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**COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2014-2015)**

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

NINTH REPORT

REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF
ASSURANCES
(ACCEDED TO)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 30 April, 2015



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 2015/Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)

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April, 2015/Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2014-2015)	(iii)
INTRODUCTION	(v)
REPORT	1
Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)	
APPENDICES-I TO XII	
I. USQ No. 3776 dated 25.08.2011 regarding Train Car for Kalka-Shimla Route	3
II. USQ No. 3864 dated 25.08.2011 regarding Doubling of Railway Lines	5
III. USQ No. 4285 dated 06.09.2012 regarding Metro Coach Factory at Singur	8
IV. USQ No. 08 dated 05.12.2013 regarding Closure of RGPPL	10
V. USQ No. 247 dated 10.11.2010 regarding Indo Nepal Extradition Treaty	12
VI. USQ No. 3589 dated 24.08.2011 regarding Strengthening of Teacher Training Institutes	14
VII. USQ No. 342 dated 14.03.2012 regarding ASI's Excavation in Afghanistan	16
USQ No. 1221 dated 21.03.2012 regarding Bhikshapatra of Buddha	18
SQ No. 274 dated 12.12.2012 regarding Bhikshapatra of Buddha. ...	19
VIII. USQ No. 258 dated 02.08.2011 regarding Cap on BPL Beneficiaries	21
USQ No. 2522 dated 16.08.2011 regarding Variation in BPL Figures	25
IX. USQ No. 820 dated 25.11.2011 regarding Sovereign Wealth Fund	27
USQ No. 1889 dated 08.03.2013 regarding Sovereign Wealth Fund	29
X. USQ No. 3790 dated 04.09.2012 regarding High Level Committee on Security	30
USQ No. 1213 dated 13.08.2013 regarding Naresh Chandra Committee Report on Naxalism	33

(ii)

	PAGE
XI. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 22 December, 2014	34
XII. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 29 April, 2015	36

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*
4. Shri Kulvinder Singh — *Committee Officer*

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

2. The Committee (2014-2015) at their sitting held on 22 December, 2014 *inter alia* considered Memoranda Nos. 52 to 65 containing requests received from the Ministries/Departments for dropping of pending assurances and decided to drop 10 assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 29 April, 2015, the Committee (2014-2015) considered and adopted their Ninth Report.

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

NEW DELH:
29 April, 2015

9 Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)

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

REPORT

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

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2014-15) *inter alia* considered the following requests received from Ministries/Departments for dropping of assurances at their sitting held on 22 December, 2014 :—

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
1	2	3	4
1.	USQ No. 3776 dated 25.08.2011	Railways	Train Car for Kalka-Shimla Route. (Appendix-I)
2.	USQ No. 3864 dated 25.08.2011	Railways	Doubling of Railway Lines. (Appendix-II)
3.	USQ No. 4285 dated 06.09.2012	Railways	Metro Coach Factory of Singur (Appendix-III)
4.	USQ No. 08 dated 05.12.2013	Power	Closure of RGPPL. (Appendix-IV)
5.	USQ No. 247 dated 10.11.2010	External Affairs	Indo-Nepal Extradition Treaty. (Appendix-V)
6.	USQ No. 3589 dated 24.08.2011	Human Resource Development	Strengthening of Teacher Training Institutes. (Appendix-VI)

1	2	3	4
7.	USQ No. 342 dated 14.03.2012 USQ No. 1221 dated 21.03.2012 SQ No. 274 dated 12.12.2012	External Affairs	ASIs Excavation in Afghanistan. Bhikshapatra of Buddha. Bhikshapatra of Buddha. (Appendix-VII)
8.	USQ No. 258 dated 02.08.2011 USQ No. 2522 dated 16.08.2011	Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution	Cap on BPL Beneficiaries. Variation in BPL figures. (Appendix-VIII)
9.	USQ No. 820 dated 25.11.2011 USQ No. 1889 dated 08.03.2013	Finance	Sovereign Wealth Fund. (Appendix-IX)
10.	USQ No. 3790 dated 04.09.2012 USQ No. 1213 dated 13.08.2013	Home Affairs	High Level Committee on Security. Naresh Chandra Committee Report on Naxalism. (Appendix-X)

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

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

5. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee, where under the decision to drop the assurances were taken, are given in Appendix-XI.

NEW DELHI:
29 April, 2015

9 Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)

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

APPENDIX I

MEMORANDUM NO. 53

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3776 dated 25.08.2011, regarding "Train Car for Kalka-Shimla Route".

