

26

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

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

TWENTY SIXTH REPORT

**REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF
ASSURANCES**

(NOT ACCEDED TO)

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 21 December, 2015)



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2015/Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)

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NEW DELHI

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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
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 Tasliuddin
14. Shri K.C. Venugopal
15. Shri S.R. Vijayakumar

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R.S. Kambo — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri S.C. Chaudhary — *Director*
3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan — *Additional Director*
4. Shri S.L. Singh — *Deputy Secretary*
5. Shri Rajesh Mohan — *Committee Officer*

* The Committee has been 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 Twenty Sixth Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2015-2016) at their sitting held on 19 November, 2015 considered Memoranda Nos. 02 to 41 containing requests received from the various Ministries/Departments for dropping of pending Assurances and decided to pursue 13 Assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 18 December, 2015, the Committee (2015-2016) considered and adopted their Twenty Sixth Report.

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

NEW DELHI;
18 December, 2015
27 Agrahayana, 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, that Ministry is required to seek extension of time. In case, the Ministry finds it difficult in implementing the Assurances on one ground or the other, it is 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 (2015-2016) considered the following requests received from Ministries/Departments for dropping of Assurances at their sitting held on 19 November, 2015:—

S.No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
1	2	3	4
1.	USQ No. 574* dated 24.11.2011	Railways	Categories of Freight for Iron Ore
	USQ No. 626* dated 24.11.2011		Scams in Iron Ore Transportation
	USQ No. 1825* dated 01.12.2011		Scam in Transportation of Commodities
	USQ No. 1010* dated 29.11.2012		Irregularities in Transportation of Iron Ore
	SQ No. 17* dated 05.12.2013		Irregularities in Transportation of Iron Ore and Minerals (Appendix-I)
2.	USQ No. 3657 dated 24.08.2011	External Affairs	Illegal Sale of Indian Passports (Appendix-II)
3.	USQ No. 3214* dated 09.12.2009	External Affairs	Irregularities in ICCR (Appendix-III)
4.	USQ No. 4112 dated 18.08.2010	Atomic Energy	Exploration of Uranium and Plutonium (Appendix-IV)

1	2	3	4
5.	USQ No. 3214 dated 19.08.2011 USQ No. 2034 dated 02.12.2011	Health & Family Welfare (Department of Health & Family Welfare)	World Bank Health Projects Irregularities/Scams in Health Related Schemes (Appendix-V)
6.	USQ No. 1004 dated 28.11.2006 USQ No. 3293 dated 16.03.2011 USQ No. 1393 dated 14.08.2013	Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education)	Implementation of Reservation Policy Reservation in Unaided Private Educational Institutions Reservation to OBCs in Private Unaided Institutions (Appendix-VI)
7.	USQ No. 4573* dated 07.09.2012 USQ No. 5276* dated 26.04.2013 USQ No. 4592* dated 21.02.2014	 Women & Child Development	Status of Women Committee on Status of Women Women Reservation (Appendix-VII)
8.	USQ No. 4496 dated 22.04.2013 USQ No. 2540 dated 26.08.2013	Defence (Department of Defence)	Military Dairy Farms Military Farms (Appendix-VIII)
9.	USQ No. 1121* dated 17.07.2014	Railways	Irregularities in Freight Traffic (Appendix-IX)
10.	USQ No. 5681 dated 10.05.2012	Railways	Rail Coach Factory (Appendix-X)
11.	USQ No. 5329 dated 14.08.2014	Railways	Irregularities in Recruitment (Appendix-XI)
12.	USQ No. 11 dated 22.02.2013	Finance (Department of Revenue)	Tax Liability of British Telecom Company (Appendix-XII)
13.	SQ. No. 242 (Supp. by Shri Ganesh Singh) dated 24.07.2014	Railways	National and Strategically Important Railway Projects (Appendix-XIII)

*Implementation Reports laid on the Table of the House on 09.12.2015

3. The details of the Assurances arising out of the replies and the reason(s) advanced by the Ministries/Departments for dropping of the assurances are given in Appendices-I to XIII.

4. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee, where under the requests for dropping of the Assurances, were considered, are given in Appendix-XIV.

5. After having considered the requests of the Ministries/Departments, the Committee are not convinced with the reasons furnished for dropping the Assurances. The Committee desire that the Government should take note of the Observations of the Committee, as contained in Annexure-II to Appendix-XIV and take appropriate action, for the implementation of the Assurances expeditiously.

NEW DELHI;
18 December, 2015

27 Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)

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

APPENDIX I

MEMORANDUM NO. 7

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

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 574 dated 24 November, 2011 regarding "Categories of Freight for Iron Ore." (Annexure-I).
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 626 dated 24 November, 2011 regarding "Scams in Iron Ore Transportation." (Annexure-II).
- (iii) Unstarred Question No. 1825 dated 01 December, 2011 regarding "Scam in Transportation of Commodities." (Annexure-III).
- (iv) Unstarred Question No. 1010 dated 29 November, 2012 regarding "Irregularities in Transportation of Iron Ore." (Annexure-IV).
- (v) Starred Question No. 17 dated 05 December, 2013 regarding "Irregularities in Transportation of Iron Ore and Minerals." (Annexure-V).

The above mentioned USs/SQs were asked by various M.Ps. to the Minister of Railways. The contents of the questions along with the replies of the Minister are as given in Annexures (I to V).

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

3. The Ministry of Railways *vide* O.M. No. 2012/V2/LG3/Ors/4 dated 08 September, 2014 have requested to drop the assurances on the following grounds:—

"That the subject matter of all the five questions mentioned above as well as the sum and substance of the portion of the replies that have been treated as constituting assurances, *viz* the matter has been handed over by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for further or detailed investigations are the same according to available information, the investigation being conducted by the CBI is still in progress. At this stage, it is not possible for this Ministry to project any definitive time frame in which CBI's investigations would conclude. Hence, a request for grant of extension of time upto 31.12.2014 has already been made *vide* this Ministry's OM of even number dated 15.07.2014. It needs to be appreciated that the CBI, based on its findings, would determine the course of follow-up action and also, lead such actions to their logical conclusion. In this light, it is held that the role of this Ministry, in so far as proceeding further in the matter of fulfilment of the aforesaid Assurances is concerned, has, for all

practical purpose ceased. It is, therefore, requested that Lok Sabha secretariat may consider dropping of these Assurances."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 16-11-2015

New Delhi.

ANNEXURE I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 574
ANSWERED ON 24.11.2011

Categories of Freight for Iron Ore

574. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have different categories of freight for transportation of iron ore in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such categorization has led to frauds worth thousands of crores of rupees in the country;
- (d) if so, the number of cases of such frauds which came to light so far; and
- (e) the action taken thereon along with the steps being taken to prevent such cases of frauds?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) While iron ore meant for domestic use is being charged at the Class rate of 180, iron ore meant for other than domestic use is being charged at Class 180 plus the following distance based surcharge:

Distance in Kms.	Distance Based Charge
0-200	125% of Base Freight Rate plus Rs. 1600
201-300	90% of Base Freight Rate plus Rs. 1600
301-400	75% of Base Freight Rate plus Rs. 1600
401-500	45% of Base Freight Rate plus Rs. 1600
501-600	25% of Base Freight Rate plus Rs. 1600
601-700	10% of Base Freight Rate plus Rs. 1600
Above 700	Rs. 1600

(c) The categorization based on end use served the interests of domestic industry well and also yielded the desired dividends.

(d) A case of misleading declaration by one company has been detected by South Eastern Railway.

(e) The case has been handed over to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for further investigation by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). Existing provisions are considered adequate for dealing with cases of misleading declaration by delinquent firms.

ANNEXURE II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 626
ANSWERED ON 24.11.2011

Scams in Iron Ore Transportation

626. SHRINEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SMT. P. JAYA PRADA NAHATA :
SHRI YASHVIR SINGH:
SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a massive scam causing a huge revenue loss to the Railways by under-paying freight charges on iron-ore has been reported;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and inquiry/investigation, if any, being conducted in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof;
- (d) the details of action taken against the guilty officials so far by the Railways; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Railways to check the recurrence of such scams in future?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) A case of misleading declaration by a company has recently been detected by South Eastern Railway. The case has been handed over by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for further investigation.

