefore, a routine administrative, preliminary, ongoing process that needs to be followed and in itself

will not culminate into any final view, or any particular scheme being announced immediately. The inputs from the group will constitute the basis for further deliberations on this matter for decision by the Government, at a later stage, in this regard. In fact, it is felt that this process will be a long drawn out process as it involves substantial matters of policy relating to different important areas and diverse stakeholders. In view of this, it was decided with the approval of Minister (HI&PE) that the reply given to the Lok Sabha Question No. 1267 dated 26.11.2009 may not be treated as assurance to the House.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1267
ANSWERED ON 19.5.2010
SCRAPPAGE SCHEME FOR VEHICLE OWNERS

1267. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI
SHRI B.B. PATIL
SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD

Will the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) has requested the Union Government to introduce Scrappage Scheme for all types of vehicle owners on the lines of European countries;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the response of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV)

(a) to (c): The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) has submitted a proposal for modernization of vehicle fleet with a view to give impetus to growth of the automotive sector and to bring down the environmental pollution, improve road safety etc. The scheme is aimed at providing incentive to the vehicle owners on purchase of new vehicle. The matter has been considered in the Department and a group of officers under the chairmanship of Director (Auto), Department of Heavy Industry associating NATRIP and the Ministry of Finance has been constituted to discuss threadbare the need and scope of having an incentive based scheme for replacement of old vehicles specifically in the Indian context and suggest specific contours for such a scheme.

[xxvii] IMPLICATIONS OF INTRODUCTION OF GST

On 12 March, 2010 Shri Tathagata Satpathy, Shri Amarnath Pradhan, Shri Bhoopendra Singh, Shri Sarvey Sathyanarayana, Dr. Vinay Kumar Pandey 'Vinnu', Shri Ponnam Prabhakar, M.Ps, addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2681 to the Minister of Finance. The contents of the question along with its reply are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) vide their letter No.30011/6/2010-SO(ST) dated 19 May, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"That the reply to part (b and (c) of the question was given indicating the position at that point of time. The Central Government has sent its comments on this Discussion Paper to the EC on 1st January, 2010. A Joint Working Group of officers of Central Government, State Governments and Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has been constituted to prepare draft of the Constitutional amendments, Central GST legislation, model State GST legislation and related rules. Finance Minister in his budget Speech for 2010-11 has indicated that it will be his endeavour to introduce GST from 1st April, 2011. It may please be appreciated that reply to parts (b) and (c) is factual and complete. The finalization of GST involves consultation with States which is a long drawn process. If these replies are considered as assurances, it would be infeasible to fulfill within a short time. It is therefore, requested that this may kindly not be treated as assurance and may be dropped."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State (Revenue), have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 2681

ANSWERED ON 12.03.2010

IMPLICATIONS OF INTRODUCTION OF GST

2681. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:-

- (a) the date by which the Goods and Service Tax (GST) would come into effect;
- (b) whether the Government has studied the implications of post-GST;
- (c) if so, the complete details thereof; and
- (d) the report so far prepared by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S, PALANIMANICKAM)

(a): It shall be the endeavour of the Government of India to persuade the State Governments and the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers to reach a consensus to that the GST can be introduced with effect from 01-04-2011.

(b) & (c): The decision of Goods and Services Tax (GST) is still under finalization. The implications can be assessed only after the basic design is finalized.

(d): Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers(EC) has prepared and released the First Discussion paper on `Goods and Services Tax in India in November 2009. The Central Government has sent its comments on this Discussion Paper to the EC on 1-01-2010. A Joint Working Group of officers of Central Government, State Governments and Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has been constituted to prepare draft of the Constitutional amendments, Central GST legislation, model State GST legislation and related rules.

[xxviii] IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECT TAXES CODE AND GST

On 16 April, 2010 S/Shri Manish Tewari, Shivarama Gouda and Hansraj G. Ahir, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3512 to the Minister of Finance. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Finance within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Finance vide O.M. No. H-11016/17/2010-TC dated 8 July, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the reply to part (d) to (f) of the question had been given indicating the position at that point of time. The Central Government has sent its comments on this Discussion Paper to the EC on 1st January, 2010. A Joint Working Group of officers of Central Government, State Governments and Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has been constituted to prepare draft of the Constitutional amendments, Central GST legislation, model State GST legislation and related rules. Finance Minister in his budget speech for 2010-11 has indicated that it will be his endeavour to introduce GST from 1st April, 2011.

