

36

**COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2015-2016)**

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

THIRTY SIXTH REPORT

**REVIEW OF PENDING ASSURANCES
PERTAINING TO THE MINISTRY
OF EARTH SCIENCES**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 11 August, 2016



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 2016/Shravana, 1938 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2015-2016)

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank” — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri E. Ahamed
4. Shri Anto Antony
5. Shri Tariq Anwar
6. Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
7. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadiya
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14. Shri K.C. Venugopal
15. Shri S.R. Vijay Kumar

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Shri R.S. Kambo | — | <i>Additional Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri J.M. Baisakh | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 3. Shri S.L. Singh | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

* The Committee has been re-constituted *w.e.f.* 01 September, 2015 *vide* Para No. 2348 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated 31 August, 2015.

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 Thirty Sixth Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2015-2016) at their sitting held on 15 January, 2016 took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Earth Sciences regarding pending Assurances upto the 5th Session of the 16th Lok Sabha.

3. At their sitting held on 09 August, 2016 the Committee (2015-2016) considered and adopted their Thirty Sixth Report.

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

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

NEW DELHI;
09 August, 2016

18 Shrawana, 1938 (Saka)

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK"
Chairperson,
Committee on Government Assurances.

REPORT

I. INTRODUCTORY

The Committee on Government Assurances scrutinize the Assurances, promises, undertakings etc., given by the Ministers from time to time on the floor of the House and report the extent to which such Assurances, promises, undertakings have been implemented. Once an Assurance has been given on the floor of the House, the same is required to be implemented within a period of three months. The Ministries/Departments of Government of India are under obligation to seek extension of time required beyond the prescribed period for fulfillment of the Assurance. Where a Ministry/Department are unable to implement an Assurance, that Ministry/Department are bound to request the Committee for dropping it. The Committee consider such requests and approve dropping, in case, they are convinced that grounds cited are justified. The Committee also examine whether the implementation of Assurances has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose and the extent to which the Assurances have been implemented.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2009-10) took a policy decision to call the representatives of the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, in a phased manner, to review the pending Assurances, examine the reasons for pendency and analyze operation of the system prescribed in the Ministries/Departments for dealing with Assurances. The Committee also decided to consider the adequacy of Assurances implemented by the Government.

3. The Committee on Government Assurances (2014-2015) decided to follow the well established and time tested procedure of calling the representatives of the Ministries/Departments of Government of India, in a phased manner and review the pending Assurances. The Committee took a step further and decided to call the representatives of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs also as all the Assurances are implemented through them.

4. In pursuance of the *ibid* decision, the Committee on Government Assurances (2015-2016) invited representatives of the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the representatives of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to render clarifications with respect to delay in implementation of the Assurances given during the period from the 6th Session of the 14th Lok Sabha to the 5th Session of the 16th Lok Sabha. The committee examined the following 10 Assurances at their sitting held on 15 January, 2016:—

S.No.	SQ/USQ No./dated	Subject
1.	USQ No. 2513 dated 9.12.2015	Doppler Weather Radar System (Appendix-I)

S.No.	SQ/USQ No./dated	Subject
2.	USQ No. 2522 dated 16.03.2007	Institutions on Oceanography (Appendix-II)
3.	USQ No. 2014 dated 23.08.2012	Adoption of Seismology Centre in Kerala (Appendix-III)
4.	USQ No. 147 dated 05.12.2013	Desalination Plants (Appendix-IV)
5.	USQ No. 4023 dated 17.12.2014	Desalination Plants (Appendix-V)
6.	USQ No. 4648 dated 22.04.2015	Natural Calamities (Appendix-VI)
7.	SQ No. 561 dated 06.05.2015	Cooperation in Earth Sciences (Appendix-VII)
8.	USQ No. 6595 dated 06.05.2015	Polar Research Vessel (Appendix-VIII)
9.	USQ No. 2736 dated 05.08.2015	Earthquake Warning System (Appendix-IX)
10.	SQ No. 323 dated 12.08.2015 (Supplementary by Shri Nagendra Kumar Pradhan, M.P.)	Weather Forecast Services (Appendix-X)

5. The Extracts from Manual of Practice and Procedure in the Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs laying guidelines on the definition of an Assurance, the time limit for its fulfillment, dropping/deletion and extension, the procedure for fulfillment etc., besides maintenance of Register of Assurances and periodical reviews to minimize delays in implementation of the Assurances are reproduced at Appendix-XI.

6. During the oral evidence, the Committee enquired about the mechanism available for implementation of Assurances, the periodical review of the pending Assurances to minimize delays in their implementation, the details of meetings held in this regard at various levels and the outcome thereof. Further, pointing out that the Ministries/Departments are required to seek extension of time in case of failure to fulfil the Assurance within the prescribed/extended time, the Committee desired to know as to why no extension of time has been sought by the Ministry in this regard since 2006. The representative of the Ministry while admitting that implementation of the Assurances given by them have been delayed, stated that full efforts were made to fulfil the Assurances. One of the reasons for the delay

was that they need to set up prototype stage or develop technology for fulfillment of the Assurance. Giving an example, he further stated as under:—

"We will be asked why we failed to achieve conversion of hard water into soft water *i.e.* desalination. Our Ministry was involved only at DPR stage; we will prepare the Detailed Project Report and that would be given to Lakshadweep Administration. Lakshadweep Administration will implement the project either with the Ministry of Home Affairs or the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The delay happens in these processes."

Observations/Recommendations

7. The Committee are concerned to note that the Ministry could not implement any of the 10 Assurances given by them during the period from the 6th Session of the 14th Lok Sabha to the 5th Session of the 16th Lok Sabha. The Assurances mentioned at Sl. Nos. 1 and 2 are pending for more than 10 years and 9 years respectively while the remaining Assurances are pending for more than 3 years to 10 months. The inordinate delay in fulfillment of the Assurance clearly indicates lackadaisical attitude of the Ministry in undertaking proper follow up action and absence of regular review meetings once an Assurance has been made. The scrutiny of the pending Assurances also reveals that the existing mechanism put in place by the Ministry for review of the implementation of Assurances especially those involving other Ministries/Departments is far from effective. Since the utility and relevance of an Assurance are lost due to inordinate delay in fulfillment, the Committee recommend that the existing mechanism/system in the Ministry should be overhauled and streamlined with mandatory regular reviews so as to avoid undue delay in fulfillment of Assurances particularly the pending Assurances and a particular officer should be made responsible for ensuring compliance with Parliamentary procedures and instructions of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in this regard. The Committee also desire that the Ministry adopt a pro-active approach and scale up the level of coordination with other Ministries/Departments concerned including the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for early/timely implementation of all the pending and future Assurances.

II. Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Earth Sciences

A. Doppler Weather Radar System

8. In reply to USQ. No. 2513 dated 09.12.2005 regarding 'Doppler Weather Radar System' (Annexure I), it was stated that the India Meteorological Department, through its regional office in Mumbai, has already taken up the case for acquiring a suitable site through the State Government. Simultaneously, the possibility of installing the Radar at the existing premises of IMD located at Colaba and Santacruz airports is also being technically examined.

9. The Ministry in their status report stated as follows:—

"Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO)-IMD has installed Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) in Mumbai at Archana Building in Navy Campus, Colaba. After obtaining all customary and procedural approvals, the DWR

has been commissioned in Mumbai on 25.08.2015. Since then, DWR Mumbai data is continuously used for forecasting severe weather over Mumbai and surround regions. Accordingly, the Assurance may be dropped."

10. During evidence, the representative of the Ministry apprised the Committee in this regard as under:—

"The Assurance under reference was dealt with by the Ministry of Science & Technology and it came to the Ministry of Earth Sciences only in December, 2015. We have complied with the Assurance and have informed about this, but it still remains pending. This sometimes creates problems. We were not aware of this Assurances till 2015. In 2015, we finalised the Compliance report of this Assurance."

11. The Committee enquired whether the Ministry of Science and Technology were not aware all these 10 years that the Assurance does not belong to them. To this, the representative of the Ministry of Earth Sciences replied as under:—

"That time the IMD was under the Department of Science and Technology. When the Ministry of Earth Sciences was created, it was transferred to it, but this Assurance was not transferred. In so far as the work is concerned, the Doppler Weather Radar was constructed in 2008 and the same has already been commissioned in Mumbai."

12. On being asked about the reasons for delay of about 7 years in commissioning the Radar after its construction in 2008, the representative of the Ministry deposed during evidence as under:—

"This was due to technological problems. The Radar was made by BEL and there were problems in improving it."

13. Replying to a further query in this regard, he elaborated as under:—

"We purchased 12 Radars through global tender from China in 2009. One of those Radars was to be installed in Mumbai. One of the engineers involved was a Chinese. Since, it was to be installed in the Naval premises at Colaba, the Navy objected that the Chinese people should not be allowed and that a Chinese radar could not be installed there. Thus, the Navy did not allow the installation of Chinese Radars in coastal areas. Afterwards, the indigenous radar from BEL was tried but it got certain functional dysfunction and software related issues."

