

**COMMITTEE
ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2009-2010)
(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)
SEVENTH REPORT**

REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF ASSURANCES

Presented to Lok Sabha on 5 May, 2010



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

May, 2010 /Vaisakha, 1932 (Saka)

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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. Eexutive 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 Seventh Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2009-2010) at their sitting held on 7 April, 2010 considered Memorandum Nos. 52 to 104 containing requests received from the Ministries/Departments for dropping of pending assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 04 May, 2010, the Committee (2009-2010) considered and adopted their Seventh Report.

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

NEW DELHI;

04 May, 2010

Vaisakha 14, 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:-

| SQ/USQ No. & Date | Ministry | Subject in Brief |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| USQ No. 3393 dt. 30.7.1992 | Tribal Affairs | Funds to Voluntary Organisations |
| (i) SQ No. 597 dt. 16.5.1997 & (ii) USQ No. 2721 dt. 23.7.2009 | Law & Justice | Amendments in Article 324 of Constitution & Voting Percentage |
| USQ No. 4960 dt. 26.4.2000 | Culture | Recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission |
| SQ No. 6 dt. 21.7.2003 | Culture | Theft of Antiques |
| USQ No. 1325 dt. 10.12.2003 | Human Resource Development | Cash Incentives to Poor Children |
| (i) USQ No. 3312 dt. 19.8.2004 (ii) USQ No. 7007 dt. 12.5.2005 | Information & Broadcasting | Publication of Foreign News Paper Publication of International Herald Tribune |
| USQ No. 2899 dt. 11.8.2005 | Defence | Public-Private Partnership in Defence Production |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| USQ No. 3949 dt. 23.8.2005 | Home Affairs | Recommendations of Past Committee |
| USQ No. 453 dt. 25.11.2005 | Law & Justice | Law Commission Report |
| SQ No. 2 dt. 17.2.2006 | Law & Justice | State Funding of Elections |
| USQ No. 327 dt. 26.7.2006 | Shipping | Revival of Ailing Hindustan Shipyard Corporation Limited |
| USQ No. 996 dt. 28.11.2006 | Tribal Affairs | New Policy for STs |
| USQ No. 5296 dt. 14.5.2007 | Labour and Employment | Workers' Bank |
| USQ No.2879 dt. 5.12.2007 | Overseas Indian affairs. | Demand of Indian workers abroad. |
| USQ No. 3671 dt. 17.4.2008 | Culture | MC Gupta Committee on Delhi Public Library |
| USQ No. 150 dt. 17.10.2008 | Law & Justice | Survey on corruption in judiciary |
| USQ No. 607 dt. 21.10.2008 | Commerce & Industry | CEPA with Sri Lanka Delegation |
| USQ No. 1262 dt. 27.10.2008 | Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution | Recommendation of Wadhwa Committee |
| SQ No. 348 dt. 23.12.2008 | Home Affairs | Integrated Check Posts |
| USQ No. 137 dt. 17.2.2009 | Home Affairs | Guwahati Bomb Blast |
| USQ No. 578 dt. 24.2.2009 | Human Resource Development | Madarsas |
| USQ No. 787 dt. 25.2.2009 | Finance | FEMA by RIL |
| SQ No. 41 dt. 7.7.2009 | Home Affairs | Measures to check Naxalism |
| USQ No. 505 dt. 7.7.2009 | Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution | Functioning of FCI |
| USQ No. 536 dt. 8.7.2009 | Environment & Forests | Development of Biosphere Reserves |
| USQ No. 1078 dt. 13.7.2009 | Defence | Procurement of Combat Aircraft |
| USQ No.1220 dt. 13.7.2009 | Defence | Military and Sainik Schools |
| USQ No.1742 16.7.2009 | Civil Aviation | Development of Jharsuguda airport. |
| USQ No.2653 dt. 23.7.2009 | Corporate affairs | Monitoring Committee for vanishing companies |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| USQ No.390 dt. 20.11.2009 | Finance | Implementation of TINXSYS |
| USQ No.3306 dt. 28.7.2009 | Consumer Affairs Food & Public Distribution | Corruption in FPS |
| USQ No.4818 dt. 7.8.2009 | Finance | Investigation on oil for food programme |
| USQ No. 924 dt. 25.11.2009 | Coal | Allotment of coal blocks to Shahpura thermal power project. |
| USQ No. 2350 dt. 3.12.2009 | Law & Justice | Appointment of judges |
| USQ No. 3017 dt. 18.12.2008 | Railways | Train Protection Warning System |
| USQ No. 1842 dt. 4.8.2005 | Civil Aviation | I.A. to join Global Airline |

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;

MANEKA GANDHI
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

04 May, 2010

Vaisakha 14, 1932 (Saka)

[i] FUNDS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

On 30 July, 1992, S/Shri Karia Munda, Birsingh Mahato, Lalit Oraon, Ram Tahal Choudhary, Lal Babu Rai and Satyagopal Mishra, MPs, addressed the following Unstarred Question No.3393 to the Minister of Welfare:-

- (a) The voluntary organisations getting financial assistance along with the amount received by each organisation during 1991-92, 1992-93, and proposed for State/Union Territory-wise;
- (b) Whether cases of misutilisation of funds by these organizations have come to the notice of the Government; and
- (c) If so, the details with the action taken thereon?

2. In reply, the then Minister of Welfare (Shri Sitaram Kesri) stated as follows:-

- (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
- (b) & (c) Cases of misutilisation of funds have been received in respect of the following 6 organisations:
 - (1) Rashtriya Shoshit Parishad, New Delhi.
 - (2) Vinayak Education Society, New Delhi.
 - (3) H.P. State Council for Child Welfare.
 - (4) All India Association for Social Welfare of the Downtrodden, Delhi.
 - (5) Regional Integrated Rural Development Authority, Imphal and
 - (6) Abhinav Theatre & Research Institute, Lucknow.

While the Centre at Imphal has been closed, grants in respect of other organizations have been stopped. Steps for taking penal action against these organizations is in progress.

3. The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Welfare by 29 October, 1992. However the assurance is yet to be fulfilled. The Ministry have sought extension of time upto 6 December, 2003 only for implementing the assurance.

4. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (erstwhile Ministry of Welfare) *vide* their O.M.No.F.NO. 38-28/92-Cdn dated 8 June, 2009 requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds: -

“that the Assurance pertains to the year 1992. Sincere efforts were made to locate the concerned files for information. However, due to unavailability of those files, the required information for fulfilling the Assurance could not be collected.”

5. In the meantime the assurance was transferred from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *vide* their O.M. No. 22042/35/2007-NGO/PC&V dated 24 December, 2009 have also requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That an assurance was given by the then Ministry of Welfare that steps for taking penal action against the organizations was in progress. Since the matter related to the year 1991-92 and 1992-93, prior to Ministry of Tribal Affairs came into existence, this Ministry is neither in possession of any records pertaining to those organizations listed in the reply to the Unstarred Question nor any other information.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has transferred this assurance to this Ministry after lapse of 16 years without any record. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is thus not in a position to fulfill the above said assurance. Further, the issue raised in the question is not a public importance matter.”

6. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has not sought extension of time beyond 6 December, 2003 to fulfill the assurance. The Ministry has stated that the assurance under reference be dropped. The note has the approval of Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

[ii] AMENDMENTS IN ARTICLE 324 OF CONSTITUTION & VOTING PERCENTAGE

The replies to the Questions (Given at Annexure I & II) were treated as assurances and required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Law and Justice within three months of the date of the replies. However, the assurances are yet to be fulfilled.

2. The Ministry of Law and Justice vide O.M No. 8(29)/97-Leg-II dated 2 February, 2010 have requested for dropping the assurances on the following grounds:

“That the subject of Electoral Reforms was referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances Law & Justice for examination and report by the Hon’ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 27.9.2004 which *inter alia* includes the instant proposal under reference in the aforesaid Question.

In this regard, it may be submitted that under Rule 41(2)(xxii) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, a question shall not ordinarily be asked for information on matters which are under consideration of a Parliamentary Committee. The matter covered in the question is before that Hon’ble Parliamentary Committee considering proposals for Electoral Reforms; therefore, the present question is squarely covered under the said rule.”

3. Accordingly, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of Law and Justice, have requested to drop the assurances.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 597

ANSWERED ON 16.05.1997

AMENDMENTS IN ARTICLE 324 OF CONSTITUTION

*597. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Election Commission has suggested to amend the Article 324 of the Constitution to provide the same immunity and protection to the Election Commissioners in the matter of their removability from office as available to the Chief Election Commissioner;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Election Commission in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government have considered the suggestion; and
- (d) if so, by what time a decision is likely to be taken?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE
DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP)

(a) Yes Sir;

(b): The Election Commission has, among others, made the proposal that the method of appointment and the constitutional protection after appointment should be the same for the Chief Election Commissioner and the other Election Commissioners.

(c) to (d): The matter is under consideration of the Government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2721

ANSWERED ON 23.07.2009

VOTING PERCENTAGE

2721. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA

SHRI PRABODH PANDA

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the voting percentage has not increased substantially and in many States of the country the voting percentage is very low in the general elections particularly in the last general election;

(b) if so, the details of the voting percentage in the last general election, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring a comprehensive electoral reforms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) and (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d): The process of reform of electoral laws is a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties. Over the years, the electoral laws of the country have been strengthened by taking new need-based measures and as also by removing the loopholes in the existing laws. Therefore, it is not possible to give details in this regard. The 21 proposals on electoral reforms are presently under examination of Hon`ble Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice. In respect of which the report is awaited.

**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the LOKSABHA
Unstarred Question No. 2721 for the 23* July 2009**

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING VOTING PERCENTAGES SINCE THE
FIRST GENERAL ELECTIONS TO THE LOK SABHA**

| Year | Total Electorate | Total no. of votes | Percentage of |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1951-1952 | 173,212,343 | 105,950,083 | 44.87% |
| 1957 | 193,652,179 | 120,513,915 | 45-44% |
| 1962 | 216,361,569 | 119,904,284 | 55.42% |
| 1967 | 250,207,401 | 152,724,611 | 61.04% |
| 1971 | 274,189,132 | 151,336,302 | 55.27% |
| 1977 | 321,174,327 | 194,263,915 | 60.49% |
| 1980 | 356,205,329 | 202,752,893 | 56.92% |
| 1984 | 379,540,608 | 241,246,387 | 63.56% |
| 1989 | 498,906,129 | 309,50,495 | 61.95% |
| 1991 | 498,363,801 | 282,700,942 | 56.73% |
| 1996 | 592,572,288 | 343,308,090 | 57.94% |
| 1998 | 605,880,192 | 375,441,739 | 61.97% |
| 1999 | 619,536,847 | 371,679,104 | 59.99% |
| 2004 | 671,487,930 | 389,948,330 | 58.07% |
| 2009 | 716,676,081 | 417,158,644 | 58.21% |

GENERAL ELECTION TO LOK SABHA, 2009 (STATE-WISE VOTER URNOUT)

| STATE/UNION TERRITORIES | TOTAL NO. OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES | TOTAL VOTES POLLED | TOTAL ELECTORS | POLL PERCENTAGE |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 42 | 42046920 | 57897654 | 72.62 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 2 | 500642 | 735799 | 68.04 |
| Assam | 14 | 12141171 | 17470161 | 69.5 |
| Bihar | 40 | 24232597 | 54491790 | 44.47 |
| Goa | 2 | 564255 | 1020794 | 55.28 |
| Gujarat | 26 | 17472865 | 36484290 | 47.89 |
| Haryana | 10 | 8156553 | 12087697 | 67.48 |
| Hirnachal Pradesh | 4 | 2690290 | 4606674 | 58.4 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 6 | 2607335 | 6573118 | 39.67 |
| Karnataka | 28 | 24572713 | 41526941 | 59.17 |
| Kerala | 20 | 16034875 | 21865458 | 73.33 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 29 | 19484608 | 38082678 | 51.16 |
| Maharashtra | 48 | 36991261 | 72928907 | 50.72 |
| Manipur | 2 | 1339399 | 1735979 | 77.16 |
| Meghalaya | 2 | 822566 | 1277739 | 64.38 |
| Mizoram | 1 | 325991 | 629384 | 51.8 |
| Nagaland | 1 | 1189601 | 1321878 | 89.99 |
| Orissa | 21 | 17761984 | 27194864 | 65.31 |
| Punjab | 13 | 11829304 | 16958378 | 69.75 |
| Rajasthan | 25 | 17931593 | 37060003 | 48.39 |
| Sikkim | 1 | 251751 | 300584 | 83.75 |
| Tamil Nadu | 39 | 30390968 | 41642466 | 72.98 |
| Tripura | 2 | 1758501 | 2082265 | 84.45 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 80 | 55407107 | 116033151 | 47.75 |
| West Bengal | 42 | 42730548 | 52486980 | 81.41 |
| Chhattisgarh | 11 | 8554843 | 15472137 | 55.29 |
| iharkhand | 14 | 9135818 | 17875221 | 51.11 |
| Uttarakhand | 5 | 3140045 | 5887628 | 53.33 |
| A & N Islands | 1 | 170103 | 265110 | 64.16 |
| Chandigarh | 1 | 343557 | 524444 | 65.51 |
| Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 1 | 110363 | 154212 | 71.57 |
| Daman & Diu | 1 | 68024 | 95382 | 71.32 |
| NCT of Delhi | 7 | 5753047 | 11097892 | 51.84 |
| Lakshadweep | 1 | 39498 | 45983 | 85.9 |
| Puducherry | 1 | 607948 | 762440 | 79.74 |

[iii] RECOMMENDATIONS OF FIFTH PAY COMMISSION

On 26 April, 2000 Shri Trilochan Kanungo, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4960 to the Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. The contents of the question along with the reply of the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Smt. Vasundhara Raje) 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 Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions within three months of the date of the reply and Meanwhile the assurance was transferred to the Ministry of Culture but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Culture vide O.M. No. 12-28/2003-Lib dated 27 January, 2010 & 12 February, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the assurance given in brief is that the Ministry of Culture being the nodal Department is processing various recommendations of the V CPC in regard to the Library staff. As Task Force which has been constituted for the purpose will have to examine the various categorization criteria, staffing pattern and other related matters regarding Government libraries. The financial implications involved would also be worked out. It may be seen from above that the task to be performed for fulfilling the above assurance which relates to development and welfare of the librarians in the Government Sector will take a considerable time and a time frame cannot be put on it. This fact has been indicated in reply to part (c) and (d) of the Question. The demands of the Central Government Librarians’ Association as indicated in part (e) of the Question also relate to the staffing pattern and pay scales of Library staff on the recommendation of the V CPC, and are already under examination by the Task Force, as stated above.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4960

ANSWERED ON 26.4.2000

RECOMMENDATIONS OF FIFTH PAY COMMISSION

4960. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission have made some recommendations for library staff working in Government of India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for not implementing the said recommendations till date;
- (d) the time frame worked out for early implementation of the recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission;
- (e) whether the Government have received any demands from the Central Government Librarians Association; and
- (f) if so, the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission regarding Library Staff working in Government of India are contained in chapter 55 (para 55.155 to 55.180) Vol.II of the Fifth Central Pay Commission`s report.

