

**COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2016-2017)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

FIFTY-SECOND REPORT

**REVIEW OF PENDING ASSURANCES
PERTAINING TO THE MINISTRY OF
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 11/04/2017



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
April, 2017/Chaitra, 1939 (Saka)**

CONTENTS

	Page
Composition of the Committee (2016-2017)	(iii)
Composition of the Committee (2015-2016)	(iv)
Composition of the Committee (2014-2015)	(v)
Introduction	(vi)

Report

- I. Introductory
- II. Review of Pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- III. Implementation Reports

Appendices

- I. Calling Attention dated 16.08.2005 regarding 'Devastating Fire in Bombay High Oil Platform of ONGC'
- II. USQ No.2356 dated 08.12.2005 regarding 'LNG Storage Facilities'
- III. USQ No.1256 dated 03.08.2006 regarding 'Fire in Mumbai High North'
- IV. USQ No.5931 dated 17.05.2007 regarding 'Exploration of Natural Gas in Bay of Bengal'
- V. SQ No.78 dated 19.02.2009 regarding 'Kerosene Marker System'
- VI. USQ No.2806 dated 23.07.2009 regarding 'Allotment of LPG Agency'
- VII. USQ No.2009 dated 01.12.2009 regarding 'Extending Sea Safety Zone'
- VIII. USQ No.2490 dated 03.12.2009 regarding 'Exploration in Deep Water Blocks'
- IX. USQ No.4478 dated 17.12.2009 regarding 'Security of Offshore Oil and Gas Installations'
- X. SQ No.481 dated 29.04.2010 (Supplementary by Shri K.C. Venugopal, M.P) regarding 'Exploration of Gas in North East'
- XI. USQ No. 3095 dated 12.08.2010 regarding ' Ethanol Blended Petrol'
- XII. USQ No. 3193 dated 12.08.2010 regarding 'Audit of PSC'
- XIII. USQ No.4940 dated 26.08.2010 regarding 'Gas Reserves at KG Basin'
- XIV. SQ No. 54 dated 11.11.2010 regarding 'LPG Connections to BPL Families'
- XV. USQ No.3779 dated 02.12.2010 regarding 'Cairn Energy Stake to Vedanta'
- XVI. USQ No.2468 dated 10.03.2011 regarding 'Investment by ONGC in New Gas Discoveries'

- XVII. USQ No.1953 dated 11.08.2011 regarding 'Divesting Stakes to Foreign Companies'
- XVIII. SQ No.255 dated 18.08.2011 regarding 'Capital Investment for production in KG D6 Block'
- XIX. USQ No.2798 dated 18.08.2011 regarding 'Trilateral meeting on IPI Pipeline'
- XX. USQ No.2882 dated 18.08.2011 regarding 'Setting up of CNG Stations'
- XXI. USQ No.5765 dated 08.09.2011 regarding 'Petrol Outlets to Terror Victims'
- XXII. Extracts from the Manual of Practice and Procedure in the Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, New Delhi.

Annexures

- I. Minutes of the sitting of the Committee (2014-15) held on 25.11.2014.
- II. Minutes of the sitting of the Committee (2015-16) held on 17.06.2016.
- III. Minutes of the sitting of the Committee (2016-17) held on 06.04.2017

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*

(2016 - 2017)

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. @ Vacant
4. Shri Anto Antony
5. Shri Tariq Anwar
6. Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
7. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadiya
8. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
9. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
10. Shri A.T. Nana Patil
11. Shri C.R. Patil
12. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
13. Shri Taslimuddin
14. Shri K.C. Venugopal
15. Shri S.R. Vijay Kumar

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R.S. Kambo - Additional Secretary
2. Shri P.C. Tripathy - Director
3. Shri S.L. Singh - Deputy Secretary

* The Committee has been re-constituted w.e.f. 01 September, 2016 *vide* Para No. 4075 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated. 05 September, 2016