14. When the Committee pointed out that the extension of time for fulfilling the Assurance was sought in 2009, he submitted as under:—

"Meteorological Department directly sought the extension. It was not in the knowledge of the Ministry. We will look into it."

15. The Committee desired to know from the representative of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs about the confusion surrounding the Assurance. The representative of the Ministry replied as under:

"A meeting was held in October. As per our records, the Assurance was pending with the Ministry of Earth Sciences."

Observations/Recommendations

16. The Committee are dismayed to note the negligent attitude of the Ministry as the issue remained pending for 10 years and the Ministry did not take extension of time for fulfilling the Assurances. The Committee express their concern over the fact that the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs are not even aware that no extension of time has been granted by the Committee for fulfillment of the Assurance since 2009. Highly displeased with the way the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs monitored/reviewed pending Assurances at their level which led to abysmal failure, the Committee direct that the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs should concurrently review the status and implementation of all the pending Assurances at the level of senior officers and furnish the Minutes of such review meetings to the Committee for consideration. As regards the implementation of the Assurance, the Committee observe that as the requisite work has been completed, the same would be deemed to have been fulfilled after the Ministry of Earth Sciences furnish an Implementation Report in this regard.

B. Institutions of Oceanography

17. In reply to USQ No. 2522 dated 16.03.2007 regarding 'Institutions of Oceanography' (Annexure II) it was stated that the Ministry proposes to establish an extension centre of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai at Kolkata in XI Five Year Plan.

18. The Ministry in their Status Report stated as follows:—

"The Government of West Bengal is exploring a suitable site for the NIOT extension centre. Under the present scope of activities, the setting up of extension centre is not included. Accordingly, the Assurance may be dropped."

19. During the Course of evidence, the representative of the Ministry apprised the Committee as under:—

"A National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has been established in Chennai. At the preliminary stage, it was decided during the 10th Plan to open an extension office of NIOT in Kolkata but later on, the land for the purpose could not be procured and as a result the proposal was dropped during the 11th Plan."

20. In this context, the representative of the Ministry further added:—

"The support of the State Government for infrastructure, land and power is required for completion of such activities."

21. On being asked whether the matter was taken up at the level of the Union Minister and the Chief Minister concerned, the representative of the Ministry replied in the negative.

Observations/Recommendations

22. The Committee are perturbed to note that an important Assurance pertaining to establishment of an extension centre of NIOT at Kolkata has been pending for implementation for more than 9 years. A major reason for the delay has been the reported lack of support of the State Government of West Bengal in terms of ensuring availability of land, infrastructure, and power for establishment of the extension centre. This smacks of the lack of coordination between the Ministry and the State Government. Deplorably, the matter was not taken up at the level of the Union Minister and the Chief Minister concerned which is not only a serious lapse on the part of the Ministry but also indicative of the fact that no proper attention is paid to the Assurance given on the floor of the House by the officials of the Ministry. Being a major maritime nation, the country needs to develop its ocean technologies to great heights and the establishment of the extension centre will go a long way in this direction. The Committee, therefore, highlight the need to bring such instances of lack of support from the respective State Governments at the Chief Ministerial level and hold discussions at the highest level to fulfil the Assurance. Stressing the significance of an Assurance given by a Minister of the Union Government on the floor of the House, the Committee recommend the Ministry to conduct a detailed review of the matter and furnish a Part Implementation Report of the Assurance.

C. Adoption of Seismology Centre in Kerala

23. In reply to USQ No. 2014 dated 23.08.2012 regarding 'Adoption of Seismology Centre in Kerala' (Annexure III) it was stated that the proposal for taking over of Centre for Earth Science Studies (CESS), Thiruvananthapuram by the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences is under consideration and a Committee has been duly constituted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences to examine all associated issues.

24. The Ministry in their Status Report stated as follows:—

"From 1st January, 2014, the Centre has been takenover by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and is now known as National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS), Accordingly, the Assurance may be dropped."

25. During evidence, the representative of the Ministry apprised the Committee as under:—

"The seismology centre in Thiruvananthapuram was to be taken over by the Ministry which was under the control of the Government of Kerala. This has been done in January, 2014 and a compliance report has been filed on 24.11.2014."

Observations/Recommendations

26. The Committee are concerned that Implementation Report of an Assurance which was fulfilled on 01.01.2014 is yet to be laid on the Table of the House *i.e.* even after a delay of more than two and half years. This is indicative of the fact that the Ministry of Earth Sciences are not aware of the procedures of fulfilling Assurance. The glaring lapse on the part of the Ministry in complying with the

prescribed procedure and in coordinating with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in this regard can also be gauged from the delay of about 11 months in furnishing the compliance report of the Assurance which was done only on 24.11.2014. The Committee deplore the lapses and negligence of both the Ministries particularly the failure of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to take the requisite action to lay the Implementation Report of the Assurance. Since the Assurance has been fulfilled, the Committee direct both the Ministries to lay the Implementation Report in this regard on the Tabel of the House at the earliest.

D. Desalination Plants

- (i) USQ No. 147 dated 05.12.2013 regarding 'Desalination Plants' (Annexure IV)
- (ii) USQ No. 4023 dated 17.12.2014 regarding 'Desalination Plants' (Annexure V)

27. In reply to USQ No. 147 dated 05.12.2013 regarding 'Desalination Plants' it was stated that the DPR for establishing desalination plants in six Islands of Lakshadweep was submitted to Lakshadweep Administration for approval of the Project by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. Further, in response to USQ No. 4023 dated 17.12.2014 regarding 'Desalination Plants' it was stated that work has been initiated to set up a prototype Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) plant with a capacity of generating 2 million litres of potable water per day (2 MLD) at the Tuticorin Thermal Power Station, Tamil Nadu by the end of XII Plan period. The Lakshadweep Administration requested Earth System Science Organisation—National Institute of Ocean Technology (ESSO-NIOT) for setting up similar plants in remaining six Island viz., Amini, Chetlet, Kadmat, Kalpeni, Kiltan and Andrott, ESSO-NIOT has sent a Detailed Project Report to the Lakshadweep Administration in this regard. The proposal has not been approved so far.

28. In a written note submitted to the Committee, the Ministry apprised the status of the Assurance given in reponse to USQ No. 147 dated 05.12.2013 as under:—

"There is no promise made since the Detailed Project Report (DPR) was submitted to Lakshadweep Administration and hence no action is pending from the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Accordingly, the Assurance may be dropped."

29. As regards the status of the Assurance given in reply to USQ No. 4023 dated 17.12.2014, the Ministry submitted in a written note as under:—

"NIOT has sent a detailed project report to the Lakshadweep Administration for establishing desalination plants in six Islands of Lakshadweep (Andrott, Amini, Kadmat, Chetlet, Kiltan and Kalpeni). It may be noted that the Ministry conveyed the factual position in respect of setting up of six LTTD plants in the islands of Lakshadweep and there was no promise made, that constitutes the 'Assurance'. Detailed Project Report (DPR) was submitted to Lakshadweep Administration and there is no action pending from the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Accordingly, the Assurance may be dropped."

30. During evidence, the representative of the Ministry apprised the Committee as under:—

"The National Institute of Ocean Technology had to install desalination plants in Lakshadweep. The Ministry had prepared a Report in this context and the same was furnished to the Lakshadweep Administration. The responsibility for desalination part was with the Ministry of Home Affairs. Now, this has become the responsibility of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. At present, the matter stands in between these two Ministries. We have prepared the DPR."

31. Pointing out that at present drinking water projects have been taken over by the Ministry of Water Resources, the Committee enquired about the reponse of that Ministry. To this, the representative of the Ministry of Earth Sciences replied as under:—

"They have got the project approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee."

32. He further Added:—

"They floated a tender which was won by Kirloskar. But there was too much delay in fund transfer that Kirloskar withdrew from it. We tried very hard to get the work executed. But they said that 'we are prepared to pay the penalty of Rs. 8 crore but all our technologies have gone, all our experts in the field have gone. So, we cannot implement the project now'."

33. When the Committee desired to know the response of the Lakshadweep Administration in this regard, the representative of the Ministry deposed during evidence as under:—

"We called them, and had held 2-3 meetings with them. We are only a technology provider for that project. Our role is that when the plant is set up and the work is commercially executed, if any problem arises from time-to-time, our scientist will help them. This is our role in that project."

34. In this regard, another representative of the Ministry stated as under:—

"We are told that they (Lakshadweep Administration) have submitted a proposal worth Rs. 280 crore for EFC approval. A proposal for revised cost estimate has also been recieved from them."

35. Asked to elucidate the hike in the cost of the project, the representative of the Ministry responded as under:—

"Originally the project was worth Rs. 190 crore, now it has been revised as Rs. 280 crore."

36. On being pointed out that there have been lapses and shortcomings on the part of the Lakshadweep Administration, a representative of the Ministry stated during evidence as under:—

"Actually Lakshadweep Administration has less power. Above then, the matters are handled by the Ministry of Home Affairs."