(e) Existing provisions are considered adequate for dealing with cases of misleading declaration by delinquent firms. However, instructions are reiterated from time to time.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1825
ANSWERED ON 01.12.2011

Scam in Transportation of Commodities

1825. SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN :
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI YASHBANT NARAYAN SINGH LAGURI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent investigations have revealed various scams in transportation of commodities such as iron ore, coal, fertilizers etc. involving iron ore miners and others in the country, including in the State of Odisha, Jharkhand, Karnataka etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has also come out with any report in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Railways in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Railways in the aftermath of such to prevent recurrence of such cases?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) A case of misleading declaration of iron ore by a company has recently been detected by South Eastern Railway. The case has been handed over by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for further investigation. Two cases have been registered by (CBI) for further investigation.

(e) Existing provisions are considered adequate for dealing cases of misleading declaration by delinquent firms. However, instructions are reiterated from time to time.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1010
ANSWERED ON 29.11.2011

Irregularities in Transportation of Iron Ore

1010. SHRI YASHVIR SINGH :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL :
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV :
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR :
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of irregularities in the transportation of iron ore meant for exports at the rate of domestic freight have come to the notice of the Railways as appeared in the media reports dated 27 September, 2012;

(b) if so, the facts of matter and the quantum of loss caused to the Railways as a result thereof;

(c) whether any formal enquiry/investigation has been ordered in this regard;

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

(e) the other steps being taken by the Railways to prevent such cases in future?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Madam. Some cases of misleading declaration of iron ore have come to the notice of Ministry of Railways.

(b) to (d) The case has been handed over by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for further investigation. Two cases have been registered by CBI in the matter. The cases are under investigation by CBI.

(e) Existing provisions are considered adequate for dealing cases of misleading declaration by delinquent firms. However, instructions are reiterated from time to time.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 17
ANSWERED ON 05.12.2013

Irregularities in Transportation of Iron Ore and Minerals

*17. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR :
SHRI RUDRA MADHAB RAY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have lost sizeable amount of revenue because of their dual policy for charging separate prices for transporting iron ore, pellets and other minerals meant for exports and domestic use;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for such a dual policy;

(c) the present status of the progress made in the ongoing investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the matter;

(d) whether the Railways propose to recover the said losses from the companies found responsible and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to check such cases in future?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Starred Question No. 17 By Shri Neeraj Shekhar and Shri Rudra Madhab Ray to be answered in Lok Sabha on 05.12.2013 regarding irregularities in Transportation of Iron Ore and Minerals.

(a) & (b) With a view to reduce input cost for domestic steel manufacturing units and to garner additional freight revenue from transportation of iron ore for export, the revised policy regime for iron ore was introduced. This tariff policy has yielded significant dividends in terms of freight revenue generation. Moreover, instances of misleading declaration by select consigners/consignees are being dealt in accordance with the relevant provisions of the extant policy.

(c) According to available information, cases of misleading declaration by iron ore consignees/consigners, detected by Railways and referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) through the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), are still under investigation.

(d) Yes, Madam, Demand-cum-showcause notices have been served on those who *prima facie* appear to have submitted misleading declarations.

(e) Existing provisions are considered adequate for dealing with cases of misleading declaration by delinquent firms. Railway Administration has progressively strengthened its control, monitoring and verification mechanism.

APPENDIX II

MEMORANDUM NO. 9

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3657 dated 24.08.2011, regarding "Illegal sale of Indian Passports."

On 24 August, 2011 Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3657 to the Minister of External Affairs. The text of the question along with the reply of the Minister is 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* O.M. No. VIII/125/6/2011 dated 16 September, 2014 has requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"That in response to our reminder dated 31.07.2013 MHA *vide* letter dated 16.09.2013 informed that the report was received from Delhi Police stating that the FSL report/result of the exhibits collected from the Indian Embassy at the Washington-DC has been received from the Forensic Science Laboratory. Investigations of all the cases have been completed. Charge sheets of the cases are being prepared and the same shall be filed before the Hon'ble Court shortly. The United States Police have already registered a case under relevant sections of violations which shall be finalized by them as per the US laws. The Ministry again reminded MHA *vide* letter dated 22.01.2014 about an updated status to which MHA *vide* its letter dated 21.03.2014 further informed that the main agent Amandeep Singh @ Navdeep Singh has expired. Investigation of all the cases has been completed and charge sheet/final report of cases has been prepared. Charge sheets of 8 cases have already been filed before Hon'ble Court and in remaining cases; charge sheets will be filed before Hon'ble Court shortly. In view of above detailed information from MHA and the fact that our assurance mentions about "concerned authorities have initiated the process to investigate the matter, in order to apprehend the culprits", we may request the Hon'ble Committee on Government Assurances to drop this assurance and exclude the same from the list of pending assurances."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated:
New Delhi

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3657
ANSWERED ON 24.08.2011

Illegal sale of Indian Passports

3657. SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of illegal sale of Indian passports have come to light from countries like America;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons held for their involvement in it; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard by the Government of India?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (c) A few cases of alleged forgery of Indian passports in the United States of America have been brought to the notice of the Government by the immigration and police authorities in Delhi. The concerned authorities have initiated the process to investigate the matter in order to apprehend the culprits.

APPENDIX III

MEMORANDUM NO. 10

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3214 dated 09.12.2009, regarding "Irregularities in ICCR".

On 09 December, 2009 Shri Maheshwar Hazari, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3214 to the Minister of External Affairs. The text of the question along with the reply of the Minister is 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* O.M. No. FICCR/Vigilance/Parl./2011 dated 15 September, 2014 has requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the initial investigation had been carried out by Central Bureau of Investigation *vide* Case No. RC-1 (S)/2006-SCU I/CBI/SCR I/New Delhi, CBI had intimated *vide* their letter dated 06th Sept., 2013, that they had filed the case with under section 120-B IPC r/w/420,468,471 IPC and Sec. 13 (1) (d) of PC Act, 1988 in the Court of Shri Kanwaljeet Arora, Spl. Judge, CBI cases Dwarka Court, New Delhi. This office of Indian Council for Cultural Relations has no role in proceedings of the case now. The matter is with the Court of Law."

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: 16.11.2015
New Delhi

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3214
ANSWERED ON 09.12.2009

Irregularities in ICCR

3214. SHRI MAHESHWAR HAZARI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gross irregularities have been committed by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in sending professionals of various fields abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make this process transparent and fair?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) & (b) The ICCR-sponsored visit of one folk dance group, 'Mehek Punjab Di', in September 2005 is under investigation by CBI. No other irregularities have come to light subsequently.

(c) A Committee, comprising of experts in different fields of performing arts, has been constituted by the ICCR for the purpose of selecting artistes for empanelment with the Council. Other rules and regulations have also been put in place in order to ensure that a wide selection of artistes get an opportunity to travel abroad under the aegis of the Council. The only criterion for sending artistes/groups abroad is merit. Towards this end, the Council is increasingly involving its Regional Offices for their advice on the caliber of the artistes/groups being considered for tours abroad. A similar process is also followed for Professors and teachers deputed abroad to serve on Chairs of Indian Studies in various foreign Universities and in the Council's Cultural Centres abroad. In all cases, the process of selection has been made completely transparent and above-board by regularly involving experts and art critics from outside the Council in order to ensure the integrity and reliability of the procedure.

APPENDIX IV

MEMORANDUM NO. 16

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4112 dated 18.08.2010, regarding "Exploration of Uranium and Plutonium".

On 18 August, 2010 Sarvashri Ramsinh Rathwa, Ghanshyam Anuragi, P. Balram Naik and Suresh Kumar Shetkar, MPs addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4112 to Prime Minister. 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 Department of Atomic Energy within three months from the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Department of Atomic Energy *vide* O.M. No. 12/12(9)/2010-I&M(AMD)/555 dated 15 January, 2015 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

(I) Lambapur Uranium Projects

That Uranium Ore Mining and Milling Project at Lambapur, Andhra Pradesh with a revised approved cost of 997.71 cr. is under implementation in two stages *i.e.* (i) Land acquisition, infrastructure development, statutory clearances and environment management, etc. (cost 96.507 cr.), which is expected to be completed in 2 years time and (ii) construction activities, which is expected to be completed in 3 years time (cost 901.21 cr.). However, actual mining and processing will be taken up only after receipt of all statutory clearances as stated above and therefore it is not possible to set a definite timeframe for commencement of various activities.