On 25 August, 2011 Virender Kashyap, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3776 to the Minister of Railways. The text of the question along with the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Railways *vide* O.M. No. 2010/M(L)443/14 dated 05.07.2013 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the proposal for procurement of rail car has some complex technical issues and fulfilment of the said assurance is presently not feasible in the near future. It has to be addressed in an integrated manner for which no time frame can be indicated. In view of the above, the Lok Sabha Secretariat is requested to please approach the Committee on Government Assurances for dropping the above-said Assurance."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 19.12.2014
New Delhi:

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3776
ANSWERED ON 25.08.2011

Train Car for Kalka-Shimla Route

3776. SHRIVIRENDER KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are preparing to procure four more passenger train cars keeping in view the heavy demand of tourists on historical Kalka-Shimla route;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the train car manufacturing companies have now stopped manufacturing of these cars due to which difficulties are being faced in procuring these cars;

(d) if so, whether the Railways have considered the alternative mode of procurement of these cars; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Railways are preparing to procure Train Cars (Rail Cars) for Kalka-Shimla route. Sanctions of 5 number of train cars have already been obtained. Options for outright procurement from trade or in house manufacturing are being explored.

(c) The existing train cars (Rail Cars) on Kalka-Shimla Section were made by General Motors of USA in 1927. There are no manufacturers of train cars in India. Train Cars are not items of regular production, but are made to order, mostly to the specific needs of each customer.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. Normal train services are running in the section.

APPENDIX II

MEMORANDUM NO. 54

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3864 dated 25.08.2011, regarding "Doubling of Railway Lines".

On 25 August, 2011 S/Shri Uday Pratap Singh, Jagdish Singh Rana, Prabodh Panda and Kodikkunnil Suresh, M.Ps. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3864 to the Minister of Railways. The text of the question along with the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Railways *vide* O.M. No. 2011/W/-1/PQL/WCR/5 dated 04.07.2013 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"That a preliminary Engineering cum Traffic Survey for doubling of Delhi-Shahdara-Shamli single line has been taken up. Further decision would be taken up once results of survey report are finalized. After completion of survey, it is examined by various Directorates of Railway Board. Proposal found feasible is sent to Planning Commission, after approval of Railway Board, for getting "In Principle" approval. After getting "In Principle" approval from Planning Commission, the proposal is considered by Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure/Competent authorities. Sanction of Project from announcement of survey takes a long time. Assurance should not be kept pending for indefinite period for fulfilment. Since Railway has taken up requisite necessary action on survey, it is requested that the assurance may be dropped from the list of pending assurances as final outcome of survey will take 2-3 years."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 19.12.2014
New Delhi:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3864

ANSWERED ON 25.08.2011

Doubling of Railway Lines

3864. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI JAGDISH SINGH RANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose doubling of railway lines on Itarsi-Jabalpur section in Madhya Pradesh, Delhi-Shahdara-Shamli-Saharanpur, Kharagpur-Medinipur *via* Giri Maidan, Kayamkulam-Alleppey-Ernakulam and Kottayam-Ernakulam routes;

(b) if so, the present status thereof, along with the reasons for the delay in completion of the said works;

(c) the steps taken/being taken for timely completion of doubling works on these routes; and

(d) the details of bridges proposed to be constructed on Itarsi-Jabalpur route?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) to (c) Details of doubling proposals are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Comments
1	2	3
1.	Itarsi-Jabalpur	Work not sanctioned.
2.	Delhi-Shahdara-Shamli-Saharanpur	A Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for doubling of Delhi-Shahdara-Shamli single line has been taken up. Further decision would be taken up once results of the survey report are finalized.

1	2	3
3.	Kharagpur-Medinipur <i>via</i> Giri Maidan	Work included in Budget 2011-12. Preliminary works are in progress.
4.	Kayamkulam-Alleppey-Ernakulam & Kottayam-Ernakulam	On this route, doubling was sanctioned in stretches. Doubling in Ernakulam-Mulanturutti (17.37 km.), Mavelikara-Chengannur (12.3 km.), Kayamkulam-Mavelikara (7.89 km.), Cheppad kayamkulam (7.76 km.) and Cheppad-Haripad (5.28 km.) sections have been completed. Doubling is in progress in balance sections and will be completed in coming years as per availability of resources.

(d) Since, no doubling has been sanctioned on this line, no new bridges are being constructed.

APPENDIX III

MEMORANDUM NO. 55

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4285 dated 06.09.2012, regarding "Metro Coach Factory at Singur".