Observations/Recommendations

37. The Committee are perturbed that no proper attention has been paid by the Ministry to fulfil the two Assurances given in December, 2013 and December, 2014 regarding 'Desalination Plants'. Instead of making earnest efforts to fulfil the Assurance, the Ministry of Earth Sciences have abdicated the responsibility by categorically stating that there was no promise made since the Detailed Project Report (DPR) was submitted to Lakshadweep Administration and hence no action is pending from them. The Committee are not inclined to accept this contention as mere submission of DPR does not construe establishment of the proposed desalination plants mentioned in the Assurances. Even the DPR submitted by the Ministry provided futile as the Lakshadweep Administration has subsequently submitted a revised cost estimate of Rs. 280 crore of EFC approval against the original cost estimate of Rs. 190 crore. The Committee's scrutiny has revealed that this lapse is the culmination of the failure of the nodal Ministry, the Ministry of Earth Sciences to coordinate with other Ministries concerned *i.e.* the Ministry of Home Affairs which controls the Lakshadweep Administration, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and the Ministry of Water Resources which have now taken over the project. The Committee deplore the delay in fund transfer which led to failure of the tender floated by the Ministry of Water Resources for the project and the lackadaisical attitude of the Lakshadweep Administration and the Ministry of Home Affairs which did not evince keen interest in the project and consequently caused cost escalation of Rs. 90 crore. The Committee would like the Ministry to furnish a Part Implementation Report in this regard. The Committee feel that it is the foremost responsibility of any Government to provide clean drinking water to the public and the Lakshadweep Administration cannot deny this fact. Hence, the Ministry should take up the matter at all levels especially at Secretarial and Ministerial levels to fulfil the Assurance. The Committee desire that, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Lakshadweep Administration which have since submitted the revised cost should be asked to expedite the implementation of the project.

E. Natural Calamities

38. In reply to USQ No. 4648 dated 22.04.2015 regarding 'Natural Calamities' (Annexure VI) it was stated that a statement on the study done by the Government regarding natural disasters, like landslide and avalanche will be laid on the Table of the House.

39. The Ministry in their status report stated as follows:—

"Question pertains to Ministry of Mines and they have accepted transfer of question *vide* their letter F.No. 1/5/2015-M.I dated 16.04.2015. Hence, the said question listed as pending Assurance from the M/o Earth Sciences be dropped."

40. During evidence, the Committee pointed out the logic of transferring the Assurance to the Ministry of Mines especially in the context of Himalayan and North-Eastern States where land sliding and avalanche occurred due to whether conditions. The representative of Ministry of Earth Sciences stated that Geological Survey of India (GSI) is a part of the Ministry of Mines.

41. In this regard another representative of the Ministry clarified the matter as under:

"We are concerned with warning related work and they (the Ministry of Mines) are concerned with response related to work."

Observations/Recommendations

42. The Committee observe that natural disasters like landslide and avalanche are caused by weather conditions namely heavy rainfall, cloud burst and heavy snowfall. Hence, the Ministry of Earth Sciences which are concerned with warning of such natural calamities cannot abdicate their responsibility in this regard especially in the Himalayan and the North Eastern States and transferring the Assurance to the Ministry of Mines is not a prudent decision. The Committee feel that loss of precious lives and property can be avoided if there is a proper study on such natural disasters with a view to putting in place a mechanism for early/timely forecasting of the same. The Committee regret to note that precious time has been wasted in this regard due to lack of promptitude and alacrity on the part of the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Since the Assurance pertains to both the Ministries of Earth Sciences and Mines, the Committee desire that the two Ministries should coordinate with each other for expeditious fulfillment of the Assurance.

F. Cooperation in Earth Science

43. In reply to SQ No. 561 dated 06.05.2015 regarding 'Cooperation in Earth Science' (Annexure XII) it was stated that the proposal related to development of Wind Profiler System is currently under consideration between Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (ESSO-IITM), Pune, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Earth Sciences and National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), USA.

44. The Ministry in their Status Report stated as follows:—

"The technical specifications of the wind profiler are being revised as required for India conditions and with other joint technology development options. The statement of work for the wind profiler development is still under formulation both by the Indian and USA groups as per suggestions of the Technology Research Board of the Ministry. Being a purely joint R & D effort in a pilot mode, the question may be dropped as it is not a physical milestone activity."

45. During evidence, the representative of the Ministry apprised the Committee as under:—

"The Assurance pertains to a scientific MoU signed with an agency of the USA. It is an R & D Project. It is now at formal stage. No conclusion has been reached in the matter; negotiation is going on. Joint research will be conducted in the matter.

46. In this regard, another representative of the Ministry submitted as under:—

"The two groups could not convert the negotiations into agreement till now."

47. He further added as under:—

"Now it (the American agency), is not interested in transfer of technology."

48. When the Committee pointed out that there are many contentious issues in the matter pertaining to finance, location, confidentiality etc., he stated as under:—

"We have collaboration with agencies from the UK and the USA."

Observations/Recommendations

49. The Committee note that development of Wind Profiler System will bolster up the country's infrastructure for weather observation and study towards better understanding and forecasting of atmospheric conditions. However, not much progress has been achieved in this direction due to emergence of many contentious issued in the negotiations between the Ministry and their American counterpart especially on the issues of transfer of technologies, finance, location and confidentiality etc. The Committee would like the Ministry to step up their negotiations and collaborations with the agencies from both the UK and the USA to sort out the collaborations with the agencies from both the UK and the USA to sort out the difference so as to expedite development of the Wind Profiler System and consequent fulfillment of the Assurance.

G. Polar Research Vessel

50. In reply to USQ No. 6595 dated 06.05.2015 regarding 'Polar Research Vessel' (Annexure VIII) it was stated that presently, the agreement with the shipbuilder for the construction of a Polar Research Vessel is under finalization and the necessary clearances in this regard, are under process.

51. The Ministry in their Status Report stated as follows:—

"The said procurement will have to undergo global retendering process in view of the identified LI bidder requested for change in terms and conditions that cannot become acceptable under the rules."

52. During evidence, the Ministry apprised the Committee as under:—

"A decision was taken to purchase a Polar Research Vessel. A global tender was floated and finally a company from Spain was shortlisted. Owing to some of the terms and conditions of the World Maritime Organization and demand for some changes in some of the rules, the matter was discharged. The matter is being renegotiated. It would take at least 1 year in the tendering process and 2 years in the fabrication process, thus a total of around 3 years for fulfillment of the Assurance."

Observations/Recommendations

53. The Committee note that acquisition of a Polar Research Vessel is imperative for strengthening the country's crucial scientific studies in the two polar regions of Arctic and Antarctic. Unfortunately however, much progress could not be achieved in this direction and the matter is being renegotiated which may taken about 3 years. The Committees would like the Ministry to step up their efforts to expedite the process and in the meantime furnish a Part Implementation Report in this Regard.

H. Earthquake Warning System

54. In reply to USQ No. 2736 dated 05.08.2015 regarding 'Earthquake Warning System' (Annexure IX) it was stated that Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in collaboration with Jet Propulsion Laboratory of National Oceanic and Space Administration (NASA) USA has plans to build and launch a Dual Frequency (L & S Band) ISRO-NASA Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Imaging Satellite for study in surface deformation/displacement. However, the details of the satellite launch are yet to be firmed up.

55. The Ministry in their status report stated as follows:—

"The Dual Frequency (L&S band) NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Imaging Satellite will be launched using ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) tentatively during the year 2020-21. Being a purely joint R&D effort in a new area, the question may be dropped as it is not a physical mile stone activity."

56. During evidence, the representative of the Ministry apprised the Committee as under:—

"Talks are going on between NASA and the Department of Space in order to launch a new satellite which can visualize surface displacement and the Assurance can be fulfilled only by 2020-2021."

Observations/Recommendations

57. The Committee are glad to note that the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Mission, a Joint project between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the USA and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to co-develop and launch a dual frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar Imaging Satellite is under way. The significance of the NISAR Imaging Satellite can be gauged from the fact that it will be the first Radar Imaging Satellite to use dual frequency remote sensing for observing and understanding natural process of the earth. It would also be providing an unprecedented detailed view of the earth enabling us to understand some of the earth's most complex processes including natural hazards, earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, etc. which in turn will help us in better earthquake warning and management thereby minimising loss of

lives and property to a great extent. It will also have a tremendous impact upon increasing our preparedness in developing a long term comprehensive mechanism to deal with the various other natural disasters related with earth processes. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to pursue the matter with earnestly so as to expedite successful launching of the satellite and consequent fulfillment of the Assurance.

I. Weather Forecast Service

58. In reply to SQ No. 323 dated 12.08.2015 regarding 'Weather forecast Service' (Annexure X) the Minister replied that all the things concerning weather forecast service are being moved in a fast track manner and in the coming years all those Plans which have been formulated in the past, will be implemented. He also stated that there is a provision for further drafting new Plans to make the country still better than before. Regarding weather stations in Odisha, he informed that they are already in the process of commissioning and in 2-3 months, they will be commissioned."

