

COMMITTEE

ON

GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

(2009-2010)

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

NINTH REPORT

**REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF
ASSURANCES**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 27 August, 2010



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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

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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 | - | Senior Committee Assistant |

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

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

NEW DELHI;

August 25, 2010

Bhadrapada 3, 1932 (Saka)

MANEKA GANDHI
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

REPORT

While replying to Questions in the House or during discussions on Bills, Resolutions, Motions, etc., Ministers sometimes give assurances, undertakings or promises either to consider a matter, take action or furnish information to the House at some later date. An assurance is required to be implemented by the Ministry concerned within a period of three months. Where a Ministry are unable to implement the assurances within the prescribed period of three months, they are required to seek extension of time. In case, the Ministry finds it difficult in implementing the assurances on one ground or the other, they are required to approach the Committee on Government Assurances requesting to drop the assurances. Such requests are considered by the Committee on merits and decisions taken to drop an assurance or otherwise.

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

Question No. /Discussion & Date	Ministry/ Department	Brief Subject
(i) USQ No. 8438 dt. 2.6.1995 (ii) USQ No. 742 dt. 4.8.1995	Finance	Sodhani Committee
Special Mention by Shri Mohan Rawale, MP dt. 17.8.2001	Communications & Information Technology	Irregularities in University Exams.

(i) USQ No. 1502 dt. 2.12.2005 (ii) SQ No. 507 dt. 19.5.2006 (iii) USQ No. 3563 dt. 27.4.2007	Finance	Migration of EET System
USQ No. 4634 dt. 23.12.2005	Law & Justice	Creation of Second Chamber
USQ No. 957 dt. 1.8.2006	Textiles	National Jute Policy
USQ No. 1622 dt. 7.8.2006	Environment and Forests	Bifurcation of Services
USQ No. 4410 dt. 8.5.2007	Textiles	Modernisation of NTC Mills
USQ No. 5674 dt. 16.5.2007	Shipping, Road Transport & Highways	Coverision of Four-Lane to Eight-Lane Highways
USQ No. 4237 dt. 23.4.2008	External Affairs	Highways Connecting India, Myanmar and Thailand
(i) USQ No. 1387 dt. 29.10.2008 (ii) USQ No. 1516 dt. 29.10.2008	Environment and Forests	Afforestation of degraded non-forest land
SQ No. 242 dt.16.12.2008 (Supply by Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, MP)	Home Affairs	Measures to check Naxal activities
USQ No. 3079 dt.18.12.2008	Railways	Surat-Hazira Railway Line
SQ No. 141 dt.26.2.2009 Supply by Shri Choudhary Lal Singh, MP	Railways	Encroachment on Railway Land
USQ No. 1184 dt. 13.7.2009	Labour and Employment	Amendment in Central Labour Laws
USQ No. 1491 dt. 15.7.2009	Water Resources	Indira Lift Irrigation Project in Rajasthan
SQ No. 189 dt. 16.7.2009	Railways	New Rail Coach Factory
USQ No. 2525 dt. 22.7.2009	Department of Atomic Energy	Generation of Atomic Power
USQ No. 4712 dt. 7.8.2009	Power	Tipaimukh Hydro Electric Project
USQ No. 49 dt. 19.11.2009	Railways	Railway Safety Review Committee

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

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

4. After having considered the grounds cited by the Ministries/Departments, the Committee decided to drop the aforesaid assurances.

5. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee, whereunder the decision to drop the assurances are given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI;

MANEKA GANDHI
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

August 25, 2010

Bhadrapada 3, 1932 (Saka)

[i] SODHANI COMMITTEE

Request for dropping of assurances given in replies to

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 8438 dated 2 June, 1995 regarding "Sodhani Committee" (Annexure-I), and
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 742 dated 4 August, 1995 regarding "Recommendations of the Sodhani Panel" (Annexure-II).

On 2 June, 1995 Shri Anantrao Deshmukh, M.P. and on 4 August, 1995 S/Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal & R. Surender Reddy, M.Ps. addressed Unstarred Questions 8438 and 742 to the Minister of Finance. 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 Finance vide O.M No. 7/16/EC/1995 dated 22 April, 2010 have requested for dropping the assurances on the following grounds:

"That Sodhani Committee has made 33 recommendations. Out of these 22 recommendations have been implemented and the remaining recommendations cannot be implemented in its entirety, as these have wide range of implications on the markets.

In view of the above, it is requested that the above mentioned pending assurances may please be considered as fulfilled."

3. Accordingly, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of State (E&FS), have requested to drop the assurances.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 8438
ANSWERED ON 2.6.1995
SODHANI COMMITTEE

8438. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Sodhani Committee has submitted its report to the Government;
- (b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to implement these recommendations?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY)

(a) to (c) : An Expert Group of Foreign Exchange Market in India was set up by the Reserve Bank of India on November 22, 1994 to examine issue relating to products available for hedging foreign exchange markets in India and the introduction of new derivative products. The Expert Group is chaired by Shri O.P. Sodhani, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India. The Expert Group has submitted its interim recommendations to the Reserve Bank of India. The final report of the Expert Group is yet to be submitted.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 742
ANSWERED ON 4.8.1995
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SODHANI PANEL

742. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government have examined the various recommendations made by the Sodhani Committee; and
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to implement these recommendations?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY)

(a) to (b): The recommendations made by the Sodhani Committee are under examination by the Reserve Bank of India.

[ii] IRREGULARITIES IN UNIVERSITY EXAMS

On 17 August, 2001 Shri Mohan Rawale, M.P., during Special Mention raised by him on the matter of Irregularities in University Exams raised the following issue:-

“the action taken against the persons involved in the irregularities happened while conducting this examination? What efforts have been made by the Government so that such mistake should not be repeated in future? University used to conduct medical entrance exams in the state earlier. I would like to know steps taken by the Government in this regard? Hon’ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present in this House, he should reply in this regard.”

2. In reply the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology (Shri Pramod Mahajan) inter-alia stated as follows:-

“I will inform the Hon’ble Member after consulting the Health Minister as to what action has been taken by the Government in this regard.”

3. The above reply was treated as assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology within three months from the date of reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

4. The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Information Technology) vide their O.M. No.8(2)/2007-Parl. dated 26 July, 2007 have requested for dropping the above assurance on the following grounds:-

‘That it may be seen from the verbatim record, the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Pramod Mahajan) categorically stated that “if something wrong is fed into the computer, the concerned State Government should look into it and dispose of the matter at its level”. The other part of the statement regarding increasing the number of Medical seats in Maharashtra, the Minister stated that the “the Union Government has been requested that it would provide 363 more additional seats to Maharashtra in such a situation” and he will have a discussion with the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and informed the concerned Member of the action taken in this regard. The follow up action therefore should have been taken up by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and sent to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Shri Pramod Mahajan gave the assurance as Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and also his coming from the State of Maharashtra. It may also be seen, that DIT has no concern with the subject matter. The subject matter relates to State

Government of Maharashtra, Shri Mahajan (the then Minister of the Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology) had to reply by virtue of his coming from Maharashtra State. Hence, DIT has no role in this regard. The assurance therefore, may kindly be considered for deletion from the name of Department of Information Technology.'

5. In view of the position explained above, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology have requested with the approval of the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology that the assurance may kindly be dropped from the list of assurances.

[iii] MIGRATION OF EET SYSTEM

Request for dropping of assurances given in replies to

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 1502 dated 2 December, 2005 regarding "Migration to EET System" (Annexure-I),
- (ii) Starred Question No. 507 dated 19 May, 2006 regarding "Adoption of EET Formula" (Annexure-II), and
- (iii) Unstarred Question No. 3563 dated 27 April, 2007 regarding "Bringing of various Schemes under EET Scheme" (Annexure-III).

On 2 December, 2005 Shri Swadesh Chakraborty, M.P., on 19 May, 2006 Shri Hemlal Murmu, M.P. and on 27 April, 2007 Shri Kailash Meghwal, M.P. addressed Unstarred Question No. 1502, Starred Question No. 507 and Unstarred Question No. 3563 to the Minister of Finance. The contents of the Questions alongwith their replies of the Minister, which were treated as assurances, are as given in Annexure I, II, and III.