(II) Exploratory Mining at Rohil, Rajasthan

In view of the large requirement of water for exploratory mining, geo-scientific studies to assess the availability of ground water for mining activities has been taken up and drilling is likely to commence shortly to assess the availability of ground water.

(III) Exploratory mining at Wakhyn, Meghalaya

The proposal for exploratory mining at Wakhyn has been kept in abeyance due to stiff opposition by local populace for uranium mining. The approval of Government of India is awaited for construction of uranium mining and milling.

The definite time-frame for above mentioned three projects cannot be set due to various factors such as statutory clearances, various studies and opposition of

local populace against uranium mining. In view of the foregoing, the assurance may be treated as fulfilled for the reason quoted above. Committee on Government Assurances (Lok Sabha) may kindly treat the assurance as deleted.

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 16.11.2015

New Delhi

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4112
ANSWERED ON 18.08.2010

Exploration of Uranium and Plutonium

4112. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
SHRI GHANSYAMANURAGI:
SHRI P. NAIK BALRAM:
SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government through its agencies has successfully identified new reserves of Plutonium and Uranium in various part of the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the quantity of these metals explored during the above period, location-wise and agency-wise; and

(c) the steps initiated by the Government to further refine these metals for peaceful use in the nuclear plants?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Hyderabad, a constituent Unit of the Department of Atomic Energy, carried out survey and exploration for uranium in India and has established 1,47,898 tonnes

of uranium deposits as on 31.05.2010. During the last three years the uranium resources established by AMD are as follows:—

(Figures in Tonnes)

Area	State	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Rohil	Rajasthan	547	220	795
Koppunuru	Andhra Pradesh	1,228	-	293
Peddagattu	Andhra Pradesh	1,407	-	854
Tummalapalle	Andhra Pradesh	1,690	12,007	14,13
Chitrial	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	440
Gogi	Karnataka	-	449	-
Lostoin	Meghalaya	-	12	7
Total:		4,872	12,688	16,520

Plutonium does not occur in nature. Plutonium is produced by nuclear transmutation in nuclear reactors. Thus, resources of plutonium can not be established by survey and exploration.

(c) At Tummalapalle, Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh, Uranium mine is under construction by the Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL), Public Sector Undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy. In Gogi, Gulbarga District, Karnataka, Exploratory mining is in progress to delineate the ore body configuration and for recovery of bulk samples for development of flow sheet for recovery of Uranium. At Peddagattu-Lambapur, Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh; Rohil, Sikar District, Rajasthan and Wahkyn, West Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya, exploratory mining is under consideration.

APPENDIX V

MEMORANDUM NO. 17

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3214 dated 19.08.2011, regarding "World Bank Health Projects and Unstarred Question No. 2034 dated 02.12.2011, regarding "Irregularities/ Scams in Health related schemes".

On 19 August, 2011 Shri Harish Chaudhary, M.P. addressed and Unstarred Question No. 3214 and Shrimati Rama Devi, and Shri M. Anjan Kumar Yadav, MPs. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2034 to the Minister of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health & Family Welfare). 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 question was treated as an assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare within three months from the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare) *vide* O.M. No. H-11016/8/2011-IC dated 25.07.2014 had requested to drop the assurance given in reply to USQ No. 3214 dated 19.08.2014 on the following grounds:—

"That as has been informed earlier, as per information received from the Vigilance Section (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare), out of the seven (7) cases registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the above mentioned two Lok Sabha Assurances (i) two cases have been closed; (ii) three cases are under trial in court; (iii) closure report in one case is under consideration of the court; and (iv) one case is under investigation by the CBI. It may also be reiterated here that since cases have been registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on the basis of the references made by this Department and/or other department/organization under the Government of India and follow-up legal action by the CBI will take its own course, the referring department/organization has no scope/authority either to expedite the matter or accelerate the case disposal in a court of law and therefore, it is not feasible to fulfil the assurances by this Ministry/Department. It may also be added here that in connection with the above mentioned two Lok Sabha Assurances, Oral Evidence was given by former Secretary (H&FW) before the Committee on Government Assurances (Lok Sabha) on 06th February, 2014. Further, in connection with the query of Chairperson, Committee on Government Assurances (Lok Sabha) about the amount under dispute in the cases registered by the CBI, the Vigilance Section (Ministry of

Health & Family Welfare) has informed that "no information relating to amount under dispute has been mentioned in FIRs registered by CBI in these cases".

4. The above request for dropping the assurance was not acceded to by the Committee at their sitting held on 8th October, 2014. The Committee accordingly presented its 2nd Report on 16 December, 2014 and desired that the matter be pursued with CBI vigorously to expedite the investigation in the matter.

5. However, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare *vide* their O.M. No. H-11016/8/2011-IC dated 19.01.2015 have again requested to drop the assurances on the following ground:—

"That as has been informed earlier, as per information received from the Vigilance Section (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare), out of the seven (7) cases registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the above mentioned two Lok Sabha Assurances [No. L158657 and No. L159171], (i) two cases have been closed; (ii) three cases are under trial in court; (iii) closure report in one case is under consideration of the court; and (iv) one case is under investigation by the CBI. With reference to the O.M. No. 2 Report/16/12/2014-CGA dated 16th December, 2014 from Lok Sabha Secretariat (Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha, it is informed that Vigilance Section of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been requested to urge the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to expedite the investigation process and also vigorously pursue the legal actions initiated by the CBI to facilitate fulfilling the assurances by this Ministry/Department."

6. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of Health and Family Welfare, have requested to drop the above assurances.

The Committee may reconsider.

Dated: 16.11.2015
New Delhi

ANNEXURE I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3214
ANSWERED ON 19.08.2011

World Bank Health Projects

3214. SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the health projects being implemented with the assistance received from the World Bank in the country;

(b) whether the Government has received certain reports/complaints of irregularities in implementation of the above said projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The World Bank is providing financial assistance to the tune of US \$ 250 million to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for implementing Malaria Control and Kala-azar elimination project. The Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) also receives financial assistance from the World Bank.

Following State Health Sector Projects are also being implemented with World Bank financial assistance:—

(amount in US \$ million)	
State	Amount borrowed
Tamil Nadu	
Cr. No. 4756-IN/ Date of signing 06.07.2010	117.00
Karnataka	
Cr. No. 4229-IN/ Date of signing 16.10.2006	141.83
Rajasthan	
Cr. No. 3867-IN/ Date of signing 03.06.2004	89.00

(b) & (c) Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance has informed that irregularities were noticed in implementation of certain Projects funded by the World Bank:—

- (i) Reproductive & Child Health Project-II,
 - (ii) Second Tuberculosis Control Project, and
 - (iii) Food & Drugs Capacity Building Project.
- (d) Cases have been registered.

ANNEXURE II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2034
ANSWERED ON 02.12.2011

Irregularities Scams in Health Related Schemes

2034. SMT. RAMADEVI:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any irregularities have been reported in health related schemes running with the assistance of the World Bank;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected by the Government during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against those found guilty; and

(d) the outcome of the action and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD): (a) to (d) Following three referral reports in respect of irregularities in projects have been received from department of institutional integrity, World Bank during the last three years:

- (i) Reproductive & Child Health Project-II,
- (ii) Second Tuberculosis Control Project,
- (iii) Food & Drugs Capacity Building Project.

In the case of Reproductive & Child Health Project-II, two Chinese manufacturers had submitted bids in respect of two tenders. In one case, bid guarantee was found to be fraudulent, whereas in the other case the bidder submitted false test report in support of the performance equipment. In one case the supply order was cancelled, whereas in the other case supply order was not placed. As such in both the cases pre-emptive action was taken. Regarding Food & Drugs Capacity Building Project, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has initiated investigations against three companies.

APPENDIX VI

MEMORANDUM NO. 18

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

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 1004 dated 28 November, 2006 regarding "Implementation of Reservation Policy". (Annexure I).
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 3293 dated 16 March, 2011 regarding "Reservation in unaided Private Educational Institutions". (Annexure II).
- (iii) Unstarred Question No. 1393 dated 14 August, 2013 regarding "Reservation to OBCs in Private Unaided Institutions". (Annexure III).