59. The Ministry in their Status Report stated as follows:—

"Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) at Sambhalpur is included in the next phase of DWR procurement which will be implemented upon availability of funds for such procurement. Physical infrastructure like building and other support systems are very kindly provided by the Government of Odisha. Whereas DWRs are placed already at Paradip and Gopalpur, where Government of Odisha also provided building and the other support systems."

60. During evidence, the representative of the Ministry apprised the Committee as under:—

"Out of 3 Doppler Weather Radars to be installed in Odisha, 2 have been installed and budget provision for the remaining 1 has been earmarked. As soon as budget allocation has been done, it will be installed."

61. When the Committee desired to know whether any time frame has been made in this regard, the representative of the Ministry responded as under:—

"We spoke about completing the task within a year. We sought additional money for installing the radars in Odisha and in places in Himalayan region. But we have not received additional money for the last 4 years. The Himalayan Meteorology Programme was approved by EFC 2 years ago, but no additional money has been received from the Ministry of Finance."

Observations/Recommendations

62. The Committee note that the Assurance is of critical importance since it concerns with installation of vital radars/weather stations for saving thousands

of precious lives which cannot be allowed to happen just because of a minor negligence or lapse. While questioning the non-sanction of the requisite money by the Ministry of Finance for the purpose, the Committee would like the Ministry to take up the matter at the highest level to facilitate the release of the requisite money so that the aforesaid radars/weather stations could be established at the earliest for fulfillment of the Assurance.

NEW DELHI;
09 August, 2016
18 Shravana, 1938 (Saka)

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK",
Chairperson,
Committee on Government Assurances.

APPENDIX I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2513
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2005

Doppler Weather Radar System

2513. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Doppler Weather Radar in Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the said system could not be installed due to scarcity of land in Mumbai; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to find out a suitable space for its installation at the earliest?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Due to scarcity of land in Mumbai and because of high rise buildings all around the suitable site for installation of Doppler Weather Radar in Mumbai could not be finalized so far. In order to detect weather all around the radar site, there is a technical requirement of unobstructed view of radar antenna in all directions.

(c) Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), through its regional office in Mumbai, has already taken up the case for acquiring a suitable site through the State Government. Simultaneously, the possibility of installing the radar at the existing premises of IMD located at Colaba and Santacruz airports is also being technically examined.

APPENDIX II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2522
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2007

Institutions on Oceanography

2522. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of institutions/colleges on oceanography functioning in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the length of coastal line of West Bengal;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to establish such an institute in West Bengal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) At present there are several institutions/colleges where oceanographic research is supported that are functioning in the country. A detailed though not exhaustive list of such institutions that are working in the different States is furnished as below:

Institute/University/Organisation	State
Centre for Ocean and Marine Biology University,	Pondicherry
National Institute of Ocean Technology, Andaman & Nicobar	Port Blair
Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, Arunachal Pradesh National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad National Institute of Oceanography Visakhapatnam Geological Survey of India, Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh Assam Bihar Panjab University, Chandigarh Chandigarh Chhattisgarh Dadra & Nagar Haveli Daman & Diu

Institute/University/Organisation	State
Delhi University, New Delhi, Delhi	
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	
India Meteorological Department, Delhi #	
Earthquake Risk and Evaluation Centre, Delhi #	
National Institute of Oceanography, Goa - Goa	
Goa University, Goa	
National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Goa #	
S. Gujarat University, Surat, Gujarat	
Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara	
Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, Bhuj	
Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar	
Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar	
	Haryana
	Himachal Pradesh
	Jammu & Kashmir
	Jharkhand
Karnataka University, Dharwad — Karnataka	
Mangalore University, Mangalore	
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mangalore	
Karnataka Veterinary,	
Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Mangalore	
S.D.M. College of Engg. & Technology, Dharwad	
Geological Survey of India, Mangalore	

(b) West Bengal has a coastline that is 157.5 kilometres long.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Support is already being extended for oceanographic research to institutions such as Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vidyapeeth, Mohanpur, Kolkata; Bose Institute, University of Calcutta, Kolkata; Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur; Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; University of Calcutta, Kolkata and the Sea Explorers Institute, Kolkata. A dedicated Ocean and Atmospheric Science & Technology Cell has been functioning at Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur since 1997.

The Ministry proposes to establish an extension centre of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai at Kolkata in XI Five Year Plan.

APPENDIX III

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2014
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.08.2012

Adoption of Seismology Centre in Kerala

2014. SHRI K.P. DHANAPALAN:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to adopt the seismology centre in Kerala;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government for the same; and
- (c) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Madam. The proposal for taking over of Centre for Earth Science Studies (CESS), Tiruvananthapuram by the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences is under consideration.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) A Committee has been duly constituted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences to examine all associated issues.

APPENDIX IV

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 147
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2013

Desalination Plants

147. SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Institute of Ocean Technology has prepared a Detailed Project Report with revised estimates to set up desalination plants in six islands in Lakshadweep;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for establishing desalination plants in six islands of Lakshadweep (Androth, Amini, Kadamat, Chetlat, Kiltan and Kalpeni) at an estimated cost of Rs. 190.67 crore.

(c) The DPR was submitted to Lakshadweep Administration for approval of the Project by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoD W&S).

APPENDIX V

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4023
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2014

Desalination Plants

4023. Dr. SUBHASH BHAMRE:
SHRIRAVNEET SINGH:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHANI:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of desalination plants set up so far in the country, location and State-wise;

(b) the cost of installing desalination plants and converting sea water into drinking water as well as the type of the technology used in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up more desalination plants in the country including in coastal areas and also supply water to water deficit areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof, location and state-wise; and

(e) the present status of all plants under construction/proposed to be commissioned?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN) : (a) Three desalination plants, based on the Low Temperature Thermal desalination (LTTD) technology indigenously developed and demonstrated by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Earth System Science Organization (ESSO) have been successfully commissioned one each at Kavaratti, Minicoy, and Agatti islands of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. The capacity of each of these LTTD plants is 1 lakh litre of potable water per day. One experimental LTTD plant using condenser waste heat from power plant was set up at North Chennai Thermal Power Station (NCTPS).

(b) The technology used for the plants is the Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) Technology that utilizes the temperature difference available between surface water and deep sea water. In this methodology, the warmer surface sea water is evaporated at low pressures and the vapour obtained are condensed using the colder deep sea water. The cost of plant to convert sea water into drinking water would depend on the type of technology; capacity of the plant, location and cost of electricity which varies from place to place. According to the cost estimates made by an independent agency for LTTD technology, the cost per litre of desalinated potable water is about 61 paise for island based plants.

(c to e) Work has been initiated to set up a prototype LTTD plant with a capacity of generating 2 million litres of potable water per day (2 MLD) at the Tuticorin Thermal Power station, Tamil Nadu by the end of XII plan period. The Lakshadweep Administration requested ESSO-NIOT for setting up similar plants in remaining six islands viz., Amini, Chetlet, Kadamath, Kalpeni, Kiltan and Andrott. ESSO-NIOT has sent a detailed project report to the Lakshadweep Administration in this regard. The proposal has not been approved so far.

APPENDIX VI

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4648
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.04.2015

Natural Calamities

4648. SHRI GOPAL SHETTY :

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted or propose to conduct any study regarding natural disasters like land sliding and avalanche occurring almost every year in some parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any mechanism in place to identify such place in order to take preventive measures; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY):
(a) to (d) A statement will be laid on the table of the House.

APPENDIX VII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 561
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.05.2015

Cooperation in Earth Sciences

*561. SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:
SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Earth System Science Organisation and the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), USA have signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in Earth System Sciences and if so, the salient features of the said MoU;

(b) whether any work under the said MoU has been initiated and if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which the country would benefit from the said MoU?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY (a) to (c) TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 561 REGARDING "COOPERATION IN EARTH SCIENCE" TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 06, 2015.

(a) Yes Madam, Specific activities in scientific areas of mutual Interest will be undertaken under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 24th September, 2014 between Earth System Science Organisation-Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), USA for cooperation and coordination of various activities and programs in Earth System Sciences. Some of the cooperation avenues identified in the MoU are development of Wind Profiler System, Radar Meteorology, Airborne platforms for cyclone studies, Nowcasting of severe weather events, capacity building through scientific lectures and distance learning etc. The Research and Development (R&D) work carried out jointly under this MoU will help in addressing above mentioned scientific issues of common concern and building capacity in the country.

(b) Some preliminary work under the said MoU has been initiated. The proposal related to development of Wind Profiler System is currently under consideration between Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (ESSO-IITM), Pune, an autonomous organisation under MoES and National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), USA.

(c) UCAR, USA is a consortium of more than 100 member colleges, universities and research laboratories focused on carrying out research in the Earth System Sciences. Considering that there exist various research groups in Indian Universities and Research Institutions working on various aspects of Earth System Sciences, this MoU will help in bringing together a larger section of the academic and research community from both the countries which in turn will enhance the scope of R&D in Earth System Science by linking researchers having different skills and expertise. Moreover, the scientific collaboration in the field of Earth System Science between the two countries will enable exchange and up-gradation of scientific knowledge, technical knowhow in addressing scientific challenges for societal benefit.