It may please be appreciated that reply to parts (d) to (f) is factual and complete. The finalization of GST involves consultation with States which is a long drawn process. If these replies are considered as assurance, it would not be feasible to fulfill them within a short time. It is, therefore, requested that this may kindly be treated as fulfilled and may be dropped in the light of developments stated above.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State (Revenue), have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3512

ANSWERED ON 16.4.2010

IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECT TAXES CODE AND GST

3512. SHRI MANISH TEWARI
SHRI SHIVARAMA GOUDA
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:-

- (a) the status of consultations on the Direct Taxes Code (DTC) Bill 2009;
- (b) the time by which the government proposes to introduce the said Bill in the House;
- (c) whether the Government is committed to bringing the DTC into force on the 1st day of April, 2011;
- (d) if so, the details about the status of implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST);
- (e) whether the Government has a new deadline in mind for the introduction of DTC and GST;and
- (f) if so, the reasons for delay in implementing the DTC and GST?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) to (c) : The draft Direct Taxes Code was released on 12th August, 2009 for public discussion. The process of consultation with different stake holders has been completed. A number of suggestions have been received from members of the public which are being examined. After analyzing these inputs, the Government proposes to introduce the final version in Parliament so as to be in a position to implement the Direct Tax Code from 1st April, 2011.

(d) to (f) : Implementation of the Direct Taxes Code and the Goods & Service Tax are not directly connected. On the Goods and Services Tax side, the focus has been on generating a wide consensus especially with State Governments, on its design. The first Discussion Paper on Goods and Services Tax has been released by the Empowered Committee of the State Finance Ministers (EC) on 10th November, 2009. Empowered Committee (EC) has taken up re-examination of the GST model with a view to suitably incorporate changes suggested by Government of India. EC has constituted three Sub Working Groups (SWGs) consisting of the officials from State Government as well as from Union Government to work out details like treatment of interstate trade, place of supply rules for charging of service tax, when States also start getting a share, and list of exempted Goods and services etc. These SWGs have submitted their reports which are under consideration of the Empowered Committee at present. The Ministry of Finance is engaged with the Empowered Committee to finalise the structure of GST as well as the modalities of its expeditious implementation. It is the Government's earnest endeavour to introduce GST in April 2011. (d) The Development and improvement of National Highways is a continuous process and works are taken up depending upon inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

Appendix-II
(vide Para 4 of the Report)

MINUTES
TWENTY THIRD SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2009-2010) held on 6 August, 2010 in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1530 hours to 1630 hours on Friday, 6 August, 2010.

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi

Members

2. Shri Anandrao Adsul
3. Shri M. Raja Mohan Reddy
4. Shri Manohar Tirkey
5. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav

Secretariat

1. Shri P. Sreedharan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri R.S. Kambo - Director
3. Shri D.S. Malha - Additional Director
4. Shrimati Veena Kumari - Deputy Secretary

Ministry of Textiles

1. Smt. Rita Menon, Secretary (Textiles)
2. Shri A. Bhattacharya, Secretary, NJB
3. Shri V. Srinivas, Joint Secretary (Parl.)
4. Shri Sujit Gulati, Joint Secretary (Jute & NTC)
5. Shri S.S. Gupta, Joint Secretary & DC (Handicrafts)
6. Shri K.R. Pillai, CMD (NTC)
7. Shri Rohit Bhardwaj, JD (H)
8. Shri R.N. Choubey, DC (Handlooms)
9. Shri R.K. Pathak, Deputy Jute Commissioner

At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members and apprised them briefly about the agenda for the sitting.

2. Thereafter, the Committee considered requests for dropping of assurances. After in depth deliberations, of all such cases, the Committee were convinced with the reasoning adduced by the Ministry and decided to drop 23 assurances as per details given *vide* Annexure-I. The Committee also decided to retain 28 assurances, which are to be pursued further, as per details given in Annexure-II.

3. The representatives of the Ministry of Textiles were then called in.

4. The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of the Ministry and apprised them the agenda of the day.

5. The Committee then proceeded with the oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry in connection with the pending assurances.

6. The Committee reviewed all the pending assurances relating to the Ministry of Textiles. The Committee sought certain clarifications which were replied to by the representatives of the Ministry.