2. The Ministry of Finance *vide* their O.M. Nos. 155/119/2005-TPL, 155/67/2006-TPL and 155/111/2007-TPL all dated 7 July, 2010 have requested to drop the assurances on the following grounds:-

"That as per direction of the Committee on Government Assurances at the sitting held on 11.6.2010, the representative of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) was directed to send a request for dropping the above assurances on the basis of following present status:-

A Committee of Experts was set up to work out the feasibility of moving towards Exempt-Exempt Tax (EET) method of taxing saving instruments. The Committee deliberated on a variety of issues relating to insurance, Government savings, pensions, taxation and labour laws etc., so as to ensure uniformity in tax treatment of saving schemes which will in turn protect the interest of small savers. The Committee submitted its report to the Government in November, 2005.

The draft Direct Taxes Code along with discussion paper was released in August, 2009 for public debate. A proposal for EET system was also included in the draft Direct Taxes Code and Discussion Paper. Based on the inputs received from the public and stakeholders, a revised Discussion Paper on the draft Direct Taxes Code has been issued on 15th of June, 2010.

The Revised Discussion Paper, 2010 has taken into account that:-

Universal social security benefits for tax payers may not be feasible in the near future. Also, switching over to a complete EET method of taxation for all savings instruments would entail many administrative, logistical and technological challenges. It would require a vast network of permitted savings intermediaries, a central agency to service around more than three crore accounts and deduct tax at the time of withdrawals. The segregation of taxable and non-taxable amounts at the time of withdrawal and roll-over from one account to another would introduce complexities and create practical difficulties. Therefore, as of now, it is proposed to provide that the EEE method of taxation for Government provident Fund (GPF), Public Provident Fund (PPF) and Recognized Provident Fund (RPF) and the pension scheme administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority. Approved pure life insurance products and annuity schemes will also be subject to EEE method of tax treatment. In order to achieve the objective of long term savings, the rules for contribution as well as withdrawal will be harmonized and made uniform so that such savings are actually made and utilized by the taxpayer for the long term. Investments made, before the date of commencement of the DTC, in instruments which enjoy EEE method of taxation under the current law, would continue to be eligible for EEE method of tax treatment for the full duration of the financial instrument. As the issue of EET has already been subsumed in DTC, the Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha is requested to consider dropping of the assurance. "

3. Accordingly, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of State for Finance (Revenue), have requested to drop the assurances.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1502
ANSWERED ON 2.12.2005
MIGRATION TO EET SYSTEM

1502. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether an expert committee on proposed migration to the Exempt Exempt Tax system has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee;
- (c) the likely impact of the EET system on the saving instruments and the contributors in Provident Fund, small savings and insurance policies; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to ensure that the EET system does not cause hardship to the public with small savings including the senior citizens?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech, 2005-06 had announced the decision of the Government to adopt an Exempt Exempt Tax (EET) method of taxation of savings in accordance with the best international practice. In order to resolve a number of administrative issues, a Committee of Experts was set up to work out the roadmap for moving towards an EET method of taxation of saving instruments. The Committee has submitted its report on 28.11.2005 and the same is under consideration of the Government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 507
ANSWERED ON 19.5.2006
ADOPTION OF EET FORMULA

*507. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Exempt Exempt Exempt (EEE) formula is followed in India in contrast to the Exempt Exempt Tax (EET) formula for taxation of saving followed in many countries the world over;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and complete details of EET and EEE formula;
- (c) whether the Government has recently constituted a committee to examine the adoption of EET formula in India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF FINANCE:(SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM)

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

Statement referred to in reply to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 507 raised by Shri Hemlal Murmu, Member of Parliament, for 19.5.2006 regarding "Adoption of EET Formula".

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The existing method of taxing financial savings in India is generally in conformity with the Exempt-Exempt-Exempt (EEE) method. The international practice relating to taxation of financial savings is, normally, the Exempt-Exempt-Tax (EET) method.

In the EEE method, savings enjoy exemption from tax at all the three stages of contribution, accumulation and withdrawal. On the other hand, in the EET method, the contribution and accumulation are exempt from tax but the withdrawals/benefits are subject to tax.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Committee has submitted its report on 28th November, 2005 and the report is under the consideration of the Government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3563
ANSWERED ON 27.4.2007
BRINGING OF VARIOUS SCHEMES UNDER EET

3563. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring instruments like Provident Fund (PF), Equity Linked Savings Scheme (ELSS) and Pension Schemes under Exempt Exempt Tax (EET);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the likely benefits to the Government and an individual for such shift from Exempt Exempt Exempt (EEE) to EET regime?

ANSWER

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

(a)&(b) The Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech of 2005-06, had announced the decision of the Government to adopt an Exempt Exempt Tax (EET) method of taxation of savings in accordance with the best international practice. He had also stated that before migrating to the EET system for all kinds of savings, it would be necessary to resolve a number of administrative issues and proposed the setting up of a Committee of Experts to work out the roadmap for moving towards an EET system.

Accordingly, a Committee of Experts was set up to work out the roadmap for moving towards EET method of taxing saving instruments. The Committee deliberated on a variety of issues and submitted its report to the Government in November, 2005. The report is being examined by the Government.

(c) Since withdrawals under an EET system are liable to tax, the investor will be encouraged to make long-term savings. This will obviate the need to provide any old age benefit by the Government and enable the Government to reduce its subsidy burden.

[iv] CREATION OF SECOND CHAMBER

On 23 December, 2005 Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4634 to the Minister of Law and Justice. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of Law and Justice are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Law and Justice within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.
3. The Ministry of Law and Justice vide O.M. No. H-11012(01)/2006-Leg.II dated 26 March, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"That as regards the proposal for creation of Legislative Council in the State of Assam, it may be submitted that a Resolution was passed by the Legislative Assembly of the State on 25.9.1995 for creation of a Second Chamber in the State legislature. The Central Government thereafter sought the views/comments of the then incumbent Government of Assam in the matter and it was informed that the matter was being considered by the State Government. The State Government, however, did not provide its views on the subject. Again, the then Legislative Assembly of Assam in its meeting held on 29th November, 2005 passed a Resolution reiterating the stand taken in Resolution passed on 25-9-1995 for creation of a Legislative Council in that State. With further constitution of a new Assembly in the year 2006 and change in the Government in the State of Assam, the Central Government sought the views of the incumbent Government on the subject which is still awaited.

In this regard it may be pertinent to mention here that the proposal for creation of Legislative Council in the State was examined in detail in respect of the letter received from Shri Prakash Singh Badal, Chief Minister, Punjab, addressed to the Prime Minister requesting for necessary action for creation of a Legislative Council in the State Legislature.

It may be recalled that Punjab State Legislature, which is presently unicameral, had two chambers till January, 1970, thereafter the Legislative Council was abolished there from at the behest of the then Government of Punjab by the Punjab Legislative Council (Abolition) Act, 1969, w.e.f. 7.1.1970. Subsequently, on two occasions, namely on 29.3.1976 and 7.4.1993, the Punjab Legislative Assembly passed resolutions by a majority of total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two third of the members present and voting for reviving the Legislative Council in the State. The State Government of Punjab, however, *vide* its letter dated 18.9.2002 stated that there was no need for the revival of the

Legislative Council in that State. The State Government's stand was however not accompanied with a statutory resolution of its Legislative Assembly rescinding its earlier resolution adopted on 7.4.1993.

The matter was then referred to the Department of Legal Affairs seeking its opinion whether a fresh resolution of the Legislative Assembly of Punjab may be deemed to be necessary as per the provisions of article 169(1) of the Constitution.

The Department of Legal Affairs has referred the Purushottam's case AIR 1962 SC 694 wherein the apex Court observed that "The Assembly derives its sovereign power to legislate essentially because it represents the will of citizens of the State, and when one Assembly has been dissolved and another has been elevated in its place, the successor Assembly cannot be required to carry on with the business pending before its predecessor". The Department of Legal Affairs has further opined that a fresh resolution by the State Assembly is required in terms of article 169(1) of the Constitution.

The reasons mentioned in the case of State of Punjab seem to be similar and squarely applicable in respect of the State of Assam. In view of the opinion of Department of Legal Affairs, the resolution passed by earlier Assembly becomes redundant with the constitution of the new Assembly and a fresh resolution is needed to further pursue the matter. Therefore, the proposal for creation of Legislative Council in the State of Assam has to start afresh, as and when the present Assembly passes a fresh resolution to that effect.