APPENDIX VIII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6595
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 06.05.2015

Polar Research Vessel

6595. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to states:

- (a) whether the construction of a polar Research vessel as announced in 2008-09 has been facing delay over the years;
- (b) if so, the details, thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the Polar Research Vessel is likely to be built/ commissioned and objectives thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY):
(a) and (b) The proposal for acquisition of Polar Research Vessel was earlier approved at an estimated cost of Rs.490 crore in June, 2010. The process leading to agreement with the shipyard involves various time consuming steps with detailed consultations with project Monitoring and Coordination Committee at every stage. viz, preparation of requirements, appointment of consulting firm to prepare detailed specification of the vessel, finalization of detailed specifications prepared by consulting firm, preparation and floating of Expression of interest, technical evaluation of bids and shortlisting of bidders, preparation of comprehensive document for Request for proposal, prebid meeting with bidders, receipt of bids, technical analysis of received bids and seeking clarifications from bidders before opening the financial bids, clearances for signing of agreement and finalization of agreement. A consulting firm was appointed for working out detailed specifications as per requirement in October, 2010 after following the tender process. Final design specifications and provisional cost estimates were prepared in consultation with project Monitoring and Coordination Committee by the Consulting firm upon discussion with in January, 2011. In July, 2011 expression of interest was finalized after working out detailed drawing for ship building, propulsion system, ice breaking capability etc. In December, 2011 a request for proposal was issued to the shortlisted shipyards whose bids underwent detailed technical evaluation thereafter. The financial bids were opened in March, 2013. A Standing Committee Constituted to examine the cost reasonableness submitted its report in September, 2013 and recommended the revised cost of Rs.1051 crores as reasonable. The proposal of Revised Cost Estimate was prepared which was recommended by the Expenditure Finance Committee in March, 2014 for the approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). The proposal was approved by the CCEA in

October, 2014. Presently, the agreement with the shipbuilder is under finalization and the necessary clearances in this regard, are under process.

(c) The Polar Research Vessel is likely to be built in 34 months after signing of agreement with the following major objectives:

- (i) launching of scientific expedition to Antarctica for transfer of personnel and material for two Antarctic Indian stations-Maitri and Bharati, and
- (ii) undertaking scientific research & investigations in Antarctic, Arctic and Indian Ocean.

APPENDIX IX

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2736
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 05.08.2015

Earthquake Warning System

2736. SHRIMATI SUPRIYASULE:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:
DR. HEENA VIJAY KUMAR GAVIT:
SHRI G. HARI:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to State:

- (a) whether a summit on 'combating earthquake disaster' was held recently and if so, the details and the issues discussed and the outcome thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has joined hands with foreign countries to develop a model for early earthquake warning system and if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be developed, country-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch a satellite to visualize surface displacement in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be launched; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to develop a model for early earthquake warning system to reduce the human casualties?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY):
(a) Yes, Madam, MCC Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Kolkata organized a Summit on 'Combating Earthquake Disaster' on July 14, 2015, Upgrading the knowledge of the Mechanism, Processes and Prediction of Earthquake; Human Consciousness to consult the Structural Engineers and construct as per the

stipulated structural safety guidelines and codes to make Earthquake Resistant Buildings and Building a sound Social, Government and Industrial Infrastructure are the three pillars around which the Summit deliberated and outlined the Solution to the Preparedness and Combating Earthquake Disasters involving all stakeholders.

(b) No Madam.

(c) and (d) Yes Madam, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in collaboration with Jet Propulsion Laboratory of National Oceanic and Space Administration (NASA) USA has plans to build and launch a Dual Frequency (L & S Band) ISRO-NASA Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Imaging Satellite for studying deformation/displacement. Details of the satellite launch are yet to be firmed up. Design of the on board sensors to be focused to generate data in interferometer mode for measuring time varying surface displacement from the space with accuracy of 2cm or better.

(e) Efforts have been made towards generation of long-term, comprehensive multi-parametric geophysical observations in seismically active areas, such as Uttarakhand, Shillong, Port Blair and by underground measurements within deep bore holes of earthquake-prone areas in Koyna under Scientific Deep Drilling Investigation Program to analyse the data in near real time and to establish possible relationship between various earthquake precursory phenomenon and the earthquake generation processes.

APPENDIX X

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 323
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 12.08.2015

Weather Forecast Services

*323. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to State:

(a) the details of weather forecast services/information provided to the farmers, fishermen, tourists and other users by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) at district and block levels;

(b) whether IMD is unable to provide seamless services on account of shortage of staff and obsolete equipment;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether modernisation of IMD is underway and if so, the estimated funds required and provided for the purpose; and

(e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to augment the efficiency of IMD to enable it to provide advanced weather forecasts to the users?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):
(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) TO THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 323 (1st Position) REGARDING "WEATHER FORECAST SERVICES" TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2015

(a) The Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva (GKMS) of Earth System Science Organization (ESSO)-India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been successful in providing the crop specific advisories to the farmers at the district level twice weekly through different print/visual/Radio/IT based wider dissemination media including Short Message Service (SMS) and integrated Voice Response System (IVRS). At present, the GKMS products are disseminated through SMS and IVRS to 11.46 million farmers in the country.

ESSO-IMD is not providing forecast and advisory services at the Block Level at present. However, research efforts are initiated by ESSO-IMD to explore possibility of generating sub-district scale Agrometeorological forecast with acceptable level of verification skill in a pilot mode.

For the benefit of fisherman community, a satellite based application for the fishermen community of the country, called "Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) Advisories", is being generated and provided on using the satellite data and Geographic Information System (GIS) tools since 1999 useful for location of fish grounds/aggregation. In addition, the Ocean State Forecast (OSF) (wave height and direction, wind speed and direction, ocean currents, sea surface temperature, depth of mixed layer and thermo cline, sea level at major and minor ports, etc. is also being provided to fisherman.

ESSO-IMD, in coordination with State Governments, is generating forecasts for major pilgrimages such as Amarnath Yatra, Mansarovar Yatra, Chardham Yatra, Kumbhmela, etc. and also various mountaineering expeditions launched by the Armed Forces for Mount Everest and several other Himalayan mountains. Continuous efforts are on to generate value added forecast products at different spatial scales (State, District, City etc.) and temporal scales (from few hours to 5 days) for all the regions of the country. The tourist city forecasts and their updates in particular are made available through designated State government level functionaries, electronic & print media and for general public on ESSO-IMD's national as well as regional office websites.

ESSO-IMD has operationalized its location specific nowcasting weather service across the country. This service activity currently covers 155 urban centres under which nowcast of severe weather (Thunderstorms; heavy rainfall from lows/depressions over the land) in 3-6 range is issued. Origin, development/movement of severe weather phenomena are regularly monitored through DWRs and with all available other observing systems (AWSs; ARGs; Automatic Weather Observing Systems-AWOS; satellite derived wind vectors, temperature, moisture fields etc.)

The weather information (Maximum, Minimum temperatures, Rainfall and Sky condition, etc.) and forecast for next 7 days for 310 important cities and towns in all the states and union territories of India issued by the ESSO-IMD and they are available on the National and Regional websites of ESSO-IMD.

ESSO-IMD is responsible for monitoring, detection and forecasting of severe and hazardous weather phenomena like norwesters (severe thunder storms), dust storms, heavy rains and snow, cold and heat waves, cyclones, etc, including Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) up to 72 h at sub-basin scale through Flood Meteorological Offices (FMOs). FMOs provide meteorological support to the Central Water Commission (CWC) for issuing flood warnings in respect of the 43 rivers of India covering 137 sub-basins, CWC issues flood forecasts 6 h to 30 h in advance for 176 stations using QPF received from FMOs of ESSO-IMD and *in-situ* hydro-meteorological data.

ESSO-System of Air Quality Forecast and Research (SAFAR) provides site specific information on air quality in near real time and its forecast for the next 24 hours for Delhi, Mumbai and Pune.

ESSO-IMD provides a crucial service to the national and international civil aviation sector in fulfilment of the requirements prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the Director General of Civil Aviation of

India (DGCA). These services are provided through 18 Aerodrome Meteorological Offices (AMO) and 54 Aeronautical Meteorological Stations (AMS) located at various national and international airports of the country.

(b) No Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Improvement of weather forecasting services is a continuous process. As part of its XI Five Year Plan, Government has initiated a comprehensive modernization programme covering upgradation of (i) observation systems, (ii) advanced data assimilation tools, (iii) advanced communication and IT infrastructure, (iv) high performance computing systems and (v) intensive/sophisticated training of ESSO personnel to facilitate the implementation of advanced global/regional/meso-scale prediction models for improving the accuracy of weather forecasts in all temporal and spatial scales and for quick dissemination of weather forecast assessments/warnings to the users.