On 06 September, 2012 Adv. Ganeshrao Dudhgaonkar, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4285 to the Minister of Railways. The text of the question along with the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Railways *vide* O.M. No. 2012/M(W)/443/44 dated 10.01.2013 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"The project of Metro coach factory at Singur involves land to be provided by the State Government which may take considerable time for fulfilment, therefore, Lok Sabha Secretariat is requested to approach the Committee on Government Assurances for considering deletion of the assurance."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 19.12.2014
New Delhi:

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4285
ANSWERED ON 06.09.2012

Metro Coach Factory at Singur

4285. SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of work in setting up Metro Coach Factory at Singur/ adjacent Polba;
- (b) the reasons for delay in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to set up the said factory within the stipulated time-frame?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Setting up of Metro Coach factory at Singur/ adjacent Polba was announced in the Railway Budget 2011-12. Subsequent to the Budget announcement, various alternatives to expeditiously set up the factory are under active consideration.

APPENDIX IV

MEMORANDUM NO. 56

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 8 dated 05.12.2013, regarding "Closure of RGPPL."

On 05 December, 2013 Shri Hansraj G. Ahir, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 8 to the Minister of Power. The text of the question along with the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Power *vide* O.M. No. 9/56/2013-Th.I dated 31.07.2014 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the Ministry of Power was in the process of evolving a mechanism for pooling of domestic gas with imported Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) for supplying to all the stranded gas based plants including RGPPL. The Ministry had proposed a Cabinet Note to evolve a mechanism for pooling of gas. As Ministry of Finance had not supported the proposal, the present proposal is not being pursued. Hence, the assurance may be considered for deletion."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of Power (independent charge), have requested to drop the above assurance.

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 19.12.2014
New Delhi:

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 8
ANSWERED ON 05.12.2013

Closure of RGPPL

8. SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL) power plant in Maharashtra is on the verge of closure due to shortage of gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the supply of gas has been discontinued to the aforesaid power plant from the Krishna Godavari (KG) D-6 Basin;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to supply domestic/imported gas to the said power plant?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Supply of Gas to the Power Sector from the Krishna Godavari (KG) D-6 Basin had completely stopped since 1st March, 2013.

Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL) has been allocated (by EGoM in its meeting held on 22nd October, 2008) 7.6 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD) of gas from KG D-6 field and 0.9 MMSCMD of gas allocated from 'ONGC C Series' to meet RGPPL's total requirement of 8.5 MMSCMD. RGPPL is fully stranded since 15th July, 2013.

(e) Ministry of Power is in the process of evolving a mechanism for pooling of domestic gas with imported Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) for supplying to all the stranded gas based plants including RGPPL.

APPENDIX V

MEMORANDUM NO. 57

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 247 dated 10.11.2010, regarding "Indo-Nepal Extradition Treaty".

On 10 November, 2010 Shri Narahari Mahato & Shri Nripendra Nath Roy, M.Ps. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 247 to the Minister of External Affairs. The text of the question along with the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of External Affairs *vide* T-125/9/2010 dated 18.11.2013 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"That Government of India has been regularly taking up the matter of early signing of the Revised Extradition Treaty with the Government of Nepal. During the visit of the Napalese Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattaraj to India, in October, 2011, this matter was again discussed with the Napalese leadership. The Napalese side conveyed that close consultations with different political parties of Nepal was required to arrive at a decision on the signing of the Revised Extradition Treaty. During the meeting with the Chairman of Council of Ministers Rt. Hon'ble Khil Raj Regmi in Kathmandu on 9th July, 2013, External Affairs Minister raised the matter of signing of the India-Nepal Extradition Treaty, and conveyed that we await political consensus in Nepal for the same. It may be mentioned here that even after initialling the draft no time frame could be given for signing of the final Treaty as the same depends upon the sovereign decision of a foreign Government which, according to the Napalese Government, needs close discussion and cooperation amongst different political parties in Nepal. In view of the above, it is requested that the Assurance may please be dropped and an extension of time may be granted till an appropriate decision is taken for dropping of the same."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 19.12.2014

New Delhi:

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 247
ANSWERED ON 10.11.2010

Indo-Nepal Extradition Treaty

247. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:
SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Nepal have decided to modify the existing extradition treaty that would allow the two countries to hand over criminals of their country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the nexus between trans-border criminals is increasing and in the absence of extradition treaty, criminals are freely enjoying;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the modified treaty has been signed by both the countries;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be signed?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (g) India and Nepal signed an Extradition Treaty on 2nd October, 1953 which remains in force. With a view to strengthen the institutional legal arrangements for effectively combating crime and terrorism in tune with contemporary realities, India and Nepal initialed an updated Extradition Treaty in January, 2005. It is awaiting confirmation of the Government of Nepal of formal signatures.