In terms of the instructions relating to fulfilling Parliamentary Assurances if the Ministry/Department feel that it is not feasible to fulfill the same for any valid reason, they may write with the approval of the Minister/Minister of State incharge of the concerned Ministry/Department to the Committee on Government Assurances requesting for the deletion of the assurance and that such requests should be based on cogent and convincing reasons.

As explained above, it may be seen that the present proposal cannot be fulfilled within a reasonable time. It is, therefore, requested that the matter may please be placed before the Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha with the request to consider deletion of the assurance from the list of pending assurance."

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. 4634
ANSWERED ON 23.12.2005
CREATION OF SECOND CHAMBER

4634. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Assam for creation of a second chamber (Upper House) in addition to existing Assam Assembly to accommodate smaller ethnic and social groups;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action so far taken by the Union Government in this regard;
- (d) whether a similar proposal from other States are also pending for clearance;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and
- (f) the time by which all such proposals are likely to be cleared by Union Government?

ANSWER

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

(a), (b) & (c): Yes, Sir. The Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam had forwarded a Resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly on 25.9.1995 for favour of creation of a Second Chamber in the State of Assam. On receipt of the proposal, the Central Government had sought the views/comments of the then incumbent Government of Assam in the matter and it was informed that the matter was being considered by the State Government. The present Legislative Assembly of Assam, in its meeting held on 29th November, 2005, has again passed a Resolution reiterating the stand taken in Resolution passed on 25-9-1995 for favour of creation of a Legislative Council in that State and communicated to the Central Government vide its letter dated 5-12-2005. The proposal is under consideration.

(d) & (e): The Government of Punjab and Andhra Pradesh had also sent similar proposals for revival/creation of Legislative Councils in their respective State Legislatures. The Government of Punjab informed in 2002 that there is no need for creation of the Legislative Council in that State in view of the small area of that State. The proposal for creation of Legislative Council in the State of Andhra Pradesh was considered and a Bill titled the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Bill, 2004 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 16th December 2004. The Bill has been passed by both Houses of Parliament in the current Session of Parliament.

(f): As per the provisions of clause (1) of article 169 of the Constitution of India, the Parliament may by law provide for the abolition or creation of Legislative Council in a State having no such Council if the Legislative Assembly of that State passes a resolution to that effect by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present and voting. As the State Government has to make necessary infrastructural arrangements and bear the financial requirements, the Central Government proposes to consult the State Government before any further action is taken in the matter.

[v] NATIONAL JUTE POLICY

On 01 August, 2006 Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 957 to the Minister of Textiles. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles are as given in Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Textiles vide O.M. No. 1/16/2006-Jute dated 3 December, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the Ministry of Textiles is taking all necessary steps to implement the National Jute Policy. The process to operationalise Jute Policy, 2005 is a long drawn process. Every Policy inter-alia contains short, medium and long term objectives and the Government and other Implementing Agencies take time to implement these objectives keeping in view the changed sectoral situations and financial resources at its commands. There cannot be any specific time-frame within which all the objectives of the Policy can be achieved. In the instant case also, it will take time to implement the provisions of Jute Policy, 2005 in the meanwhile already important objectives of the Policy have been operationalised like launching of Jute Technology Mission and enactment of National Jute Board Act, 2008 w.e.f. February 12, 2009. In view of aforesaid facts, it is requested that the assurance may be dropped as a definite time frame may not be feasible.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 957
ANSWERED ON 01.08.2006
NATIONAL JUTE POLICY

957. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of Textiles be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has assessed the performance of jute sector keeping in view the National Jute Policy, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the objectives set under this policy are being achieved;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefore indicating the corrective steps taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) : Yes, Sir. The Government has assessed the performance of the jute sector and have taken decisions to implement the objectives of the National Jute Policy, 2005.

(b) : The decision of the Cabinet regarding approval for launching of Jute Technology Mission (JTM) and establishing a National Jute Board have been arrived at after wide consultation with concerned Ministries and an indepth review of the relevant factors. The memorandum for Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) of the Jute Technology Mission brought out in July, 2005 provides a detailed review of the jute sector, identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the jute sector. Accordingly, goals/objective have been set up in the National Jute Policy, 2005 to address all the ills of the jute sector.

(c) & (d): Among the several objectives stated in the National Jute Policy, 2005, some have been implemented and others are being addressed. The JTM is in the process of being operationalized and the establishment of the National Jute Board which would synchronise and synergise the integrated development of the jute sector as a whole is already before the Parliament in the form of a Bill. The setting up of the National Institute of Natural Fibres and National Jute and Jute Textiles Museum are under active consideration.

(e) : Does not arise.

[vi] BIFURCATION OF SERVICES

On 7 August, 2006 Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 1622 to the Minister of Environment and Forests:-

- “(a) whether the Government proposes to bifurcate the Ministry of Environment and Forests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the stage at which the above proposal stands at present; and
- (d) the mechanism proposed/evolved to accommodate the employees under the new scheme?”

2. In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Namoo Narain Meena) stated as follows:-

“(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to have two separate Departments, viz. Department of Environment, and Department of Forests & Wildlife as a follow-up of the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.

(c) & (d): The proposal is under formulation.”

3. The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests within three months of the date of the reply *i.e.* by 6 November, 2006. However, the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time up to 11.04.2009 to implement the assurance.

4. The Ministry of Environment and Forests vide their O.M. No. 23011/26/2006-GC dated 10 February, 2009 have requested for dropping the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That an assurance was given that the proposal was under formulation. Earlier as a follow up the information/intimation on the matter was awaited from Prime Minister’s Office and the Cabinet Secretariat. The matter was then taken up by the Cabinet Secretary for discussion in the Committee of Secretaries (COS) for bifurcation of Ministry of Environment and Forests into two Departments.

After consideration of all aspects the Government has decided that the proposal of bifurcation of Ministry of Environment and Forests be kept in abeyance for the present.”

5. In view of the fact stated above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, have requested to drop the assurance.

On 08 May, 2007 S/Shri Anjan Kumar M. Yadav, and Jivabhai Ambalal Patel, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4410 to the Minister of Textiles. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles are as given in Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Textiles *vide* their O.M. No. F.No. 1/5/2007-NTC dated 18 June, 2008, requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"It was expected by NTC that the modernization of 13 mills will be completed by December, 2007 with the hope that the rates for Speed Frame and Ring Frame would be finalised against 3rd Tender floated in January, 2007. Due to delay in decision to finalise the rate and party of Speed Frame & Ring Frame, it was assessed that this modernization would be completed by March, 2008 as per revised action plan drawn by the Company.

The modernization of the said mills was to be completed within the implementation period of rehabilitation scheme duly approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) i.e. 31.03.2008. However, due to various reasons (Annexure-I), the modernization of mill could not be Completed on time. In view of this, NTC has filed a Second Modified Rehabilitation Scheme in BIFR which was considered by the BIRF in its hearing held on 27.05.08. The further modernization of the mills would depend on the decision of BIFR on the Second MRS. The status report in the prescribed format is enclosed herewith. The NTC is vigorously pursuing the matter."

4. This request was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 24 September 2008 and decided not to drop the assurance. The Ministry of Textiles was informed accordingly. However, the Ministry of Textiles vide their O.M. No. F. No.

1/5/2007-NTC dated 15 January, 2009 have again requested to drop the assurance on the following ground:-

“ The entire scheme of NTC is self financing with source of funds from sale of land. Initially, the sale of land could not materialize mainly due to lack of permission from state Governments, and litigation before various courts. It was only after a series of litigations and finally with the favourable judgement from the Hon’ble Supreme Court in March, 2006 that NTC could take steps for implementation of modernization of mills.

NTC has completed most of the parts of the sanctioned scheme, and is expediting modernization of mills. 22 mills are being modernized by NTC itself, and the modernization is expected to be completed by March, 2009. In addition, NTC has also entered into joint venture with reputed textile players in respect of 16 mills.

However, permission for sale of land in case of balance units of NTC in the state of Maharashtra is pending with the Government of Maharashtra. As and when the permission is granted, necessary funds would be realized and the rehabilitation package would be implemented in totality.

In view of the above, it may be submitted that the delay was beyond the control of the Ministry of Textiles. It is therefore requested that the pending Assurance may be dropped.”