After the establishment of ESSO. Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) structured research and development initiative involving ESSO-MES institutions and research groups have been launched. Details of major programs of the ESSO-MoES during the XII Plan include:

No.	Name of the Scheme Allocation for XII Plan (2012-17)	Rs. in Crore
1.	Atmospheric Observation System Network	700
2.	Satellite Meteorology	70
3.	Integrated Himalayan Meteorology Programme	108
4.	Agrometeorology	164
5.	Climate Services	55
6.	Numerical Modeling of Weather & Climate	90
7.	Monsoon Mission Programme	290
8.	Physics and Dynamics of Tropical Clouds	120
9.	Development of High Impact Severe Weather Warning System of India	89
10.	Short Term Climate Prediction and Variability	90
11.	Climate Change Research	100
12.	High Resolution Operational Ocean forecast and Reanalysis System	40
13.	Centre for advanced Training in Earth System Sciences and Climate	140
14.	Outreach and Awareness Programme	67
15.	High Performance Computing	568
	Total	2691

(e) Operational implementation of improved forecast suite of models after the commissioning of the High Performance Computing (HPC) systems have enhanced the weather forecasting capacities through assimilating all available global satellite radiance data for the production of forecast products at 22 km grid globally and 9 km/3 km grid over India/regional/mega city domains.

During the XII Plan, under the National Monsoon Mission Initiative, other institutions of ESSO, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (ESSO-IITM), Pune, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (ESSO-INCOIS), Hyderabad and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (ESSO-NCMRWF), NOIDA have embarked upon to build a state-of-the-art coupled ocean-atmospheric climate model for (a) improved prediction of monsoon rainfall on extended range to seasonal time scale (16 days to one season) and (b) improved prediction of temperature, rainfall, and extreme weather events on short to medium range time scale (up to 15 days) so that forecast skill gets quantitatively improved further for operational services of ESSO-IMD.

(Q. 323)

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR): Madam Speaker, the Minister has given elaborate answer.(Interruptions) We should feel proud that India is the first development country in the world to have a geostationary satellite and INSAT for continuous weather monitoring in this part of the world, particularly for cyclone warning.(Interruptions) Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) provides very comprehensive weather forecasting for agriculture, aviation shipping, fisheries, cyclone warning and many other special services for the general public.(Interruptions) About 80 per cent of our agriculture depends on rains only.(Interruptions) So weather forecast will help farmers to minimize their losses due to abnormal weather conditions.(Interruptions) India is a vast country and so we should have proper monsoon forecast.(Interruptions) The country requires at least 5,000 satellite-based automatic rain gaugers, at least 50 upper air observatories, 50 equipments for preparing profile of wind patterns, 20 cyclone detection radars and 35 storm detection radars.(Interruptions) There is a need for automatic rain gauges, wind profilers and storm detection radars.(Interruptions) The Government should also provide IMD with better observation equipment and super computers.(Interruptions) In the given situation, the Department is doing a good job.(Interruptions) But still I would like to ask the Minister, through you, as to what action the Government will take to minimize errors in weather forecasting.(Interruptions).

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that we are fully equipped to forecast weather and provide all related services.(Interruptions) At the moment, our services are world-class: Although the Member herself has elaborated referring to the detailed answer that I have given about the various services and various equipments that are available in the Department, I wish to inform her that we are in the process of further improvement.(Interruptions).

We are planning to improve our super computing facility from 1.5 petaflop to 10 petaflops.(Interruptions) All over the country, as you know, we have various equipments.(Interruptions) Like in every district, we already have an automatic-weather station.(Interruptions) We have two automatic rain gauges in every district.(Interruptions) In places like Delhi, Jaipur, Patiala, Srinagar, Lucknow, Patna, Kolkata, Visakhapatnam, Machilipatnam, Chennai, Mumbai, Bhuj, Bhopal, Nagpur, Assam, Agartala, Hyderabad, and second one in Delhi also, and in Nellore, we have 19 Doppler weather radars.(Interruptions) At 39 places, we already have upper air observation stations....(Interruptions) As you have also mentioned, we have an INSAT-3D satellite through which, every half-an-hour, we take updates about temperature, humidity, cloud, wind direction and speed.(Interruptions) For the immediate future also, we have plans for the hill areas. We are going to put 9 more Doppler weather radars, 5 upper air observation systems, 10 micro range radars.(Interruptions) For the North East—specifically our focus is as per the directions of the Prime Minister—we are going to put up 12 more radars and 5 upper air observation systems.(Interruptions) I understand that since the Member belongs to the South, I would like to tell her that we have a Doppler weather radar in Hyderabad which is functional, which is helping Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar.(Interruptions) There is one in the process of commissioning in Goa which is going to help the coastal regions, Belgaum, Hubli, Dharwad and Bijapur.(Interruptions) One is under commissioning in Kochi which will help the South-West Karnataka region.(Interruptions) We have plans to set up Doppler weather radar in Mangalore, Bengaluru and Anantapur.(Interruptions) So, we have a very exhaustive programme to ensure that the services which are already very-very exhaustive and very-very advanced comparable to the best in the world, we are going to improve them further in the coming years.(Interruptions) The services that we are making available at the district level all over the country, we have plans to take them up to the block level in the new two years.(Interruptions).

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPICHIKMAGALUR): Madam, IMD is fully equipped now.(Interruptions) Still the Sikka Committee has given the recommendations.(Interruptions) I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether they have any plans to implement the Sikka Committee recommendations.(Interruptions).

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam, as I said in my reply, and I have given an elaborate reply about the facts also, whatever good recommendations have been given by anyone, our scientists are fully well-equipped.(Interruptions) We have detailed, definite plans to improve upon what we already have.(Interruptions) Our existing facilities are already very good.(Interruptions) As I have elaborated, we have detailed plans to improve upon what we are already doing.(Interruptions).

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Pratap Simha—not present.

SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Thank you, Madam. With your permission, I would like to speak from this seat.(Interruptions) Although

the recent advancement in satellite and in computer technology has helped significantly in improving weather forecast, however our knowledge about the atmosphere is still incomplete and, hence, hundred per cent accuracy in weather prediction is not possible.(*Interruptions*).

The hon. Minister and the Government are aware that the economy of the Countries like India is largely depending on the farming sector.(*Interruptions*) Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps the Government is taking to make them aware about the accurate weather prediction.(*Interruptions*).

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Respected Speaker Madam, I wish to disagree a little bit with the observations of the hon. Member.(*Interruptions*) I have to inform her that we provide a lot of services through our Department particularly to the farmers and the fishermen, about which she is also concerned. There was a study by the Institute of Applied Economic Research.(*Interruptions*) They said that the services and the information that are provided by the Departments to the farmers in the country create a positive impact of Rs. 1 lakh crore to 2.1 lakh crore in the GDP. The information that we provide to the fishermen for giving them safe area and giving them the areas which are very-very productive for catching the fishes that information itself creates an impact of Rs. 34,000 crore.(*Interruptions*) That is a positive impact in the GDP.

As I said in my answer to the earlier Member's question that the services that we provided at the District level, we are now going further to provide them at the Block level to ensure that the farmers are helped on the basis of this information. This information is also crop specific.(*Interruptions*) We are now going to give them the information at the Block level also. As there is always a scope for improvement from better to best—we have already one of the best services available in the whole world—we will certainly strive to continue upon what we already have.(*Interruptions*).

SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY (CHEVELLA): Madam Speaker, my question is relating to the benefits to the farmers and to the fishermen.

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services is in my Constituency. We had visited there. The data is reaching the fishing ports but it is not being disseminated properly. What is the Government doing to take this valuable data? The Government is pushing it but it is not being disseminated.

Secondly, the data is not ground proof or water proof that is because our Government prohibits exchange of this data with other countries. Now, in Bay of Bengal, you have the satellites and ocean BIOS. If we exchange this data from Thailand, Malaysia and other countries in the Bay of Bengal then, only this collated data will be valuable. I would like to know as to what steps the Ministry is taking to exchange ocean data from neighbouring countries of Bay of Bengal and Arabian Ocean. This is absolutely important.

The next point is relating to the farmers. It brings a huge benefit to them. If the automatic weather stations are ground based then we have the satellite imagery

there. This satellite imagery has to be translated. Now, the translation is effective only if the data is ground proof. So, the question is this. How are these automatic weather stations being used to ground proof the satellite data?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam, I wish to inform the hon. Member that we are already collaborating with all the possible sources of international data. That is number one.

As regards our information about what is happening in the ocean, we are at the moment providing information to, at least, two dozen countries which are near the ocean or on the ocean banks.

As far as the data relating to the fishermen is concerned, we are using all possible tool of the technological advancement to provide information to lakhs of farmers as well as the fishermen through SMS, through APPs and through various screenings which are at various places. All this is given to the fishermen and the farmers very easily. It is also very easy to access for those who are interest in it.