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

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 Human Resource Development *vide* O.M. Nos. 15-40/2014-U. Policy dated 20 January, 2015 have requested to drop the assurances on the following grounds:—

"That all the parliamentary assurances on the subject be dropped from the list of pending assurance on the following ground:—

A legislative proposal was formulated to provide reservation of seats in admission and regulation of admission and fee in the unaided private educational institutions including deemed to be universities under the purview of the Central Government. The provisions of reservation were to be made applicable to (i) all unaided private educational institutions not receiving any aid, directly or indirectly from the Central Government and affiliated to an university established under a Central Government and affiliated to an university established under a Central Act, and (ii) declared as deemed to be university under section 3 of UGS Act, 1956. (b) A Group of Ministers was formulated to review the issue of reservation and manner of implementation of Article 15(5) of the Constitution. It was observed that in regard to the unaided private educational institutions, issues, regarding their eligibility, financial obligation of the Central Government would required wide consultations with stakeholders. It was then decided to form a Core Group of

Ministers comprising the then Human Resource Minister, the then Rashka Mantra, and the then Finance Minister to formally consult, turn by turn, the leaders of all political parties and chief Ministers to build political consensus, the Core Group of Ministers on 19th and 20th October, 2006 met with the Chief Ministers and Education Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, Odissa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Bihar, Goa and Punjab. However, there was no political consensus on the issue. A meeting was also held on 26th October, 2006 under the Chairmanship of the then Human Resource Development Minister with the chancellors, Vice-Chancellors of various Private Institutions. On the account of the above, the GoM could not finalise its recommendation on the issue relating to how unaided institutions could be mandated by a Central law to implement the policy in the absence of State funding. (c) In the meantime, the 93rd Constitutional Amendment Act and the CEI (Reservation in Admission) Act 2006, was challenged in several *writ* petitions before the High Court and the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court finally disposed off all the *writ* petitions on 10th April, 2008 upholding the constitutional validity of the 93rd Amendment Act in so far as it applied to the Central Government. However, the question as to the validity of the Amendment as far as it related to private unaided institutions was left without conclusion. (d) Also, a SLP of the Union of India in a similar matter is still pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The said SLP is against the Hon'ble Court of Allahabad's order dated 11th February, 2011 in the case of Sudha Tiwari vs. Union of India and others, wherein it was held that the 93rd Constitutional Amendments Act, 2005 in so far as it enable to provide reservations to private/unaided educational institutions is violative of the basic structure of the Constitution. Therefore, the matter is still sub-judice. A political consensus on the issue is required to be build with the States and other stakeholders and the Central Government will not be able to fulfill the assurance till such time as a consensus emerges. Accordingly, the Committee on Government Assurances may be moved to drop the Parliament assurances on the above (List enclosed) from the list of pending assurances,

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 16.11.2015
New Delhi

ANNEXURE I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1004
ANSWERED ON 28.11.2006

Implementation of Reservation Policy

1004. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY :
SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

- (a) the details of the reservation provided/being provided in various higher and minority educational institutes to each of the reserved category in the country;
- (b) whether the Moily Committee set up to prepare a roadmap for implementing quota for OBCs in elite central education institutions has presented their Report;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether private educational institutes have agreed to implement Government reservation policy in their institutes as reported in Hindustan Times dated October 27, 2006;
- (e) if so, the details in this regard;
- (f) whether these private educational institutes has placed demand prior to the implementation of Government policy;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the reaction of Union Government on such demands?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The present policy of reservation in matters of admission to centrally maintained and aided institutions such as the

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and the Central Universities is limited to 15% seats for the SCs and 7.5% seats for the STs, subject to candidates meeting the prescribed standards of eligibility in the respective categories. Minority Education Institutions established under Art. 30(1) of the Constitution are exempted from implementing the policy of reservation of the Government.

(b) & (c) The Oversight Committee constituted to suggest a road-map has recommended the implementation of 27 per cent reservation of seats for OBCs without any decline in the present level of seats available to the Central Category of students in all the Centrally Aided Institutes of Higher Learning at a cost of Rs. 12338.22 crores over three years beginning from the Academic session in the calendar year 2007-08.

(d) to (h) A proposal in regard to reservation in unaided educational institutions coming under the purview of the Central Government is under consideration.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3293
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2011

Reservation in Unaided Private Educational Institutions

3293. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI RAMSINHBHAI PATALBHAI RATHWA:
SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to enact legislation for reservation of SCs/STs/OBCs in unaided private higher educational institutions functioning in the country including medical colleges and private universities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

ANNEXURE III

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1393
ANSWERED ON 14.08.2013

Reservation to OBCs in Private Unaided Institutions

1393. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRIS. ALAGIRI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any provision for providing reservation to other Backward Classes in private unaided institutions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to bring a legislation in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Under Article 15(5) of the Constitution, the Parliament as well as State Legislatures are competent to make laws with special provisions for the advancement of the weaker sections of society—the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes in matters of access to educational institutions, whether aided or unaided by the State, other than the minority educational institutions referred to in clause (1) of article 30. At present there is no Central Law providing for reservation to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in private unaided institutions.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The proposal has been formulated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). However, it needs detailed consultations and consensus amongst key stakeholders.

APPENDIX VII

MEMORANDUM NO. 19

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

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 4573 dated 07 September, 2012 regarding "Status of Women". (Annexure-I).
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 5276 dated 26 April, 2013 regarding "Committee on Status of Women". (Annexure-II).
- (iii) Unstarred Question No. 4592 dated 21 February, 2014 regarding "Women Reservation". (Annexure-III).

The above mentioned questions were asked by various MPs to the Minister of Women and Child Development. 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 Women and Child Development within three months of the date of the reply but the assurances are yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Women and Child Development *Vide* O.M. No. F.N. 6-19/2013-WW(HLC) dated 16 July, 2013 had requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"That since the High Level Committee is envisaged to submit its report by 23.05.2015, *i.e.* within two years since its reconstitution as resolved in the resolution dated 23.05.2013 it will not be possible to fulfil the assurance before that date. It is also mentioned that in an identical case regarding assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 441 dated 27.02.2013 regarding 'comprehensive study to assess the current status of women', the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has deleted the assurance from the pending list of assurance of Rajya Sabha. In view of the position explained above, the Committee on Government Assurances (Lok Sabha) may please consider deletion of this assurance."

4. The above request of the Ministry was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 06 February, 2014 and the Committee decided not to drop the assurance. The Committee accordingly presented its Fortieth Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 17 February, 2014 *inter-alia* recommending that the Ministry should impress upon the High Level Committee to give its report within the stipulated period.

5. However the Ministry of Women and Child Development *vide* O.M. 6-29/2013-WW (HLC), 6-48/2013-WW(HLC) and 11012/1/2014-PU dated 14th October, 2014,

17th October, 2014 and 1st September, 2014 respectively have requested to drop the assurances on the following grounds:—

"That the reply to part (d) of the Question referred to above is a factual position indicating that the High Level Committee has been provided two years time for submission of its report from the date of first meeting of the High Level Committee as provided in the resolution at the time of its Constitution. This, in our view does not constitute an Assurance. Since the High Level Committee is envisaged to submit its report by 23.05.2013, *i.e.* within two years since its reconstitution as resolved in the Resolution dated 24.05.2013 and it will not be possible to fulfil the assurance before that date and this Ministry will have to keep on asking for the extension of time for fulfilling the assurance every 3 months, which would be a futile exercise. It is also mentioned that in an identical case regarding assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 441 dated 27.02.2013 regarding 'Comprehensive study to assess the current status of women' the Rajya Sabha *vide* their letter No. RS. 1/228/29/2013-Com. III dated 27.05.2013".

6. In view of the above, the Ministry with the approval of Minister of Women and Child Development, have requested to drop the above assurances.

The Committee may re-consider.

Dated: 16.11.2015
New Delhi

ANNEXURE I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4573
ANSWERED ON 07.09.2012

Status of Women

4573. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a High Level Expert Committee has been constituted to undertake a comprehensive study to assess the status of women in the country since 1989;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether above said Committee has evolved any policy interventions based on the contemporary assessment of women's needs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the follow up action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Government has set up a High Level Committee (HLC) on the status of women to undertake comprehensive study to understand the status of women since 1989 as well as to evolve appropriate policy interventions based on a contemporary assessment of women's needs.