5. The Ministry of Textiles vide their O.M. F. No. 1/5/2007-NTC dated 05 May, 2010 have further furnished the present status of the implementation of the assurance as under:-

“18 mills have already completed modernization. Remaining 4 mills are being set up as new composite mills by relocation. Out of these, spinning segment in 3 mills is expected to be commissioned by April/June, 2010. Delay in completion of these projects is mainly due to reason that NTC is facing acute shortage of funds for completing these projects due to slump in real estate market, and land sale is held up.”

6. Accordingly, the Ministry of Textiles, with the approval of the Minister of State for Textiles, have again requested to drop the assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4410

ANSWERED ON 08.05.2007

MODERNISATION OF NTC MILLS

4410. SHRI ANJAN KUMAR M. YADAV
SHRI JIVABHAI AMBALAL PATEL

Will the Minister of Textiles be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the pace of the work being undertaken for modernization of NTC mills is not as required;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA)

(a) to (c) : The work being undertaken for modernization of National Textile Corporation (NTC) is as per the Modified Rehabilitation Scheme approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and Group of Ministers (GOM). In pursuance of the Scheme, NTC has formulated a plan for modernizing 22 mills by itself by generating funds from the sale of surplus assets. NTC has started modernization of 13 mills for which orders for purchase have already been placed. The modernization is scheduled to be completed by December, 2007, as per the action plan drawn by the Company.

[viii] CONVERSION OF FOUR-LANE TO EIGHT-LANE-HIGHWAYS

On 16 May, 2007 Shri Kashiram Rana, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 5674 to the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways are as given in Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways vide their O.M. No. H-11016/32/2007-P&M dated 11 December, 2009, requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the detailed reply to part (a) of the question has been given in the reply to part (b) of the reply in the enclosed Annexure-I.”

4. Accordingly, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, with the approval of the Minister of State (RT & H), have requested to drop the assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5674
ANSWERED ON 16.05.2007

CONVERSION OF FOUR-LANE TO EIGHT-LANE HIGHWAYS

5674. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken a decision to convert four lane National Highways into eight lane National Highways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, National Highway-wise;
- (c) the percentage of four lane, six lane and eight lane National Highways out of the total National Highways as on date, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of the National Highways on which the work has not been started even after the sanction and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) There are some proposals to convert four lane National Highways into eight lane National Highways around Delhi.
 - (b) The details are at Annexure-I.
 - (c) The State / Union Territory-wise details of percentages of four lane, six lane and eight lane National Highways are at Annexure-II.
 - (d) There are no works, out of the sanctioned works of eight laning of the National Highways mentioned above, which are yet to be started.
-

ANNEXURE-I

The Details of works on National Highway for conversion to Eight Lanes :-					
S.No.	State	Section	NHNo.	Length (in km)	Remarks
1.	Delhi/ Haryana	Delhi-Gurgaon (Access Controlled 8/6 lane)	8	22.33	Involves 5 km widening from 6 to 8 lane and 17.33 km widening from 4 to 8 lane; work started
2.	Delhi	8-laning of Haryana-Delhi Border to Mukarba Chowk	1	12.5	Widening from 4 to 8 lane; work started
3.	Delhi	Mukarba Chowk to Mall Road	1	8.5	Widening from 4 to 8 lane; work completed
4.	Delhi	km 3.4 to km 5.7	24	2.3	Widening from 4 to 8 lane; work started
5.	Delhi	km 5.7 to km 7.7	24	2.0	Widening from 4 to 8 lane; work included in current year's Annual Plan

ANNEXURE-II

SI. No.	Name of State / Union Territory	Percentage of length of National Highways having four lane, six lane and eight lane
1	Andhra Pradesh	28.0
2	Amnachel Pradesh	0.0
2	Assam	0.7
3	Bihar	6.0
4	Chandigarh	63.7
5	Chhatishgarh	2.5
6	Delhi	100
7	Goa	9.7
8	Gujarat	34.5
9	Haryana	26.9
11	ftimachal Pradesh	0.0
10	Jammu & Kashmir	1.2
11	Jharkhand	10.2
12	Karnataka	15.7
13	Kerala	3.7
14	Madhya Pradesh	3.2
15	Maharashtra	16.7
16	Manipur	1.5
19	Meghalaya	0.0
20	Mizoram	0.0
21	Nagaland	0.0
17	Orissa	9.8
18	Pondicherry	3.0
19	Punjab	17.2
20	Rajasthan	15.6
26	Sikkim	0.0
21	Tamil Nadu	12.1
28	Tripura	0.0
22	Uttar Pradesh	15.7
23	Uttranchal	0.4
24	West Bengal	18.4
25	Andaman & Nicobar	0.0

On 23 April, 2008 Dr. Thokchom Meinya M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4237 to the Minister of External Affairs. 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 External Affairs within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of External Affairs vide their letter No.I/ii/125/12/2008 dated 7 May, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That a major portion of the Tamu-Kalewa Kalemmyo road will become part of the trilateral highway project which is under discussion between India, Myanmar and Thailand. The 160 km. long Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemmyo road in Myanmar is already operation. It is submitted that the above reply does not constitute an assurance, it is only a statement of fact. Also no action is pending from the Ministry of External Affairs.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4237
ANSWERED ON 23.04.2008

HIGHWAYS CONNECTING INDIA MYANMAR AND THAILAND

4237. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA

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

- (a) whether the Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo road is a part of the International Highway which is likely to connect India, Myanmar and Thailand; and
- (b) the time by which this road is likely to be operationalised?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) A major portion of the Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo road will become part of the trilateral highway project, which is under discussion between India, Myanmar and Thailand.

(b) The 160 km long Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo road in Myanmar is already operational.

[x] AFORESTATION OF DEGRADED NON-FOREST LAND

Request for dropping of assurances given in replies to

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 1387 dated 29 October, 2008 regarding "Afforestation of Degraded Non-forest Land" (Annexure-I), and
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 1516 dated 29 October, 2008 regarding "Quality Plants for Environmental Afforestation" (Annexure-II).

On 29 October, 2008 S/Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar and Kishanbhai Vestabhai Patel, M.Ps. addressed Unstarred Questions 1387 and 1516 to the Minister of Environment and Forests respectively. 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 Environment and Forests vide O.M Nos. NAEB:10-03/2008-B-III and 13011/06/2000-B-VII dated 6 July, 2009 have requested for dropping the assurances on the following grounds:

"The reply was to give factual position explaining the status of a proposal being examined in consultation with related Ministries/Departments rather than assure the House, as outcome of such examination is not always formulation of the Scheme. In view of the uncertainty of the outcome, they may not be treated as assurances and accordingly, the Assurance Committee may be requested to drop them from the list."

3. The assurances were reviewed by the Committee at their sitting held on 12 November, 2009 and the Committee desired additional information. Accordingly, the Ministry of Environment and Forests vide their O.M. No. 10-03/2008-B-III dated 27 November, 2009 have furnished the desired information and have also requested once again to drop the assurances on the following grounds:-

“It is mentioned here that no detailed proposals have been received from State Governments for afforestation of degraded non-forest land involving Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). However, some states like Kerala, Tamilnadu had made some suggestions and shown interest for afforestation in non-forest areas through their letters. They were advised to send proposals after an appropriate scheme was formulated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

It is further stated that the Ministry of Environment and Forests has mooted a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme, ‘Gram/Panchayat Van Yojana Scheme’, in the 11th Five Year Plan for afforestation on non-forest lands involving Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). A draft note for the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for the scheme has been prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and sent to the Ministry of Finance and Prime Minister’s Office on 25.09.2009 for their approval. Based on the comments received the draft CCEA note is being revised for further action.”

4. Accordingly, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests, have requested to drop the assurances.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1387
ANSWERED ON 29.10.2008

AFFORESTATION OF DEGRADED NON-FOREST LAND

1387. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR

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

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals for afforestation of degraded non-forest land by involving Panchayat Raj Institutions from various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the current status of the proposals so received; and

(d) the time by which these proposals are likely to be finalized?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b): A Scheme for afforestation on non-forest lands by involving Panchayati Raj Institutions has been mooted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Scheme has not been approved yet.

(c) & (d): Does not arise.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1516
ANSWERED ON 29.10.2008

QUALITY PLANTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFORESTATION

1516. SHRI KISHANBHAI VESTABHAI PATEL

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

(a) Whether there is any proposal to produce good quality plants in nurseries and environmental afforestation units for expansion of forest outside the designated forest areas;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether such proposals are pending before the Government for clearance:

(d) If so, the details thereof and the reason therefore; and

(e) The time by which these pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a)& (b) A Scheme for expansion of forest outside the designated forest areas has been mooted by the Ministry of Environment & Forest which also envisages the production of good quality plants. The Scheme is yet to be approved.