And, as I said earlier, this has been evaluated by the Institute of Applied Economic Research also..... *(Interruptions)* We will always welcome any other suggestion for further improvement and strengthening our communication system to the farmers and the fishermen..... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN (SAMBALPUR): In the State of Odisha, there are six Weather Stations which have been allowed by the Government of India, One is at Paradip, second is at Sambalpur, third is Balasore, fourth is, Bhubaneswar, fifth is Berhampur ... *(Interruptions)* But till today, even though the financial assistance has been made five years ago, in most of the buildings in my constituency, Sambalpur, the construction has already been completed but the erection of machinery is not there... *(Interruptions)* So, I want to know this from the hon. Minister, through you, Madam. What is the position of those stations which are sanctioned by the Government of India for installation and operation?..... *(Interruptions)*.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam, I wish to inform the Member that not only for the State of Odisha but for the whole country, whatever is there in the Plans, there is an active process of implementation of those Plans.... *(Interruptions)* The hon. Member has mentioned about the building being there and it is still waiting for the equipment. I can assure him that we are moving all these things in a fast track manner and very soon the hon. Member will see that in the coming years all those Plans which have been formulated in the past, will be implemented... *(Interruptions)* We have a provision for further drafting new Plans to make us still better than what we are.

As far as Odisha matter is concerned, I have been informed by the Department that at Paradip and Gokulpur, they are already in the process of commissioning and in 2-3 months, they will be commissioned... *(Interruptions)*.

APPENDIX XI
(Vide para 5 of the report)

Definition	<p>8.1 During the course of reply given to a question or a discussion, if a Minister gives an undertaking which involves further action on the part of the Government in reporting back to the House, it is called an 'assurance'. Standard list of such expressions which normally constitute assurances and as approved by the Committees on Government Assurances of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, is given at Annexure 3. As assurances are required to be implemented within a specified time limit, care should be taken by all concerned while drafting replies to the questions to restrict the use of these expressions only to those occasions when it is clearly intended to give an assurance in these terms.</p> <p>8.2 When an assurance is given by a Minister or when the Presiding Officer directs the Government to furnish information to the House, it is extracted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from the relevant proceedings and communicated to the department concerned normally within 10 working days of the date on which it is given.</p>
Deletion from the list of assurances	<p>8.3.1 If the administrative department has any objection to treating such a statement as an assurance or finds that it would not be in the public interest to fulfil it, it may write to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat direct with a copy to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs within a week of the receipt of such communication for getting it deleted from the list of assurances. Such action will require prior approval of the Minister.</p> <p>8.3.2 Departments should make request for dropping of assurances immediately on receipt of statement of assurances from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and only in rare cases where they are fully convinced that the assurances could not be implemented under any circumstances and there is no option left with them but to make a request for dropping. Such requests should have the approval of their Minister and this fact should be indicated in their communication containing the request. If such a request is made towards the end of the stipulated period of three months, then it should invariably be accompanied with a request for extension of time. The department should</p>

	<p>continue to seek extension of time till a decision of the Committee on Government Assurances is received by them. Copy of the above communications should be simultaneously endorsed to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.</p>
Time limit for fulfilling and assurance	<p>8.4.1 An assurance given in either House is required to be fulfilled within a period of three months from the date of the assurance. This time limit has to be strictly observed.</p>
Extension of time for fulfilling an assurance	<p>8.4.2 If the department finds that it is not possible to fulfil the assurance within the stipulated period of three months or within the period of extension already granted, it may seek further extension of time direct from the respective Committee on Government Assurances under intimation to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as soon as the need for such extension becomes apparent, indicating the reasons for delay and the probable additional time required. Such a communication should be issued with the approval of the Minister.</p>
Registers of assurances	<p>8.5.1 The particulars of every assurance will be entered by the Parliament Unit of the department concerned in a register as at Annexure 4 after which the assurance will be passed on to the concerned section.</p> <p>8.5.2 Even ahead of the receipt of communication from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the section concerned should take prompt action to fulfil such assurances and keep a watch thereon in a register as at Annexure 5.</p> <p>8.5.3 The registers referred to in paras 8.5.1 and 8.5.2 will be maintained separately for the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha assurances, entries therein being made session-wise.</p>
Role of Section Officer and Branch Officer	<p>8.6.1 The Section Officer Incharge of the concerned section will:</p> <p>(a) scrutinise the registers once a week;</p> <p>(b) ensure that necessary follow-up action is taken without any delay whatsoever;</p> <p>(c) submit the registers to the branch officer every fortnight if the House concerned is in session and once a month otherwise, drawing special attention to assurances which are not likely to be implemented within the period of three months; and</p>

	<p>(d) review of pending assurances should be undertaken periodically at the highest level in order to minimise the delay in implementing the assurance.</p>
	<p>8.6.2 The branch officer will likewise keep his higher officer and Minister informed of the progress made in the implementation of assurances, drawing their special attention to the causes of delay.</p>
<p>Procedure for fulfilment of an assurance</p>	<p>8.7.1 Every effort should be made to fulfil the assurance within the prescribed period. In case only part of the information is available and collection of the remaining information would involve considerable time, an implementation report containing the available information should be supplied to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in part scrutinize of the assurance, within the prescribed time limit. However, efforts should continue to be made for expeditious collection of the remaining information for complete implementation of the assurance at the earliest.</p> <p>8.7.2 Information to be supplied in partial or complete fulfilment of an assurance should be approved by the Minister concerned and 15 copies thereof (bilingual) in the prescribed proforma as at Annexure 6, together with its enclosures, along with one copy each in Hindi and English duly authenticated by the officer forwarding the implementation report, should be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. If, however, the information being furnished is in response to an assurance given in reply to a question etc., asked for by more than one member, an additional copy of the completed proforma (both in Hindi and English) should be furnished in respect of each additional member. A copy of this communication should be endorsed to the Parliament Unit for completing column 7 of its register.</p> <p>8.7.3 The implementation reports should be sent to the Ministry of the Parliamentary Affairs and not to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat. No advance copies of the implementation reports are to be endorsed to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat either.</p>
<p>Laying of the implementation report on the Table of the House</p>	<p>8.8 The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, 'after a scrutiny of the implementation report, will arrange to lay it on the Table of the House concerned. A copy of the statement, as laid on the Table, will be forwarded by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to the member as well as the department concerned. The Parliament</p>

	Unit of the department concerned and the concerned section will, on the basis of this statement, make a suitable entry in their registers.
Obligation to lay a paper on the Table of the House <i>vis-a-vis</i> assurance on the same subject	8.9 Where there is an obligation to lay any paper (rule/order/notification, etc.) on the Table of the House and for which an assurance has also been given, it will be laid on the Table in the first instance, in fulfilment of the obligation, independent of the assurance given. After this is done, a report in formal implementation of the assurance indicating the date on which the paper was laid on the Table will be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in the prescribed proforma (Annexure 6) in the manner already described in para 8.7.2.
Committees on Government Assurances LSR 323, 324 RSR 211-A	8.10 Each House of Parliament has a Committee on Government assurances nominated by the Speaker/Chairman. It scrutinized the implementation reports and the time taken in the scrutinized of Government assurances and focuses attention on the delays and other significant aspects, if any, pertaining to them, Instructions issued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from time to time are to be followed strictly.
Reports of the Committees on Government Assurances	8.11 The department will, in consultation with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, scrutinize the reports of these two committees for remedial action wherever called for.
Effect on assurances on dissolution of the Lok Sabha	8.12 On dissolution of the Lok Sabha, all assurances, promises or undertakings pending implementation are scrutinized by the new Committee on Government assurances for selection of such of them as are of considerable public importance. The Committee then submits a report to the Lok Sabha with a specific recommendation regarding the assurances to be dropped or retained for implementation by the Government.

ANNEXURE I

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2015-16)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)
SIXTH SITTING
(15.01.2016)

The Committee sat from 1000 Hrs. to 1130 Hrs. in Committee Room "E", Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri Tariq Anwar
5. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
6. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
7. Shri C.R. Patil
8. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
9. Shri Taslimuddin

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Shri R.S. Kambo | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri T.S. Rangarajan | — | <i>Additional Director</i> |
| 3. Shri S.L. Singh | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

WITNESSES

Ministry of Earth Sciences

1. Shri Anand S. Khati, Joint Secretary, MoES
2. Dr. K.J. Ramesh, Advisor, MoES
3. Dr. M.P. Wakdikar, Advisor, MoES
4. Shri Vivek Mishra, Director (Parliament)

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

1. Shri Manoharan, Deputy Secretary
2. Shri A.B. Acharya, Under Secretary

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them of the day's agenda. The Committee then took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Earth Sciences regarding pending

Assurances from 6th session of 14th Lok Sabha to 5th session of 16th Lok Sabha pertaining to the Ministry. The Chairperson, while initiating the evidence proceedings, expressed disappointment over the fact that Assurances in the Ministry could not be implemented even after 8 years. The Ministry admitted the delay on their part and informed the Committee that they tried their best in order to fulfill the Assurances. The Committee reviewed all the 10 Assurances of the Ministry of Earth Sciences as mentioned below:—

(i) USQ No. 2513 dated 09.12.2005 regarding 'Doppler Weather Radar System' (S. No. 1).