APPENDIX VI

MEMORANDUM NO. 58

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3589 dated 24.08.2011, regarding "Strengthening of Teacher Training Institutes".

On 24 August, 2011 Shri Harin Pathak, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3589 to the Minister of Human Resource Development. The text of the question along with the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Human Resource Development *vide* D.O. Letter No. 41-9/2013-EE.9 dated 12.08.2014 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"Planning Commission *vide* their letter dated 01.04.2013 have informed that the outsourcing process of the study could not be finalized due to procedural delay in selecting the agency and the outsourcing process will be started during the current month. In the meantime, Ministry of Human Resources Development has selected around 60 experts, academicians and field officers and sent them in smaller teams as Joint Review Missions to 18 States in 2013-14. The States visited are: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The JRMs were headed by eminent academicians who have years of experience of working on the issue of Teacher Education. The objective of setting up JRM Teams and sending them to States is to identify the existing gaps in the Teacher Education Sector and to suggest creative and innovative ways and measures to overcome them keeping in mind the crucial role teacher educators play in the education sector. The JRM reports are available on the portal <http://teindia.nic.in>. Since considerable work is being undertaken to enhance the quality of teacher education in India, the Committee may kindly consider dropping the assurance."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 19.12.2014
New Delhi:

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3589
ANSWERED ON 24.08.2011

Strengthening of Teacher Training Institutes

3589. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to carry out an evaluation with regard to allocation of funds for strengthening of teacher training institutes in the country;

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

(c) whether the Plan Panel had also requested the Government for conducting assessment of teachers training institutes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi had, on the request of the Government, undertaken a comprehensive evaluation of the the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Teacher Education. The Report of the NCERT, which was submitted in August, 2009, contains several findings and recommendations for revision of the Scheme, including strengthening of District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), establishment of DIETs in districts created after 1.4.2002, strengthening of Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs) and Institutes of Advanced Studies in Education (IASEs), establishment of Block Institutes of Education and Training, and re-vitalisation of the State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs).

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission has in 2010 undertaking an evaluation study on Restructuring and Reorganizing of Teacher Education. The study is not completed.

APPENDIX VII

MEMORANDUM NO. 60

Subject: Request for dropping assurances given in replies to:—

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 342 dated 14 March, 2012 regarding "ASI's Excavation in Afghanistan." (Annexure-I)
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 1221 dated 21 March, 2012 regarding "Bhikshapatra of Buddha." (Annexure-II).
- (iii) Starred Question No. 274 dated 12 December, 2012 regarding "Bhikshapatra of Buddha." (Annexure-III).

The above-mentioned questions were asked by various M.Ps. to the Minister of External Affairs. The contents of the questions along with the replies of the Minister are as given in Annexures (I to III).

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

3. The Ministry of External Affairs *vide* U.O. No. J.II/125/09/2011 dated 03 July, 2013 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the question listed above pertain to bringing back Lord Buddha's begging bowl from Afghanistan. The artifact is presently housed in Kabul Museum and we had approached Archaeological Survey of India on the possibility of working jointly with Afghan scholars to establish the provenance of the bowl. The Embassy of India, Kabul is repeatedly reminding Kabul Museum provide the Indian Government authentic information about it. However, the museum cites lack of institutional capacity and destruction of records during the wars for their inability. ASI and Kabul Museum have not been able to work *in tandem* to establish the provenance of the bowl due to these constraints."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 19.12.2014

New Delhi:

ANNEXURE I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 342
ANSWERED ON 14.03.2012

ASI's Excavation in Afghanistan

342. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether information has been sought from Archaeological Survey of India for the excavation point of Bhikshapatra (begging bowl) of Lord Buddha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government to bring the bhiksha patra back from Afghanistan and hand over to vaishali;

(d) if so, the details of action taken till date; and

(e) the plans to provide the above valuable item of historical, archaeological and cultural importance to Vaishali?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has conveyed that they are getting the photograph of the bowl examined by experts. They have further conveyed that from preliminary observation the object does not appear to be Lord Buddha's begging bowl. As per the photograph of the bowl purported to be Lord Buddha's begging bowl, it is rather large for a begging bowl, besides having inscription in Arabic and Persian.