@ Shri E. Ahmed passed away on 01.02.2017

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 Kachhadia
8. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
9. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
10. Shri A.T. Nana Patil
11. Shri C.R. Patil
12. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
13. Shri Tasleem Uddin
14. Shri K.C. Venugopal
15. Shri S.R. Vijayakumar

SECRETARIAT

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

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

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*

(2014-2015)

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri E. Ahamed
4. Shri Anto Antony
5. Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
6. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai 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
12. Shri Tasleem Uddin
13. Shri K.C. Venugopal
14. Shri S.R. Vijayakumar
15. Shri Tariq Anwar**

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R.S. Kambo - Joint Secretary
2. Shri U.B.S. Negi - Director
3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan - Additional Director

* The Committee has been constituted w.e.f. 01 September, 2014 *vide* Para No. 633 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 02 September, 2014.

** Nominated to the Committee *vide* Para No.1281 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 05 February, 2015.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances (2016-2017), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Fifty-Second Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2014-2015) at their sitting held on 25 November, 2014 took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas regarding 15 pending Assurances from the 5th session of the 14th Lok Sabha to the 6th Session of the 15th Lok Sabha. The Committee (2015-2016) at their sitting held on 17 June 2016 further took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry regarding pending Assurances from the 7th Session of the 15th Lok Sabha to the 8th Session of the 15th Lok Sabha.

3. At their sitting held on 06 April, 2017 the Committee (2016-2017) considered and adopted their Fifty-Second 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 body of the Report.

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK"
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

NEW DELHI;
07 April, 2017

17 Chaitra, 1939 (Saka)

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 to the extent to which such Assurances, promises, undertakings etc. have been implemented. Once an Assurance has been given on the floor of the House, the same is required to be implemented within three months. The Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are under obligation to seek extension of time, if they are unable to fulfill the Assurance within the prescribed period of three months. Where a Ministry/Department are unable to implement an Assurance, that Ministry/Department are required to move the Committee for dropping it. The Committee consider such requests and approve dropping, if they are convinced that the 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 Committee also look into the extent to which the Assurances have been implemented.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2009-2010) 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 the operation of the system prescribed in the Ministries/Departments for dealing with Assurances. The Committee also decided to consider the quality 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 the Government of India, in a phased manner and review the pending Assurances. The Committee took a step further for expeditious implementation of pending Assurances 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 (2014-2015) called the representatives of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to render clarification with respect to delay in implementation of 15 Assurances given during the period from the 5th Session of 14th Lok Sabha to the 6th Session of the 15th Lok Sabha. The Committee examined the following pending Assurances at their sitting held on 25 November, 2014 :-

S.No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
1	Calling Attention dated 16.08.2005	Devastating Fire in Bombay High Oil Platform of ONGC (Appendix - I)
2	USQ No.2356 dated 08.12.2005	LNG Storage Facilities (Appendix - II)
3	USQ No.1256 dated 03.08.2006	Fire in Mumbai High North (Appendix - III)
4	USQ No.5931 dated 17.05.2007	Exploration of Natural Gas in Bay of Bengal (Appendix - IV)
5	SQ No.78 dated 19.02.2009	Kerosene Marker System (Appendix - V)
6	USQ No.2806 dated 23.07.2009	Allotment of LPG Agency (Appendix - VI)
7	USQ No.2009 dated 01.12.2009	Extending Sea Safety Zone (Appendix - VII)
8	USQ No.2490 dated 03.12.2009	Exploration in Deep Water Blocks (Appendix - VIII)
9	USQ No.4478 dated 17.12.2009	Security of Offshore Oil and Gas Installations (Appendix - IX)
10	SQ No.481 dated 29.04.2010 (Supplementary by Shri K.C. Venugopal, M.P)	Exploration of Gas in North East (Appendix - X)
11	USQ No.3095 dated 12.08.2010	Ethanol Blended Petrol (Appendix - XI)
12	USQ No.3193 dated 12.08.2010	Audit of PSC (Appendix - XII)