(c), (d) & (e) does not arise.

[xi] MEASURES TO CHECK NEXAL ACTIVITIES

On 16 December, 2008 S/Shri Syed Shehnawaz Hussain and Naveen Jindal, M.Ps., addressed a Starred Question No. 242 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 are as given in Annexure.

2. During discussion, Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, M.P., raised the following Supplementary Question:-

“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have asked a question on naxalite violence and in response we have received the repeated reply from the Hon'ble Minister. Naxalite violence is a very big problem in the country, particularly in North East, Bihar, Bengal, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh are the most affected State. We have seen that about more than 1509 naxalite related incidents occurred in the year 2006-2007 and such incidents left around 250 policemen dead every year.

I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether the Government have fixed any time limit for fulfilling its promise with regard to constituting a special force to combat naxalite violence. Besides, whether the Government have made concrete arrangements for Inter-State coordination to check the naxalite violence as these people after committing violence in one state move to another state.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has not replied to my question about the time limit by which the battalion will be formed.”

3. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal) *inter-alia* stated as follows:-

“ Sir, Cobra battalion will be formed within three years as we are going to form two battalions this year itself, four will be formed in the next year and again four in the next to next year.”

4. 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.

5. The Ministry of Home Affairs vide O.M. No. 13012/51/2008-NM.III dated 29 September, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the reply of the MoS clearly makes out that the COBRA battalions shall be raised in three years, this should not have been treated as assurance because as per instructions to be followed in submitted reply, the assurance has to be completed within three months from the date of assurance.

It is informed that 2 No. of battalions of COBRA force have already been raised in 2008-09. CRPF has selected personnel for four COBRA Battalions to be raised in 2009-10. Training of these Battalions has already started in the month of August, 2009. The remaining battalions will be raised in 2010-11. This has been as per time-bound schedule as approved by Government of India.

In the light of the above, it is requested that the assurance purported to be given as communicated vide XIV-XIV/HA(31)/SQ/242-LS/2008 dated 26/6/2009 of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs may kindly be treated to have been fulfilled or may be dropped.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 242
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2008
MEASURES TO CHECK NAXAL ACTIVITIES

*242. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL

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

(a) whether naxal activities are spreading in various parts of the country including the northern States and in tribal and forest areas;

(b) if so, the details of the States affected thereof;

(c) the details of persons killed including civilians and security personnel and loss of property along with naxalites arrested and killed during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce special developmental schemes for naxal affected States;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which these schemes are likely to be introduced;

(f) whether any nexus between naxalites and other militant outfits and/or ISI has been reported;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle naxalism including rising special forces, setting up of jungle warfare schools, providing Mine resistance/ambush protector vehicles, modern weapons, safety bullet proof jackets to security personnel etc.?

ANSWER

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

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

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.242 FOR 16.12.2008 REGARDING "MEASURES TO CHECK NAXAL ACTIVITIES"

(a) to (h): During 2008, most incidents of naxal violence were reported from certain areas of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa and West Bengal. Stray incidents have been reported from some other States. However, over 80% of the incidents and casualties have occurred in four States alone, namely, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa. Year-wise details of incidents, persons killed and naxalites arrested are given in the Annexure. There are no inputs to suggest that the naxals have established links with the ISI.

The policy of the Government is to deal with naxal problem in a holistic manner on security and development fronts. The Central Government supplements the efforts and resources of State Governments through a wide range of ongoing schemes both in the spheres of development and security. Security provides the necessary environment for development to take place. A Task Force has also been set up under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary to promote the coordinated efforts across the range of security and development activities so that naxal problem in the affected areas could be tackled in a comprehensive manner. It has been periodically reviewing the measures which have been taken and the progress made under various schemes. On the security side, such assistance inter alia includes deployment of Central paramilitary forces to assist the State Police, raising of India Reserve Battalions; assistance for strengthening, upgradation and modernization of the State Police and Intelligence agencies through the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces; which inter alia, includes assistance for mobility, mine protected vehicles, modern weaponry and other security related equipments, etc.; reimbursement of certain types of security-related expenditure, financial grants for filling critical infrastructure gaps pertaining to security arrangements (a new Central scheme with an outlay of Rs.500 crore has been launched during the 11th Plan period); assistance in respect of training of State Police; sharing of Intelligence and facilitating inter-State coordination. In addition, various measures have been taken directly at the level of the Central Government which include a decision to establish ten Commando Battalions for Resolute Action (COBRA) in the CRPF, as a specialized force trained and equipped for counter-insurgency and jungle-warfare operations and establishment of twenty Counter-Insurgency and Anti-Terrorism (CIAT) Schools in various States for providing training to members of the State Police forces.

On the development side, assistance is provided through a range of schemes of different Ministries. Under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes (NREGS), Prime Minister's Grameen Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) very large Central assistance has been provided to the affected States. Coordinated action is taken to intensify the development effort in the areas where intensity of the naxal problem is higher. Special dispensation is also allowed for such areas under certain developmental schemes.

ANNEXURE REFFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) To (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED UESTION NO.242 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2008 REGARDING "MEASURES TO CHECK NAXAL ACTIVITIES"

SI. No.	Parameters	2005	2006	2007	2008 (as on 30.11.2008)
1.	No. of Incidents	1608	1509	1565	1435
2.	No. of Civilians killed	524	521	460	441
3.	No. of Security Forces killed	153	157	236	217
4.	No. of Naxalltes killed	225	274	141	181
5.	No. of Naxalltes arrested	1950	1270	1456	1536

[xii] SURAT-HAZIRA RAILWAY LINE

On 18 December, 2008 S/shri Harin Pathak, P.S. Gadhavi, Bhupendrasinh Solanki, Madhusudan Mistry and Mahesh Kanodia, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3079 to the Minister of Railways. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways are as given in Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Railways vide O.M. No. 2008/W-I/PQL/RVNL/15 dated 12 May, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the reply to Part (d) of the Unstarred Question implies that the project will be completed only after it is approved/sanctioned and taken up. Presently, Government of Gujarat is seeking Environmental Clearance of the Project. Approval/sanction of the project is done only after it passes through all stages of scrutiny. Thus, reply given by the Minister of State for Railways as above does not constitute an assurance.

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3079
ANSWERED ON 18.12.2008
SURAT-HAZIRA RAILWAY LINE

3079. SHRI HARIN PATHAK
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the budgetary provision for the year 2008-09 for the development of Surat-Hazira railway line under construction;
- (b) the progress so far made by the Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL);
- (c) the equity participation of different stakeholders/companies for the project; and
- (d) the time by which the work is proposed to be completed?

ANSWER

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

(a): The project is under development stage and is yet to be processed for sanction. Therefore, no budgetary provisions are made for the year 2008-09.

(b): Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, in the last four years, has surveyed four alignments for the project for providing connectivity to the proposed port at Hazira. However, none of these alignments could be cleared by Government of Gujarat for one or other reason. However, recently Gujrat Infrastructure Development Board (GIDB), vide their letter dated 26.11.2008 have selected an alignment between 200-500 metres line of Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) which is agreeable to the Government of Gujarat and necessary environmental clearances shall be obtained for the same.

(c): The equity participation of different stake holders shall be decided only after the project cost is firmed up.

(d): The completion of the project will be planned after the project design is finalized and necessary approvals are obtained.

[xiii] ENCROACHMENT ON RAILWAY LAND

On 26 February, 2009 Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, M.P., addressed a Starred Question No. 141 to the Minister of Railways. The contents of the question along with the reply of the then Minister of Railways are as given in Annexure.

2. During discussion, Shri Choudhary Lal Singh, M.P., raised the following Supplementary:-

“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say the Minister that he has got many encroached lands vacated. There are certain unidentified places in our area which belong to railways. Farming is being done there and other works are also going on. They do not know that they have encroached the land. You have also given compensation for those lands. In our areas, Lakhanpur is a very important place. Lands have been encroached there, but encroachers do not know that those lands belong to railways. I would like to ask the Railway Minister whether he would identify the land of railways by fencing the Lakhanpur area.”