The composition of the Committee is as under:—

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------|-------------|
| (i) | Justice Ruma Pal | Chairperson |
| (ii) | Prof. Bina Agarwal | Member |
| (iii) | Dr. Amita Singh | Member |
| (iv) | Dr. Pam Rajput | Member |
| (v) | Ms. Rita Sarin | Member |

(vi)	Dr. Manorma Singh	Member
(vii)	Dr. Shantha Krishnan	Member
(viii)	Dr. Nirmala Devi	Member
(ix)	Ms. Manira A. Pinto	Member
(x)	Smt. Vijayluxmi Kol	Member
(xi)	Ms. Pratima Thami	Member
(xii)	Mrs. Suman Kumar	Member
(xiii)	Mrs. Anusuiya Sharma	Member
(xiv)	Dr. Simrit Kaur	Member
(xv)	Ms. Naheed Soz	Member
(xvi)	Dr. V. S. Elizabeth	Member
(xvii)	Ms. Nandini Thockchom	Member
(xviii)	Ms. Razia Abdul Rahim Patel	Member
(xix)	Smt. Deepa Jain Singh	Member Secretary

The Terms of Reference of the above High Level Committee (HLC) is as follows:—

I. The HLC will conduct an intensive literature survey to take stock of published data, reports, articles and research from about 1989 onwards, on the status of women in India.

II. The HLC will prepare a Report on the current socio-economic, political and legal status of women in India. The Report will also bring out the interconnectedness of these aspects in terms of their impact on women and recommend measures for holistic empowerment of women.

III. The HLC will examine the overall status of women including, *inter-alia*, the socio-economic, health and nutritional, legal and political status, disaggregated by rural/urban, economic and social position (*e.g.* APL/BPL, SC/ST, single women, disabled women, migrant women) and wherever possible by minority status (*e.g.* muslims/others). The analysis would take account of cross-regional differences and focus on inequalities both within and outside the household. It would also assess the impact made by existing policies and legislative changes on equality, security and holistic empowerment of women, and will identify inequalities in policy and legislation as well as gaps in implementation.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. The High Level Committee was constituted *vide* Resolution dated 27 February, 2012 and it is required to present its report within 2 years.

(e) Does not arise.

ANNEXURE II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5276
ANSWERED ON 26.04.2013

Committee on Status of Women

5276. SHRISAUGATA RAY :
SHRI K. SIVAKUMAR ALIAS J. K. RITHEESH :

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the High Level Committee (HLC) on the status of women in the country has submitted its report to the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether a number of members of the HLC have resigned from the Committee;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons behind their resignation; and
- (e) the time by which the said HLC is likely to submit its report to the Government?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) & (b) No, Madam. The HLC has not submitted its report to the Government.

(c) Yes, please;

(d) The Chairperson, Member Secretary and three Members of the HLC had resigned, reportedly due to their pre-occupations and other commitments.

(e) HLC has been given two years time from the date of its 1st meeting to submit its report. The 1st meeting was held on 24th July, 2012.

ANNEXURE III

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4592
ANSWERED ON 21.02.2014

Women Reservation

4592. SHRIC. SIVASAMI :

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panel appointed by the Government has recommended 50 percent reservation for women in all decision making bodies and overhaul of the criminal justice system to ensure justice for women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the panel has also suggested that a separate panel be appointed by the Government to study the status of Muslim women in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (d) A High Level Committee on the status of Women to undertake comprehensive study to understand the status of Women since 1989 as well as to evolve appropriate policy interventions based on a contemporary assessment of women's needs has been constituted *vide* Resolution No. 4-5/2009-WW dated 27th February, 2012 and reconstituted *vide* Notification No. 4-5/2009-WW (HLC) dated 24th May, 2013. Final report of the Committee as on date is awaited.

APPENDIX VIII

MEMORANDUM NO. 25

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4496 dated 22.04.2013, regarding "Military Dairy Farms" and Unstarred Question No. 2540 dated 26.08.2013 regarding "Military Farms."

On 22 April, 2013 Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, M.P. and on 26 August, 2013 Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal Gandhi, M.P. addressed Unstarred Question Nos. 4496 and 2540 to the Minister of Defence. The texts of the questions along with the reply of the Ministers are as given in the Annexures-I and II.

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

3. The Ministry of Defence *vide* O.M. No. 4022/D(QS)/2013 dated 03 January, 2014 have requested to drop the assurances on the following grounds:—

"AHQ has been asked to prepare a detailed roadmap giving details of redeployment plan for surplus manpower and plan for utilization/transfer/disposal of land and other assets/livestock of the Military Farms which, in fact, may take considerable time for fulfilling the assurance. Hence, these assurances may be deleted from the list of pending assurance."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 16.11.2015
New Delhi

ANNEXURE I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4496
ANSWERED ON 22.04.2013

Military Dairy Farms

4496. SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all the Military Dairy Farms are being closed down;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the details of the animals in these farms; and
- (c) the manner in which the animals of these farms are being disposed of?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The matter is being examined.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2540
ANSWERED ON 26.08.2013

Military Farms

2540. SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Military Farms in different agro-climatic conditions in the country are made available to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for development of a national milk breed for cow;

(b) if so, the State-wise names and location of Military Farms collaborating with ICAR, and the total number of animals of the said Military Farms;

(c) whether there is any proposal to close down the Military Farms which may put the entire project and the animal wealth in jeopardy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) No, Madam, only 30 acres of land under Military Farm, Meerut (Uttar Pradesh) has been made available to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for development of national milk breed for cow.

Military Farms at Meerut, Pimpri, Bangdubi, Ambala, Lucknow and Jammu having a total of 27 bulls are rearing bulls for transfer to Bull Rearing Unit of ICAR.

Data is also provided to ICAR for analysis by Jhansi, Secunderabad, Guwahati, Pathankot, Jalandhar, Bareilly and Jabalpur Military Farms. Proposal to close down Military Farms is under examination.

APPENDIX IX

MEMORANDUM NO. 27

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1121 dated 17.07.2014, regarding "Irregularities in Freight Traffic".

On 17 July, 2014 Dr. Virendra Kumar, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1121 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. 2014/V2/LG3/All Ors/3 dated 29.10.2014, have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"That according to available information, the investigation being conducted by the CBI is still in progress. At this stage, it is not possible for this Ministry to project any definitive time frame in which CBI's investigations would conclude. It needs to be appreciated that the CBI, based on its findings, would determine the course of follow-up action and, also, lead such actions to their logical conclusion. In this light, it is held that the role of this Ministry, in so far as proceeding further in the matter of fulfillment of the aforesaid Assurance is concerned, has, for all practical purposes, ceased. It is, therefore, requested that Lok Sabha Secretariat may consider dropping of this Assurance."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 16.11.2015
New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1121
ANSWERED ON 17.07.2014

Irregularities in Freight Traffic

1121. DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have suffered huge losses in the earnings from freight traffic over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the projected earnings and actual earnings from freight traffic during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether a number of instances of alleged irregularities in freight traffic have come to the notice of the Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such cases reported during the said period and the action taken thereon by the Railways; and

(e) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Railways to effectively check recurrence of such instances of irregularities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) & (b) The freight earnings during the last few years *vis-a-vis* the respective targets are given below:—

(Rs. in crore)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14#	2014-15
Budget Estimate (BE)	62489	68620	89339	93554	105770
Revised Estimate (RE)	62489	68620	85956	94000	
Actual	62845	69548	85263	93906	
Var Actual-BE	355	928	-4076	352	
Var Actual-RE	355	928	-693	-94	

#The Actual figure of 2013-14 provisional.

It may be seen therefrom that except for the years 2012-13 and 2013-14, freight earnings have surpassed the targets. The shortfall in freight earnings during 2012-13 & 2013-14 was largely due to slow growth in the core sector of the economy compounded by negative growth in Iron ore after mining restrictions in Karnataka and Odisha and quantum drop in exports, negative/slow growth in Cement in 2012-13/2013-14 due to lesser demand, negative growth in Fertilizer in 2012-13/2013-14 and slow growth in coal sector in 2013-14 due to less demand.

(c) & (d) Yes, Madam. According to available information, instances of irregularities in freight traffic (misleading declaration) by Iron Ore Consignees/Consignors have been detected by Railways. The matter has been handed over to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

There are 18 companies/groups on whom Demand-cum-Show Cause Notice have been served for irregularities in freight traffic (misleading declaration) in Iron Ore transportation.

(e) Existing provisions are considered adequate for dealing with cases of misleading declaration by delinquent firms. Railway Administration has progressively strengthened its control, monitoring and verification mechanism.

APPENDIX X

MEMORANDUM NO. 35

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 5681 dated 10.05.2012, regarding "Rail Coach Factory".