The Committee were informed that the under reference question was dealt with by the Ministry of Science & Technology and it came to the Ministry of Earth Sciences only in December, 2015. The Committee were also informed that the Ministry of Earth Sciences were not aware about this Assurance till the year 2015 as the IMD was earlier under the Department of Science and Technology before the Ministry of Earth Sciences became a separate entity and in December 2015, the Ministry finalized the compliance report. The Committee were further informed that the Doppler Weather Radar was constructed in 2008 and it has already been installed in Mumbai. After installation, the radar was not fully functional as site inspection tests were underway. This radar is one of the firsts of such kind and one of the engineers involved was a Chinese. Since, it was to be installed in the Naval premises at Colaba, the Navy objected that the Chinese people should not be allowed and that a Chinese radar could not be installed there. Thus, the Navy did not allow the installation of Chinese Radars in coastal areas. Afterwards, an indigenous radar from BEL was tried but it got certain functional dysfunction and software related issues. The Committee expressed their displeasure and concern at the negligent attitude of the Ministry as the issue remained pending for 10 years and the Ministry did not take extension of time for fulfilling the Assurances. The Committee also highlighted their concern over the fact that the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs are not aware that no extension of time has been granted by the Committee for fulfillment of the Assurance since 2009. The Committee observed that as the requisite work has been completed, the Assurance is fulfilled and directed the Ministry of Earth Sciences to furnish an Action Taken Report in this regard before the ensuing Session of Parliament. The Committee also expressed their displeasure over the way Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is reviewing pending Assurances at their level. The Committee directed that Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs should concurrently review pending Assurances, at Senior level and furnish minutes of such review meeting for their consideration.

(ii) USQ No. 2522 dated 16.03.2007 regarding 'Institutions of Oceanography' (S.No. 2)

The Committee were informed that a National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has been established in Chennai. At the preliminary stage, it was decided during the 10th Plan to open an extension office of NIOT in Kolkata but later on, the land for the purpose could not be procured and as a result the proposal was dropped during the 11th Plan. The Committee were further informed that the support of the State Government for infrastructure, land and power is required for completion

of such activities. The Committee highlighted the need to bring such instances of lack of support from respective State Governments at the Chief Ministerial level and hold discussions at the highest level. The Committee also stressed the significance of an Assurance given by a Minister of the Union Government on the floor of the House and directed to conduct a detailed review of the matter and to fulfill the Assurance. The Committee further directed the Ministry to furnish a part Implementation Report in the matter.

(iii) USQ No. 2014 dated 23.08.2012 regarding 'Adoption of Seismology Centre in Kerala' (S.No. 3)

The Committee have been informed that the seismology centre in Trivandrum was to be taken over by the Ministry which was under the control of the Government of Kerala. This has been done in January, 2014 and a compliance report has been filed on 24.11.2014. The Committee treated the Assurance as implemented and desired that Implement Statement be laid on the table of the House on urgent basis.

(iv) USQ No. 147 dated 05.12.2013 regarding 'Desalination Plants' (S. No. 4) &

(v) USQ No. 4023 dated 17.12.2014 regarding 'Desalination Plants' (S. No. 5)

The Committee were informed that the National Institute of Ocean Technology had to install desalination plants in Lakshadweep. The Ministry had prepared a Report in this context and the same was furnished to the Lakshadweep Administration. The responsibility for desalination part was with the Ministry of Home Affairs. Now, this has become the responsibility of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. At present, the matter stands in between these two Ministries. The Committee expressed their concern that it is the foremost responsibility of any Government to provide clean drinking water to the public; hence, if the Government is unable to fulfill this responsibility then it should come in writing from the respective authority.

The Committee urged the Ministry to take adequate measures for fulfillment of the Assurance by taking up the matter at all levels even if the Lakshadweep administration is not taking due interest in it. The Committee were then informed that a proposal for Rs. 280 crore alongwith revised cost estimate has been submitted for the project which was originally estimated at Rs. 190 crore. The Committee also directed the Ministry to submit a part Implementation Report in the matter.

(vi) USQ No. 4648 dated 22.04.2015 regarding 'Natural Calamities' (S. No. 6)

The Committee were informed that the Assurance pertains to the question of land sliding and avalanche in different parts of the country every year and the Assurance has been transferred to the Ministry of Mines. The Committee pointed out that the Ministry of Earth Sciences which concerns with warning of natural calamities cannot abdicate its responsibility in this regard especially in the Himalayan and the North Eastern States and hence transferring the Assurance to the Ministry

of Mines is not a correct decision. The Committee accordingly desired that since the Assurance pertains to both the Ministries, the two Ministries must coordinate with each other for fulfillment of the Assurance.

(vii) SQ No. 561 dated 06.05.2015 (Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale, MP) regarding 'Cooperation in Earth Science' (S.No. 7)

The Committee were informed that the Assurance pertains to a MoU signed between Earth Science Organisation, Ministry of Earth Sciences and the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), USA for cooperation and coordination of various activities and programmes in Earth System Science. The matter is in the stage of discussion on many issues pertaining to finance, location, confidentiality, transfer of technology etc. The Committee directed the Ministry to expedite the efforts being taken to fulfill the Assurance.

(viii) USQ No. 6595 dated 06.05.2015 regarding 'Polar Research Vessel' (S. No. 8)

The Committee were informed that a decision was taken to purchase the Polar Research Vessel. A global tender was floated and finally a company from Spain was shortlisted. Owing to some of the terms and conditions of the World Maritime Organization and demand for some changes in some of the rules, the matter was discharged. The matter is being negotiated. It would take at least 1 year in the tendering process and 2 years in the fabrication process, thus a total of around 3 years for fulfillment of the Assurance. The Committee directed the Ministry to furnish an Action Taken Report in the matter.

(ix) USQ No. 2736 dated 05.08.2015 regarding 'Earthquake Warning System' (S.No. 9)

The Committee were informed that talks are going on between NASA and the Department of Space in order to launch a new satellite which can visualize surface displacement and the Assurance can be fulfilled only by 2020-2021. The Committee agreed to extend the deadline for fulfilling the Assurance.

(x) SQ No. 323 dated 12.08.2015 (Shri Nagendra Kumar Pradhan, MP) regarding 'Weather Forecast Service' (S.No. 10)

The Committee were informed that a new Department/Centre of excellence that is National Centre for Seismology has been formed. It was earlier a part of the IMD and is now seriously looking into the matter. The Committee desired to know the time-frame under which training from the scientific perspective would be imparted to the people in the Himalayan region and centres be established in this regard. The Committee were informed that in 2 places in Odisha the project has been implemented and the Minister sought additional financial allocation for extending the project in the Himalayan region by establishing 9 radars which they have not been able to get for the last 4 years. The Committee pointed out that the Assurance is a very important issue since it is not only linked up with development aspects of the governance but also of developing life saving strategies and governance structure and directed the Ministry to approach the Union Finance Minister and the Hon'ble Prime Minister in the matter.

2. The representatives of the Ministry of Earth Sciences thereafter withdrew.

(The witnesses then withdrew)

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

The Committee then adjourned.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2015-2016) LOK SABHA

**STATEMENT OF PENDING ASSURANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH
SCIENCES (FROM 6TH SESSION OF 14TH LOK SABHA TO 5TH SESSION
OF 16TH LOK SABHA)**

S. No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
1.	USQ No. 2513 dated 09.12.2005	Doppler Weather Radar System
2.	USQ No. 2522 dated 16.03.2007	Institutions of Oceanography
3.	USQ No. 2014 dated 23.08.2012	Adoption of Seismology Centre in Kerala
4.	USQ No. 147 dated 05.12.2013	Desalination Plants
5.	USQ No. 4023 dated 17.12.2014	Desalination Plants
6.	USQ No. 4648 dated 22.04.2015	Natural Calamities
7.	SQ No. 561 dated 06.05.2015 (Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale, M.P.)	Cooperation in Earth Sciences
8.	USQ No. 6595 dated 06.05.2015	Polar Research Vessel
9.	USQ No. 2736 dated 05.08.2015	Earthquake Warning System
10.	SQ No. 323 dated 12.08.2015 (Shri Nagendra Kumar Pradhan, M.P.)	Weather Forecast Service

MINUTES

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2015-2016)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

THIRTEENTH SITTING

(09.08.2016)

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1645 hours in Committee Room "139", Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri E. Ahamed
4. Shri Tariq Anwar
5. Shri Sugata Bose
6. Shri Naran Bhai Kachhadia
7. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
8. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
9. Shri A.T. Nana Patil
10. Shri C.R. Patil
11. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R.S. Kambo — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri J.M. Baisakh — *Director*
3. Shri S.L. Singh — *Deputy Secretary*

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At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the following five draft Reports:

(i) Thirty-Sixth Report regarding "Review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Earth Sciences".

(ii) Thirty-Seventh Report regarding "Review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries".

(iii) Thirty-Eighth Report regarding "Review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals)".

(iv) Thirty-Ninth Report regarding "Request for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)".

(v) Fortieth Report regarding "Request for Dropping of Assurances (Not acceded to)".

The Committee then adjourned.

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