(c) & (d): Recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission are under consideration of the Department of Culture which is the nodal agency for processing various recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission in regard to the Library staff in consultation with Ministry of Finance and other concerned Ministries. Therefore, it may not be possible to indicate time frame for taking a final decision thereon.

(e): Yes, Sir.

(f): The demands submitted by Government of India Library Association (GILA) are under consideration of the Government.

[iv] THEFT OF ANTIQUES

On 21 July, 2003 Shri Radha Mohan Singh and Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya, M.Ps., addressed a Starred Question No. 6 to the Minister of Tourism and Culture. The contents of the question along with the reply of the then Minister of Tourism and Culture (Shri Jagmohan) 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 Culture within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Culture vide O.M. No. 3-11/2003-M-1 dated 20 January, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the assurance involves investigations of CBI and Police. Investigations are going on and the same are a lengthy process. Also it may not yield any conclusive result. Besides, even when any conclusion is reached, it may take even more time to get the accused punished under law. Hence the assurance can not be fulfilled in a given time frame and the same is required to be dropped.

A brief note in regard the steps taken to implement the pending assurances and reasons for delay in the implementation of the assurances are enclosed.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 6

ANSWERED ON 21.7.2003

THEFT OF ANTIQUES

*6. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA

Will the Minister of Tourism and Culture be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether a number of cases of theft/smuggling of antique items from National Museum and other places in the country have been reported recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to prevent theft/smuggling of religious statues and other artefacts; and
- (d) if so, the details of the said scheme ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Recently the theft of a pistol from National Museum, New Delhi has been reported and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has reported recent thefts of 4 items from the protected monuments/sites, as given in the Annexure - I to this statement. In all these cases First Information Reports (FIRs) have been lodged with the Police authorities for investigation. Recently, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has also registered two cases relating to theft/smuggling of antique items as per Annexure - II. Besides, various state governments also take action in cases of thefts/smuggling in their respective states.

(c) & (d) In the museums and monuments administered by the government, adequate security measures by way of deployment of security personnel and installing security equipment are provided. The Government has enacted the `Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972` with a view to prevent the smuggling of antiquities and art objects. As per the provisions of this Act, export of antiquities is prohibited. Any export in violation of this Act is an offence for which assistance of Interpol can be obtained. Only the Central Government or an authority or an agency authorised by the Central government may temporarily export any antiquity or art treasure and such export shall be made in accordance with the terms and conditions of a `Temporary Export Permit` issued for the purpose by the Director General, ASI.

Further, under the United Nations `Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit export, Import and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property` assistance of UNESCO can be sought for restitution of the smuggled cultural property of the Nation. India is a signatory to this convention.

Appendix- I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART(b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 6 FOR 21.07.2003 BY SRHI RADHA MOHAN SINGH AND DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA REGARDING `THEFT OF ANTIQUES`

| Sl.No. | Description of Objects | Name of Monuments & Location | Date of Theft | Status |
|--------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|--------|
|--------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|--------|

| | | | | |
|----|--|---|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Three Stone sculptures | Kadambarkoil Narthamalai Distt. Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu | 27.01.2003 | FIR lodged. Under investigation |
| 2. | Stone Sculpture | Temples of Akona, Distt. Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh | 02.02.2003 | FIR lodged. Under investigation |
| 3. | i) Head of female ii) Icon of Jain Tirthankar Mahavir | Sculpture shed Gyarpur, Distt. Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh | 02.03.2003 | FIR lodged. Under investigation |
| 4. | Small stone sculpture of Nandi | Sri Kapoteswara Swamy temple, Guntur Distt. Andhra Pradesh | 11/12.03.03 | FIR lodged. Under investigation |

Appendix- II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART(b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 6 FOR 21.07.2003 BY SRHI RADHA MOHAN SINGH AND DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA REGARDING `THEFT OF ANTIQUES`

| Sl.No. | Description of Objects and crime | Location | Date of Registration of Case | Status |
|--------|---|-----------|------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Attempt to export 12 Terracotta pitchers of terracotta from IGI Airport, Delhi to Zurich, Switzerland | New Delhi | 30.01.2003 | Accused persons arrested under active investigation |
| 2. | Stocking of 12 stone idols and cases dating back to 10 th and 14 th Century A.D. in a godown at Mahipalpur, Delhi | New Delhi | 30.01.2003 | Accused persons arrested under active investigation |

On 10 December, 2003 Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1325 to the Minister of Human Resource Development. The contents of the question along with the reply of the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Dr. Sanjay Paswan) 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. No. 2-1/2009-EE.I dated 16 March, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That in reply to the question it was mentioned that Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have reported that they are not giving cash incentives. It was further stated that the information in respect of remaining States was being collected.

Accordingly, the State/UT Governments concerned were requested to furnish the information to enable the Ministry to fulfil the assurance. Information was received from most of the States/UTs and a part-implementation report in fulfillment of the assurance containing information received from the States/UTs Governments has already been sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on 7th September, 2009.

In spite of periodical reminder sent to the defaulting States of Haryana, Bihar and Manipur, including from senior level, the information is not forthcoming from these States.

In light of the fact that Part-Implementation Report in fulfillment of the assurance has already been sent Lok Sabha Secretariat, the Committee on Government Assurance is requested to kindly consider dropping the assurance.”

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

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1325

ANSWERED ON 10.12.2003

CASH INCENTIVES TO POOR CHILDREN

1325. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY

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

(a) whether certain States have given cash incentives to poor children for the universalisation of primary education;

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

(c) the cost involved and the success achieved therefrom?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN)

(a) to (c) : Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have reported that they are not giving cash incentives. Information in respect of remaining States is being collected.

[vi] PUBLICATION OF FOREIGN NEWS PAPERS/ PUBLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL
HERALD TRIBUNE

On 19 August 2004 S/Shri Adhir Chowdhury, Iqbal Ahmed Sardagi, Sita Ram Yadav, M.Ps. and on 12 May 2005 and on 12 May, 2005 Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh M.P. addressed Unstarred Question Nos. 3312 & 7007 respectively to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. The contents of the Questions alongwith their replies, which were treated as assurances, are as given in Annexure I and II.

2. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide O.M No. 9/34/2009-MUC(iii) dated 20 January, 2010 have requested for dropping the assurances on the following grounds:

“That the fulfillment of the assurance given in the above question is dependent on the amendment to the Press & Registration of Books [PRB] Act, 1867.

This Ministry is making serious efforts to finalize the amendments to the said Act. The matter was also discussed in the State Information Ministers’ Conference [SIMCON]. The draft amendments will also be sent to Ministry of Law for vetting and their views. After finalization of discussions, the amendments would be placed on the web-site for stakeholders’ comments and comments of other Ministries, public etc. Thereafter the note would be prepared for the approval of the Parliament/Cabinet. Hence it would be difficult to fulfill the instant assurance within a specific time-frame. Keeping in view the progress made in the fulfillment of the assurance and also the fact that the amendment to an Act necessarily takes a lot of time due to consultations involved with various stakeholders, the Committee on Government Assurances is requested to drop the instant assurance pending since long.”

3. Accordingly, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting have requested to drop the assurances.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3312

ANSWERED ON 19.08.2004

PUBLICATION OF FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS

3312. SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

SHRI IQBAL AHMAD SARADGI

SHRI SITA RAM YADAV

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

(a) the details of the foreign newspapers and other publications have been allowed to operate in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to relax norms for the foreign newspaper groups who want to print from India;

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

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to amend the Press and Registration Act for giving legal sanctity to the Cabinet Resolution of 1955;

(e) whether the Government has also decided to come out with a law to strengthen guidelines for FDI in Print Media; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a): The requisite details are given in the Appendix.

(b) & (c): No, Sir.

(d) to (f): The Government is contemplating legislation in the matter.

Appendix

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3312 FOR REPLY ON 19th AUGUST 2004

LIST OF CASES APPROVED BY THIS MINISTRY

I Indian edition of foreign scientific/technical/speciality magazines/journals/ periodicals

| S.N. | NAME OF THE APPLICANT COMPANY, | NAME OF MAGAZINE, | DATE OF APPROVAL LETTER |
|-------------|--|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. | M/s. Living Media India Limited | Golf Digest | 22nd January 2003 |
| 2. | M/s. Living Media India Limited | Scientific American | 3rd February 2003 |
| 3. | M/s. Living Media India Limited | Cosmopolitan | 4th July 2003 |
| 4. | M/s. Living Media India Limited | Readers` Digest | 15th September 2003 |
| 5. | M/s. Exposure Media Marketing Private Limited | Par Golf | 15th October 2003 |
| 6. | M/s. Prism Books Private Limited | The Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy | 19th February 2004 |
| 7. | M/s. Prism Books Private Limited | Human Reproduction | 19th February 2004 |
| 8. | M/s. Prism Books Private Limited | Journal of Dermatological Treatment | 19th February 2004 |
| 9. | M/s. Exposure Media Marketing | ASIASPA | 19th February 2004 |

Private Limited

| | | | |
|-----|---|---|------------------|
| 10. | M/s. Living Media India Limited | Good Housekeeping | 16th April 2004 |
| 11. | M/s. Prism Books Private Limited | Blood Pressure | 16th July 2004 |
| 12. | M/s. Prism Books Private Limited | Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology | 20th July 2004 |
| 13. | M/s. Prism Books Private Limited | Hematology | 20th July 2004 |
| 14. | M/s. Prism Books Private Limited | International Journal of Psychiatry in Clinical Practice | 20th July 2004 |
| 15. | M/s. Prism Books Private Limited | UroOncology | 29th July 2004 |
| 16. | M/s. Prism Books Private Limited | Aids Abstracts | 17th August 2004 |
| 17. | M/s. Quintessence Science Communications Private Limited | Quintessence International | 17th August 2004 |

II Foreign Investment in Indian entities publishing scientific/technical/speciality magazines/journals/periodicals

| S.N. | NAME OF THE APPLICANT COMPANY, | NAME OF MAGAZINE, | DATE OF APPROVAL LETTER |
|------|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited | Better Photography | 7th April 2003 |
| 2. | M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited | Search | 3rd June 2003 |
| 3. | M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited | Overdrive | 3rd June 2003 |
| 4. | M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited | Auto Monitor | 3rd June 2003 |
| 5. | M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited | Overdrive Grandprix | 3rd June 2003 |
| 6. | M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited | AV Max | 7th May 2003 |
| 7. | M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited | Khana Pina | 20th November 2003 |
| 8. | M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited | Yellow Line Office Guide | 20th November 2003 |
| 9. | M/s. Sorabjee Automotive Communications Private Limited | Autocar India | 19th February 2004 |
| 10. | M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited | Photo Imaging | 19th February 2004 |
| 11. | M/s. Sage Publications India Limited | Insage | 1st March 2004 |
| 12. | M/s. TBW Publishing & Media Private Limited | Intelligent Computing Chip | 1st March 2004 |

13 M/s Banyan Netfaqs Pvt Ltd. The Brand Reporter 1st March 2004

III. Foreign Direct Investment in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing in news and current affairs

S.N. NAME OF APPLICANT COMPANY PUBLICATION DATE OF APPROVAL LETTER

1. M/s. HT Media Limited News and Current Affairs publications. 3 December 2003

2. M/s. Business Standard Limited News and Current Affairs publications. 9th March 2004,

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 7007

ANSWERED ON 12.05.2005

PUBLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

7007. SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH

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

- (a) whether the Government has banned the publication of International Herald Tribune in India;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is aware that despite the ban, it is being published in India;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has taken any action in the matter;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (e): The extant print media policy of the Government prohibits publication of any foreign newspapers or newsmagazines in India. In pursuance of this policy, no foreign newspapers or newsmagazines have been permitted to be published. However, this Ministry, in June 2004, on learning about the publication of an Indian edition of the `International Herald Tribune` from Hyderabad, by M/s Midram Publications Pvt Ltd, wrote to M/s Midram Publications to stop publication of the same, and to International Herald Tribune, Hong Kong and New York, to stop supply of material/contents for publication of the International Herald Tribune from Hyderabad as it violates the extant print media policy of the Government.

The Government is examining the options of strengthening its policy, through suitable legislative measures. For this purpose, a Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted.

[vii] PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN DEFENCE PRODUCTION

On 11 August, 2005 Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2899 to the Minister of Defence. 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 Defence within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry of Defence has sought extension of time upto 10.8.2010, to fulfill the assurance.

3. The Ministry of Defence vide O.M. No. 4(19)/2005/D(S-III) dated 12 March, 2010 have now requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That for part (C) & (D) of the question, it was replied that the recommendation made by the Vijay Kelkar Committee in part I of its Report are under examination of the Government. This was treated as an assurance by Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Thereafter, the extension was sought for fulfillment of the above assurance from time to time, the request for extension of time was last sought for six months upto 10th August, 2010 vide MoD letter of even No. dated 28.01.2010.

The recommendations made by the Kelkar Committee on integration of Users are not yet in public domain. Further, the Report has not been shared either with Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence or with either Houses of Parliament in response to Parliament Questions.

Now, it has been decided with the approval of Raksha Rajya Mantri to drop the assurance of the above Parliamentary Question. Committee on Government Assurance, Lok Sabha is accordingly requested to kindly drop the above assurance please.”

4. 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. 2899

ANSWERED ON 11.8.2005

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN DEFENCE PRODUCTION

2899. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has any plan to increase public-private partnership in defence production;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) whether the recommendations made by the Vijay Kelkar Committee on integration of users have been implemented by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE)

(a) & (b): Government is generally supportive of increasing public-private partnership in defence production, although there is no structured plan in this regard.

(c) & (d): The recommendations made by the Vijay Kelkar Committee in Part I of its Report are under examination of the Government.

[viii] RECOMMENDATIONS OF PAST COMMITTEE

On 23 August, 2005 Sarvashri Anandrao V. Adsul, and Ravi Prakash Verma, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3949 to the Minister of Home Affairs. The contents of the question along with the reply of the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal) are as given in Annexure-I.

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. 11016/7/2005-PM.II dated 3 December, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the Review Committee set up by Ministry of Home Affairs short-listed 49 recommendations from out of the recommendations of the previous Commission/Committees on Police Reforms as being crucial to the process of transforming the police into a professionally competent and service oriented organisation. These 49 recommendations mainly pertain to:

- (i) Improving professional standards of performance in urban as well rural police stations,
- (ii) Emphasizing the internal security role of the police,
- (iii) Addressing the problems of recruitment, training, career progression and service conditions of police personnel,
- (iv) Tackling complaints against the police with regard to non-registration of crime, arrests, etc. and
- (v) Insulating police machinery from extraneous influences.

