COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (2017-2018)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

TWENTIETH REPORT

ON

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject "Status of implementation of reservation policy in those companies who have 50% Government and 50% private equity like PETRONET LNG Limited".

Presented to Lok Sabha on 16.03.2018

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 16.03.2018



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

16th March, 2018/

Phalguna ,1939 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (2017-2018)

Dr. Kirit P. Solanki - Chairperson

MEMBERS - LOK SABHA

- 2. Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria
- 3. Shri P.K. Biju
- 4. Shri B.N. Chandrappa
- 5. Dr. (Smt.) Heena Vijaykumar Gavit
- 6. Dr. K. Gopal
- 7. Shri Rattan Lal Kataria
- 8. Smt. Pratima Mondal
- 9. Prof. Ajmeera Seeta Ram Naik
- 10. Shri Ram Charitra Nishad
- 11. Shri Ravindra Babu Pandula
- 12. Shri Kamlesh Paswan
- 13. Shri Ram Chandra Paswan
- 14. Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram
- 15. Smt. Rita Tarai
- 16. Shri Krupal Balaji Tumane
- 17. Shri Vikram Usendi
- 18. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma
- 19. Dr. Bhagirath Prasad
- 20. Shri Chintaman Navasha Wanaga*

MEMBERS - RAJYA SABHA

- 21. Shri Shamsher Singh Dullo
- 22. Shri D. Raja
- 23. Shri Amar Shankar Sable
- 24. Shri Veer Singh
- 25. Shri Tiruchi Siva
- 26. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
- 27. Shri Pradeep Tamta
- 28. Shri Dilip Kumar Tirkey
- 29. Mahant Shambhuprasadji Tundiya
- 30. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

- 1. Shri N.C. Gupta
- 2. Shri D.R. Shekhar
- 3. Shri V.K Shailon
- Joint Secretary
 Director
- Director
- 4. Shri Mukesh Kumar
- Deputy Secretary
 Under Secretary

* ceased to be Member of the Committee w.e.f 30.01.2018 upon his sad demise.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes having been authorised by the Committee to finalise and submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twentieth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Tenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas regarding "Status of implementation of reservation policy in those companies who have 50% Government and 50% private equity like PETRONET LNG Limited".

- 2. The draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 14.03.2018 (Appendix-II).
- 3. The Report has been divided into the following chapters:-
 - I Report
 - II Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government.
 - III Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of replies of the Government.
 - IV Recommendations /Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration.
 - V Recommendations / Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government have not been received.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix-II.

New Delhi; <u>16th March, 2018</u> Phalguna, 1939(Saka) DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI Chairperson, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

CHAPTER I

Report

This Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas regarding "Status of implementation of reservation policy in those companies who have 50% Government and 50% private equity like PETRONET LNG Limited".

1.2 The Tenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 10th April, 2017. It contained three recommendations/observations. Replies of the Government in respect of all these recommendations/observations have been examined and may be categorized as under:-

- (i) Recommendations/observations which have been accepted by the Government (Nil).
- Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in the light of the replies received from the Government (SI Nos. 1 & 3)
- (iii) Recommendations/observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration (SI No. 2).
- (iv) Recommendations/observations in respect of which final replies of the Government have not been received (Nil).

1.3 The Committee will now deal with the Action Taken by the Government on some of the recommendations/observations which need reiteration or comments.

Recommendation (SI. No. 2, Para No. 17)

1.4 In their deliberations with the Ministries of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions (DoPT), Law and Corporate Affairs the Committee found no clarity on the issue with each of the Ministry. While not faulting them, the Committee note that limiting the share of Gol Oil Companies in PLL to only 50% is the major hurdle in the application of Governments reservation policy in the company. The Committee are also unable to understand as to how it has been contended that the GoI has no equity share in PLL when four of its biggest Oil Companies have 50% equity share. The Committee are of the view that PLL is neither a Private entity nor a Government Company but a Joint Venture. Since PLL was conceptualised by the Government and the four Government oil companies have 50% equity share in it, it is a fit case for in-depth examination by concerned Ministries for the applicability of reservation policy in the Company. In the first instance the Committee are constrained to note that the provision of reservation as enshrined under Article 16(4) of the Constitution of India was not implemented while setting up PLL. Further, the Committee have been provided a list of 66 Companies having 50% Government Equity i.e. shares held by Central Government/State Government/Government Companies and the reservation for SC/STs is not being given in all such companies. The Committee, therefore, desire that as a first step the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural gas may in consultation with the Ministry of Law examine the feasibility of applicability of reservation policy in all the JVs where the Government of India Oil Companies have shares/equity less than or equal to 50%. The Committee also desire the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Ministry of Corporate Affairs to examine the issue for insertion of the reservation clause in the shareholding agreement in all the existing and the future Joint Ventures that are conceptualised and executed by the Government.

Reply of the Government

1.5 In this connection, it is stated that this Ministry has consulted Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Public Enterprises (Ministry of Heavy Industries), Department of Legal Affairs (Ministry of Law & Justice) and Department of Personnel & Training (Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions). Their comments are enclosed in Annexure.