13	USQ No.4940 dated 26.08.2010	Gas Reserves at KG Basin (Appendix - XIII)
14	SQ No.54 dated 11.11.2010	LPG Connections to BPL Families (Appendix - XIV)
15	USQ No.3779 dated 02.12.2010	Cairn Energy Stake to Vedanta (Appendix - XV)

5. The Committee further took evidence of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to examine/discuss the issues relating to delay in implementation of some of the Assurances given during the period from the 7th Session of the 15th Lok Sabha to the 8th Session of the 15th Lok Sabha. The Committee examined the following six Assurances at their sitting held on 17 June 2016:

S.No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
16	USQ No.2468 dated 10.03.2011	Investment by ONGC in New Gas Discoveries (Appendix - XVI)
17	USQ No.1953 dated 11.08.2011	Divesting Stakes to Foreign Companies (Appendix - XVII)
18	SQ No.255 dated 18.08.2011	Capital Investment for production in KG D6 Block (Appendix - XVIII)
19	USQ No.2798 dated 18.08.2011	Trilateral meeting on IPI Pipeline (Appendix - XIX)
20	USQ No.2882 dated 18.08.2011	Setting up of CNG Stations (Appendix - XX)
21	USQ No.5765 dated 08.09.2011	Petrol Outlets to Terror Victims (Appendix - XXI)

6. 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-XXII.

7. During evidence, the attention of the representatives of the Ministry were primarily drawn to the abysmal delay in fulfillment of the Assurances. The Committee also enquired about the system in place in the Ministry for reviewing the pending Assurances, the compliance with the provisions of the 'Manual of Practice and Procedure in the Government of India' and coordination with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in this regard. The Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Gas elucidated as under:

"It is our regular agenda to review the working of the Ministry as to how many Assurances we have and how quickly these are going to be fulfilled. Such reviews are usually conducted twice a month."

8. Subsequently, 19 Assurances mentioned at Sl. Nos. 1 to 15, 17 to 19 and 21 in the above Tables have since been implemented while the Assurance mentioned at Sl. No. 16 has been partly implemented as detailed in para 29 of this Report.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

9. The Committee note that out of 21 Assurances (given by the Ministry during the period from the 5th Session of the 14th Lok Sabha to the 8th Session of the 15th Lok Sabha) which were reviewed by the Committee, 19 Assurances mentioned at Sl. Nos. 01 to 15, 17 to 19 and 21 have been since been implemented after delays ranging from more than three years to nine years while the Assurance mentioned at Sl. No. 16 was partly implemented after a lapse of more than five years but is yet to be fully implemented. This leaves that out of the aforesaid 21 Assurances, two Assurances are still pending for implementation. The inordinate delays in implementing the

Assurances and the submission made by the representatives of the Ministry during evidence indicate that monitoring, reviewing and follow up action taken needs to be further toned up. The Committee are fully aware that implementation of some of the Assurances especially those pertaining to policy matters and contentious issues require more time and may be difficult to be executed within the prescribed time period. However, proactive and sustained efforts need to be made to implement Assurances, which are solemn parliamentary obligations. The Committee, therefore, desire that in addition to the present arrangement of Assurances review mechanism instituted by the Ministry, the cases of implementation of Assurances may also be more effectively monitored and reviewed at the highest level at periodic intervals.

II. Review of Pending Assurances

10. In the succeeding paragraphs, the Committee deal with the pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

A. Investment by ONGC in New Gas Discoveries

11. In reply to the USQ No. 2468 dated 10.03.2011 regarding 'Investment by ONGC in New Gas Discoveries' (Appendix - XVI), it was inter alia stated that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) plans to develop its hydrocarbon discoveries in G1 and GS-15, Vashista and S1, G4 and GS-29 and also in Northern Discovery area of NELP Block KG-DWN-98/2 in the Eastern Offshore KG Basin. Proposal for Declaration of Commerciality (DOC) for the discoveries in the Northern Discovery area of NELP Block KG-DWN-98/2 alongwith discoveries in G4 and GS-29 (in adjoining nomination blocks) is under consideration. It was further stated that discoveries in Vashista and S1 Fields and KG-DWN-98/2 Block are currently under appraisal.