The report of the Review Committee was sent to all State Governments/UT Administrations to initiate action on the recommendations concerning them on regular basis. The implementation of these recommendations in the States were reviewed twice with the Chief Secretaries and DGPs of all the States by the Union Home Secretary in September 2005 and February 2006. The Committee of Secretaries under the Cabinet Secretary also reviewed the progress of implementation of these

recommendations on 20.9.2005, 28.9.2005 and 17.2.2006 and also suggested milestones to be achieved in a time bound manner, on the recommendation now by Review Committee. The minutes of these meetings have also been sent to Ministry of Law including respective divisions of Ministry of Home Affairs for follow up action. The matter was reviewed by Union Home Secretary with the Chief Secretaries/HSs/DGPs of all States and UTs on 16th September 2005 and on 14th February 2006. The matter was again reviewed by Union Home Secretary in DGsP/IGsP Conference held during October, 2007 with DGsP/Home Secretaries of the States/UTs towards implementation of the 49 recommendations made by the Review Committee.

Lok Sabha Secretariat has treated only that part of the reply of recommendations of Review Committee which concerns Central Government as assurance. As the implementation of these recommendations concerned several divisions of MHA and the Ministry of Law, the entire process involved a detailed exercise and regular update is being called and the progress is updated.

The status position that has emerged in respect of various recommendations concerning Central Government is given at Annexure-II. It may please be seen that implementation of these recommendations are either complete or at various states of implementation including some sub-judice. Since implementation of these recommendations under Police reforms is an ongoing process, it is difficult to indicate any time frame for implementation of these reform measures. In the circumstances, it is requested that Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha may consider for deletion of the said assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State (R) 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. 3949

ANSWERED ON 23.8.2005

RECOMMENDATIONS OF PAST COMMITTEE

3949. SHRI ANANDRAO V. ADSUL

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA

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

- (a) whether the Government had constituted a committee to review the implementation of the recommendations of all the past committee constituted for improving the country`s policing system;
- (b) whether the said committee has given its report to the Government;
- (c) if so, the recommendations made by the said review committee; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir.

(c) & (d): The Committee has identified 49 actionable recommendations of earlier Commissions/Committees, which have been sent to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for their taking necessary action in the matter as the majority of recommendations concern them. In so far as the recommendations concerning the Central Government are concerned administrative, financial and legal implications of those are under examination.

[ix] LAW COMMISSION REPORT

On 25 November, 2005 Shri Virchandra Paswan, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 453 to the Minister of Law and Justice. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice (Shri K. Venkatapathy) 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 Ministry of Law and Justice vide O.M. No. 3(12)/2009-IC dated 16 November, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the aforesaid assurance is related to the action by the Government on the reports submitted by the 17th Law Commission of India.

The 17th Law Commission, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice M. Jagannadha Rao, has submitted 16 Reports during 2003-2006 on various subjects.

The aforementioned Reports of the Law Commission are pending for implementation with the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Justice, Department of Financial Services, Legislative Department and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests with regard to 186th Report regarding ‘Proposal to Constitute Environment Courts’, has informed that a Bill for establishment of the National Green Tribunal Bill, 2009 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 31.07.2009. The Department of Financial Services has implemented the 190th Report regarding ‘The Revision of the Insurance Act, 1938 and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999’ and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has rejected the recommendations made in the 196th Report regarding ‘Medical Treatment to Terminally Ill Patients (Protection of Patients and Medical Practitioners)’. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has forwarded copies of 201st Report regarding ‘Medical Treatment after Accident and during Emergency Medical Condition and Women in Labour, to the accident victims/women under labour by a hospital/medical

practitioner. The States have also been requested to develop appropriate sustainable strategy to meet the fund requirements. With regard to remaining Reports, the concerned Ministries/Departments have intimated that the subject matter of the reports relates to the Concurrence List of the 7th Schedule to the Constitution of India and as such views of the State Governments have to be ascertained for implementation of the Reports. In view of the position explained above the assurances given in reference to aforesaid questions can be fulfilled only on the receipt of the comments from State Governments and for which no time limit can be fixed. This Department, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice has been laying annually a Statement on the pending Law Commission reports in the Parliament since 2005. The said statement contains the steps taken by the concerned Ministries/Departments for implementation of the Reports. The 5th Annual Statement is being laid in the Parliament during the ensuing Winter Session. This is an ongoing process whereby the statues of Law Commission Reports are laid before the Parliament. The aforesaid assurances if dropped from the list of pending assurances even then the Parliament will continue to know their current status of implementation through Annual Statement. It is therefore, requested that the aforesaid facts may be placed before the Committee of the Government Assurances for Dropping the said two assurances from the list of pending implementation.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 453

ANSWERED ON 25.11.2005

LAW COMMISSION REPORT

453. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the 17th Law Commission has submitted its reports during 2003-05;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on those reports?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY)

(a)&(b) 17th Law Commission of India has so far submitted nine reports i.e. from 186th to 194th, out of which six reports, i.e., upto 191st have already been laid in the Parliament. Remaining three have been sent for translation into Hindi.

(c) The status regarding 186 187 189 and 190 Reports have already been laid in the Parliament in the last Session. Reports 188th & 191st are under examination of concerned Ministries.

[x] STATE FUNDING OF ELECTIONS

On 17 February, 2006 Sarvashri Kirti Vardhan Singh, M.P. and Sugrib Singh, M.P. addressed the following Starred Question No. 2 to the Minister of Law and Justice:-

- (a) whether the Government has sought the advice of the Election Commission on State funding of elections;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is also considering the recommendations of earlier Commissions and also the Tarkunde Committee's recommendations in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?"

2. In reply, the then Minister of Law and Justice (Shri H.R. Bhardwaj) stated as follows:-

(a): Yes, Sir.

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 2 DATED 17TH FEBRUARY, 2006.

The Central Government considered the various recommendations/proposals relating to State funding of elections received by it. With a view to building consensus among the recognized political parties, it has decided to request the Election Commission of India for its consideration certain recommendations. Accordingly, on the 2nd January, 2006, the Government requested the Election Commission of India to recommend, in consultation with the recognized political parties, the quantities of the following items to be provided to the recognized political parties or to the candidates set up by them taking into consideration the geographical features and means of communication available:-

(a) For recognized political parties:

(i) Suitable rent-free accommodation for its headquarters.

(ii) One rent-free telephone, with Subscriber Trunk Dialing facility with a specified number of telephone calls over and above the free calls permitted to any subscriber.

(iii) the amount of time to be distributed on private cable television network and electronic media.

(b) For Candidates of recognized Parties:

(i) Specified quantity of petrol/diesel.

(ii) Specified quantity of paper for printing.

(iii) Postal stamps of a certain specified amount.

(iv) For an assembly election, one set of loudspeakers and for a parliamentary election, one set of loudspeakers for every assembly segment, subject to a maximum of six such sets.

(v) For an assembly election, one telephone with a specified number of free calls, and for a parliamentary election, at the rate of one telephone for every assembly segment, subject to a maximum of six telephones.

(vi) On the day of poll, some minimum arrangements may be made for the candidates' camps at each polling station.

(vii) Supply of refreshments and food packets to the counting agents inside the counting hall'.

A reply from the Election Commission is awaited.

2. The Government also decided that the Central and the State Governments both must share in the funding.

The scheme of distribution of the above-mentioned items would be worked out after receipt of the recommendations of the Election Commission.

3. The above reply 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.

4. The Ministry of Law and Justice vide O.M. No. H.11012/2/2006-Leg.II dated 7 January, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That this Department *vide* its letter dated 2nd January, 2006 requested the Election Commission to take appropriate action to consult political parties and forward recommendations of the Commission to this Department.

The Election Commission *vide* its letter dated 29th June, 2006 conveyed that it had convened a meeting of all recognized political parties on the 15th February, 2006 to elicit their views on the proposal of the Government on the State funding of election wherein the representatives of 6 National and 28 out of 44 State parties participated. There was no consensus of opinion on the proposals made in this Department’s letter dated 2nd January, 2006. The Commission, notwithstanding lack or absence of consensus, and notwithstanding its own stated views on this matter the Commission made certain recommendations.

On the basis of the recommendations received from the Election Commission, a Note for the Cabinet was brought before the Cabinet. The Cabinet in its meeting held on 17.05.2007 considered the matter and directed that efforts be continued to make a consensus on this issue.

In view of the above, the proposal on State funding of election is subject to the political consensus and consensus among the Central and State Governments since the expenditure in this regard is to be shared between them. As the consensus on this issue is a long drawn process therefore, too difficult to achieve in any time frame.

It is, therefore, requested that the matter may be placed before the Committee on Government Assurances for dropping the aforesaid Assurance.”

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

[xi] REVIVAL OF AILING HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD CORPORATION LIMITED

On 26 July, 2006 Shri B. Vinod Kumar, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 327 to the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways:-

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government for revival of the ailing Hindustan Shipyard Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?"

2. In reply, the then Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways (Shri T.R. Baalu) stated as follows:-

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) in its meeting held on 12.1.06 has recommended a revival package for Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) based on financial restructuring and an investment linked business plan envisaging capital expenditure of Rs. 400 crores to be funded through commercial arrangements with key customer(s).

Since the investment linked commercial arrangement is proving difficult to implement, HSL has requested this Department that the revival package should not be contingent on this condition. As an alternative, HSL has submitted a proposal to meet this requirement of Rs. 400 crores through Government support, internal accruals and borrowing from Banks and financial institutions, which is under consideration of this Department.

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

4. The Ministry of Shipping vide O.M. No. SY-18012/2/2006-HSL dated 25 August, 2009 have requested for dropping of the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the proposal of Rehabilitation-cum-Financial Restructuring of HSL was placed before the CCEA and the CCEA in its meeting held on 19.04.2007 decided that the matter in the first instance may be examined by a Group of Ministers (GoM). The GoM has given its recommendations on 05.02.2008.

The GoM inter-alia recommended transfer of the yard of HSL to Ministry of Defence, valuation of the yard of HSL and HSL to set up another shipyard. There was an issue relating to 40.70 acres of land to be resolved between Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT), Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas before the yard of HSL could be transferred to Ministry of Defence. The present status of the proposal is that the land issue has been resolved and the valuation of the yard of HSL has also been made. A final draft CCEA Note has been circulated to the appraising agencies for their comments, after receipt of which a final CCEA Note shall be submitted for approval of the CCEA.

The entire process is time consuming, involving many issues to be addressed and various appraising agencies to be consulted before sending a final proposal to the CCEA for approval. In view of this, a request was made to the Lok Sabha Secretariat (Committee on Government Assurances) that although assurance has been given that the Government is considering the proposal, it would be difficult to arrive at a time frame for fulfilling the assurance. As the outcome of the proposal would depend on the final decision of the CCEA, fulfillment of the assurance is beyond the control of this Ministry.”

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

[xii] NEW POLICY FOR STs

On 28 November, 2006 Shri Anandrao V. Adsul, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 996 to the Minister of Tribal Affairs. The contents of the question along with the reply of the then Minister of Tribal Affairs (Shri P.R. Kyndiah) 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 Tribal Affairs within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide O.M. No. 22042/09/2007-NGO dated 5 March, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That Ministry of Tribal Affairs has already prepared a final draft National Tribal Policy 2007 after extensive consultations. It was placed before the Cabinet for approval. However, the Cabinet decided to discuss the Policy by a Group of Ministers (GoM) before taking decision.

Accordingly, the draft policy was considered by GoM, after deliberations, the GoM made its recommendations. The recommendations of GoM were accordingly incorporated in the Cabinet Note and the same was resubmitted to Cabinet Secretariat on 7th November, 2008 for placing it before Cabinet for approval. The Cabinet Secretariat had requested this Ministry to obtain the comments of the Department of expenditure once again on the proposal relating to creation of posts for policy Implementation Cell in the Ministry and thus forward a supplementary Note for Cabinet. Accordingly, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs had also sought the comments of Ministry of Finance in this regard. In the meantime, the Cabinet Secretariat has returned the Cabinet Note on 16.03.2009 with remark that the proposal would require further consultations with the Prime Minister’s Office which may be carried out and after that if necessary, a revised note may be forwarded to the Cabinet Secretariat after completion of the election process and formation of Government thereafter. Since the new Government has been formed, matter is under process as per directions of Cabinet Secretariat. Meanwhile Minister of Tribal Affairs has also written letters to Prime Minister as well as Finance Minister seeking their intervention in expediting the clearance from Ministry of Finance of the proposal relating to creation of posts for Policy Implementation Cell”. Since the finalization of Policy is in advanced stage, it is, once again requested not to consider the reply in the aforesaid question as an assurance and the same may be dropped by the Committee on Assurances. ”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 996

ANSWERED ON 28.11.2006

NEW POLICY FOR STs

996. SHRI ANANDRAO V. ADSUL

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

- (a) whether the Government has requested to States to prepare exclusive annual plan to spend the outlay earmarked for Scheduled Tribes population as reported in the Hindu dated October 13, 2006;
- (b) if so, the response of the States thereto;
- (c) whether the Union Government has prepared new tribal policy;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the new tribal policy; and
- (e) the extent to which new tribal policy would bring the scheduled tribes on a par with the rest of the population in terms of Human Development Index, socio-economic development and basic infrastructure facilities in their areas?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R KYNDIAH)

(a) & (b) : The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has written to the State Governments to ensure earmarking of funds under TSP in proportion to the Scheduled Tribe population in the State and to prepare the Annual Plan for 2006-07 accordingly. The guidelines of the Planning Commission in this regard were also brought to the notice of the States.

(c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has prepared a draft National Tribal Policy, which is being finalized taking into consideration the comments received from various stakeholders.

(d) Implementation of the National Tribal Policy can be taken up only once it is finalized.

(e) The draft policy envisages measures for regulatory protection, socio-economic and political empowerment, women empowerment, development of infrastructure, increased livelihood opportunities, improved governance and administration, preservation of cultural and traditional rights and traditional knowledge, conservation and protection of intellectual property rights regime and access to privileges, in order to bring STs at par with the rest of the population in terms of their Human Development Index, socio-economic conditions and basic infrastructure facilities in tribal areas.

[xiii] WORKERS' BANK

On 14 May, 2007 Shri Milind Murli Deora, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 5296 to the Minister of Labour and Employment. 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 Labour and Employment within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Labour and Employment vide O.M. No. H-11016/33/2007-SS.II dated 15 January, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"That the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the then Additional Secretary (Labour and Employment) on the issue of Workers' Capital Trust discussed the issue of Workers' Bank also on a number of occasions and in its 7th and last meeting held on 05.11.2008, the Committee recommended, *inter-alia*, that the proposal of Workers' Bank is not feasible as creating parallel banking structures is not necessary in view of the administrative costs, guidelines of Reserve Bank of India and other problems such lack of core competencies. However, alternately, the proposal may be referred to an expert group. Thereafter, the matter was placed before the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund wherein it was decided that the matter may be referred to an expert group outside the purview of the Central Board.

Since then, the Ministry is trying to form an expert group and for this we requested Indian Bank Association (IBA) to take up the assignment but the IBA has shown its inability mentioning that the existing infrastructure and expertise available at IBA is not conducive for this. We have requested IBA and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to send the names for this purpose.

It may be seen that since the Committee constituted initially for the purpose has not favoured the constitution of Workers' Bank and the Ministry is pursuing the matter through formation of an expert group separately and this exercise may take a long time. The Committee on Government Assurances is requested to delete the assurance."