3. In reply, the then Minister of State for Railways (Shri R. Velu) *inter-alia* stated as follows:-

“ Secondly, one more thing is there. Wherever the land is being used for agriculture, etc., we have got a policy. Wherever vacant land is available, which is not useable for Government purpose or railway track, etc., that can be earmarked for long leasing under a Public-Private Partnership Model. Or, there may the long period of lease, etc. By this, we collect some amount. Like that, we do it.”

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

5. The Ministry of Railways vide O.M. No. 2009/LML/8/4 dated 8 January, 2010 and 6 May, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That Hon’ble Minister of State for Railways has specifically replied that the boundaries of the railway land have been earmarked and the land is being supervised and stones are laid. Thus affirmative reply has already been given to the main question regarding demarcation of railway land. Therefore, the complete reply given to the supplementary question cannot be treated as assurance.

It is, therefore, requested that the assurance may please be considered for dropping on the ground that complete and affirmative reply has already been given to the main question regarding demarcation of railway land.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 141
ANSWERED ON 26.2.2009
ENCROACHMENTS ON RAILWAY LAND

*141. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether large stretches of railway land are being encroached upon in various parts of the country including Eastern Railway;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such encroachments have been causing serious operational and other problems;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Railways thereto; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Railways to remove such encroachments?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

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

(a) & (b): Railway land measuring about 1042 hectares is under encroachments involving a total of 1.42 lac encroachments. Railway zone-wise details of encroachments on railway land as on 31.12.2008, are given below.

RAILWAY ZONES	NUMBER OF ENCROACHMENTS	AREA (IN HECTARE) OF RAILWAY LAND UNDER ENCROACHMENTS
Central	27352	74
Eastern	9409	22
East Central	9222	19
East Coast	3279	30
Northern	31728	221
North Central	2529	50
North Eastern	2632	28
Northeast Frontier	11710	170
North Western	1032	19
Southern	9709	65
South Central	2728	26
South Eastern	7436	166
Southeast Central	10914	52
South Western	542	16
Western	10798	42
West Central	860	42
TOTAL	141880	1042

(c) to (e): The encroachments are safety hazards not only to the trains and passengers but also to the encroachers. Many times the trains have to be slowed down due to encroachments near tracks. Railways face problems in use of such encroached lands for developmental/expansion projects for their operational uses. Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to remove encroachments from Railway land as per provisions of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 and Railways Act, 1989.

[XIV] AMENDMENT IN CENTRAL LABOUR LAWS

On 13 July, 2009 Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1184 to the Minister of Labour and Employment. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State for Labour and Employment 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 Home Affairs vide O.M. No.20/7/2009-Judl & PP dated 11 September, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the Madhya Pradesh Labour Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003, has been returned to the State Government along with the President’s Message dated 16.1.2008 that the House re-consider the Bill in the light of the observations of the Government of India contained in the message.

The above facts had been furnished in the reply itself.

Since the Bill has already been returned to the State Government, no further action is required to be taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1184
ANSWERED ON 13.7.2009

AMENDMENT IN CENTRAL LABOUR LAWS

1184. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments including Madhya Pradesh regarding seeking amendments in Central Labour Laws relating to Special Economic Zones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (c): According to the information received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the nodal Ministry, State legislations relating to Special Economic Zones, namely; the Andhra Pradesh Special Economic Zone Bill, 2005; the Maharashtra Special Economic Zones and Designated Areas Ordinance, 2008 and Jharkhand Special Economic Zone Bill, 2007 have been received by them for approval of the Government of India/assent of the President of India.

The Madhya Pradesh Labour Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003 after due examination has been returned to the State Government with a message dated 16.01.2008 from the Hon'ble President under the proviso to Article 201 read with Article 200 of the Constitution of India, with directions to return the Bill to the State Legislature to reconsider it as per the directions contained in the message.

[xv] INDIRA LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT IN RAJASTHAN

On 15 July, 2009 Shri Kirodo Lal, MP addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1491 to the Minister of Water Resources. 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 Water Resources within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.
3. The Ministry of Water Resources vide O.M. No. 24/13/2009-PR dated 13 October, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"That the subject matter of the Assurance has been examined. It is to state that irrigation is a state subject and planning, execution and funding as well as priority of execution of the irrigation projects is within the purview of the concerned State Governments. Irrigation projects are planned and formulated by the State Governments and sent to the Central Water Commission for establishment of techno-economic viability of the project by the central appraising agencies. The State Governments are required to obtain various statutory/mandatory clearances at their level such as Environmental clearance, forest clearance, wild life clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests, clearances to Resettlement and Rehabilitation Plan from Ministry of Tribal Affairs etc., as applicable to the project by fulfilling the requirements for such clearances prescribed by the respective Ministry. The State Governments attend to these requirements of the techno-economic and other clearances as per their own priority. Once the project fulfils all the criteria for according techno-economic clearance, the project is put up to the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources on Irrigation, Flood Control & Multipurpose projects for considering techno-economic clearance to the project. Thereafter, Planning Commission considers according investment clearance to the project.

In view of the above, the reply to the Parliament Question under subject was framed. It is for the State Government of Rajasthan to promptly comply with the observations of the central appraising agencies so that project could be put up to the Advisory Committee of the MOWR for according techno-economic clearance to the project. Therefore, reply furnished by this Ministry to the Parliament Question in subject should not be treated as an assurance on the part of the Ministry of Water Resources.

In recent times, the meeting of the Advisory Committee of MOWR are being quite frequently held and a large number of projects including revised estimates have been cleared which have fulfilled all the prescribed criteria."

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1491
ANSWERED ON 15.7.2009

INDIRA LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT IN RAJASTHAN

1491. SHRI KIRODI LAL

Will the Minister of Water Resources be pleased to state:-

(a) whether a proposal for Indira Lift Irrigation Project from the State

Government of Rajasthan is pending with the Union Government;

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

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be approved by the Union

Government?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) On the project proposal of Indira Lift Irrigation Project of Rajasthan, comments of the central appraising agencies on Canal design, cost, Irrigation Planning, Inter-state matters, Financial and Hydrology aspects were sent to the State Government during March 2004 to April 2006. The compliance of the state government is awaited.

(c) The time taken for completion of appraisal process of the project depends on submission of satisfactory compliance to the observations of the central appraising agencies and production of environmental and forest clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forest by the State Government.

[xvi] NEW RAIL COACH FACTORY

On 16 July, 2009 S/Shri M.B. Rajesh and Shri P. Karunakaran, M.Ps., addressed an Starred Question No. 189 to the Minister of Railways. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of Railways are as given in Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Railways vide O.M. No. 2009/M(PU)/5/3 dated 16 October, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That implementation of the projects of new rail coach factory at Rae Bareilly and Kanchrapara are likely to take more than 3-4 years. Hence it is requested that the Committee on Government Assurances may please consider deleting the assurance from the list of pending assurances.”

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

		Target (For Production full year) till Jun'09 (i.e. Apr'09 to Jun'09)						
ICF								
Coaches	1000	1500	1251	1291	1337	1433	285	
RCF								
Coaches	1000	1500	1319	1480	1558	1562	375	
CLW								
Loco	150	200	150	200	220	250	26	
DLW								
Loco	150	200	186	222	257	250	61	
DMW								
Loco rebuilding	72	72 (No sanctioned augmentation works)	86	102	108	108	30	
RWF								
Wheels	1,40,000	2,00,000	126126	147007	196261	200000	43765	
Axles	52,000	52,000	58259	52870	84428	65420.8	16763	

(d) Yes, Madam. A new coach factory has been sanctioned at Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. Setting up of two additional coach factories have been announced, one at Palakkad in Kerala in the Railway Budget 2008-09, and the other at Kanchrapara – Halisahar Railway Complex in West Bengal, in the Railway Budget 2009-10.

(e) The details and status of these factories are as under:

(i) New Coach Factory at Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh : Land acquisition for the Project is in progress. Work of preparation of detailed estimate and work on utilities such as power connectivity, water, rail connectivity and boundary wall is in progress. Work for engaging consultants for the project is also in progress.

(ii) New Coach Factory at Palakkad in Kerala: Detailed Project Report for the project has been submitted to Planning Commission for appraisal. Subsequent to this, requisite approvals will be processed.

(iii) New Coach Factory in Kanchrapara – Halisahar Railway Complex in West Bengal: Framing of Detailed Project Report is in process.