(c) to (e) Embassy of India, is also making further enquiries in the matter so as to ascertain the provenance of the bowl from the Afghan Authorities.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1221
ANSWERED ON 21.03.2012

Bhikshapatra of Buddha

1221. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhikshapatra given by Lord Buddha to Vaishali has been kept in Kabul in a Museum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sought information from Archaeological Survey of India about the historic and archaeological proof of the origin of Bhikshapatra of Lord Buddha; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to find out about the origin of Bhikshapatra of Lord Buddha?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) A large stone bowl, approximately 1 metre in height, 1 metre in diameter, with a thickness of about 18 cms. at the top, and weighing around 200-300 kgs. with verses from the Qoran in calligraphic script running horizontally along its rim in Arabic and Persian, is presently located at the entrance of the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul. It was originally located in Kandahar from where it was moved to Kabul during the regime of former Afghan President Dr. Najibullah. The bowl is purported to be the Bhikshapatra of Lord Buddha.

(c) and (d) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has conveyed that they are getting the photograph of the bowl examined by experts. They have further conveyed that from preliminary observation the object does not appear to be Lord Buddha's begging bowl. Embassy of India, is also making further enquiries in the matter so as to ascertain the provenance of the bowl from the Afghan authorities.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 274
ANSWERED ON 12.12.2012

Bhikshapatra of Buddha

*274. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stone bowl kept at the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul is purported to be the Bhikshapatra of Lord Buddha;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the evidences/documents provided by the historians/scholars/organisations including the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI); and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to recover and bring back the said Bhikshapatra from Afghanistan?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID):

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF THE LOK SABHA, STARRED QUESTION NUMBER 274 REGARDING "BHIKSHAPATRA OF BUDDHA" FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2012.

A large stone bowl, approximately 1 metre in height, 1 metre in diameter, with a thickness of about 18 cms at the top, and weighing around 200-300 kgs with verses from the Qoran in calligraphic script running horizontally along its rim in Arabic and Persian, is presently located at the entrance of the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul. It was originally located in Kandahar from where it was moved to Kabul during the regime of former Afghan President Dr. Najibullah. The bowl is purported to be the Bhikshapatra of Lord Buddha.

2. Government had received a photograph of the bowl from Embassy of India in Kabul. The photograph has been examined by Director (Epigraphy-Arabic, Persian), Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Nagpur. In his preliminary observations of the photograph, Director (Epigraphy-Arabic, Persian) has mentioned that the inscriptions on the outer surface of the bowl indicate that the bowl was connected with some Mosque (may be the Jama Masjid) of the city of Kandahar.

He has suggested that the bowl should be physically and geologically examined to get more information about its origin.

3. Government is examining, in consultation with ASI, further steps required, if any, to establish the provenance of the bowl.

APPENDIX VIII

MEMORANDUM NO. 61

Subject: (i) Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to (i) Unstarred Question No. 258 dated 02.08.2011, regarding "Cap on BPL Beneficiaries" and (ii) Unstarred Question No. 2522 dated 16.08.2011, regarding "Variation in BPL Figures".

On 02 August, 2011 Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena and 16 August, 2011 Prof. S.K. Saidul Haque, M.Ps., addressed Unstarred Question Nos. 258 and 2522 to the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution). The text of the question along with the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexures-I and II.

2. The reply to the questions were treated as assurances by the Committee and were required to be implemented by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) within three months from the date of the reply. The assurances are yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution *vide* O.M. No. 7(25)/2011-PD-I dated 20 December, 2013 have requested to drop the assurances *inter alia* on the following grounds:—

"That in so far allocation of food grains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is concerned, Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by the State/UT Governments, whichever is less. It is to further state that the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, has been notified on 10th September, 2013. Under NFSA, 2013, coverage of the population provided in the Act to receive subsidized food grains under TPDS has been delinked from the poverty estimates. The Act provides for coverage of up to 75% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population, at the all India level, to receive 5 kg. of food grains per person per month at highly subsidized price of Rs. of 2/3 per kg. for wheat/rice. The entitlement of existing AAY households, which constitute the poorest of the poor has however been protected at 35 kg. per household per month. The act further provides that corresponding to the all India coverage of 75% and 50% of the rural and urban population respectively, the percentage coverage for each State shall be determined by the Central Government and the total number of persons to be covered in such rural and urban areas of the State shall be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the Census of

which the relevant figures have been published. The Act *inter alia* also provides that within the coverage under TPDS determined for each State, the identification of priority household is to be done by State Governments in accordance with guidelines to be prescribed by them. Hence, it is to state that the conduct of survey under SECC, 2011 is not relevant for the allocation of subsidized food grains by Central Government through TPDS under the NFSA, 2013."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution), have requested to drop the above assurances.