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

Annexure-I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5296

ANSWERED ON 14.5.2007

WORKERS' BANK

5296. SHRI MILIND MURLI DEORA

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

(a) whether the Government has agreed to consider a suggestion made at the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) to set up a 'Workers' Bank' where to Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and other deductions of workers could be deposited for better returns;

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken to set up 'Workers' Bank; and

(c) the amount lying in the EPF and other PF deposits which can be put in 'Workers' Bank' for better returns?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund in its 178th meeting held on 27.01.2007 has referred the issue of 'Workers' Bank' to a committee constituted to examine

the feasibility of giving shape to 'Workers' Capital Trust' in the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

[xiv] DEMAND OF INDIAN WORKERS ABROAD

On 05 December, 2007, Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh, MP, addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 2879 to the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs:-

- (a) Whether some foreign countries have shown interest in calling labourers from India for their manufacturing industries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

2. In reply, the then Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs (Shri Vayalar Ravi) stated as follows:-

(a), (b) & (c): The Ministry was approached by the Government of Poland for developing a framework to facilitate migration of Indian workers for contractual employment in construction, road-building and agriculture. MOIA welcomed the initiative to expand the overseas employment market for Indian workers and to evolve a model for bilateral cooperation for managed legal migration of workers. A draft MOU was sent to the Polish Government with a request for negotiation. The response of the Polish Government is awaited.

3. The above reply was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs within three months of the date of the reply *i.e.* by 04 March 2008. However, the assurance is yet to be fulfilled. The Ministry have sought extension of time upto 4.3.2009 to fulfill the assurance.

4. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs vide O.M No. H.11016/21/2007-EP-I dated 16 February 2009 have requested for dropping of the assurance on the following grounds: -

“That a draft MOU was sent to the Polish Government with a request for negotiation. The response of the Polish Government is awaited. The Polish Government has not so far responded on the MOU proposed by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. The matter has been further considered in the Ministry. In the current scenario of economic slow down in Europe, it is felt that they may not be enthusiastic about foreign workers. While the matter will continue to be pursued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with the Polish Government, there may be no advantage in retaining it as assurance since the matter is beyond the control of Government of India.”

5. Accordingly, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, have requested to drop the assurance.

[xv] MC GUPTA COMMITTEE ON DELHI PUBLIC LIBRARY

On 17 April, 2008 Sarvashri Ananta Nayak, Faggan Singh Kulaste and Mahavir Bhagora, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3671 to the Minister of Tourism and Culture. The contents of the question along with the reply of the then Minister of State in the Ministries of Tourism and Culture (Smt. Kanti Singh) 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 Culture within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Culture vide O.M. No. 1-5/2008-Lib dated 25 February, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the M.C. Gupta Committee set up by the Ministry of Culture, to review the functioning of Delhi Public Library had made the following major recommendations to improve the working atmosphere of the Library:-

- (a) The Library should have a two tier management structure comprising of an enlarged Board and a smaller functional Body to be know as Executive Committee.
- (b) Two senior positions (i) Director General (ii) and additional post of Director needs to be created. Two Directors will have an equitable work distribution.
- (c) The DG will be Executive Head of DPL and also Member Secretary of Delhi Library Board.
- (d) DPL should take steps to develop and implement the Programme to modernize itself with the application of ICT in different areas. The staff members should be provided adequate training in these areas.

It may be mentioned that selection to the post of Director General has already been made on 10.11.2009. However, since the selected person has raised certain issues regarding curtailment of pension, emoluments etc. clarification has been sought from the Department of Expenditure. It is anticipated that the DG will join office in a couple of months. Approval of the

Ministry for carrying out necessary amendments in the MOA of the DPL Board, for making the DG, the Executive Head of the Library, has also been conveyed to DPL on 19.11.2009.

Regarding the modernization of the Library, it may be stated that the working of the Library has improved considerably in the recent past as a number of major initiatives have been taken including *inter-alia*, modernization, public internet access service, renovation of Children's Section, addition of new books, toys and games and DVD corners etc. Because of this, the Library's Membership has increased from 42,000 in 2007 to 52,000 in 2009.

As the important components and the main recommendations of the Committee have been implemented in spirit, it is requested that the Committee on Government Assurances may drop the assurance given in the Question No. 3671."

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3671

ANSWERED ON 17.4.2008

M.C. GUPTA COMMITTEE ON DELHI PUBLIC LIBRARY

3671. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the M.C. Gupta Committee has recommended Delhi Public Library (DPL) should have a two-tier management structure comprising of an enlarged board and an executive committee with the creation of a Director General post as its member-secretary;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the review committee also recommended the creation of an additional post of director and the two directors will have an equitable work distribution;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has examined and taken a final decision on the recommendation of the M.C. Gupta Committee, especially the reconstitution/expansion of the members of Delhi Library Board(DLB); and

(f) if so, the details of action so far taken in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF TOURISM AND CULTURE
(SMT. KANTI SINGH)

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The M.C. Gupta Committee had recommended that DPL should have a two-tier management structure comprising of an enlarged Board and a smaller functional body to be known as Executive Committee. It is recommended that the strength of the Board may be raised to thirty(30) with the Director General(a new post) as member secretary.

The Committee had also recommended that DPL should have a seven member Executive Committee headed by the Director General. The Review Committee recommends the creation of two senior positions a Director General and an additional post of Director. The two Directors will have an equitable work distribution.

(e) and (f) Delhi Public Library is an autonomous body governed and administered by the Delhi Library Board. The Delhi Public Library will take necessary action on the recommendations.

[xvi] SURVEY ON CORRUPTION IN JUDICIARY

On 17 October, 2008 Smt. Jayaprada, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 150 to the Minister of Law and Justice. The contents of the question along with the reply of the then Minister of Law and Justice (Shri H.R. Bhardwaj) 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 Ministry of Law and Justice vide O.M. No. K.15018/12/2008-US.II dated 21 August, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"At the time of answering the Question, the Government had decided to withdraw the Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19.12.2006 and to introduce in its place a new Bill namely, the Judges (Inquiry) Amendment Bill, 2008. However, the Judges (Inquiry) Amendment Bill, 2008 could not be introduced in the 14th Lok Sabha which was subsequently dissolved in May, 2009. The Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 lapsed with the dissolution of the 14th Lok Sabha. Presently the Government is in the process of preparing a road map for judicial reforms in the country. Consultations in this regard have already begun. Accountability in the judiciary is also one of the components of judicial reforms. A decision in the matter will be taken on completion of the process of consultation. The Government has yet to firm up its views. In view of the above, it may not be possible to fulfill the Assurance and therefore, it is requested that it may be dropped. Pending a decision, time for fulfillment of the Assurance may be extended upto 17.09.2009. "

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 150

ANSWERED ON 17.10.2008

SURVEY ON CORRUPTION IN JUDICIARY

150. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Bar Council of India has conducted any survey on corruption in the judiciary;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the report has been made public; and
- (d) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE(SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ)

(a) `Government is not aware of any survey conducted by the Bar Council of India on corruption in judiciary.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

(d) Government is `taking steps to set up a National Judicial Council to deal with complaints against Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts. The status regarding 186 187 189 and 190 Reports have already been laid in the Parliament in the last Session. Reports 188th & 191st are under examination of concerned Ministries.

[xvii] CEPA WITH SRI LANKA DELEGATION

On 21 October, 2008 Shri Naveen Jindal, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 607 to the Minister of Commerce and Industry:-

- (a) whether the long pending Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Sri Lanka has been finalised and signed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and its likely impact on Indo-Sri Lanka trade in the years to come;
- (c) if not, the reasons for delay in finalising the agreement; and
- (d) the names of other countries with whom negotiations for CEPA are under way?

2. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Jairam Ramesh) stated as follows:-

(a) The Negotiations on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Sri Lanka have been concluded during Commerce Secretary level talks held during 9-12 July, 2008. The Agreement is yet to be signed.

(b) CEPA will deepen and widen the ambit of India - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA) by including Trade in Services, Investment and Economic Cooperation.

(c) Both sides have finalised the draft of CEPA. However, the Agreement has not been signed yet as Sri Lanka expressed its desire to carry out stakeholder consultations before signing the Agreement.

(d) The details are given below:

1. Negotiations for India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) have already been completed.

2. India-Japan negotiations for CEPA are underway.

3. Negotiations for following Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) are under way:

i) ASEAN-INDIA CECA

ii) India –Thailand CECA

iii) India- Malaysia CECA.

4. Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) with Mauritius is underway.

5. Currently, India is engaged in negotiations on Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreements (BTIA) with European Union (EU) consisting of 27 member countries and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) consisting of Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein.

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

4. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide O.M. No. 8/9/2008-FT(SA) dated 17 November, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the Government of Sri Lanka is still in the process of stakeholder consultations and completion of this is understood to take time. In the circumstances it is not feasible to sign the CEPA in the near future and fulfill the assurance by 20.10.2009. Hence it is requested that extension of time for fulfilling the assurance by three months i.e. upto 19.01.2010 may please be granted.

Simultaneously on the issue of fulfillment of this assurance it is stated that the fulfillment of the assurance is linked with the process of conclusion of Sri Lanka’s Stakeholder consultation over which Government of India has no control.”

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

[xviii] RECOMMENDATION OF WADHWA COMMITTEE

On 27 October, 2008 Shri Prabhunath Singh, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 1262 to the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution:-

(a) whether the final report of Wadhwa Committee on various aspects of Public Distribution System (PDS) and Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon indicating the main recommendations of the Committee;

(c) the details of raids conducted against Fair Price Shops/Kerosene Oil Depots in Delhi during 2008 alongwith the details of quantum and value of goods seized from them; and

(d) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

2. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh) stated as follows:-

“(a) & (b): Central Vigilance Committee (CVC) with Justice (retd.) D.P. Wadhwa as Chairman was set up by the Supreme Court to study functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) and suggest remedial measures. The Supreme Court’s direction to CVC was to conduct this study initially for the TPDS in Delhi, to be followed up on all India basis. The Committee submitted its report on TPDS in Delhi in August, 2007 to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court in its order dated 10.01.2008 has ordered that similar exercise be undertaken by the CVC for the entire country and thereafter the Supreme Court would consider the suggestions of the CVC and shortcomings noticed. Final report of CVC is awaited.

(c) & (d): During the year 2008, 135 shops were inspected and 121 raids were conducted. Based on them 252 persons were arrested, FPS licences of 125 shops were suspended/cancelled/showcause notices issued/FIR lodged and 769 Qtls of wheat and 5650 Qtls of rice were seized.

In addition, the Government of NCT, Delhi is implementing 9 point action plan for strengthening the TPDS, which mainly includes review of lists of ration card holders, ensuring leakage free and timely distribution of foodgrains, display of allocation of foodgrains on website and computerization of data base of TPDS.”

3. The above reply was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

4. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution vide O.M. No. 7(28)/2008-PD-I dated 4 December, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That in this connection, it may be mentioned that the Central Vigilance Commission Committee (CVC) with Justice (retd) D.P. Wadhwa Chairman, was set up by the Hon’ble Supreme Court vide its Order dated 12.7.2006, to look into the maladies which are affecting the proper functioning of the Public Distribution System and also suggest remedial measures, initially for TPDS in Delhi, to be followed up on all India basis. The Committee submitted its report on TPDS in Delhi in August, 2007 to the Supreme Court. It was accepted by the Supreme Court on 10.01.2008, without seeking any response from this Department and the CVC was asked by the Supreme Court in its order dated 10.1.2008 to conduct the similar exercise for the entire country. The suggestions/recommendations of CVC in this report are to be considered by the court only after the final reports on all the States are received by the Supreme Court.

Supreme Court has been extending term of the CVC from time to time, the latest one is upto December 2009. As per our information, CVC has so far given its reports to Supreme Court on functioning of TPDS in respect of 8 States – Delhi, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Orissa, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat. Therefore, the submission of the final report on all the States to be submitted by CVC to the Supreme Court is likely to take lot of time. Its period is not known. Hence the Assurance can not be fulfilled till that happens.”

5. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, have requested to drop the above assurance.

[xix] INTEGRATED CHECK POSTS

On 23 December, 2008, Shri Adhalrao Shivajirao Patil, MP addressed a Starred Question No. 348 to the Minister of Home Affairs. The contents of the question along with the reply of the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Smt. V. Radhika Selvi) 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 Parliamentary Affairs *vide* their U.O. No. XIV/XIV/HA(35)/SQ 348-LS/08 dated 1 July 2009 had forwarded a letter No. 11022/I/09/BM-V/ICP dated 10 June, 2009 of the Ministry of Home Affairs wherein the Ministry requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That so far Detailed Engineering Report (DER) has been prepared only in respect of Raxual ICP. DER in respect of Attari ICP will be prepared by 15.06.2009. For other phase-I ICPs, DERs would be prepared gradually, depending on the status of completion of pre-DER formalities and the process is expected to be completed by 31.08.2009. Further, DERs in respect of Phase-II ICPs will be prepared only after the acquisition of land for them. As per our plan, Phase-II ICPs are to be developed only after the development of Phase-I ICPs. As such, DERs in respect of them will be prepared depending upon the factors like availability of funds acquisition of land urgency etc.

It is quite likely that the fulfillment of the Assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister on the floor of the House may take a very long time. As such, while apprising the Lok Sabha Secretariat of the above position, we may request them to drop the above Assurance from the list of the Assurances being maintained by them, as we are in the process of preparing the DER, one by one.”

4. This request of the Ministry was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 29 October, 2009 and decided not to drop the assurance. The Ministry were informed of the decision of the Committee and the Committee presented its Fourth Report on 16.12.2009 in this regard.

5. The Ministry of Home Affairs *vide* their O.M. No. 11022/1/2009-BM.V/ICP dated 21 December, 2009 have again requested the Committee to reconsider their decision afresh and drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That this Ministry would like to bring the following facts/details about the present status of implementation of the Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) scheme for kind perusal of the Committee on Government Assurances:

Background of the Scheme

With a view to provide better management and single-window facilitation, as also for facilitating/boosting trade, Government have decided to set up 13 Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at identified entry points on India's border with Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Myanmar through a Plan Scheme in the 11th Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 635 crore. The ICPs shall be a sanitized zone with dedicated passenger and cargo terminal providing adequate customs and immigration counters, X-ray scanners, passenger amenities and other related facilities like service stations, fuel stations etc. in a single modern complex equipped with state of the art amenities. An institutional framework viz. Land Ports Authorities of India (LPAI) is proposed to be established and charged with the responsibility to undertake the construction, management and maintenance of ICPs.