On 10 May, 2012 Shri Prabodh Panda, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 5681 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/Elect.Dev.LSQ/Assurance(1) dated 25.03.2015, have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the various works pertaining to rail Coach Factory/Kanchrapara are in progress. The work of transmission and new sub-station building has been completed.

For selection of JV partner, bidders have already been shortlisted for participation in financial bid stage. As per the decision of the Cabinet, Bid Documents approved by the Cabinet for Marhowra and Madhepura locomotive factories would be generally followed for Rail Coach Factory/Kanchrapara, except for project specific changes. Proposal can be sent to the Cabinet after getting Board's clearance. The Ministry has nominated a Committee to assess the requirement of rolling stock including EMU/MEMU coaches. Report of the Committee is awaited. Decision to take the bid process forward can be taken after receipt of report of the Committee. It is therefore not possible to give any timeframe for fulfilling of the Assurance. It is requested to drop the Assurance."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 16.11.2015

New Delhi

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5681
ANSWERED ON 10.05.2012

Rail Coach Factory

5681. SHRI PRABODH PANDA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of progress made in setting up of Rail Coach Factories (RCFs) at Raebareli, Kanchrapara and Palakkad;
- (b) the details of funds allocated/spent thereon so far, separately;
- (c) the reasons for delay in setting up of the said RCFs;
- (d) the time by which the said RCFs will be made functional; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to expedite the work in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) The present status of Rail Coach Factories at Raebareli, Kanchrapara and Palakkad is as under:

Rail Coach Factory, Raebareli

The construction work for the Phase-I of Rail Coach Factory has been completed and the work of painting, furnishing, assembly and testing of LHB design coaches has commenced during 2011-12. The construction work and procurement of Machinery and Plant for Phase-II (Shell manufacturing shop, Bogie shop, Wheel shop, Administration block, staff & officers colony) has already started.

Rail Coach Factory, Kanchrapara

The works relating to land development, electric supply arrangements, road and rail connectivity are in progress. Bidders have been shortlisted through International competition Bidding (ICB) after finalization of Request For Qualification (RFO). Bid documents are under finalization.

Rail Coach Factory, Palakkad

The work of setting up of Rail Coach Factory at Palakkad in Kerala has been included in Railway Budget 2012-13 to seek Parliamentary approval.

(b) The funds spent on these factories are as under:

	(Rupees in crores)	
	Cost	Spent (upto March' 12)
Raebareli	1685	449.81
Kanchrapara	860.16	8.46
Palakkad	550	Nil

(c) & (e) Progress of these projects is being monitored on regular basis for timely completion.

(d) Rail Coach Factory, Raebareli is already functional. The Rail coach factories at Kanchrapara and Palakkad shall be functional after three years of award of contract for setting of these factories.

APPENDIX XI

MEMORANDUM NO. 36

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 5329 dated 14.08.2014, regarding "Irregularities in Recruitment".

On 14 August, 2014 Dr. Kirit Somaiya, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 5329 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. 2014/V4/LS/RRB/LG3/2 dated 10.11.2014, have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the stated position in the reply is that the CBI has registered a criminal case in the matter, which is a statement of fact. (ii) The stated fact in the reply does not appear to constitute an Assurance in terms of the list of 'responses to the Questions' which may be treated as 'Assurance', notified by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. In the light of the above, the Lok Sabha Secretariat is requested to consider dropping of assurance in reply to Unstarred Question No. 5329 on 14.8.2014 from the list of pending Assurances against this Ministry."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 16.11.2015.
New Delhi

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5329
ANSWERED ON 14.08.2014

Irregularities in Recruitment

5329. DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint regarding irregularities in railway recruitment has been reported to the Railways during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon by the Railways;

(c) whether it is a fact that CBI has unearthed a recruitment scam and arrested some railway officials along with some candidates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the CBI/Railways against the persons found responsible?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) & (b) In the current year, six complaints variously alleging leakage of question paper, involvement of outsiders in recruitment, submission of fake documents by candidates and non-recruitment of a qualified/selected candidate have been taken up for investigation.

(c) & (d) In the lead up to the written examination that was scheduled to be held in Bangalore on 29.06.2014 for the recruitment of Assistant Loco Pilots and Technicians, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had inputs indicative of a probable leak of its question paper. In pursuance of the checks/raids conducted, the CBI arrested one official of South Western Railway, thirteen candidates and one other outsider. The CBI has since registered a criminal case in the matter.

APPENDIX XII

MEMORANDUM NO. 38

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 11 dated 22.02.2013, regarding "Tax Liability of British Telecom Company".

On 22 February, 2013 Shri Sardar Sukhdev Singh Libra, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 11 to the Minister of Finance. The text of the question alongwith 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 Finance within three months from the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) *vide* O.M. F.No. 439/01/2013-FTD. I dated 27 January, 2015 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the statements made in the answers to the captioned Parliamentary Question were in the nature of factual statements and therefore, may not be treated as Parliamentary assurance."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 16.11.2015.
New Delhi

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 11
ANSWERED ON 22.02.2013

Tax Liability of British Telecom Company

11. SHRISUKHDEV SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of tax liability issue related to a British firm's acquisition of assets of another telecom firm;
- (b) whether Government has appointed any panel in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the said panel has submitted its report to the Government; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Assessing Officer has issued a letter on 03.01.2013 to Vodafone International Holdings BV (VIHBV) stating that it is required to pay the tax demand of Rs. 11217,94,68,800/- created by order under section 201(1) and 201(1A) of Income-tax Act, 1961 dated 22.10.2010, along with interest. Subsequently, VIHBV has made a request to settle the issue in an amicable manner, which is under consideration.

(b) & (c) No panel has been appointed by the Government in this regard. However, the applicability of the amendment on taxation of all non-resident transfer of assets where the underlying asset is in India, in the context of non-resident taxpayers' was included in the terms of reference of the Expert Committee on General Anti Avoidance Measures (referred to as Committee I hereafter), constituted by the Department of Revenue on 17.07.2012. The Committee consisted of Dr. Parthasarathi Shome, Chairman of the Committee and three members, Shri N. Rangachary, former Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Dr. Ajay Shah, Professor in National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) and Shri Sunil Gupta, Joint Secretary, Tax Policy and Legislation, Department of Revenue.

(d) & (e) The Committee has submitted its report which is being examined by the Government.

APPENDIX XIII

MEMORANDUM NO. 41

Subject: Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Supplementary to Starred Question No. 242 dated 24 July, 2014 by Shri Ganesh Singh, MP regarding "National and Strategically Important Railway Projects".

On 24 July, 2014 Shri Satav Rajeev and Shri Dhananjay Mahadik, M.Ps. addressed a Starred Question No. 242 to the Minister of Railways. The text of the question along with the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

2. During the discussion Shri Ganesh Singh, M.P., raised the following Supplementary to Starred Question No. 242 dated 24 July, 2014 to the Minister of Railways:—

"The Hon'ble Member, *inter alia* asked:—through you, I want to know from the Minister that by what time these projects would be completed? By when Forest and Environmental Clearances are likely to be received for these projects. This is what I want to know from the Minister."

3. In reply, the Minister of Railways (Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda) stated as follows:—

"The Minister *inter alia* replied as under:—So, after due consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests the Lalitpur-Singrauli stretch will also be cleared at the earliest."

4. The above reply 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.

5. The Ministry of Railways *vide* O.M. No. 2014/W-I/Genl./PQL/242 dated 27 November, 2014 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

- (i) "That the Hon'ble Minister of Railways while giving reply to the aforesaid Starred Question had, *inter-alia*, stated that "So, after due consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Lalitpur-Singrauli stretch will also be cleared at the earliest".
- (ii) For the stretch, particularly from Khajuraho to Panna, the proposed alignment is passing through Panna Tiger Reserve and Gangui Wild Life Sanctuary. Clearance for taking up the alignment through Tiger Reserve and Wild Life Sanctuary will require clearance from Wild Life Board and Central Empowered Committee (CEC) of Supreme Court of India. These issues of getting clearances are not in the hand of Ministry of Railways.