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 19.12.2014

New Delhi:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 258

ANSWERED ON 02.08.2011

Cap on BPL Beneficiaries

258. SHRI KIRODILAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has directed the States to put a cap on the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries covered under the Public Distribution System (PDS);

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

(c) whether the quantum of foodgrains being allocated to States at present is based on the poverty estimates of the year 1993-94 of the Planning Commission;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has directed the States to conduct a fresh survey to ascertain the number of people living below the poverty line; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by the State/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per these estimates, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes about 2.44 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. Allocation of foodgrains to these 6.52 crore accepted number of BPL families, including AAY families, are made @ 35 kg. per family per month. However, the State/UT Governments have reported (upto 30.6.2011) issue of 10.76 crore ration cards for BPL families, including about 2.44 crore AAY families. The higher number of BPL ration cards issued by them is due to improper targeting of the poor households and have inclusion as well as exclusion errors.

As reported by the Ministry of Rural Development, the Methodology for conducting the Socio-Economic and Caste Census in rural area has been approved by the Union Cabinet with the modification that:

- (i) The Ministry of Rural Development further discuss the criteria for inclusion/exclusion with the Dr. N.C. Saxena Committee; and
- (ii) Census be completed by December, 2011.

Ministry of Rural Development has also reported that the Socio-Economic and Caste Census has been formally launched on 29.06.2011 in the State of Tripura. This will be followed in other States/UTs in a phased manner taking into consideration their preparedness and other relevant considerations. The census is targeted to be completed by December, 2011.

For urban areas, the Planning Commission had set up an Expert Group headed by Prof. S.R. Hashim to recommend the detailed methodology for identification of families living below poverty line in the urban areas.

As reported by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, the above Expert Group has submitted its interim report, Union Cabinet has approved the following proposals from Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation with the modification that the proposed BPL census be completed by December, 2011:

- (i) Approval of the approach recommended in the Interim Report of the Hashim Expert Group on identification of the urban poor areas for the 12th Five Year Plan period; and the Survey Questionnaire devised for conducting the BPL survey; and
- (ii) Approval to conduct the Below Poverty Line (BPL) survey in urban areas along with the proposed caste enumeration and rural BPL survey with the assistance of the Registrar General of India (RGI) as per the approach proposed above.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2522
ANSWERED ON 16.08.2011

Variation in BPL Figures

2522. Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Below Poverty Line figure of 36% available with the Union Government was reportedly much lower than those projected by almost all the States;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to undertake verification of the said figures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Government thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Planning Commission is the nodal agency of the Government of India for estimating poverty at National and State levels, for allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food & Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by States/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per 1993-94 poverty estimates, the percentage of population living Below Poverty Line at all India level is 36%. As per these estimates, the number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes about 2.44 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. However, as reported by the end of June, 2011, the States/UT Governments have issued 10.76 crore BPL (including AAY) ration cards. The variation in the number of BPL families accepted by the Central Government for allocation and ration cards issued by State Governments is to a large extent due to the exclusion and inclusion errors in identifying the BPL families. Requests have been received from some States/UT

Governments for increasing the accepted number of BPL families under TPDS. However, as Government of India has been adopting uniform criteria across all States/UTs, the requests from these States/UTs for increasing the accepted number of BPL families could not be agreed to.

Guidelines for the identification of BPL households in rural areas are issued by Ministry of Rural Development. The guidelines finalized by the Ministry of Rural Development for Socio-Economic and Caste Census in rural areas prescribed exclusion and inclusion criteria (subject to exclusion criteria). The remaining households (subject to exclusion criteria and compulsory exclusion) will then be assigned deprivation scores depending on the number of deprivation indicators they satisfy.

Further, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation has reported that the Expert Group headed by Prof. S.R. Hashim to recommend the detailed methodology for identification of families living below poverty line in the urban areas has submitted its interim report, which contained methodology to be followed for collection of Socio-economic data. The Expert Group has recommended that the poverty be identified in urban areas through the identification of specific 'vulnerabilities' covering three broad categories, namely, residential, occupational and social vulnerabilities.

Government has launched the conduct of combined rural-urban Socio-economic and Caste Census in the country. The Census would be carried out by the respective State Governments with the financial and technical support of the Government. The Census is targeted to be completed by December, 2011.