[xvii] GENERATION OF ATOMIC POWER

On 22 July, 2009 Shri Sajjan Verma, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2525 to the Prime Minister. 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 PMO within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Department of Atomic Energy vide their letter dated 13 November, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That though the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has accorded “in principle” approval for five new sites for setting up future nuclear power plants for their full potential and also for the remaining potential at Kudankulam and Jaitapur sites, it would take considerable time for finalization of their Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). Therefore, it may not be possible to set any time frame for fulfilling the above assurance.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2525
ANSWERED ON 22.7.2009
GENERATION OF ATOMIC POWER

2525. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA

Will the Minister of Atomic Energy be pleased to state:-

- (a) the quantum of power in megawatt which will be generated through nuclear power in the country after implementation of the Nuclear Agreement;
- (b) the time by when the extra power generated by nuclear power plants is likely to be added;
- (c) whether the said power is likely to cost less than the power generated from other sources;
- (d) if so, the generation cost per unit thereof;
- (e) whether this power is likely to be made available to farmers, SC/ST and OBCs at cheaper rates;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGES), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

- (a) The planning is to add about 40,000 MWe of nuclear power capacity based on international cooperation progressively.
- (b) Based on start of work on the first set of reactors in the XI Plan, the capacity addition can commence from 2018.

- (c) The cost of generation from these power reactors will need to be comparable to cost from other contemporary sources for base load generation.
- (d) The generation cost data will be available after Detailed Project Reports are finalized.

- (e) to (g) The power generated by the nuclear power reactors, like power from all other sources, is put in the electric grids from where power is available to all beneficiaries.

[xviii] TIPAIMUKH HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT

On 7 August, 2009 Smt. Maneka Gandhi and Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya, M.Ps, addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4712 to the Minister of Power. 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 Power within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Power vide their O.M.No.4/14/2009-NHPC (Desk) dated 16 March, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“The Ministry stated that in the reply given to part (e) of the Question only the present status of the project, which is yet to take off after finalization of details of JV, was indicated. It was also added that the project would take about 87 months, to complete, after the investment approval of the Project. Hence, the reply to part (e) of the question does not constitute an assurance as it indicated only the present status of the Project. In view of the above, it is requested that the Committee may be approached to drop/delete this assurance from the Lok Sabha Unstarred Questions Assurance list. It may be appreciated that in the event of the Assurance remaining live, if not deleted, it would be possible to implement the assurance only after investment approval is issued and the project completed after the scheduled time. This process is likely to take substantial time period, as mentioned above.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4712
ANSWERED ON 07.08.2009

TIPAIMUKH HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT

4712. SMT. MANEKA GANDHI

Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Tipaimukh Multipurpose Hydro-electric Project in Manipur is facing problems in its implementation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a delegation from Bangladesh visited India in this connection;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the present status and the projected date of completion of the project?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a) & (b) : No, Madam. However, Government of Bangladesh has shown concern regarding construction of Tipaimukh Dam Project (1500 MW) in Manipur and have requested for information on the Tipaimukh Dam. There have also been misinformed protests in Bangladesh regarding construction of the Project on Barak River. Government of India has shared information on the Project with the Government of Bangladesh and has also invited Bangladesh.

(c) & (d) : A Parliamentary Delegation from Bangladesh led by Mr. Md. Abdur Razzak, Chairman of the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Water Resources and former Minister for Water Resources of Bangladesh, consisting of MPs, experts and officials visited India on the invitation of the Government of India from July 29, 2009 to August 1, 2009. During the visit at New Delhi, a Presentation was organized for the Delegation to clarify issues related to the Tipaimukh Dam Project, highlight the mutual benefits of the Project which would accrue to both India and Bangladesh and to share details of the Project.

(e) : The Tipaimukh HE Project is yet to be taken up for construction. Techno Economic Clearance (TEC) has been granted by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and environmental clearance has also been accorded. The project is proposed to be implemented now by a Joint Venture among NHPC Ltd., Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SJVNL) and Government of Manipur. The details of Joint Venture are yet to be completed. The project is scheduled to be completed in 87 months from the date of investment approval.

[xix] RAILWAY SAFETY REVIEW COMMITTEE

On 19 November, 2009 S/Shri Anto Antony and Tathagata Satpathy, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 49 to the Minister of Railways. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways are as given in Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Railways vide O.M. No. 2009/Safety-I/15-/4 dated 22 June, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the implementation RSRC recommendations is an ongoing process and out of 31 recommendations under Implementation, later on 12 more recommendations have also been implemented. Thus on date 19 recommendation of RSRC are under implementation at various stages.

Since, implementation of these 19 recommendations involves prolonged trial, acceptance of Technology suitable to different facets of Railway Operation System improvements etc., accurate timeframe could not be fixed for their implementation. Moreover, some recommendations may be found non-implementable after extensive trial.

Similarly issuing of instructions from Board's office to Zonal Railways and from Zonal Railways to Divisional offices is also an ongoing process.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of MOSR (M) of Ministry of Railways, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 49
ANSWERED ON 19.11.2009

RAILWAYS SAFETY REVIEW COMMITTEE

49. SHRI ANTO ANTONY
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Railways have constituted a Railway Safety Review Committee (RSRC) headed by Justice H.R. Khanna;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether the recommendations made by the RSRC have been fully implemented;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Railway staff will be made aware of such recommendation for enhancing safety of trains; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Railway Safety Review Committee (RSRC) headed by Mr. Justice H.R. Khanna was set up in 1998 and Committee submitted its Part I Report in August 1999 and Part II in February 2001. The Committee made 278 recommendations.

(c) Out of 239 recommendations accepted (fully or partially), 208 have been implemented. Balance 31 are under implementation.

(d) The recommendations related to retirement age, allowances, educational qualifications for recruitment, incentives, amendment to Trade Union Act, reduction of staff strength, not to make appointments on compassionate grounds to posts in Safety category, etc. were not found feasible for implementation. Implementation of remaining 31 recommendations is at various stages depending upon availability of resources and success of trials etc.

(e) & (f) Policies framed in line with accepted/partially accepted RSRC recommendations are circulated to Zonal railways by office orders, circulars, letters issued for implementation through the officers/senior subordinates and staff of each Railway administration.

[xx] VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TO USA

On 2 December, 2009 Shrimati Bhavana Gawali Patil and Shri Ponnamm Prabhakar, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2204 to the Minister of External Affairs. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of External Affairs are as given in Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of External Affairs vide O.M. No. W-II/122/10/2010 dated 5 April, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the administrative processes are being completed for opening new Consulates of India in Atlanta and Seattle.

As the question pertains to the action which is to be taken by a foreign Government (US Government) with whom Ministry of External Affairs is discussing the matter and is reminding the US Government to expedite action.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2204
ANSWERED ON 2.12.2009
VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TO USA

2204. SHRIMATI BHAVAN GAWALI PATIL
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR

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

(a) whether the Prime Minister is going to USA to discuss the issue of opening of two new Indian consulates in Atlanta and Seattle;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of issues likely to be discussed and the agreements likely to be signed with USA during his visit?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFIARS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (c) During his visit to USA from 22-25 November 2009 Prime Minister reviewed bilateral cooperation and discussed regional and global issues of shared interest and common concern with President Barack Obama and senior leadership in USA.

The following Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and other documents were signed during the visit:-

1. MoU for cooperation in Energy Security, Energy Efficiency, Clean Energy and Climate Change.
2. MoU on Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security.
3. MOU for Collaboration in Solar Energy Research and Development.
4. MOU for Collaboration in Wind Energy Research and Development.
5. India-USA Counterterrorism Cooperation Initiative
6. Memorandum of Intent for setting up a Global Disease Detection centre in Delhi.
7. Agreement for Access to Traditional Knowledge Digital Library.
8. MOU for Cooperation in the area of Patents, Designs and Trademarks.

Administrative processes are being completed for opening new Consulates of India in Atlanta and Seattle.

[xxi] GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

On 4 December, 2009 Shri Rakesh Singh, M.P., addressed an Starred Question No. 237 to the Minister of Finance. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Finance Minister are as given in Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Finance vide their O.M. No. S.30011/17/2009-SO(ST) dated 22 February, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the reply given to (b), (c) and (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 237 indicated the factual position at the time of giving reply. It was clearly stated in the reply that the Union Government is examining the Discussion Paper issued by Empowered Committee and is trying to address the concerns of the States whilst ensuring that the basic principle of GST does not get affected and the administration of GST remains simple. This part of the answer has been construed as an assurance. ‘Assurance’ is made when no or incomplete reply is given or when Minister actually assures the House for taking certain steps related to the question. The reply given to this question neither was incomplete nor assured the House of any further action. This reply may not be treated as an assurance just because it referred to an ongoing process of building consensus between Centre and States.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 237
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2009
GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

*237. SHRI RAKESH SINGH

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to impress upon the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers for the timely introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST);
- (b) whether a consensus has been reached between Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers for Value Added Tax and Union Finance Ministry and certain reservations of some States thereto resolved adequately;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the extent to which concerns of States/UT Administrations have been addressed alongwith the areas of differences?