- (iii) In these circumstances, it will not be feasible to set any deadline for forestry clearance of this project. Hence continuation of this assurance under pending list may not be justified and accordingly be dropped from the pending list."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 16.11.2015.
New Delhi

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 242
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2014

National and Strategically Important Railway Projects

*242. SHRIRAJEEV SATAV:
SHRIDHANANJAY MAHADIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy framework laid down for declaring a railway project as a National and Strategically Important Project including the funding pattern for such projects;

(b) the details of railway projects which have been declared as 'National and Strategically Important Project' and the present status of these projects;

(c) whether some of these projects could not take off for want of environmental and forest clearances and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Railways have taken up the matter with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the concrete steps taken/being taken by the Railways for speedy execution of these projects?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):
(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) Projects important from strategic viewpoint in Jammu and Kashmir and North Eastern Region or developmental projects which result in greater integration of these regions with the rest of India, could be categorized as National Projects.

As regards Strategically Important Projects, the same are identified by Ministry of Defence.

Both National and Strategically Important Projects are funded along with other projects through Gross Budgetary Support extended by Ministry of Finance on yearly basis.

(b) The details of the 12 National/Strategically Important Projects are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of project	Latest anticipated cost	Outlay provided during 2014-15	Status
(in Crores)				
National Projects				
New Lines				
1.	Kumarghat-Agartala	1242	125	Completed as MG section, Planned to be converted to BG alongwith Lumding-Silchar gauge conversion project.
2.	Agartala-Sabroom	1741	500	Formation & bridge works taken up. Work in Udaipura-Sabroom section has been affected for want of forestry clearance.
3.	Bhairabi-Sairang	2393	200	Land acquisition taken up. Work has been affected for want of forestry clearance.
4.	Bogibeel bridge with linking lines between Dibrugarh and North Bank line	4996	600	Work in bridge approach from Chalkhowa to Moranhat (44 km) has been completed. Main bridge sub-structure and super-structure has been taken up.
5.	Byrnihat-Shillong	4083	5	Project held up due to protest of Khasi Student's Union for their demands with State Government.
6.	Dimpapur-Kohima	2447	50	Final Location Survey has been completed as per revised alignment suggested by State Government.
7.	Jiribam-Imphal	5996	1750	Earthwork, bridge and tunnel work has been taken up.
8.	Sivok-Rangpo	3375	50	Project held up for want of forestry clearance.
9.	Teteliya-Byrnihat	430	100	Earthwork, bridge and tunnel work has been taken up.
10.	Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramula	19565	1500	Udhampur-Katra (25 km) work and Banihal-Qazigund-Baramula (138 Km) completed. Work on balance portion has been taken up.
Gauge Conversions				
11.	Lumding-Silchar including branch lines and Material Modifications	5114	620	Earthwork, Bridge and tunnel work has been taken up.

Sl. No.	Name of project	Latest anticipated cost	Outlay provided during 2014-15	Status
(in Crores)				
12.	Rangiya-Murkongselek with linked fingers	3019	500	Rangiya-Rangpara North-Murkongselek & Rangapara North-Dekargaon (470 Km) sections completed. Balance work has been taken up.
Strategically Important Projects				
1.	Rishikesh-Karanprayag	4295	20	Final location and Geotechnical investigation has been taken up.
2.	Murkongselek-Pasighat	546	10	Final Location Survey Completed.
3.	Firozpur-Patti	216	0.01	Included in Budget 2013-14 subject to requisite approval.

(c) & (d) Four National projects viz. (i) Lumding-Silchar, (ii) Agartala-Sabroom, (iii) Bhairabi-Sairang and (iv) Sivok-Rangpo have been affected for want of forestry clearances. Co-ordination meetings have been held with State Govt. and Ministry of Environment and Forests, for faster clearance of these projects and consequently all clearances have been received for Lumding-Silchar project.

(e) National projects have been provided with an all time highest allocation of 6000 crore in 2014-15 for their speedier implementation. Field units have also been empowered for faster decision making.

APPENDIX XIV
MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2015-2016)
(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)

Fourth Sitting
(19.11.2015)

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1610 hours in Committee Room "E",
Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Tariq Anwar
3. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
4. Shri A. T. Nana Patil
5. Shri C.R. Patil
6. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
7. Shri Taslimuddin
8. Shri S.R. Vijay Kumar

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Shri R.S. Kambo | — | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Shri S.C. Chaudhary | — | Director |
| 3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan | — | Additional Director |
| 4. 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.

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2. Thereafter, the Committee considered 40 Memoranda (Memo No. 2 to 41) containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of the pending Assurances. After in-depth deliberation of the reasons adduced by the Ministries/Departments, the Committee decided to drop 27 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-I* and to pursue the remaining 13 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-II, for implementation by the Ministry/Department concerned.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

*Not enclosed.

ANNEXURE II

Statement Showing Assurances not dropped by the Committee on Government Assurance at their sitting held on 19.11.2015

Sl. No.	Memo No.	SQ/USQ No. and date	Ministry/ Department	Subject	Observations/Recommendations of the Committee
1.	7	USQ No. 574* dated 24.11.2011	Railways	Categories of Freight for Iron Ore	The Committee note that the matter pertaining to the Assurances has been handed over by the C.V.C. to the CBI for further detailed investigations. The investigation being conducted by the CBI is still in progress and the Ministry submitted that it is not possible to project a definite time frame for the conclusion of investigation and consequent course of follow up action. Further, the Ministry stated that as regards their role in fulfillment of the Assurances is concerned, the same has for is all practical purposes ceased. The Committee are of the view that an Assurance cannot be dropped merely on the ground that the matter is being investigated by the CBI and the time taken for its completion is not certain. Moreover, the matter is of national concern and sensitive and as such the Assurances cannot be dropped before the matter is brought to its logical conclusion. The Ministry are required to furnish the details of the cases, the outcome of the CBI investigation and the action taken thereon along with the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such cases. The Committee, therefore, desire that the matter may be pursued vigorously till its logical conclusion. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made by CBI is the matter from time to time.
		USQ No. 626* dated 24.11.2011		Scams in Iron Ore Transportation	
		USQ No. 1825* dated 01.12.2011		Scam in Transportation of Commodities	
		USQ No. 1010* dated 29.11.2012		Commodities Irregularities in Transportation of Iron Ore	
		SQ No. 17* dated 05.12.2013		Irregularities in Transportation of Iron Ore and Minerals	
2.	9	USQ No. 3657 dated 24.08.2011	External Affairs	Illegal Sale of Indian Passports	The Committee note that charge sheets of eight cases have already been filed in the Hon'ble High Court and in the remaining cases, charge sheets are being filed. The Committee feel that the Assurance cannot be dropped unless the matter is brought to its logical conclusion. The Ministry are required to furnish the details of the cases and the action taken thereon. The Committee, therefore, desire that all such cases should be pursued in right earnest. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in the case from time to time.

3.	10	USQ No. 3214* dated 09.12.2009	External Affairs	Irregularities in ICCR	The Committee note that the CBI had filed the case and the matter is sub-judice. The Ministry requested that since the office of Indian Council for Cultural Relations has no role in proceedings of the case now, the Assurance may be dropped. The Committee feel that an Assurance cannot be dropped merely on the ground that the CBI have filed the case in the matter and the same is Sub-Judice. The Ministry are required to furnish the details of the cases and more importantly the corrective follow up action taken thereon. The Committee, therefore, desire that the matter should be pursued vigorously till its logical conclusion. The Committee would like to be apprised of the final outcome in the matter.
4.	16	USQ No. 4112 dated 18.08.2010	Atomic Energy	Exploration of Uranium and Plutonium	The Committee note that necessary arrangements for uranium mining in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan have been made. However, the Proposal for uranium mining in Meghalaya has been kept in abeyance due to stiff opposition from the local populace. Citing that any definite time frame for these three projects cannot be set due to various factors such as statutory clearances, various studies and opposition from local populace, the Ministry have requested the Committee to drop the Assurance. The Committee cannot accept this contention of the Ministry since the actions taken up so far are far away from actual materialization that would fulfill the Assurance. The Committee, therefore, desire that the matter be taken up with all concerned and pursued vigorously. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives taken and the progress made in the matter.
5.	17	USQ No. 3214 dated 19.08.2011 USQ No. 2034 dated 02.12.2011	Health & Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare)	World Bank Health Projects Irregularities/ Scams in Health Related Schemes	The Committee note that the CBI have been urged to expedite the investigation process and also vigorously pursue the legal actions to facilitate the fulfillment of the Assurances. The Committee are of the view that an Assurance cannot be dropped merely on the ground that the matter is being investigated by the CBI and they have been urged to expedite the investigation process. The Ministry are required to furnish the details of the cases and follow up action taken thereon. The Committee desire that the matter must be properly investigated for its logical conclusion so as to fulfill the Assurances. The Committee would like to be apprised of the final action taken in the matter.