1.6 Based on the comments received from various Ministries/Departments, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas elucidates its stand as under:

"PLL was formed as a Joint Venture Company to import LNG and set up LNG terminals in the country in 1998, by GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

(BPCL) holding 12.5% equity each with the total equity jointly held by these promoters at 50% of total paid up capital. The other equity partners are financial institutions and general public. Since the share of four PSU Oil and Gas promoters in PLL equity structure is restricted to 50% of total paid-up capital, PLL is not a Government Company and, therefore, not a Central Government PSU.

Petronet LNG Ltd. is a Public Company as defined under the Companies Act, 2013. Since Petronet is not a Public Sector Undertaking therefore, the DPE guidelines which inter-alia deal with the provisions of reservation of posts in Public Sector Undertakings, Nationalised Banks, Statutory and Semi-Government bodies for certain classes of citizens are not applicable to Petronet LNG Ltd. However, all the laws, Rules and Regulations which are applicable to a listed corporate entity are being followed by Petronet LNG Limited".

Comments of the Committee

1.7 The Committee in its Tenth Report (16th Lok Sabha) after due examination of Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Public Enterprises (Ministry of Heavy Industries), Department of Legal Affairs (Ministry of Law & Justice) and Department of Personnel & Training (ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension) had specifically recommended that Government should introduce reservation policy for SCs/STs in those companies who have 50% Government and 50% private equity like PETRONET LNG Limited. The Committee are however distressed to note from replies on the issue of reservation received from Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas justifying that as per Section-2 (45) of the Companies Act, 2013, Companies who have 50% Government and 50% Private equity, such as PETRONET LNG Limited are not Government Companies hence reservation for SCs and STs is not applicable in such Companies. The Committee are further given to understand that Companies Act, 2013 does not have specific policy for reservation of SC/STs in Companies. In furtherance, the Committee observe that Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Public Enterprises and DoPT had also endorsed their views that PETRONET LNG Limited does not appear to qualify either as a Government Company or Public Sector Undertakings. Therefore, this Department has no further comments to add.

1.8 The Committee after going through action taken replies disapprove the replies submitted by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas not to provide reservation to SCs and STs on those Companies who have 50% Government and 50% Private equity particularly in PETRONET LNG whose Board of Director's meetings are presided over by the Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India. The Committee therefore, reiterate their stand that Companies who have 50% Government and 50% Private equity like PETRONET LNG Limited are Joint venture and must implement Reservation Policy for

SCs/STs. The Committee are of the view that these Companies are not Private Companies and the Article 16 (4) of the Constitution provides that "Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the service under the State". Accordingly, Committee are of the firm view that in accordance with Article 16 (4) Government must introduce Reservation Policy for SCs and STs in all Joint Ventures like PETRONET LNG Limited in order to ensure adequate representation of SCs and STs in such Joint Venture Companies.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

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CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATION WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (SI. No. 1, Para No. 16)

3.1 The Committee note that in pursuance of the Cabinet decision in the year 1997 Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) was formed as a Joint Venture Company to import LNG and set up LNG terminals in the country in 1998, by GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL), Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) holding 12.5% equity each with the total equity jointly held by these promoters at 50% of total paid up capital. Besides, the other equity partners are GDF Suez - 10%, rest 40% with Financial Institutions and general public. On the issue of application of Government's reservation policy in PLL, it was informed, that since the share of four PSU Oil and Gas promoters in PLL equity structure is restricted to 50% total paid-up capital, hence it is not a Government Company and therefore not a Central Government PSU. Hence the Governments reservation policy is not applicable in such company(ies). The Committee also observe that there are 16 more companies in which the Government of India Oil Companies have shares/equity in the same pattern as in PLL or less than or equal to 50%.

Reply of the Government

3.2 (Please see reply of the Government at Annexure)

Recommendation (SI. No. 3, Para No. 18)

3.3 The Committee expect that the issue be examined with an open mind in the light of the provision enshrined under Article 16(4) of the Constitution of India and an Action Taken Report submitted to it within four months.

Reply of the Government

3.4 (Please see reply of the Government at Annexure)

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION

Recommendation (SI. No. 2, Para No. 17)

4.1 In their deliberations with the Ministries of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions (DoPT), Law and Corporate Affairs the Committee found no clarity on the issue with each of the Ministry. While not faulting them, the Committee note that limiting the share of Gol Oil Companies in PLL to only 50% is the major hurdle in the application of Governments reservation policy in the company. The Committee are also unable to understand as to how it has been contended that the GoI has no equity share in PLL when four of its biggest Oil Companies have 50% equity share. The Committee are of the view that PLL is neither a Private entity nor a Government Company but a Joint Venture. Since PLL was conceptualised by the Government and the four Government oil companies have 50% equity share in it, it is a fit case for in-depth examination by concerned Ministries for the applicability of reservation policy in the Company. In the first instance the Committee are constrained to note that the provision of reservation as enshrined under Article 16(4) of the Constitution of India was not implemented while setting up PLL. Further, the Committee have been provided a list of 66 Companies having 50% Government Equity i.e. shares held by Central Government/State Government/Government Companies and the reservation for SC/STs is not being given in all such companies. The Committee, therefore, desire that as a first step the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural gas may in consultation with the Ministry of Law examine the feasibility of applicability of reservation policy in all the JVs where the Government of India Oil Companies have shares/equity less than or equal to 50%. The Committee also desire the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Ministry of Corporate Affairs to examine the issue for insertion of the reservation clause in the shareholding agreement in all the existing and the future Joint Ventures that are conceptualised and executed by the Government.