ANSWER

FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.
- (a) Union Government is working closely with the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) for early introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the country.
- (b), (c) & (d): EC is working to resolve the issues raised by the States and has been able to achieve a good degree of consensus on various issues related to GST. The consensus has been reached between the EC and the Union Government that the Dual GST model would be implemented in the country under which both Centre as well as States would levy GST on the same transaction, EC on the basis of consensus so achieved has issued 'First Discussion Paper on Goods and Services Tax in India' on 10 November, 2009. The Union Government is examining the Discussion paper issued by EC and is trying to address the concerns of States whilst ensuring that the basic principle of GST does not get affected and the administration of GST remains.

[xxii] CORRUPTION CHARGES AGAINST AICTE OFFICIALS

On 16 December, 2009 S/Shri Nishikant Dubey and Rudra Madhab Ray, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4220 to the Minister of Human Resource Development. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development are as given in Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Human Resource Development vide O.M. No. 7-39/2009-TS.II dated 7 April, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That this Ministry has referred the matter to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The CBI have registered cases and have their own procedure and could take a long time in handling the cases. The Ministry has done whatever was required to be done in the case. It may, therefore, not be appropriate to keep the assurance pending in the name of this Ministry.”

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4220
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2009
CORRUPTION CHARGES AGAINST AICTE OFFICIALS

4220. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY
SHRI RUDRA MADHAB RAY

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

(a) whether the CBI has got the permission to prosecute the officials of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for corruption related charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against these officials; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb the corruption in AICTE?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Government has given approval to register cases against the officials of AICTE and investigate the matter.

(c): The complaints have been referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the investigation is presently underway.

(d): The Government has taken the following steps: -

(i) Steps have been taken to introduce e-governance system in the AICTE.

(ii) The approval process handbook is being modified to remove the inconsistencies and the scope for different interpretations.

(iii) The Appellate Committees have been strengthened with people of the level of Vice-Chancellors (current and former).

[xxiii] INCREASE IN STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES

On 19 November, 2009 Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu and Shrimati Usha Verma, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 161 to the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas. 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 Petroleum & Natural Gas within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas vide their O.M.No.P-38016/9/2009-Sup dated 12 April, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"That the Integrated Energy Policy (2008) envisages (that) "a reserve, equivalent to 90 days of oil imports should be maintained for strategic-cum-buffer stock purpose and/or buy options for emergency supplies from neighbouring large storages such as those available in Singapore." Government is in the process of establishing the strategic storages of crude oil of a total of 5.33 Million Metric Tonne at three locations viz. Visakhapatna, Mangalore & Padur through Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), a Special Purpose Vehicle of the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB). The project is targeted to be completed by 2012."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, have requested to drop the above assurance.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 161
ANSWERED ON 19.12.2009
INCREASE IN STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES

161. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU
SHRIMATI USHA VERMA

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has received any suggestion to enhance the nation's strategic petroleum reserves capacity from 15 days to 30 days;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI
JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (c): The Integrated Energy Policy (2008) envisages "a reserve, equivalent to 90 days of oil imports should be maintained for strategic-cum-buffer stock purpose and/or buy options for emergency supplies from neighbouring large storages such as those available in Singapore".

Government is in the process of establishing the strategic storages of crude oil of a total of 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes at three locations viz. Visakhapatnam, Mangalore & Padur through Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), a Special Purpose Vehicle of the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB). The project is targeted to be completed by 2012.

MINUTES
TWENTY THIRD SITTING

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

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

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi

Members

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

Secretariat

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

Ministry of Textiles

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

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

2. Thereafter, the Committee considered requests for dropping of assurances. After in depth deliberations, of all such cases, the Committee were convinced with the reasoning adduced by the Ministry and decided to drop 23 assurances as per details given *vide* Annexure-I. The Committee also decided to retain 28 assurances, which are to be pursued further, as per details given in Annexure-II.
3. The representatives of the Ministry of Textiles were then called in.
4. The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of the Ministry and apprised them the agenda of the day.
5. The Committee then proceeded with the oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry in connection with the pending assurances.
6. The Committee reviewed all the pending assurances relating to the Ministry of Textiles. The Committee sought certain clarifications which were replied to by the representatives of the Ministry.
7. A verbatim record of the sitting has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

Annexure-I

Details of Assurances Dropped by the Committee on Government Assurances at their sitting held on 06.08.2010.

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question No. /Discussion & Date	Ministry/ Department	Brief Subject
1	2	3	4	5
1.	106	(i) USQ No. 8438 dt. 2.6.1995 (ii) USQ No. 742 dt. 4.8.1995	Finance	Sodhani Committee
2.	111	Special Mention by Shri Mohan Rawale, MP dt. 17.8.2001	Communications & Information Technology	Irregularities in University Exams.
3.	116	(i) USQ No. 1502 dt. 2.12.2005 (ii) SQ No. 507 dt. 19.5.2006 (iii) USQ No. 3563 dt. 27.4.2007	Finance	Migration of EET System
4.	118	USQ No. 4634 dt. 23.12.2005	Law & Justice	Creation of Second Chamber
5.	119	USQ No. 957 dt. 1.8.2006	Textiles	National Jute Policy
6.	120	USQ No. 1622 dt. 7.8.2006	Environment and Forests	Bifurcation of Services
7.	121	USQ No. 4410 dt. 8.5.2007	Textiles	Modernisation of NTC Mills
8.	122	USQ No. 5674 dt. 16.5.2007	Shipping, Road Transport & Highways	Coverion of Four-Lane to Eight-Lane Highways

9.	127	USQ No. 4237 dt. 23.4.2008	External Affairs	Highways Connecting India, Myanmar and Thailand
10.	130	(i) USQ No. 1387 dt. 29.10.2008 (ii) USQ No. 1516 dt. 29.10.2008	Environment and Forests	Afforestation of degraded non-forest land
11.	132	SQ No. 242 dt.16.12.2008 (Supply by Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, MP)	Home Affairs	Measures to check Naxal activities
12.	133	USQ No. 3079 dt.18.12.2008	Railways	Surat-Hazira Railway Line
13.	137	SQ No. 141 dt.26.2.2009 Supply by Shri Choudhary Lal Singh, MP	Railways	Encroachment on Railway Land
14.	139	USQ No. 1184 dt. 13.7.2009	Labour and Employment	Amendment in Central Labour Laws
15.	140	USQ No. 1491 dt. 15.7.2009	Water Resources	Indira Lift Irrigation Project in Rajasthan
16.	141	SQ No. 189 dt. 16.7.2009	Railways	New Rail Coach Factory
17.	143	USQ No. 2525 dt. 22.7.2009	Department of Atomic Energy	Generation of Atomic Power
18.	145	USQ No. 4712 dt. 7.8.2009	Power	Tipaimukh Hydro Electric Project
19.	147	USQ No. 49 dt. 19.11.2009	Railways	Railway Safety Review Committee
20.	150	USQ No. 2204 dt. 2.12.2009	External Affairs	Visit of Prime Minister to USA
21.	151	SQ No. 237 dt. 4.12.2009	Finance	Goods and Services Tax
22.	152	USQ No. 4220 dt.16.12.2009	Human Resource Development	Corruption Charges against AICTE Officials
23.	153	USQ No. 161 dt.19.11.2009	Petroleum and Natural Gas	Increase in Strategic Petroleum Reserves

Annexure-II

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MINUTES

TWENTYFIFTH SITTING

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

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

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi

Members

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

Secretariat

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

Ministry of Civil Aviation

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

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

- (i) 8th Report regarding review of pending assurances pertaining to Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- (ii) 9th Report regarding requests for dropping of assurances (acceded to).
- (iii) 10th Report regarding requests for dropping of assurances (not acceded to).
- (iv) 11th Report regarding review of pending assurances pertaining to Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development).

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

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

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

The Committee then adjourned.