APPENDIX IX

MEMORANDUM NO. 63

Subject: Request for dropping of assurances given in replies to.

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 820 dated 25 November, 2011 regarding "Sovereign Wealth Fund" (Annexure-I).
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 1889 dated 08 March, 2013 regarding "Sovereign Wealth Fund" (Annexure-II).

The above-mentioned questions were asked by various M.Ps. to the Minister of Finance. The contents of the questions along with the replies of the Ministers are as given in Annexures (I and II).

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

3. The Ministry of Finance *vide* O.M. Nos. 2/133/2013-Infra-Fin and 02/138/2013-Infra-Fin dated 16th and 31 December, 2013 respectively have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"Various suggestions were received from different stakeholders for creation of Indian Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF). During the course of consultations/ deliberations, it was concluded that the setting up of the SWF is not feasible under the present scenario. Therefore, there is no proposal for creation of a SWF. In view of the position explained above, the assurance cannot be fulfilled. Committee on Government Assurance is, therefore, requested to look into the matter for deletion of this Assurance."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 19.12.2014

New Delhi:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 820
ANSWERED ON 25.11.2011

Sovereign Wealth Fund

820. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:
SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Group of Ministers (GoM) of the Union Government has in principle agreed to the setting up of a Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) and if so, the details thereof along with its present status;

(b) the details of purpose and agencies roped in/likely to be roped in along with size of the corpus;

(c) whether the SWF will be created from India's Forex Reserves or whether money will be set aside in the Union Budget;

(d) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Planning Commission, consultative committees and other stake holders have given any recommendations/objections/suggestions with respect to creation of SWF; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, Ministry/agency-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) The Group of Ministers (GoM) to provide guidance on coordinating external interface on Energy Security matters has agreed, in principle, on the setting up of a Sovereign Wealth Fund. No final decision has been taken on the various issues regarding the establishment of a Sovereign Wealth Fund.

ANNEXURE II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1889
ANSWERED ON 08.03.2013
Sovereign Wealth Fund

1889. SHRI MANICKA TAGORE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has envisaged plans to set up a multi-billion dollar fund to finance big-ticket investment in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof; and
- (c) the expected sources of such fund?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) A large number of suggestions have been received from different stakeholders from the financial sector to setting up a Sovereign Wealth Fund. However, the Government has not taken any decision in this regard.

APPENDIX X

MEMORANDUM NO. 64

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3790 dated 04.09.2012, regarding “High Level Committee on Security” & Unstarred Question No. 1213 dated 13.08.2013 regarding “Naresh Chandra Committee Report on Naxalism”.

On 04 September, 2012 S/Shri B.B. Patil, Sanjay Bhoi, Anand Prakash Paranjpe, Eknath M. Gaikwad, M.Ps. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3790 and on 13 August, 2013 S/Shri Jeetendra Singh Bundela, Yashvir Singh and Neeraj Shekhar, MPs, addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1213 to the Minister of Home Affairs. The text of the questions along with the replies of the Minister are as given in the Annexures I and II.

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

3. The Ministry of Home Affairs *vide* O.M. No. I-13012/19/2010-IS-IV dated 28 March, 2014 have requested to drop the assurances on the following grounds:—

“That in this connection it may be reiterated that the Report of the Task Force on the National Security headed by Shri Naresh Chandra includes several sensitive details concerned with the National Security and disclosing of the report at this juncture will not be in the interest of National Security. Based on the above position/clarification brought out *vide* this Ministry's O.M. dated 26.9.2013 and 23.12.2013, Lok Sabha Secretariat *vide* O.M. dated 18.02.2014 conveyed approval of the Committee on Government Assurances for dropping the Assurance on Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3749 answered on 04.09.2012. However, the decision on the other Lok Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 3790 regarding High Level Committee on Security answered on same day *i.e.* 4.9.2012 is awaited. In the meantime assurance on another similar question *i.e.* the Lok Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 1213 regarding Naresh Chandra Committee Report on Naxalism answered on 13.08.2013 has been treated as an assurance. In view of the above, it is requested that approval of Committee on Government Assurances may be obtained for dropping the assurances on the above said Question *i.e.* Lok Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 3790 answered on 04.9.2012 and Lok Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 1213 answered on 13.08.2013.”