A list of 13 ICPs proposed to be set up is as under:

Phase-I

| Sl. No. | Location | State | Border | Estimated Cost including land acquisition (Rupees in crore) |
|---------|----------------|-------------|------------------|---|
| 1. | Petrapole | West Bengal | India-Bangladesh | 172.00 |
| 2. | Moreh | Manipur | India-Myanmar | 136.00 |
| 3. | Raxaul | Bihar | India-Nepal | 120.00 |
| 4. | Attari (Wagah) | Punjab | India-Pakistan | 150.00 |
| 5. | Dawki | Meghalaya | India-Bangladesh | 50.00 |
| 6. | Akhaura | Tripura | India-Bangladesh | 60.00 |
| 7. | Jogbani | Bihar | India-Nepal | 34.00 |

Phase-II

| Sl. No. | Location | State | Border | Estimated Cost including land acquisition (Rupees in crore) |
|---------|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|---|
| 8. | Hili | West Bengal | India-Bangladesh | 78.00 |
| 9. | Chandrabangha | West Bengal | India-Bangladesh | 64.00 |
| 10. | Sutarkhandi | Assam | India-Bangladesh | 16.00 |
| 11. | Kawarpuchiah | Mizoram | India-Bangladesh | 27.00 |
| 12. | Sunauli | Uttar Pradesh | India-Nepal | 34.00 |
| 13. | Rupaidiha/ Nepalganj road | Uttar Pradesh | India-Nepal | 29.00 |

Progress of Development of ICPs

In pursuance of the decision, pre-construction activities like site identification, preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), Detailed Engineering Reports (DERs), acquisition of land etc. in respect of ICPs have been initiated. The status of land acquisition of proposed ICPs is as under:

- Possession of 159.58 acres and 189 acres of land has been taken for Raxaul and Jogbani ICPs, respectively.
- Action has been taken to acquire 68.5 acres of additional land for Raxaul ICP. Rs. 6.39 crore has been deposited with the DM (East Champaran), Bihar for this purpose.
- Possession of 120 acres land has been taken on February 24, 2009 in respect of Attari ICP and compensation of Rs. 33.15 crore has already been paid to the State Government of Punjab.
- Acquisition of 38.34 acres land for Moreh ICP is under way.
- The process of acquisition of 187 acres and 177 acres of land for Sonauli and Rupaidiha ICPs, respectively, is also under way.
- 107 acres of land has been identified for Petrapole ICP and Notification u/s 4(1) of Land Acquisition Act has been issued. An amount of Rs. 13.84 crore has also been released in favour of the District Collector, 24 North Parganas District, West Bengal.
- Rs. 1.6 crore is being released for the acquisition of 8 acres of land for Akhaura ICP.
- Joint inspection has been carried out for finalizing land acquisition details of Dawki ICP.

Status of preparation of DPRs and DERs

While the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of all Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) have been prepared, Detailed Engineering Reports (DERs) in respect of Raxaul and Attari ICPs have already been prepared and approved by the Empowered Steering Committee. In respect of Petrapole, Moreh, Akhaura and Jogbani ICPs, DERs are under preparation.

In this context, it is relevant to point out that the process of preparation of DER can be started only after site identification and land acquisition process, in consultation with the State Government concerned, has been completed. This is a long drawn process and normally takes about one year. As indicated above, the process of site identification and land acquisition for certain ICPs is still to be completed whereafter the process of preparation of DERs can be undertaken. All these activities may take considerable time resulting in keeping the assurance pending for a long time as it pertains to preparation of DERs of ICPs.”

6. In view of the above position, the Ministry with the approval of MOS (R) have requested that this matter may kindly be placed again before the Committee for reconsideration of their earlier decision and the may please be dropped.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 348
ANSWERED ON 23.12.2008
INTEGRATED CHECK POSTS

*348. SHRI ADHALRAO SHIVAJIRAO PATIL

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to set up integrated check posts for cargo and passenger traffic at entry points on the land borders with Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the points at the borders identified for setting up of check posts; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?"

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SMT. V. RADHIKA SELVI)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. It has been decided to set up Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at the 13 identified entry points on the land borders of the country with Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar, as indicated below:

| Sl.No. | Location | State | Border |
|--------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. | Raxaul | Bihar | India-Nepal |
| 2. | Attari/Wagah | Punjab | India-Pakistan |
| 3. | Petrapole | West Bengal | India-Bangladesh |
| 4. | Moreh | Manipur | India-Myanmar |
| 5. | Dawki | Mehalaya | India-Bangladesh |
| 6. | Akhaura/Agartala | Tripura | India-Bangladesh |
| 7. | Hili | West Bengal | India-Bangladesh |
| 8. | Chandrabangha | West Bengal | India-Bangladesh |
| 9. | Sutarkhandi | Assam | India-Bangladesh |
| 10. | Kawarpuchia | Mizoram | India-Bangladesh |
| 11. | Jogbani | Bihar | India-Nepal |
| 12. | Sunauli | Uttar Pradesh | India-Nepal |
| 13. | Rupaidiha | Uttar Pradesh | India-Nepal |

The ICPs would house all the regulatory agencies like Immigration, Customs, Border Security etc. together with other support facilities, in a single premises, in an integrated manner. An institutional framework viz. the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), proposed to be established, will be charged with the responsibility to undertake the construction, management and maintenance of ICPs.

(d) An outlay of Rs.635 crore has been approved for the setting up of ICPs through a new Plan Scheme in the 11th Five Year Plan. An Empowered Steering Committee (ESC) has been constituted in the Ministry of Home Affairs, as an interim arrangement, till such time the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) is constituted, to facilitate the development of ICPs.

The Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of all the 13 ICPs have already been prepared and the preparation of Detailed Engineering Reports (DERs) is in progress.

The Land Ports Authority of India Bill, 2008 has also been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 18th December 2008.

[xx] GUWAHATI BOMB BLAST

On 17 February, 2009 Shri Vijoy Krishna, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 137 to the Minister of Home Affairs. The contents of the question along with the reply of the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shrimati Radhika V. Shelvi) 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. The Ministry of Home Affairs has sought extension of time upto 31.9.2010, to fulfill the assurance.

3. The Ministry of Home Affairs vide O.M. No. 13012/4/2009NE.IV dated 15 July, 2009 have now requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the Government of Assam has informed that these cases are pending for further investigation. However, similar reply was given in Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question which was treated as assurance. Subsequently, Rajya Sabha Secretariat decided not to treat the reply to the question as assurance.

Lok Sabha Secretariat is requested to kindly “not to treat it as an assurance and drop it from the list of pending assurance as already done by Rajya Sabha Secretariat.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State (R) 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. 137

ANSWERED ON 17.2.2009

GUWAHATI BOMB BLASTS

137. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA

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

- (a) whether Government has enquired into Guwahati Bomb Blasts which took place on January 1,2009;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the involvement of Bangladeshis in the said blasts has been reported;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SHELVI)

(a)& (b): Three bomb blasts took place on 1st January 2009 in different parts of Guwahati City, resulting in death of 7 persons and injuries to 69 persons. In this connection, three cases have been registered and are under investigation. During investigations, the involvement of United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) militants have come into light.

(c): State Government of Assam has stated that involvement of Bangladeshis in these blasts have not yet come out during investigations so far.

(d) & (e): In view of (c) above, do not arise.

On 24 February, 2009 Dr. Thokchom Meinya, Sarvashri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, Abdullakutty and Milind Deora, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 578 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 (Smt. D. Purandeswari) 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. No. 4-4/2009-MC dated 24 February, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the stated position of the Government in the Ministry of Human Resource Development is that proposal of Central Madrasa Board will be processed only after consensus among all stakeholders. Since the building of consensus cannot have a time frame, it is requested that this assurance may be dropped.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 578

ANSWERED ON 24.2.2009

MADARSAS

578. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY

SHRI MILIND DEORA

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert all the madarsas in the country as Government institutions and setting up an All India Madarsas Board on CBSE pattern;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the State Governments would still play a role in the new dispensation in terms of running and providing financial aids in the Madarsas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has also decided to set up Central Madarsa Board;

(f) the aims, functions and responsibility of the Board;

(g) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Central Board of Secondary Education and Council of Board of School Education(COBSE) to give equivalence to Madarsa education; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) : No Sir, the existing Scheme for Centrally Sponsored Providing Quality Education in Madarsa (SPQEM) is a voluntary scheme. Madarasas opting to introduce modern subjects, in addition to the traditional religious instructions, are provided financial assistance through the respective State Government. A proposal is being examined on the desirability of setting up a Central Madarsa Board to coordinate education in modern subjects imparted by madarasas on a voluntary basis and to coordinate the activities of State Madarsa Boards, where required.

(g and h): On the recommendation of an Expert Committee set up by the Government of India, a notification dated 30th January, 2009 has been issued, equating certificates given by the State Madrasa Boards to those of Secondary and Senior Secondary levels, in cases where such equivalence is in place in the respective States.

On 25 February, 2009 Sarvashri Dr. Rajesh Mishra and Basudeb Acharia, M.Ps., addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 787 to the Minister of Finance:-

“(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has referred the case relating to violation of provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 by Reliance Infrastructure Limited (RIL) in regard to utilization of External Commercial Borrowings proceeds to the Enforcement Directorate (ED); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the ED in this regard so far?”

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

“(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. The Directorate of Enforcement is conducting investigations which are at nascent stage.”

3. 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.

4. The Ministry of Finance vide O.M. No. 15/11/2009-AD.ED dated 20 November, 2009 have requested for dropping of the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the matter has been examined in the Department again and it is informed that the Hon’ble MP had only sought confirmation as to whether RBI had referred certain case of RIL for FEMA violations to ED and action taken by ED in this regard. The Department had furnished the reply in affirmative and has further stated that the matter is under investigation. The Hon’ble MP had not sought details of the outcome of the investigations. The reply given by the Department therefore, suffice for the purpose of the Question.”

5. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of MoS (R), have requested to drop the above assurance.

[xxiii] MEASURES TO CHECK NAXALISM

On 07 July, 2009 Shri Baijayant Panda, M.P. addressed a Starred Question No. 41 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 (Shri Ajay Maken) are given in Annexure.

2. During discussion Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, M.P., raised the following Supplementary to Starred Question No. 41 to the Minister of Home Affairs:-

“Madam Speaker, the entire House is not satisfied with what Hon’ble Minister has stated. Hon’ble Laluji has explained the facts and I endorse the same because earlier four-five districts of Uttar Pradesh were also affected with naxalism, 15 PAC soldiers were killed. There was anguish in our hearts but we held direct talks with naxalite leaders. A meeting was held with them in Naugarh. A girl named Basmati was present there. She was there leader. I called her on the dias and asked her to give up the path of violence. She explained their problems that the house in which they were living for the last 103-105 years and the fields where they were doing farming for the last three generations were not in their names. I listened to their problems and allotted those houses and fields to them. Thereafter the State of Uttar Pradesh became free from the problem of naxalism. Therefore, I would like to state that this is the real problem. Leaders and Chief Ministers may be called but I am giving a suggestion. Hold talk with the naxalite leaders and address their problems. It is true that they have adopted naxalism out of some compulsion. I have given the examples of houses and fields. We have solved the problem of naxalism in four-five districts of Uttar Pradesh through talks. We had organised our part’s camp amidst them. They all attended the camp. Today Uttar Pradesh is free from naxalities. So, the point is whether the talk will be held with them. If we really want to bring them in the mainstream, we should first talk to them and their leaders. There may be one or more naxalite leaders but the point is whether the Government will hold talks with them. It is a fact that the problem of naxalism cannot be solved forcibly.”

3. In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Ajay Maken) stated as follows:-

“It was *inter-alia* stated, “The Chief Ministers should renew their appeals to the naxalite leaders and the naxalite leaders should also respond to those appeals and hold talks with the Chief Ministers. We will facilitate in whatever manner the Centre can.”

4. The above reply 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.

5. The Ministry of Home Affairs vide O.M. No. 13013/10/2009-NM-III dated 27 August, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the State Governments have appealed from time to time to the Left Wing Extremists to abjure violence and hold talks with the Government on any issues between States and Left Wing Extremists provided Left Wing Extremist abjure violence and give up their so called “armed struggle”.

The above statement is in the context of Chief Ministers of States appealing to naxalite leaders. It is, therefore, requested that it may not be treated as an assurance.

The Committee on Government Assurances Lok Sabha is therefore requested to kindly delete this assurance.

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 41

ANSWERED ON 7.07.2009

MEASURES TO CHECK NAXALISM

*41. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA

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

(a) whether naxal activities are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the States and districts affected by naxalism;

(c) the details of persons killed/injured including civilians and security personnel, damage to properties, naxalities arrested and killed during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) the details of the high level meetings held including with Chief Minister(s) and Director(s) General of Police of the States concerned and the outcomes thereof;

(e) the details of the relief provided to the families of victims of naxalism; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government including launching joint operations, amendment of existing laws and setting up special commando units to curb naxalism?

2. In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Ajay Maken)

stated as follows:-

“(a) to (c): During 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (upto June 30), 1509, 1565, 1591 and 1128 incidents of violence and 678, 696, 721 and 455 casualties of civilians and security forces respectively were reported from naxal affected States. State-wise details are at Annexure-1.

On the basis of naxalite violence profile, 83 districts in 9 naxal affected States have been included under the Security Related Expenditure Scheme which is meant for reimbursing such expenditure incurred for anti-naxal operations by the States. A State-wise list of the districts is at Annexure-2. 71, 80, 109 and 56 incidents of naxal attack on economic targets were reported from naxal affected States during 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (upto June 30) respectively. Details are at Annexure-3.

(d): A meeting of Chief Ministers of seven naxal affected States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa and West Bengal with Union Home Minister was held on 7th January, 2009, followed by visits of Union Home Minister to naxal affected States. During the meetings, there was a consensus to launch coordinated joint anti-naxal operations and to focus on the development fronts including capacity building of security forces. Further, two meetings of the Task Force on Left Wing Extremism chaired by Cabinet Secretary were held on 16th January, 2009 and 12th May, 2009. 21st meeting of Task Force under Special Secretary (Internal Security) was held on 5th February 2009.

(e): Payment of ex-gratia relief to families of victims of naxal violence is made at the rate of Rs.1 lakh per civilian killed and Rs.3 lakh per security force personnel killed due to naxal violence, under the Security Related Expenditure Scheme of Ministry of Home Affairs.

(f): Naxal affected States have been carrying out operations against the naxals within the States and joint operations along inter-State boundaries. Government of India supplements their efforts and resources inter alia by deployment of Central Para Military Forces. Presently 37 battalions of Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs) have been deployed on long term basis in 8 naxal affected states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal for joint anti-naxal operations along with the State Police forces. Recently three additional battalions of CPMFs consisting of two battalions of CRPF and one battalion of BSF, have been deployed in Lalgurh area of West Midnapur district of West Bengal for anti-naxal operations. Two CoBRA battalions (Commando Battalions for Resolute Action) specially trained in jungle warfare have been raised, with key location points for 1 battalion each at Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh and Koraput in Orissa during 2008-09. 34 India Reserve Battalions have been sanctioned to naxal affected States, out of which 25 battalions have been raised by the States.