7. A verbatim record of the sitting has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

Annexure-I**Details of Assurances Dropped by the Committee on Government Assurances at their sitting held on 06.08.2010.**

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question No. /Discussion & Date	Ministry/ Department	Brief Subject
1	2	3	4	5
1.	106	(i) USQ No. 8438 dt. 2.6.1995 (ii) USQ No. 742 dt. 4.8.1995	Finance	Sodhani Committee
2.	111	Special Mention by Shri Mohan Rawale, MP dt. 17.8.2001	Communications & Information Technology	Irregularities in University Exams.
3.	116	(i) USQ No. 1502 dt. 2.12.2005 (ii) SQ No. 507 dt. 19.5.2006 (iii) USQ No. 3563 dt. 27.4.2007	Finance	Migration of EET System
4.	118	USQ No. 4634 dt. 23.12.2005	Law & Justice	Creation of Second Chamber
5.	119	USQ No. 957 dt. 1.8.2006	Textiles	National Jute Policy
6.	120	USQ No. 1622 dt. 7.8.2006	Environment and Forests	Bifurcation of Services
7.	121	USQ No. 4410 dt. 8.5.2007	Textiles	Modernisation of NTC Mills

8.	122	USQ No. 5674 dt. 16.5.2007	Shipping, Road Transport & Highways	Coverion of Four-Lane to Eight-Lane Highways
9.	127	USQ No. 4237 dt. 23.4.2008	External Affairs	Highways Connecting India, Myanmar and Thailand
10.	130	(i) USQ No. 1387 dt. 29.10.2008 (ii) USQ No. 1516 dt. 29.10.2008	Environment and Forests	Afforestation of degraded non-forest land
11.	132	SQ No. 242 dt.16.12.2008 (Supply by Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, MP)	Home Affairs	Measures to check Naxal activities
12.	133	USQ No. 3079 dt.18.12.2008	Railways	Surat-Hazira Railway Line
13.	137	SQ No. 141 dt.26.2.2009 Supply by Shri Choudhary Lal Singh, MP	Railways	Encroachment on Railway Land
14.	139	USQ No. 1184 dt. 13.7.2009	Labour and Employment	Amendment in Central Labour Laws
15.	140	USQ No. 1491 dt. 15.7.2009	Water Resources	Indira Lift Irrigation Project in Rajasthan
16.	141	SQ No. 189 dt. 16.7.2009	Railways	New Rail Coach Factory
17.	143	USQ No. 2525 dt. 22.7.2009	Department of Atomic Energy	Generation of Atomic Power
18.	145	USQ No. 4712 dt. 7.8.2009	Power	Tipaimukh Hydro Electric Project
19.	147	USQ No. 49 dt. 19.11.2009	Railways	Railway Safety Review Committee

20.	150	USQ No. 2204 dt. 2.12.2009	External Affairs	Visit of Prime Minister to USA
21.	151	SQ No. 237 dt. 4.12.2009	Finance	Goods and Services Tax
22.	152	USQ No. 4220 dt.16.12.2009	Human Resource Development	Corruption Charges against AICTE Officials
23.	153	USQ No. 161 dt.19.11.2009	Petroleum and Natural Gas	Increase in Strategic Petroleum Reserves

Annexure-II

Details of Assurances to be pursued further by the Committee on Government Assurances at their sitting held on 06.08.2010.

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question/ Discussion Reference	Ministry/ Department	Brief Subject	Observations of the Committee
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	105	(i) USQ No. 1291 dt. 16.11.1987 (ii) USQ No. 3747 dt. 7.12.1988 (iii) SQ No. 188 dt. 8.3.1989 (iv) USQ No. 4735 dt. 5.5.1995	Labour & Employment	Amendment to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948	It is an important social legislation, for protecting the interest of workers. The process of consultation be expedited and amendment carried out at the earliest.
2.	107	USQ No. 3669 dt. 15.4.1999	Defence	Operation Leech conducted in Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Matter relates to apprehending foreigners with arms, ammunition & equipment & is under investigation by CBI. Assurance be pursued further so as to bring to its logical conclusion.