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 19.12.2014
New Delhi:

ANNEXURE I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3790
ANSWERED ON 04.09.2012

High Level Committee on Security

3790. SHRI B.B. PATIL:
SHRI SANJAY BHOI:
SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE:
SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is facing many security challenges;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has set up a high level panel for effective coordination among the agencies concerned and also for identifying strategic technologies required in security related areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the panel has submitted its report to the Government;
- (e) if so, the main recommendations made by the panel; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the panel?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (f) The Government has set up a high level panel headed by Shri Naresh Chandra. The panel has submitted its report to the Prime Minister recently. The recommendations in the report are being examined by various Ministries concerned.

ANNEXURE II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1213
ANSWERED ON 13.08.2013

Naresh Chandra Committee Report on Naxalism

1213. SHRI JEETENDRA SINGH BUNDELA:
SHRI YASHVIR SINGH:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Task Force on National Security headed by Shri Naresh Chandra also contains recommendations to deal with naxalism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said recommendations have been implemented;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (e) The Report of the Task Force on National Security headed by Shri Naresh Chandra include several sensitive details concerned with the National Security on which inter-Ministerial consultation is going on. Disclosing of the report at this juncture will not be in the interest of National Security.

APPENDIX XI

MINUTES

SIXTH SITTING

**MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES (2014-2015) HELD ON 22 DECEMBER, 2014 IN
COMMITTEE ROOM 'E', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE,
NEW DELHI**

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1615 hours on Monday,
22 December 2014.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Prof. Sugata Bose
3. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadia
4. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
5. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R.S. Kambo — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri U.B.S. Negi — *Director*
3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan — *Additional Director*
4. Shri Kulvinder Singh — *Committee Officer*

2. The Committee then considered 14 Memorandum (Memo Nos. 52 to 65) containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of the pending assurances. After in-depth deliberation of the reasons adduced by the Ministries, the Committee decided to drop 10 assurances as per details given in Annexure-I. The Committee further decided that 04 assurances required to be pursued further, as per details given in Annexure-II.

The Committee then adjourned.

ANNEXURE I

Statement showing Assurances Dropped by the Committee on Government Assurances at their sitting held on 22.12.2014

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question No./Discussion & Date	Ministry/Department	Brief Subject
1.	53	USQ No. 3776 dated 25/08/2011	Railways	Train Car for Kalka-Shimla Route.
2.	54	USQ No. 3864 dated 25/08/2011	Railways	Doubling of Railway Lines.
3.	55	USQ No. 4285 dated 06/09/2012	Railways	Metro Coach Factory at Singur
4.	56	USQ No. 08 dated 5/12/2013	Power	Closure of RGPPL
5.	57	USQ No. 247 dated 10/11/2010	External Affairs	Indo-Nepal Extradition Treaty
6.	58.	USQ No. 3589 dated 24/08/2011	Human Resource Development	Strengthening of Teacher Training Institutes
7.	60	USQ No. 342 dated 14/03/2012 USQ No. 1221 dated 21/03/2012 SQ No. 274 dated 12/12/2012	External Affairs	ASIs Excavation in Afghanistan Bhikshapatra of Buddha Bhikshapatra of Buddha
8.	61	USQ No. 258 dated 02/08/2011 USQ No. 2522 dated 16/08/2011	Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution	Cap on BPL Beneficiaries. Variation in BPL Figures.
9.	63	USQ No. 820 dated 25/11/2011 USQ No. 1889 dated 08/03/2013	Finance	Sovereign Wealth Fund.
10.	64.	USQ No. 3790 dated 04/09/2012 USQ No. 1213 dated 13/08/2013	Home Affairs	High Level Committee on Security. Naresh Chandra Committee Report on Naxalism.

APPENDIX XII

MINUTES

NINTH SITTING

**MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES (2014-2015) HELD ON 29 APRIL, 2015 IN COMMITTEE
ROOM 'A', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE,
NEW DELHI**

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1700 hours on Wednesday, 29 April 2015.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri E. Ahamed
4. Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
5. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
6. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
7. Shri C.R. Patil
8. Shri S.R. Vijayakumar

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R.S. Kambo — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri T.S. Rangarajan — *Additional Director*
3. Shri Kulvinder Singh — *Committee Officer*

2. 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) Draft 9th Report regarding requests for dropping of assurances (acceded to)
- (ii) Draft 10th Report regarding requests for dropping of assurances (not acceded to)

- (iii) Draft 11th Report regarding requests for dropping of assurances (acceded to)
- (iv) Draft 12th Report regarding requests for dropping of assurances (not acceded to)
- (v) Draft 13th Report regarding review of pending assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Tourism.

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The Committee then adjourned.