The CPI (Maoist), which is the major Left Wing Extremist organisation responsible for most of the incidents and casualties of naxal violence, has been included in the schedule of terrorist organisations along with all its formations and front organisations on 22nd June, 2009, under the existing Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Annexure-1 REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARA (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.41 FOR 07.07.2009 REGARDING "MEASURES TO CHECK NAXALISM"

State-wise Left Wing Extremists Violence 2006-2009 (June 30)

| States | 2006 | | | | | 2007 | | | | | 2008 | | | | | 2009 (till June 30) | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------|--------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------|--------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------|--------|
| | Incidents (deaths) | Civilians | Security Forces | Naxals | Naxals | Incidents (deaths) | Civilians | Security Forces | Naxals | Naxals | Incidents (deaths) | Civilians | Security Forces | Naxals | Naxals | Incidents (deaths including | Civilians | Security Forces | Naxals | Naxals |
| Andhra Pradesh | 183 (47) | 37 | 10 | 133 | 316 | 138 (45) | 43 | 2 | 45 | 348 | 92 (46) | 45 | 1 | 36 | 236 | 34 (10) | 10 | - | 7 | 161 |
| Bihar | 107 (45) | 40 | 5 | 6 | 257 | 135 (67) | 45 | 22 | 2 | 282 | 164 (73) | 52 | 21 | 15 | 278 | 118 (43) | 25 | 18 | 2 | 121 |
| Jharkhand | 310 (124) | 81 | 43 | 20 | 254 | 482 (157) | 149 | 8 | 13 | 269 | 484 (207) | 169 | 38 | 49 | 383 | 364 (122) | 73 | 49 | 25 | 186 |
| Chhattisgarh | 715 (388) | 304 | 84 | 74 | 286 | 582 (369) | 171 | 198 | 66 | 254 | 620 (242) | 157 | 85 | 76 | 469 | 285 (148) | 74 | 74 | 63 | 213 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 6 (1) | 1 | - | - | 8 | 9 (2) | 2 | - | - | 22 | 7 (-) | - | - | 1 | 5 | 1 (-) | - | - | - | - |
| Maharashtra | 98 (42) | 39 | 3 | 19 | 46 | 94 (25) | 22 | 3 | 5 | 34 | 68 (22) | 17 | 5 | 9 | 106 | 100 (57) | 23 | 34 | 2 | 29 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Orissa | 44 (9) | 5 | 4 | 15 | 29 | 67 (17) | 15 | 2 | 7 | 78 | 103 (101) | 28 | 73 | 8 | 102 | 162 (40) | 20 | 20 | 8 | 63 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 11 (5) | 5 | - | 4 | 25 | 9 (3) | 3 | - | 1 | 20 | 4 (-) | - | - | 1 | 41 | 4 (1) | 1 | - | - | 13 |
| West Bengal | 23 (17) | 9 | 8 | 2 | 32 | 32 (6) | 6 | - | - | 82 | 35 (26) | 19 | 7 | - | 83 | 56 (34) | 29 | 5 | - | 5 |
| Others | 12 (-) | - | - | 1 | 17 | 17 (5) | 4 | 1 | 2 | 67 | 14 (4) | 3 | 1 | 4 | 40 | 4 (-) | - | - | - | 70 |
| TOTAL | 1509 (678) | 521 | 157 | 274 | 127 0 | 1565 (696) | 460 | 236 | 141 | 145 6 | 1591 (721) | 490 | 231 | 199 | 174 3 | 1128 (455) | 255 | 200 | 107 | 861 |

Annexure-2 REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARA (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.41 FOR 07.07.2009 REGARDING "MEASURES TO CHECK NAXALISM"

List of 83 districts included under the SRE Scheme

| Sl. No. | State | Number of Districts | Name of Districts |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 16 | Warangal, Karimnagar, Adilabad, Khammam, Medak, Nalgonda, Mehboobnagar, Guntur, Prakasam, Anantapur, Kurnool, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatanam, East Godavari, Srikakulam and Nizamabad. |
| 2. | Bihar | 15 | Aurangabad, Gaya, Jehanabad, Rohtas, Nalanda, Patna, Bhojpur, Kaimur, East Champaran, West Champaran, Sitamarhi, Arwal, Munger, Nawada and Jamui. |
| 3. | Jharkhand | 18 | Hazaribagh, Lohardagga, Palamu, Chatra, Garhwa, Ranchi, Gumla, Simdega, Latehar, Giridih, Koderma, Bokaro, Dhanbad, East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum, Saraikela-Kharaswan, Khunti and Ramgarh. |
| 4. | Madhya Pradesh | 1 | Balaghat. |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 9 | Bastar, Bijapur, Dantewada, Kanker, Rajnandgaon, Sarguja, Jashpur, Korea (Baikunthpur), and Narayanpur. |
| 6. | Maharashtra | 3 | Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Godia. |
| 7. | Orissa | 15 | Malkangiri, Ganjam, Koraput, Gajapati, Rayagada, Navrangpur, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Jashpur, Deogarh, Kondhamal, Dhenkanal and Nayagarh. |
| 8. | Uttar Pradesh | 3 | Sonebhadra, Mirzapur and Chandauli. |
| 9. | West Bengal | 3 | Bankura, Midnapure and Purulia. |
| | Total | 83 | |

Annexure-3 REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARA (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.41 FOR 07.07.2009 REGARDING "MEASURES TO CHECK NAXALISM"

Incidents of Economic targets by LWE Extremists all over the Country

| | | | January 1 to December 31, 2006 | | January 1 to December 31, 2007 | | January 1 to December 31, 2008 | | January 1 to June 30, 2009 | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|---|
| | | | | Total | | Total | | Total | | Total | |
| Economic Targets | Bihar | Uranium Mines | 1 | 23 | 0 | 08 | 0 | 05 | 0 | 10 | |
| | | Essar Steel | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 0 | | |
| | Chhattisgarh | NMDC | 11 | | 4 | | 0 | | 1 | | 2 |
| | | Essar Pipe lines | 2 | | 1 | | 3 | | 2 | | |
| | | BRO | 4 | | 1 | | 0 | | 0 | | |
| | Orissa | Essar Pipe lines | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 4 | | |
| | | | Gramin Sadak Nirman Yojana | | 0 | | 0 | | 1 | | 1 |
| | Maharashtra | BRO | 2 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | |
| | Jharkhand | Steel Plant | 1 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | |
| | Bihar | Cement Plant | 0 | | 1 | | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Solar Plate | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Railways | Andhra Pradesh | | 1 | 33 | 1 | 47 | 2 | 27 | 0 | 15 | |
| | Bihar | | 12 | | 9 | | 11 | | 3 | | |
| | Chhattisgarh | | 5 | | 18 | | 6 | | 3 | | |
| | Jharkhand | | 13 | | 15 | | 7 | | 3 | | |
| | Maharashtra | | 1 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | |
| | Orissa | | 1 | | 2 | | 0 | | 5 | | |
| | West Bengal | | 0 | | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Telephone Exchange / | Andhra Pradesh | | 2 | 05 | 0 | 06 | 1 | 46 | 0 | 26 | |
| | Bihar | | 0 | | 0 | | 14 | | 12 | | |
| | Maharashtra | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | | |
| | Chhattisgarh | | 1 | | 3 | | 15 | | 5 | | |
| | Jharkhand | | 0 | | 0 | | 10 | | 3 | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|
| Towers | Orissa | | 1 | | 2 | | 4 | | 5 | |
| Power Plant | Andhra Pradesh | | 2 | 04 | 3 | 03 | 0 | 01 | 0 | 2 |
| | Chhattisgarh | | 2 | | 0 | | 0 | | | |
| | Maharashtra | | 0 | | 0 | | 1 | | 2 | |
| Mining | Orissa | | 1 | 01 | 0 | 06 | 0 | 06 | 0 | 0 |
| | Jharkhand | | 0 | | 4 | | 4 | | | |
| | Chhattisgarh | | 0 | | 1 | | 2 | | 0 | |
| | Andhra Pradesh | | 0 | | 1 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| Pole/ transmission | Chhattisgarh | | 5 | 05 | 10 | 10 | 23 | 24 | 3 | 3 |
| | Orissa | | 0 | | 0 | | 1 | | 0 | |
| Total | | | 71 | 71 | 80 | 80 | 109 | 109 | 56 | 56 |

[xxiv] FUNCTIONING OF FCI

On 7 July, 2009 Shri P. Karunakaran, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 505 to the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution:-

(a) whether the Government proposes to streamline the functioning of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken;

(d) whether the Government also proposes to add some more essential commodities under PDS, so as to check the rise in prices of essential commodities in the open market; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

2. In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (Prof. K.V. Thomas) stated as follows:-

(a),(b)&(c): Yes, Madam. With a view to revamp the working of the Food Corporation of India(FCI), Government of India, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food &Public Distribution had engaged the Mckinsey & Co. to undertake a study of FCI. The main objective of the study was to bring about substantial efficiency improvement in the FCI's functioning.

The major improvement initiatives recommended by M/s Mckinsey & Co. are at Annexure I.

A number of recommendations are under implementation by FCI, while certain recommendations have not been accepted.

For Streamlining the Public Distribution System, the Government has taken following measures to streamline Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

Improving functioning of TPDS through continuous review of lists of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antodya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, door step delivery of foodgrains to fair price shops, timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops and training of staff as well as vigilance committee members;

Ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS through display of lists of BPL and AAY families at fair price shops, display of allocated quantities on web sites, adoption and implementation of revised Citizens` Charter, monthly certification of delivery of foodgrains to fair price shops and their distribution to ration card holders and taking up publicity-cum awareness campaign;

Improved monitoring and vigilance at various level and strict penal action against those involved in malpractices, including action against staff responsible for issuing ineligible ration cards and persons found in possession of such ration cards;

Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels and introduction of smart card based delivery of essential commodities and use of global positioning system on vehicles transporting TPDS commodities are under implementation.

(d): No, Madam.

(e): Does not arise.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.505 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 07.07.2009 IN THE LOK SABHA.

Major improvement initiatives recommended by M/s Mckinsey & Co. for FCI

- (i) Financial restructuring through multi-tiered debt structure to reduce the interest burden;
- (ii) Network optimization through linear programming of Rail Movement (Grain Flow Management);
- (iii) Consolidation of Handling & Transport Contracts;
- (iv) Changes in use and sourcing pattern of gunny bags;
- (v) Cost reduction by direct procurement of foodgrains and exclusion of intermediates;
- (vi) Exploring avenues for revenue generation by optimum utilization of all existing assets like godowns;
- (vii) More cost effective and efficient utilization of human resources through rationalization, automation and better Performance Management System (People Management System);
- (viii) Smart Trading approach for global trading in foodgrains;
- (ix) Creation of Price Monitoring Cell;
- (x) Management of operational costs;
- (xi) Management of idle Assets;
- (xii) Vigilance Administration and;
- (xiii) Performance review through defined parameters and fixation of accountability."

3. The above reply was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

4. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution vide O.M. No. 9-2/2009-FC-I(PD-I) dated 12 January, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the computerization of TPDS scheme has been taken up as a Pilot Scheme in four States. The scheme is under implementation. The pilot scheme on Smart Card based TPDS in Chandigarh and Haryana is still on. The pilot scheme on use of Global Positioning System (GPS) is under implementation in three pilot States. Therefore, the above part of reply mentioned about the continuing implementation of these schemes. Since the implementation of these schemes is ongoing and will take considerably long time it is felt that this portion of reply should not have been treated as Assurance.”

5. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State (Food & Public Distribution), have requested to drop the above assurance.

[xxv] DEVELOPMENT OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES

On 8 July, 2009 Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 536 to the Minister of Environment and Forests. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests (Shri Jairam Ramesh) 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 Environment and Forests within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Environment and Forests vide O.M. No. 1/1/09-CS/BR dated 25 January, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That it is not feasible to fulfill the assurance due to non-receipt of consent from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in spite of meeting & pursuance and written requests at highest level from this Ministry to the Government of Andhra Pradesh including letter from Minister for Environment and Forests to Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 536

ANSWERED ON 8.7.2009

DEVELOPMENT OF BIOSPHERE RESERVE

536. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to develop biosphere reserves in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details of the locations thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government has given its clearance to these reserves;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any plan has been chalked out for the rehabilitation of tribals living in these areas; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

- (a) & (b) In Andhra Pradesh, the Seshachalam hills and surrounding areas have been identified for designation as a Biosphere Reserve.
- (c) Reply from the State Government is still awaited.
- (d) to (f) Does not arise.

[xxvi] PROCUREMENT OF COMBAT AIRCRAFT

On 13 July, 2009 Shri Sushil Kumar Singh, M.P. and Dr. M. Thambidurai, M.P. addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 1078 to the Minister of Defence:-

- (a) the status of procurement of 126 medium multi-role fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force;
- (b) the countries from which the aircraft are proposed to be procured;
- (c) the status of technical and flight evaluation of the proposal; and
- (d) the time schedule for induction of the aircraft in the Air Force?

2. In reply, the Minister of Defence (Shri A.K. Antony) stated as follows:-

- (a) to (c): Response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for procurement of 126 Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) for the Indian Air Force was received from six vendors viz. M/s Boeing USA, M/s Lockheed Martin USQ, M/s EADS Germany, M/s Gripen Sweden, M/s Dassault Aviation France and M/s Rosboronexport Russia. These proposals are presently at field evaluation trial stage.
- (d) The aircraft is expected to be inducted into the IAF 36 months after the contract is signed.

3. The above reply 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.

4. The Ministry of Defence vide O.M. No. 7(7)/US(A)/d(Air I)/09 dated 21 October, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the procurement of the Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft is being progressed in accordance with the Defence Procurement Procedure and the field trials themselves are scheduled for completion by end April, 2009. Hence, the process of procurement can not be completed within the stipulated period of three months viz. 12 October, 2009.

It may be added that a similar assurance in the Rajya Sabha has been deleted from the list of pending assurances by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

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

On 13 July, 2009 Sarvashri Nishikant Dubey and Avtar Singh Bhadana, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1220 to the Minister of Defence. 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 was 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 vide O.M. No. 15(9)/US(SSC)/09/D(GS-II) dated 11 September, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That in this regard, it is to mention that Sainik Schools are established on receipt of a specific request from a State Government agreeing to provide land along with fulfilling other responsibilities. There is no provision for the Ministry of Defence to initiate the process of establishment of a Sainik School.

In the present case, Government of Sikkim informed on 20.01.05 that the State Government has approved providing land measuring 20 acres at Ravangla, South Sikkim for establishing a Sainik School. On 25.1.08, State Government informed that the proposal to start Sainik School at Ravangla is not feasible and an alternative site at Bojoghari was proposed. On 25.7.08, the State Government informed that due to a number of technical problems, a new site has been identified at Namphing, south Sikkim measuring 12.64 acres for establishment of Sainik School. The matter was considered in this Ministry and the State Government was informed on 30.7.08 that the total area of the new site is inadequate and a land at least of 19/20 acres size be identified suitable in terms of location, availability of adequate power and water supply round the year, free from encumbrances of all types especially clearances from Forest/Environment Deptts. etc. On receipt of suitable proposals on the above lines, further action would be initiated. There has not been any further correspondence by the State Government thereafter.

Since it is the responsibility of the State Government to provide suitable land for establishment of Sainik School, this Ministry is not in a position to take any further necessary action in this regard unless the State Government fulfills this responsibility. Action in the matter needs to be taken at the level of the State Government. Therefore, the reply given in Lok Sabha in Parliament Question does not constitute an assurance as it is not feasible for this Ministry to fulfill the same for the reasons elucidate above.”