12. Apprising the Committee of the further developments in the implementation of the Assurance, the Ministry in their Status Note stated the following position as on 18.11.2014:

"ONGC drilled additional 8 wells and submitted a revised DOC for 11 discoveries (2 discoveries in Cluster-I, 8 discoveries in Cluster-II and 1 discovery in Cluster-III) in KG-DWN-98/2 along with G-4 field (in nomination acreage) on 26.12.2013. 8 discoveries of Cluster-2 have been reviewed by Management Committee on 25.09.2014.

Development of GS-29:

Appraisal of GS-29 field has been completed.

Development of Vashista and S-1 Fields:

Appraisal drilling of Vashista and S-1 fields has been completed.

KG-DWN-98/2:

Appraisal of the discoveries in block KG-DWN-98/2 has been completed."

13. As reasons for delay, the Ministry submitted that DOC was under consideration in the Management Committee.

14. During evidence, the Committee enquired about the evaluation report especially the time required, expenditure to be incurred and the quantum of gas to be extracted. In reply, the Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Gas deposed as under:

"We have given Report for fulfillment of the Assurance in which it was stated that declaration of these discoveries was under consideration. The appraisal of Vashista Gas field and KG-DWN Gas Block has been completed."

15. As Regards the above details sought by the Committee, the Secretary assured that the same would be furnished in writing.

16. Subsequently, the Ministry informed that the Implementation Report of the Assurance had been laid on 04.03.2015. On scrutiny, the Committee found certain lapses/shortcomings in the Implementation Report especially absence of appraisal reports of oil blocks/wells and decided to treat the Assurance as Partly Implemented.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

17. The Committee are concerned that even after a delay of more than six years, the Ministry have not been able to fully implement the Assurance given in reply to USQ No. 2468 dated 10.03.2011 regarding "Investment by ONGC in New Gas Discoveries. The Committee have been informed that ONGC drilled additional eight wells and submitted a revised DOC for eleven discoveries in KG-DWN-98/2 alongwith G-4 field on 26.12.2013. Out of these, eight discoveries have been reviewed by the Management Committee on 25.09.2014. Further, it has been stated that appraisal of GS-29 field, appraisal drilling of Vashista and S-1 fields and appraisal of the discoveries in KG-DWN-98/2 Block have been completed. Subsequently, the Ministry stated that they have fulfilled the Assurance and laid its Implementation Report on 04.03.2015. The Committee, however, found that there were certain lapses/shortcomings in the Implementation Report especially absence of appraisal reports on oil blocks/wells and decided to treat the Assurance as Partly Implemented. Thus, it is wrong on the part of the Ministry to claim that they have implemented the Assurance. The Committee feel that the Ministry ought to have taken due cognizance of the importance of the Appraisal Reports to address the pressing need for developing indigenous hydrocarbon fields to meet the ever increasing demand for fossil fuels and help save outflow of huge foreign exchange from the country on their imports. The Committee do not find any justification for inordinate delay of more than six years in fulfilling the Assurance. While directing the Ministry to

work on this line, the Committee desire that full Implementation Report of the Assurance alongwith the Appraisal Report be laid in the House without further delay.

B. Setting up of CNG Stations

18. In reply to USQ No. 2882 dated 18.08.2011 regarding 'Setting up of CNG Stations' (Appendix - XX), it was stated that Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has given authorization to Mallavaram-Bhopal-Bhilwara-Vijaipur natural gas pipeline, which will pass through Madhya Pradesh and City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects in the cities of Madhya Pradesh including Sagar, can be considered for development.