3.	108	SQ No. 441 dt. 25.8.2000 (Supply by Shri K. Yerrannaidu, MP	Finance	Cooperative Credit System	Non-availability of documents, is no ground, for dropping an assurance. The documents be located and assurance implemented at the earliest.
4.	109	USQ No. 198 dt. 22.2.2001	Law & Justice	Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri	Chief Justice Calcutta High Court yet to confirm the infrastructural facilities created by the State Government. As such the matter be pursued with the State Government.
5.	110	USQ No. 1569 dt. 7.3.2001	External Affairs	Foreign Tours by Ministers	The remaining information may be collected.
6.	112	USQ No. 397 dt. 4.12.2003	Railways	Illegal Occupation of Waiting Rooms	Forceful occupation of waiting halls/retiring rooms, by GRP and others, is a serious matter. May be pursued further.
7.	113	(i) USQ No. 3017 dt. 22.3.2005 (ii) USQ No. 2820 dt. 22.8.2006	Home Affairs	Funds collected for Calamity Relief	The matter may be pursued with the Ministry of Law & Justice for drafting amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill.
8.	114	USQ No. 5600 dt. 2.5.2005	Labour & Employment	EPF Facilities to Workers of Small Companies	Amendment to a Welfare legislation i.e. EPF Act, 1952 be expedited.

9.	115	USQ No. 7173 dt. 13.5.2005	Finance	Cases against Custom & Excise Officers	Corruption by Government servants, is matter of concern. The pending two cases against Custom & Excise officers be resolved at the earliest.
10.	117	USQ No. 4037 dt. 20.12.2005	Home Affairs	Complaints against Call Centres	Stealing of data by Call Centres employees is a serious matter and should be handled sternly. The assurance be implemented expeditiously.
11.	123	(i) USQ No. 1574 dt. 23.8.2007 (ii) SQ No. 260 dt. 30.8.2007 (iii) USQ No. 68 dt. 15.11.2007 (iv) USQ No. 854 dt. 22.11.2007	Civil Aviation	Permission to Private Airlines to Fly Abroad	Keeping in view the revised position as stated by the Ministry in the status note furnished on the relevant Questions on 21 August, 2010, the Committee decided not to drop the assurances.
12.	124	(i) USQ No. 492 dt. 28.2.2008 (ii) USQ No. 563 dt. 28.2.2008 (iii) USQ No. 888 dt. 23.10.2008	Civil Aviation	Construction of Domestic and International Airpots	The matter may be taken up with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

13.	125	USQ No. 3149 dt. 20.3.2008	Railways	Development of Angamaly Railway Station	Land acquisition problems in Angamali-Sabarimala new line project, diverse representations of local people, acute constraint of resources etc., be resolved at the earliest and assurance implemented.
14.	126	USQ No. 4209 dt. 23.4.2008	Road Transport & Highways	Assessment of Condition of NHs	Important matter. The assurance may be implemented at the earliest.
15.	128	USQ No. 875 dt. 23.10.2008	Railways	World heritage status to Kalka- Shimla Railway link	Contention of Ministry is not acceptable. It is only the prerogative of the Committee to decide as to which reply constitute an assurance or otherwise.
16.	129	(i)SQ No. 104 dt. 24.10.2008 (ii) SQ No. 24 dt. 3.7.2009	Power	RGGVY	Electrification of Rural Households needs impetus. It is an important matter of public importance. May be pursued further.
17.	131	USQ No. 2442 dt. 15.12.2008	Communicati ons and Information Technology	Electronic International Money Order Service	Expansion of Electronic International Money Order Service needs careful consideration. May be pursued further.
18.	134	USQ No. 3571 dt. 23.12.2008	Human Resource Development	Private Participation in Higher Education	The Committee be apprised of the progress made of promoting education under PPP mode. May be pursued further.

19.	135	(i) USQ No. 356 dt. 19.2.2009 (ii) USQ No. 728 dt. 9.7.2009	Steel	Revival of VISL	The process for grant of mining leases has been started afresh by the Government of Karnataka. As such the matter may be pursued with the State Government.
20.	136	Calling Attention dt. 26.2.2009 by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, MP	Labour and Employment	Need to re-examine Employees' Provident Fund Pension Scheme	It is a welfare legislation. The review of the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 be expedited.
21.	138	USQ No. 290 dt. 3.7.2009	Finance	Amendment in PFRDA	Reforms in management of pensions is utmost required for social security. May be pursued further.
22.	142	USQ No. 1649 dt.16.7.2009	Railways	Rail Museum in Shimla	The plan is under finalization and the work is being expedited. The action is already being taken. The Committee, therefore, desire to be apprised of the present status of the assurance.
23.	144	USQ No. 3471 dt. 29.7.2009	Health & Family Welfare	Establishment of Medical Services Corporations	As Cabinet note has been prepared and circulated amongst various stake holders, the issue needs to be given a concrete shape at the earliest.
24.	146	SQ No. 3 dt. 19.11.2009	Textiles	Revival of NTC Mills	Action for obtaining requisite approval of the Cabinet is in progress, as such it may be brought to its logical conclusion.