4. 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. 1220

ANSWERED ON 13.7.2009

MILITARY AND SAINIK SCHOOLS

1220. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADAN

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of Military and Sainik Schools in the country as on date, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to open more such Schools in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the locations, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government is satisfied with the performance/standard of education in these Schools;
- (e) if not, the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government to maintain high standard of education in these Schools;
- (f) whether the Government has evaluated the performance of these schools during the last three years; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof indicating the outcome of such evaluation and the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) As on date, there are five Rashtriya Military Schools and twenty four Sainik Schools under the Ministry of Defence in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details are as under:-

| State | Location |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Mizoram | Chhingchhip |
| Sikkim | Yet to be decided |
| Chattisgarh | Gumla district |
| Andhra Pradesh | Kadapa district. |

(d) to (g): The Sainik Schools Society reviews the working and performance of Sainik Schools in respect of academic results and NDA intake as well as infrastructural facilities. There is an upward trend in respect of the academic as well as NDA results. However, in pursuance of the decisions taken during Review meetings, following steps have been taken:-

(i) An elaborate programme of in service training to the teachers and competition oriented training is being implemented with the assistance of experts from the Services and professional educational institutions/bodies like National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

(ii) Service Selection Board (SSB) oriented training is also being provided to the cadets using professional resource personnel.

(iii) It has recently been decided to detail Principals of Sainik Schools to empowerment programmes conducted by CBSE in collaboration with Indian Institutes of Management and NUEPA.

(iv) The Ministry of Defence has also provided training grants to the schools with a view to upgrade training infrastructure and skills.

[xxviii] DEVELOPMENT OF JHARSUGUDA AIRPORT

On 16 July, 2009 Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 1742 to the Minister of Civil Aviation:-

- “(a) whether the Government proposes to provide specific packages to develop certain airports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) status of acquisition of land for the proposed development of Jharsuguda Airport in Orissa;
- (d) the details of funds earmarked for the project; and
- (e) the time by which this work is scheduled to be completed?”

2. In reply, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (Shri Praful Patel) stated as follows:-

- (a) Government provides financial assistance for the development of existing and new airports in the North-East Region.
- (b) Government is providing 90% funding of the cost for the construction of new Greenfield airport at Pakyong Sikkim.
- (c) In accordance with the recommendations of Feasibility Study submitted by M/s. RITES, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has a plan to develop Jharsuguda airport initially for ATR type of aircraft operations. However, action for further development of this airport will be considered after additional land measuring 815 acres is made available as per the Master Plan by the State Government of Orissa to AAI free of cost & free from all encumbrances.
- (d) & (e) The budget provision has been made by AAI for Rs. 2.19 crores in BE 2009-10. Further provision of fund, is subject to initiation of work as stated above. The completion of the project is subject to making available of additional land of 815 acres by the State Government.

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

4. The Ministry of Civil Aviation vide O.M. No. H. 11016/067/2007-AAI dated 23 December, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That from the reply to part (c) of the question, it has been made clear that the project will be taken only after the additional land measuring 815 acres is made available as per the Master Plan by the State Government free of cost and free from all encumbrances. Almost two years have been passed since the request of transfer of the said land have been sent to the State Government of Orissa. But no reply from the State Government is received yet. Therefore, this process may take long time or the State Government may not provide the required land.

In view of the fact stated above, fulfillment of this assurance may take a long time.”

5. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Civil Aviation (Independent Charge) have requested to drop the above assurance.

[xxix] MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR VANISHING COMPANIES

On 23 July, 2009 Shri Harishchandra Chavan, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 2653 to the Minister of Corporate Affairs:-

- (a) whether a co-ordination and Monitoring Committee has been constituted to investigate the cases related to fly by night companies and their sponsors and to monitor the progress of action taken thereon;
- (b) if so, the number of such companies in the country including Maharashtra and their sponsors against whom action has been initiated so far; and
- (c) the status of investigation against those companies?

2. In reply, the Minister of Corporate Affairs (Shri Salman Khurshid) stated as follows:-

(a): A Coordination and Monitoring Committee (CMC), co-chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Chairman, SEBI has been set up to look into issues relating to companies that had come out with public issue and vanished and to monitor the progress of action taken against such vanishing companies and their promoters. Specific criteria have been adopted by CMC for identification of such vanishing companies.

(b) & (c): Out of the companies that came out with the IPOs during 1992-2005, a total 238 companies were identified as vanishing companies. With the continuous efforts of the Ministry/CMC, 117 companies have been traced back, resulting in the number of vanishing companies being reduced to 121. 12 companies were identified as vanishing companies in Maharashtra out of all the companies that came out with IPOs for the period 1992-2005.

Prosecutions have been filed in 110 cases for violations of various provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. The cases are pending before different courts for decision. FIRs have been filed in 112 cases under the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Investigation by respective State Police Authorities is at various stages in all these cases.

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

4. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs vide O.M. No. 3/8/2009-Spl.Cell dated 1 October, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That consequent upon filing and registration of FIRs the investigations undertaken by the Police Authorities are under progress for the last few years and based on the outcome during investigations, cases are filed against the delinquent promoters/directors in the Court. Given the nature of investigations involved, it would be very difficult to give any tentative date for final outcome in these cases.

Similarly the cases filed against the vanishing companies and its promoters/directors under various provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 are also pending before various courts at various stages. Concerned Registrar of Companies is pursuing the cases for logical conclusions but they have not control over judicial proceedings which may take time and may also go to the appellate level.

In view of the facts mentioned above, it is informed that this Ministry has no control over the outcome of the final events and therefore, you are requested to kindly drop the above mentioned Assurance and treat the reply as the final answer.

The request for not treating the reply of Question No. 2653 dated 23rd July, 2009 as an Assurance has been made with the approval of Hon’ble Minister for Corporate Affairs.”

[xxx] IMPLEMENTATION OF TINXSYS

On 20 November, 2009 Shri Subhash Bapurao Wankhede, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 390 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. 30011/13/2009-SO(ST) dated 19 February, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the Lok Sabha secretariat has treated reply to part (d) as an assurance. However, it may be noted that the reply to part (d) of the question provided the updated position regarding implementation of GST. The reply, indicating the position at that point of time was thus given. No assurance was given in the reply and it is not feasible to fulfill this nature of assurance in a short span, as the legislative measures including constitutional amendments are long drawn process.

Since the up-dated position with regard to implementation of GST had been provided at the time of reply to the question, the reply furnished may 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 UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 390

ANSWERED ON 20.11.2009

IMPLEMENTATION OF TINXSYS

390. SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government proposes to implement the Tax Information Exchange System (TINXSYS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this Tax Information Exchange System will facilitate smooth transition to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime;

(d) the updated position regarding the implementation of GST; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the Tax Information Exchange System (TINXSYS) speedily?

ANSWER

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

(a), (b) Government of India and the States together fund on equal basis, a nation-wide computerization project called `Tax Information Exchange System (TINXSYS)` to enable exchange of critical data on inter-state sale among States. This is implemented by the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers.

(c) Tax Information Exchange System is already operational. It presently caters for tracking of inter State transactions on which Central Sales Tax (CST) is levied. The CST being an origin based tax is to be abolished before the destination based GST is put in place. The TINXSYS system, therefore, cannot be put to use in its present form in the GST regime.

(d) The Central Government has declared its policy intent to introduce Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the country w.e.f. 1st April,2010.The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) has developed a Model and a Roadmap for the introduction of the GST in the country.EC has released First Discussion paper on GST on 10th November,2009 to obtain feedback from stakeholders. The design details indicated in this paper are being studied by Centre at present. A Joint Working Group of officers of State and Central Government has been constituted to prepare draft Constitutional amendment bill and draft Central and State legislations for GST.

(e) TINXSYS is a project that has already been implemented by the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers.

On 28 July, 2009 Sarvashri P.L. Punia, Ravindra Kumar Pandey and Gajanan D. Babar, M.Ps., addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 3306 to the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution:-

(a) whether the operation of Public Distribution System, Targeted Public Distribution System and Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been severely affected due to pilferage of foodgrains, corruption in Fair Price Shops (FPS) and frequent changes in FPS licences;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken thereon including the number of cases registered and action against the erring officials;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the relevant laws in this regard and check the recurrence of such incidents in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(e) whether the system of food coupons and smart cards introduced in some States for distribution of foodgrains to check diversion and corruption is proposed to be extended to other States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?"

2. In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (Prof. K.V. Thomas) stated as follows:-

(a),(b),(c)&(d): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented jointly by Government of India and State/UT Governments with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and bulk allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible BPL & AAY families based on estimates of Planning Commission and issuance of ration cards to them, licensing of FPS as well as supervision over distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through the fair price shops rest with the State / UT Governments.

Complaints as & when received by government from individuals and organizations, as well as through press reports about leakages/diversion of TPDS commodities are sent to the concerned State/UT governments for inquiry and action.

Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 mandates the State and UT Governments to carryout all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS, including proper licensing of FPS. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of this Order is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

During the last three years (2006, 2007 and 2008) for various malpractices noticed in functioning of TPDS, States/UT Governments have reported arrests/prosecution of 15,553 persons under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Further, detention orders in 442 cases were passed by the State Governments/UT Administrations during this period under provisions of the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. For independent feedback on functioning of TPDS, Government gets it evaluated from time to time. Based on such evaluations earlier, a 9-point action plan is under implementation by States/UTs since July 2006. To further improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State & UT Governments for -

- (i) continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families and ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops;
- (ii) ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS;
- (iii) improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, and
- (iv) introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart-card-based delivery of essential commodities.

For reforming TPDS and ensuring food security to BPL families/persons, Government also proposes to enact National Food Security law.

(e)&(f): In order to make delivery of services efficient under (TPDS) and to assess replicability of use of smart cards for this purpose, Govt has approved in December 2008 implementation of a pilot scheme on smart cards based TPDS in Chandigarh and Haryana. Under it, eligible BPL families would be issued smart cards in place of existing ration cards. They will have biometric features of the family members, based on which verification of genuineness of the BPL families will take place and thereafter only the essential commodities would be issued to them from the fair price shops.

This is a pilot project and based on the success of its implementation, decision about extending it to other states will be taken.

3. The above reply was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

4. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution vide O.M. No. 7(20)/2009-PD-I dated 12 January, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That in order to make delivery of services efficient under TPDS and to assess the replicability of use of Smart Cards for this purpose, the Government has approved in December, 2008 implementation of a pilot scheme on Smart Cards based TPDS in Chandigarh and Haryana. The pilot implementation of the scheme is still on and this is going to take time. Therefore, it is felt that this portion of reply should not have been treated as assurance.”

5. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State (Food & Public Distribution), have requested to drop the above assurance.

[xxxii] INVESTIGATION ON OIL FOR FOOD PROGRAMME

On 7 August, 2009 Sarvashri Madhu Goud Yaskhi, MP, Prasanna Kumar Patasani, MP, Eknath Mahadeo Gaikwad, MP, and Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao bapurao, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 4818 to the Minister of Finance :-

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has sought the Ministry's nod to approach authorities in Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan relating to alleged involvement of certain individuals/entities in the Iraq Oil-for-food Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the enquiry has already been started; and

(d) if so, the status thereof?"

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

(a) to (d): The Directorate of Enforcement is conducting investigation in this matter with the authorities concerned in several countries.

3. 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.

4. The Ministry of Finance vide O.M. No. H-11016/10/2009-Ad.ED dated 23 October, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"The Department had duly replied to parts (a) to (d) of the Question about conduct of investigations by the Enforcement Directorate in relation to alleged involvement of certain individuals/entities in the Iraq Oil-for-Food Programme.

It would be seen that the Question had only sought confirmation of the enquiry in the matter and not final outcome. The Department had therefore replied accordingly."

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

[xxxiii] ALLOTMENT OF COAL BLOCKS TO SHAHPURA THERMAL POWER PROJECT

On 25 November, 2009 Shri Rakesh Singh, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 924 to the Minister of Coal. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal (Independent Charge) (Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal) 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 Coal within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.
3. The Ministry of Coal vide O.M. No. 54016/35/2009-CPD dated 22 February, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That application received from M/s Shahpura Thermal Power Co. Ltd. for grant of coal linkage for Shahpura TPS (1500 MW) being set up at Shahpura, Jabalpur, MP has already been forwarded to Ministry of Power for their comments. The proposal could be put up for consideration of Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term), subject to the recommendation of Ministry of Power in this regard, and no specific recommendation has been received from Ministry of Power for inclusion of these projects in the agenda so far. It is up to the Ministry of Power to send any recommendation on this particular case and Ministry of Coal has no role in this regard. Hence it may not be feasible for Ministry of Coal to fulfil the assurance within a fixed time frame.

In view of the above, it is requested that Committee on Government Assurances may be approached for dropping of the assurance. It is also requested that the Committee may be approached seeking extension of time for a period of three months for fulfillment of the assurance from 25th February, 2010 to 24th May 2010 or till a decision on the request of this Ministry relating to dropping of the assurance is taken by the Committee on Government Assurances.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 924

ANSWERED ON 25.11.2009

ALLOTMENT OF COAL BLOCKS TO SHAHPURA THERMAL POWER PROJECT

924. SHRI RAKESH SINGH

Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:-

(a) whether coal linkage/coal blocks have been allotted for the Shahpura Thermal Power Project in Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to make the said allotment on an urgent basis keeping in view the gap between demand and supply of power in Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS
AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a): No, Sir

(b): Does not arise.

(c): No application is pending for allocation of coal block to Shahpura Thermal Power Project. The application received from Shahpura Thermal Power Company Limited, a Government of Madhya Pradesh undertaking, for "long term coal linkage", is yet to be considered by the Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term), an inter-ministerial Committee.

(d) & (e): The application of Shahpura Thermal Power Company Limited seeking Letter of Assurance for long term coal assurance will be considered by the Standing Linkage Committee (Long term), as per extant procedure, based upon recommendations of Ministry of Power and other relevant factors.

[xxxiv] APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

On 3 December, 2009 Shri Manish Tewari, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2350 to the Minister of Law and Justice. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of Law and Justice (Dr. M. Veerappa Moily) 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 Ministry of Law and Justice vide O.M. No. K.15018/42/2009-US.II dated 25 February, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That as per the provisions of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 the Committee constituted by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha for the purpose of making an investigation into the grounds on which the removal of Shri Justice Soumitra Sen of the Calcutta High Court is prayed for , is required to submit its report to Chairman at the conclusion of the investigation stating therein its findings on each of the charges separately with such observations on the whole case as it thinks fit. If the report of the Committee contains an evidence that a Judge is guilty of any misbehavior or suffers from any incapacity, then the motion referred to in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Act shall, together with the report of the Committee, be taken up for consideration by the House. There is no time frame prescribed for this purpose.

From the above, it will be seen that the Government has no role in this whole exercise and, therefore, it is requested that the assurance may be dropped.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2350

ANSWERED ON 3.12.2009

APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

2350. SHRI MANISH TEWARI

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government contemplating on evolving a new mechanism for the appointment of High Court and Supreme Court Judges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government formulated any view on the primacy that is accorded to the Chief Justice of India in the appointment and transfer of Judges of the higher judiciary in terms of the Supreme Court Advocates and Records Association Vs the Union of India (1993) 4SCC41 ; and

(d) the status of the impeachment proceedings against Justice Soumetra Sen of the Calcutta High Court?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a): No, Madam.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): The Government has drawn up two Memoranda of Procedure for appointment & transfer of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts in accordance with the judgment of the Supreme Court dated October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory opinion dated October 28, 1998.