19. In their status Note submitted in June 2016 the Ministry appraised the position regarding implementation of the Assurance as under:

"Mallavaram-Bhopal-Bhilwara-Vijaipur natural gas pipeline project is not yet commissioned and is still under implementation stage."

20. During evidence, the Committee pointed out that the Assurance is long pending and needs to be expedited. In reply, the Secretary submitted as under:

"The pipeline has not yet been laid."

21. In this regard, the representative of the contracting company, GITL explained as under:

"We have taken all the permissions. We have even obtained 100 percent right of exhibition which is required for laying pipeline. We will now issue notice for giving engineering and construction contract in July (2016). Thereafter, we will award the contract in December (2016). The pipeline will be operationalised by July 2018."

22. On being enquired about the inordinate delay in the matter, the representative of GITL elucidated as under:

"There were 4/5 issues in this regard. Firstly, ROU exhibition is required to be obtained from the State Government. For this, the State Government has to appoint a competent authority, without which there cannot be ROU exhibition. The State Governments of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh did not appoint the competent authority for 16 to 18 months, because of which even the initial procedure of the exhibition could not be completed. Secondly, we require to take forest clearance."

23. The Committee specifically asked as to what follow up action was taken by the Ministry when the State Governments concerned did not give response for 18 months and who look after such matters in the Ministry. The Secretary replied that the matter is looked after by the Joint Secretary and the Director in the Ministry.

23. To a pointed query as to why there had been a delay of 18 months if the matter was/is reviewed by such officials in the Ministry, the Secretary stated that they would furnish a report in this regard.

25. He further stated as under:

"Problems do arise in laying pipelines and the main cause for this is land issue. These people made lots of efforts."

26. Elaborating on the issue, the representative of GITL continued as under:

"I have told about the first issue. The second issue was that for obtaining forest clearance, we have to take consent of each Gram Panchayat concerned as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. We submitted application in accordance with this provision but afterwards the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change informed that there is no requirement for consent of Gram Panchayats for linear projects. Then we withdrew/stopped all our applications. Subsequently, after 4/5 months, we got the information that we are required to take the consent. Then, we again modified our application. Thereafter, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs stated that even if the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change agree that it is existed, they will object to it. We placed all there issues before the Cabinet Committee of Investment and we issued lots letters and conducted many meetings to resolve it."

27. When the Committee pointed out that the matter cannot be left to the contracting company alone and should be taken care of the Ministry themselves, the Secretary submitted during evidence as under:

"We conduct regular reviews and officials of the State Governments are also called for such reviews. Recently, we conducted one such review meetings and the Resident Commissioner of Telangana attended it. He even gave assurance that all long pending issues would be resolved expeditiously. However, I will call another review meeting for this issue as desired by you. I will also write a letter to him."

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

28. The Committee find much to their consternation that the Assurance given in reply to USQ No. 2882 dated 18.08.2011 regarding 'Setting up of CNG Stations' which involves laying of Mallavaram-Bhopal-Bhilwara-Vijaipur national gas pipeline and development of City Gas Distribution Projects in the cities of Madhya Pradesh is yet to be implemented despite a lapse of more than five years. The Committee's scrutiny has revealed that lack of understanding and coordination amongst the Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas; Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Tribal Affairs and the contracting company, GITL as well as the States concerned (Madhya Pradesh and Telangana) has messed up the project. It is a matter of deep concern that the two States took 16 to 18 months to appoint their competent authorities who could approve the project. Consequently, the contracting company, GITL had to put in extra efforts and place the matter before the Cabinet Committee of Investment. In these situations, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas were found wanting to intervene and deliver the much needed coordinating, mediatory and reconciliatory roles as the nodal

Ministry. The Committee feel that such impediments and obstructions will not have happened had there been regular reviews of the project at senior officers' levels conducted in the Ministry. As the present arrangement of reviewing the project has not shown the desired results, the Committee desire that the projects should be regularly reviewed at the level of the Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Gas, who is in a better position to deal with the Government machinery. This assumes greater significance as the Assurance was given by the Ministry themselves and the same cannot be left to the contracting company alone but should be taken care of by the Secretary and the Ministry themselves. The Committee further recommend the Ministry to convene a meeting with the Chief Secretaries of the States concerned at the highest level to expedite implementation of the Assurance. Since it has now been informed that the project would be completed by July 2018, the Committee hope and trust the Ministry will make earnest efforts and coordinate with all concerned in a far better manner with a pragmatic approach to stick to the timeline.