25.	148	USQ No. 400 dt. 20.11.2009	Finance	Income Tax Raids	Completion of assessment and disposal of first appeal may take considerable time running into years. Hence, initiation of penalty/prosecution or any other suitable proceedings/action may be expedited.
26.	149	USQ No. 1267 dt.26.11.2009	Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	Scrappage Scheme for Vehicle Owners	Important matter. May be pursued.
27.	154	USQ No. 2681 dt.12.3.2010	Finance	Implications of Introduction of GST	A joint working group of officers of Central Government, State Government and Empowered Committee constituted to prepare draft for Constitutional amendment. The matter may be finalized at the earliest.
28.	155	USQ No. 3512 dt.16.4.2010	Finance	Implementation of Direct Taxes Code and GST	The finalization of GST involves consultation with States which is a long drawn process. Hence, steps be taken to finalise the GST.

MINUTES

TWENTYFIFTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2009-2010) held on 25 August, 2010 in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1600 hours on Wednesday 25 August, 2010.

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi

Members

2. Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar
3. Shri Bishnu Pada Ray
4. Rajkumari Ratna Singh
5. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav

Secretariat

1. Shri P. Sreedharan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri R.S. Kambo - Director
3. Shri D.S. Malha - Additional Director
4. Smt. Veena Kumari - Deputy Secretary

Ministry of Civil Aviation

1. Shri M. Madhavan Nambiar, Secretary
2. Shri V.P. Agrawal, Chairman, AAI
3. Shri R.K. Tyagi, CMD, PHHL
4. Shri S. Raheja, Member (P), AAI
5. Shri E.K. Bharat Bhushan, Addl. Secretary & FA
6. Shri Prashant Sukul, Joint Secretary
7. Shri Alok Sinha, Joint Secretary
8. Shri Rohit Nandan, Joint Secretary
9. Shri Prashant Kumar, Chief Commissioner (RS)
10. Shri J.K. Bhoukiyal, ED, AAI
11. Shri Alok Shekhar, Director
12. Shri Syed Nasir Ali, Director
13. Shri L. Raja Sekhar Reddy, Director
14. Smt. Pragya Richa Srivastava, Director
15. Shri M.C. Kishore, ED & Company Secretary, AAI
16. Shri R.P. Sahi, Jt. DGCA
17. Shri Lalit Gupta, Director, DGCA
18. Shri Vijay Pal, ED, NACIL
19. Shri M.L. Sharma, Chief Manager, NACIL

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee considered the following draft reports:-

- (i) 8th Report regarding review of pending assurances pertaining to Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- (ii) 9th Report regarding requests for dropping of assurances (acceded to).

- (iii) 10th Report regarding requests for dropping of assurances (not acceded to).
- (iv) 11th Report regarding review of pending assurances pertaining to Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development).

2. The Committee adopted draft 8th & draft 11th Reports without any changes. While considering the draft 9th report, the Committee observed that they had agreed to drop the assurances arising out of (i) USQ No. 1574 dated 23.8.2007, (ii) SQ No. 260 dated 30.8.2007, (iii) USQ No. 68 dated 15.11.2007 & (iv) USQ No. 854 dated 22.11.2007 as contained in the Memorandum No. 123 based on the request made by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, at their sitting held on 06 August, 2010. Keeping in view the revised position as stated by the Ministry in the status note furnished on the relevant Questions on 21 August, 2010, the Committee decided not to drop the assurances. They decided to modify the draft reports, accordingly, and adopted draft 9th & 10th reports with this change.

3. Thereafter, the Committee resumed the oral evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Civil Aviation in connection with the pending assurances. The Committee sought certain clarifications on pending assurances (Sl. No. 47 to 56) which were replied to by the representatives of the Ministry. The Committee decided to review the remaining pending assurances on a later date.

4. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.