(d): An Enquiry Committee under the provisions of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 has been constituted by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha for the purpose of making an investigation into the grounds on which the removal of Shri Justice Soumitra Sen of the Calcutta High Court is prayed for. The Committee has yet to give its findings.

[xxxv] TRAIN PROTECTION WARNING SYSTEM

On 18 December, 2008 Shri S.K. Kharventhan, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 3017 to the Minister of Railways:-

- (a) whether the Railways have introduced Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) in the Southern Railway;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the features of the system;
- (c) the names of sections in which the system is presently being introduced;
- (d) whether it is proposed to extend the same to other railway zones in the near future; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

2. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. R. Velu) stated as follows:-

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) has been commissioned on suburban section of Southern Railway as a pilot project. The TPWS system prevents 'Signal Passing At Danger' cases and enforces implementations of speed restriction. The system provides audio and visual warning to driver in case of overspeeding and if driver fails to take desired action, the system applies brakes automatically.

(c) : The system has been introduced on Chennai Central – Gummidipundi section (50 RouteKMs) of Southern Railway in May' 08.

(d) & (e): It has been decided to extend the above Train Protection Warning System on Delhi- Agra section of Northern/North Central Railway as second pilot project. This project is under various stages of installations.

3. The above reply 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.

4. The Ministry of Railways vide O.M. No. 2008/Sig/P/14 dated 11 May, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That Railways stands by the earlier reply submitted to the house. Being a pilot project, study of this system in Indian conditions require extensive trials, examination, possible alterations to design to make it adaptable to local conditions. Hence, flexibility of time is required. In view of this, no time frame for completion of this work was communicated to the house. Thus reply given by the Minister of State for Railways as above does not constitute as Assurance.

In view of the above, the Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha is requested that the reply to the Part Question may not be treated as assurance.”

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

[xxxvi] I.A. TO JOIN GLOBAL AIRLINE

On 04 August, 2005 Shri Manvendra Singh, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1842 to the Minister of Civil Aviation. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Praful Patel) 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 Civil Aviation within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented. However, the assurance was partly implemented vide statement No. 1 on 21 December, 2005 in which the Ministry stated that airline alliances have become a major tool for increasing market presence as well as marketing reach in the global civil aviation arena, Indian Airlines have had preliminary discussions with one of the global airline alliances in this context. The plan/proposal is at a very preliminary stage.

3. The Ministry of Civil Aviation vide O.M. No. H.11016/28/2005-IA dated 01 March 2006 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the management had a preliminary discussion with one of the global airlines alliances with regard to joining an alliance. The alliance management has however, indicated that they are, for the time being, concentrating on developing individual airline level bilateral relationship instead of a direct alliance level tie-up with any India carrier. They have further indicated that they will be closely watching India Civil Aviation scenario and will review the status with their alliance members on a continuous basis. In view of this IAL has informed that they are not in a position to indicate the time frame by which they will join global airlines alliance. As in any case, it is not in the hands of IAL alone to join an alliance and the alliance groups also needs to accept them as member.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State (Independent Charge) Civil Aviation have requested to drop the remaining assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1842

ANSWERED ON 04.08.2005

I.A. TO JOIN GLOBAL AIRLINE

1842. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH

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

- (a) whether the Indian Airlines propose to join a global airline alliance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the benefits likely to accrue to the Indian Airlines as a result thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a), (b) and (c): The matter is under examination.

MINUTES
THIRTEENTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2009-2010) held on 7 April, 2010 in Committee Room 'G-074', Parliament Library Building, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1015 hours to 1300 hours on Wednesday, 7 April, 2010.

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi

Members

2. Shri Anandrao Adsul
3. Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar
4. Shri Mohan Jena
5. Rajkumari Ratna Singh
6. Shri Manohar Tirkey

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

At the outset, the 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 17 assurances as per details given vide Annexure-I. The Committee also decided to retain 36 assurances, which are to be pursued further, as per details given in Annexure-II. Thereafter, the Chairperson Smt. Maneka Gandhi left and the Committee then took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in which the following representatives of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare were present:-

The Committee then adjourned.

Details of Assurances Dropped by the Committee on Government Assurances at their sitting held on 07.04.2010.

| Sl. No. | Memo No. | Question No. /Discussion & Date | Ministry/ Department | Brief Subject |
|---------|----------|---|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | 53 | Point Raised by S/shri A.C. Jose & Jaiprakash Agarwal, MPs on 23.7.1996 | Health & Family Welfare | Calling off of Strike in AIIMS |
| 2. | 56. | (i) SQ No. 243 dt. 8.8.2001 (ii) SQ No. 243 dt. 8.8.2001 (Supplementary by Shri N. Janardhana Reddy, MP (iii) USQ No. 3105 dt. 13.8.2003 (iv) USQ No. 1244 dt. 29.11.2006 (v) USQ No. 3043 dt. 5.9.2007 (vi) USQ No. 677 dt. 21.11.2007 (vii) USQ No. 285 dt. 27.2.2008 | Health & Family Welfare | Medical Grants Commission Medical Grants Commission Medical Grants Commission Medical Grants Commission Separate Commission for Medical Health Medical Grants Commission Medical Grants Commission |
| 3. | 57 | USQ No. 2875 dt. 7.12.2001 | Commerce & Industry | NRI investment in India |
| 4. | 67 | USQ No. 1141 dt. 29.11.2006 | Overseas Indian Affairs | Voting Rights to NRIs |
| 5. | 68 | USQ No.1587 dt. 1.12.2006 | Power | Shortage of gas for power plants. |
| 6. | 70 | SQ No. 96 dt. 17.8.2007 | Law & Justice | Use of Hindi and regional languages in courts. |

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|-----|-----|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 7. | 71 | SQ No. 221 dt. 30.11.2007 | Women and Child Development. | Integrated child development services scheme. |
| 8. | 72 | USQ No. 2761 5.12.2007 | Planning | Recommendations of NKC on survey outcomes |
| 9. | 74 | USQ No.791 dt. 3.3.2008 | Agriculture | Enhancement of fishery trade. |
| 10. | 75 | USQ No. 1386 dt. 10.3.2008 | Agriculture | Jakhau fishery harbour |
| 11. | 85 | SQ No. 51 dt. 7.7.2009 | Agriculture | Production of Food Grains |
| 12. | 87 | USQ No. 533 dt. 8.7.2009 | Health & Family Welfare | Setting up of new Vaccine manufacturing units |
| 13. | 89 | USQ No. 787 dt. 9.7.2009 | Corporate Affairs | Mega Merger of Companies |
| 14. | 94 | USQ No. 2902 dt. 24.7.2009 | Urban Development | Rent Control Act |
| 15. | 96 | USQ No.3043 27.7.2009 | Human Resource Development | Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Peace Education and sustainable Development |
| 16. | 98 | USQ No. 4802 dt. 7.8.2009 | Urban Development | Master plan for development of urban and rural areas |
| 17. | 101 | USQ No. 1802 dt. 30.11.2009 | Commerce & Industry | Development of infrastructure facilities at Kollem port |

Details of Assurances to be pursued further by the Committee on Government Assurances at their sitting held on 07.04.2010.

Details of Assurances to be pursued further by the Committee on Government Assurances at their sitting held on 07.04.2010.

| Sl. No. | Memo No. | Question/Discussion Reference | Ministry/Department | Brief Subject | Observations of the Committee |
|---------|----------|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | 52 | USQ No. 3393 dt. 30.7.1992 | Tribal Affairs | Funds to Voluntary Organisations | Non-availability of records cannot be a reasonable ground for dropping of an assurance. |
| 2. | 54 | (i) SQ No. 597 dt. 16.5.1997 & (ii) USQ No. 2721 dt. 23.7.2009 | Law & Justice | Amendments in Article 324 of Constitution & Voting Percentage | Electoral Reforms is an important Public issue. Needs to be pursued. |
| 3. | 55 | USQ No. 4960 dt. 26.4.2000 | Culture | Recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission | The recommendations of the V CPC on Library staff needs to be considered. |
| 4. | 58 | SQ No. 6 dt. 21.7.2003 | Culture | Theft of Antiques | Important issue. Investigation of CBI & Police are in progress. Needs finality. |
| 5. | 59. | USQ No. 1325 dt. 10.12.2003 | Human Resource Development | Cash Incentives to Poor Children | Information may be called from remaining States & assurance be implemented. |
| 6. | 60. | (i) USQ No. 3312 dt. 19.8.2004 (ii) USQ No. 7007 dt. 12.5.2005 | Information & Broadcasting | Publication of Foreign News Paper Publication of International Herald | Amendment to the Press & Registration of Books Act, 1869 may be expedited. |

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|-----|----|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | Tribune | |
| 7. | 61 | USQ No. 2899 dt. 11.8.2005 | Defence | Public-Private Partnership in Defence Production | A final decision on the recommendations made by the Kelker Committee be taken. |
| 8. | 62 | USQ No. 3949 dt. 23.8.2005 | Home Affairs | Recommendations of Past Committee | Police reforms is a major issue and needs to be pursued vigorously. |
| 9. | 63 | USQ No. 453 dt. 25.11.2005 | Law & Justice | Law Commission Report | The Law Commission has given recommendations on a number of social subjects. May be pursued further. |
| 10. | 64 | SQ No. 2 dt. 17.2.2006 | Law & Justice | State Funding of Elections | There is need to evolve consensus among Union and State Governments on State Funding of Elections. |
| 11. | 65 | USQ No. 327 dt. 26.7.2006 | Shipping | Revival of Ailing Hindustan Shipyard Corporation Limited | A Note CCEA be expedited. |
| 12. | 66 | USQ No. 996 dt. 28.11.2006 | Tribal Affairs | New Policy for STs | The finalization of Policy may be expedited. |
| 13. | 69 | USQ No. 5296 dt. 14.5.2007 | Labour and Employment | Workers' Bank | Expert group to decide Workers' Bank be expedited. |
| 14. | 73 | USQ No.2879 dt. 5.12.2007 | Overseas Indian affairs. | Demand of Indian workers abroad. | Concerted efforts required to be made by the Ministry to implement the assurance. |
| 15. | 76 | USQ No. 3671 dt. 17.4.2008 | Culture | MC Gupta Committee on Delhi Public Library | Follow up action for reconstitution/expansion of Delhi Library Board (DLB) be expedited. |
| 16. | 77 | USQ No. 150 dt. 17.10.2008 | Law & Justice | Survey on corruption in judiciary | Road map for judicial reforms be expedited. |
| 17. | 78 | USQ No. 607 dt. 21.10.2008 | Commerce & Industry | CEPA with Sri Lanka Delegation | Important issue. May be pursued further. |

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| 18. | 79 | USQ No. 1262 dt. 27.10.2008 | Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution | Recommendation of Wadhwa Committee | Functioning of Public Distribution System needs to be tuned up. Assurance may be pursued. |
| 19. | 80 | SQ No. 348 dt. 23.12.2008 | Home Affairs | Integrated Check Posts | Detailed Engineering Report (DER) prepared at the earliest. |
| 20. | 81 | USQ No. 137 dt. 17.2.2009 | Home Affairs | Guwahati Bomb Blast | Investigation in the case needs to be concluded to its logical ends. |
| 21. | 82 | USQ No. 578 dt. 24.2.2009 | Human Resource Development | Madarsas | Madarsas need to be medium for imparting quality education. Pre- requisite consensus among all stakeholders yet to be arrived at. |
| 22. | 83 | USQ No. 787 dt. 25.2.2009 | Finance | FEMA by RIL | Important subject to be pursued further. |
| 23. | 84 | SQ No. 41 dt. 7.7.2009 | Home Affairs | Measures to check Naxalism | Important subject pursued and implemented. |
| 24. | 86 | USQ No. 505 dt. 7.7.2009 | Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution | Functioning of FCI | TPDS is an important social security scheme. Needs to be pursued further. |
| 25. | 88 | USQ No. 536 dt. 8.7.2009 | Environment & Forests | Development of Biosphere Reserves | Expedite reply from the State Government. |
| 26. | 90 | USQ No. 1078 dt. 13.7.2009 | Defence | Procurement of Combat Aircraft | Trials to be completed at the earliest. |
| 27. | 91 | USQ No.1220 dt. 13.7.2009 | Defence | Military and Sainik Schools | Military & Sainik Schools provide quality education to wards of defence forces. Needs to be pursued. |
| 28. | 92 | USQ No.1742 16.7.2009 | Civil Aviation | Development of Jharsuguda airport. | Airport at Non-Metro Stations needs to be set up at the earliest. |

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| 29. | 93 | USQ No.2653 dt. 23.7.2009 | Corporate affairs | Monitoring Committee for vanishing companies | Investors are being duped. Important subject. Needs to be pursued further. |
| 30. | 95 | USQ No.390 dt. 20.11.2009 | Finance | Implementation of TINXSYS | Goods & Services Tax is an important subject. Pursue further. |
| 31. | 97 | USQ No.3306 dt. 28.7.2009 | Consumer Affairs Food & Public Distribution | Corruption in FPS | P.D.S. is an important scheme. Pursue further. |
| 32. | 99 | USQ No.4818 dt. 7.8.2009 | Finance | Investigation on oil for food programme | Directorate of Enforcement is conducting enquiry. |
| 33. | 100 | USQ No. 924 dt. 25.11.2009 | Coal | Allotment of coal blocks to Shahpura thermal power project. | Ministry of Power be impressed upon to send their recommendations. Pursue further. |
| 34. | 102 | USQ No. 2350 dt. 3.12.2009 | Law & Justice | Appointment of judges | Impeachment of Judges, is an important issue. Pursue further. |
| 35. | 103 | USQ No. 3017 dt. 18.12.2008 | Railways | Train Protection Warning System | Train protection warning system needs to be extended for preventing rail accidents. It is an important subject. Pursue further. |
| 36. | 104 | USQ No. 1842 dt. 4.8.2005 | Civil Aviation | I.A. to join Global Airline | National Carrier joining Global Airlines will boost Indian Aviation Sector. Important issue. Pursue further. |

MINUTES

SIXTEENTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2009-2010) held on 4 May, 2010 in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1545 hours on Tuesday, 4 May, 2010.

PRESENT

IN THE CHAIR

Shri Bishnu Pada Ray

Members

2. Shri Anandrao Adsul
3. Shri Dara Singh Chauhan
4. Shri K.J.S.P. Reddy
5. Shri M. Raja Mohan Reddy
6. Rajkumari Ratna Singh
7. Dr. M. Thambidurai
8. 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

At the outset, in the absence of the Chairperson, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray was chosen as Chairman under rule 258(3) of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted Draft Fifth Report regarding pending assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications) and Draft Sixth and Seventh Reports regarding requests for dropping of assurances. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalise the Reports and present them to the House.

The Committee also decided to review pending assurances of the Ministries of Home Affairs, Agriculture, Civil Aviation and Women & Child Development during ensuing inter-session period.

The Committee then adjourned.