III. Implementation Reports

29. As per the Statements of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Implementation Reports in respect of the Assurances given in replies to the following Calling Attention/SQs/USQs have since been laid on the Table of the House on the dates as mentioned against each:

(i)	Sl. No. 1	Calling Attention dated 16.08.2005	10.12.2014
(ii)	Sl. No. 2	USQ No. 2356 dated 08.12.2005	10.12.2014
(iii)	Sl. No. 3	USQ No. 1256 dated 03.08.2006	10.12.2014
(iv)	Sl. No. 4	USQ No. 5931 dated 17.05.2007	04.03.2015
(v)	Sl. No. 5	SQ No. 78 dated 19.02.2009	09.12.2015
(vi)	Sl. No. 6	USQ No. 2806 dated 23.07.2009	04.03.2015
(vii)	Sl. No. 7	USQ No. 2009 dated 01.12.2009	10.12.2014
(viii)	Sl. No. 8	USQ No. 2490 dated 03.12.2009	04.03.2015
(xi)	Sl. No. 9	USQ No. 4478 dated 17.12.2009	10.12.2014
(x)	Sl. No. 10	SQ No. 481 dated 29.04.2010	04.03.2015
		(Supplementary by Shri K.C. Venugopal, MP)	
(xi)	Sl. No. 11	USQ No. 3095 dated 12.08.2010	04.03.2015
(xii)	Sl. No. 12	USQ No. 3193 dated 12.08.2010	04.03.2015
(xiii)	Sl. No. 13	USQ No. 4940 dated 26.08.2010	10.12.2014
(xiv)	Sl. No. 14	SQ No. 54 dated 11.11.2010	09.12.2015
(xv)	Sl. No. 15	USQ No. 3779 dated 02.12.2010	04.03.2015

(xvi)	Sl. No. 17	USQ No. 1953 dated 11.08.2011	10.12.2014
(xvii)	Sl. No. 18	SQ No. 255 dated 18.08.2011	04.05.2016
(xviii)	Sl. No. 19	USQ No. 2798 dated 18.08.2011	29.04.2015
(xix)	Sl. No. 21	USQ No. 5765 dated 08.09.2011	10.12.2014

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK"
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

NEW DELHI;
07 April, 2017

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Appendix-XXII

(Vide para 6 of the Report)

Extracts from Manual of Practice & Procedure in the Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, New Delhi

Definition

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 [Annex 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.

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.

Deletion from the list of assurances

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.

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 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.

Time limit for fulfilling and assurance

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.

Extension of time for fulfilling an assurance

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.

Registers of assurances

8.5.1 The particulars of every assurance will be entered by the Parliament Unit of the department concerned in a register as at [Annex 4](#) after which the assurance will be passed on to the concerned section.

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 [Annex 5](#).

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.

Role of Section Officer and Branch Officer

8.6.1 The Section Officer incharge of the concerned section will:

(a) scrutinise the registers once a week;

(b) ensure that necessary follow-up action is taken without any delay whatsoever;

(c) submit the registers to the branch officer every fortnight if the House concerned is in session and once a month otherwise, drawing his special attention to assurances which are not likely to be implemented within the period of three

months; and

(d) review of pending assurances should be undertaken periodically at the highest level in order to minimise the delay in implementing the assurances.

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.

Procedure for
fulfilment of an
assurance

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.

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 Annex 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.

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.

Laying of the
implementation
report on the
Table of the

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.

House	The Parliament 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 vis-à-vis 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 (Annex 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.