Sl. No.	Memo No.	SQ/USQ No. and date	Ministry/ Department	Subject	Observations/Recommendations of the Committee
6.	18	USQ No. 1004 dated 28.11.2006	Human Resource Development	Implementation of Reservation Policy	The Committee note that a legislative proposal was formulated to provide reservation of seats in admission and regulation of admission and fee in the unaided private educational institutions including deemed universities under the purview of the Central Government. A Group of Ministers was constituted for implementation of the proposal but it could not finalised its recommendations due to lack of political consensus on the issue. Subsequently, the matter reached the Supreme Court and is still <i>sub-judice</i> . The Ministry pleaded that since a political consensus on the issue is required to be built with the States and other stakeholders, the Government would not be able to fulfill the Assurance till such time the consensus emerges. The Committee feel that the matter is of crucial national importance and needs to be pursued vigorously to bring it to its logical conclusion. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives taken and the progress made in the matter.
		USQ No. 3293 dated 16.03.2011	(Department of Higher Education)	Reservation in Unaided Private Educational Institutions	
		USQ No. 1393 dated 14.08.2013		Reservation to OBCs in Private Unaided Institutions	
7.	19	USQ No. 4573* dated 07.09.2012	Women & Child Development	Status of Women	The Ministry have contented that no Assurance was given in the matter. The Committee outrightly reject this contention of the Ministry as it is their prerogative to treat a particular reply as an Assurance. The Ministry further stated that similar Assurance is Rajya Sabha was dropped by the Committee on Government Assurances of Rajya Sabha. The Committee are of the view that this cannot be the ground for dropping of the Assurance in Lok Sabha. On the contrary, the Committee feel that the matter should be pursued vigorously till its logical conclusion. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives taken and progress made in the matter.
		USQ No. 5276* dated 26.04.2013		Committee on Status of Women	
		USQ No. 4592* dated 21.02.2014		Women Reservation	

8.	25	USQ No. 4496 dated 22.04.2013	Defence (Department of Defence)	Military Dairy Farms	The Committee note that AHQ has been asked to prepare a detailed roadmap giving details of redeployment plan for surplus manpower and plan for utilization/transfer/disposal of land and other assets/livestock of the Military Farms which, in fact, may take considerable time for fulfilling the Assurances. The Ministry accordingly requested that these Assurances may be deleted from the list of pending Assurances. This is unacceptable to the Committee since an Assurance cannot be dropped just because of the apprehension that it would take a considerable time to fulfill it. On the contrary, the Committee would like the Ministry to take more concerted efforts expeditiously to fulfill the Assurance. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives taken and progress made in the matter.
		USQ No. 2540 dated 26.08.2013		Military Farms	
9.	27	USQ No. 1121* dated 17.07.2014	Railways	Irregularities in Freight Traffic	The Committee note the contention of the Ministry that the investigation being conducted by the CBI is still in progress. At this stage, it is not possible for this Ministry to project any definitive time frame in which CBI's investigations would conclude. It needs to be appreciated that the CBI, based on their findings would determine the course of follow-up action and, also would lead such actions to their logical conclusion. In this light, the Ministry submitted, in so far as proceeding further in the matter of fulfilment of the aforesaid Assurance is concerned, their role has, for all practical purposes, ceased and hence the Assurance may be dropped. The Committee feel that as Assurance cannot be dropped merely on the ground that the matter is being investigated by the CBI and it is not possible to project any definitive time frame in which CBI investigations would conclude. What is more important is coordination with the CBI in their investigations and follow up action so as to bring the matter to its logical conclusion and fulfil the Assurance. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives taken and progress made in the matter.

Sl. No.	Memo No.	SQ/USQ No. and date	Ministry/ Department	Subject	Observations/Recommendations of the Committee
10.	35	USQ No. 5681 dated 10.05.2012	Railways	Rail Coach Factory	The Ministry contended that the various works pertaining to Rail Coach Factory/ Kanchrapara are in progress. The work of transmission and new sub-station building has been completed. For selection of JV partner, bidder have already been shortlisted for participation in financial bid stage. As per the decision of the Cabinet, Bid Documents approved by the Cabinet for Marhowra and Madhepura locomotive factories would be generally followed for Rail Coach Factory/Kanchrapara, except for project specific changes. Proposal can be sent to the Cabinet after getting Board's clearance. The Ministry further submitted that they have nominated a Committee to assess the requirement of rolling stock including EMU/MEMU coaches but report of the Committee is awaited. Citing that the decision to take the bid process forward can be taken after receipt of the report of the Committee and it is, not possible to give any time frame for fulfilling the Assurance, the Ministry requested the Committee to drop the Assurance. This is far from convincing to the Committee since it is incumbent upon the Ministry to expedite all these steps with proper planning and coordination and ensure fulfilment of the Assurance. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to take appropriate measures to fulfil the Assurance at the earliest.
11.	36	USQ No. 5329 dated 14.08.2014	Railways	Irregularities in Recruitment	The Ministry have contended that no Assurance was given in the matter. The Committee outrightly reject this contention of the Ministry as it is their prerogative to treat a particular reply as an Assurance. In this case, the Ministry are required to furnish the details of the CBI case along with the action taken against the persons found responsible. But the Ministry miserably failed in this regard. The Committee, therefore, would like the Ministry to furnish the requisite information expeditiously to the Committee and fulfil the Assurance.
12.	38	USQ No. 11 dated 22.02.2013	Finance (Department of Revenue)	Tax Liability of British Telecom Company	The Ministry have contended that no Assurance was given in the matter. The Committee outrightly reject this contention of the Ministry as it is their prerogative to treat a particular reply as an Assurance. In this case, the Ministry are required to furnish the details of the Expert Committee on General Anti Avoidance Measures headed by Dr. Parthasarathi Shome and the follow up action taken by the Government

				thereon. But, the Ministry have completely avoided this. This is a serious case of undermining Parliamentary authority and hence unacceptable to the Committee. The Committee would like the Ministry to furnish the requisite information expeditiously to the Committee and fulfil the Assurance.
13.	41	SQ No. 242 (Supp. by Shri Ganesh Singh) dated 24.07.2014	Railways	National And Strategically Important Railway Projects
				The Committee note that the proposed alignment of Lalitpur-Singrauli stretch passes through Panna Tiger Reserve and Gangui Wild Llife Sanctuary. Citing that the issues of getting the requisite clearance from Wild Life Board and Central Empowered Committee of Supreme Court of India are not in their hands and it would not be feasible to set any deadline for this project, the Ministry of Railways have, requested for dropping the Assurance. This contention of the Ministry is far from convincing since once an Assurance has been given, it is the bounden duty of the Ministry to fulfill it with proper planning and coordination with all the agencies involved. The Ministry cannot just shirk their responsibility by giving some lame excuses. The Committee urge the Ministry to make more concerted and coordinated efforts to obtain the requisite clearances at the earliest, expedite creation of the Lalitpur-Singrauli stretch and fulfil the Assurance. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives taken and progress made in the matter.

*Implementation Reports laid on the Table of the House on 09.12.2015.

APPENDIX XV
MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2015-2016)
(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)
FIFTH SITTING
(18.12.2015)

The Committee sat from 1000 hours to 1045 hours in Committee Room "E", Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
3. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadiya
4. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
5. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
6. Shri C.R. Patil
7. Shri K.C. Venugopal

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Shri R.S. Kambo | — | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Shri T.S. Rangarajan | — | Additional Director |
| 3. Shri S.L. Singh | — | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. Shri Rajesh Mohan | — | Committee Officer |

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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 (05) draft reports:

- (i) Twenty Second Report regarding "Review of pending Assurances" pertaining to the Ministry of Railways.
- (ii) Twenty Third Report regarding "Request for Dropping of Assurances" (Acceded to).
- (iii) Twenty Fourth Report regarding "Request for Dropping of Assurances" (not acceded to).
- (iv) Twenty Fifth Report regarding "Request for Dropping of Assurances" (Acceded to).
- (v) Twenty Sixth Report regarding "Request for Dropping of Assurances" (not acceded to).

The Committee then adjourned.

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