Reply of the Government

4.2 In this connection, it is stated that this Ministry has consulted Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Public Enterprises (Ministry of Heavy Industries), Department of Legal Affairs (Ministry of Law & Justice) and Department of Personnel & Training (Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions). Their comments are enclosed in Annexure.

4.3 Based on the comments received from various Ministries/Departments, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas elucidates its stand as under:

"PLL was formed as a Joint Venture Company to import LNG and set up LNG terminals in the country in 1998, by GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) holding 12.5% equity each with the total equity jointly held by these promoters at 50% of total paid up capital. The other equity partners are financial institutions and general public. Since the share of four PSU Oil and Gas promoters in PLL equity structure is restricted to 50% of total paid-up capital, PLL is not a Government Company and, therefore, not a Central Government PSU.

Petronet LNG Ltd. is a Public Company as defined under the Companies Act, 2013. Since Petronet is not a Public Sector Undertaking therefore, the DPE guidelines which inter-alia deal with the provisions of reservation of posts in Public Sector Undertakings, Nationalised Banks, Statutory and Semi-Government bodies for certain classes of citizens are not applicable to Petronet LNG Ltd. However, all the laws, Rules and Regulations which are applicable to a listed corporate entity are being followed by Petronet LNG Limited".

Comments of the Committee

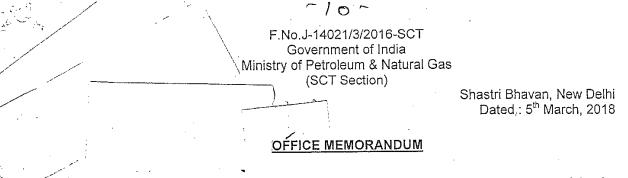
4.3. Please see Para Nos. 1.7 & 1.8 of Chapter I.

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED.

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New Delhi; <u>16th March, 2018</u> Phalguna, 1939(Saka)

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI Chairperson, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.



Sub:- Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (16th Lok Sabha) of Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject "Status of implementation of reservation policy in those companies who have 50 % Government and 50 % private equity like PETRONET LNG Limited.

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Ministry's O.M of even number dated 5th Sept., 2017, 30th January, 2018 and Lok Sabha Secretariat's O.M.No.6/1/4A/SCTC/2015 dated 20th November, 2017 and 16th February, 2018 on the Status of implementation of reservation policy in those companies who have 50 % Government and 50 % private equity like PETRONET LNG Limited.

2. In this connection, it is stated that this Ministry has consulted Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Public Enterprises (Ministry of Heavy Industries), Department of Legal Affairs (Ministry of Law & Justice) and Department of Personnel & Training (Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions). Their comments are enclosed in Annexure.

3. Based on the comments received from various Ministries/Departments, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas elucidates its stand as under:

"PLL was formed as a Joint Venture company to import LNG and set up LNG terminals in the country in 1998, by GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL), Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) holding 12.5% equity each with the total equity jointly held by these promoters at 50% of total paid up capital. The other equity partners are Financial Institutions and general public. Since the share of four PSU Oil and Gas promoters in PLL equity structure is restricted to 50% of total Paid-up capital, PLL is not a Government Company and, therefore, not a Central Government PSU.

Petronet LNG Ltd. is a Public Company as defined under the Companies Act, 2013. Since Petronet is not a Public Sector Undertaking, therefore, the DPE guidelines which inter-alia deal with the provisions of reservation of Posts in Public Sector Undertakings, Nationalized Banks, Statutory and Semi-Government bodies for certain classes of citizens are not applicable to Petronet LNG Ltd. However, all the laws, Rules and Regulations which are applicable to a listed Corporate Entity are being followed by Petronet LNG Limited."

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Under Secretary to the Govt. of India Ph. 23388602

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Shri D.R. Shekhar Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat (Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs) Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi-110001 Fax: 23010756

Ministry/Department	Comments
Ministry of Corporate Affairs	Section 2(45) of the Companies Act, 2013 defines a Government Company as under:-
• •	"Government Company" means any company in which not less than 51% of the paid-up share capital is held by the Central Government, or by any state Government or Governments, or partly by the Central Government and partly by one more State Governments, and includes a company which is a subsidiary company of such a Government company".
	Accordingly, keeping in view the definition of Government Company in Section 2(45) of Companies Act, 2013, Companies who have 50% Government and 50% Private equity, such as Petronet LNG Limited are not Government companies. It may further be noted that Companies Act 2013 does not have any specific provision on reservation for SCs/STs in companies. As per Allocation of Business Rules 1961, the matter/affairs in
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	relation to the Public Enterprises / Joint Venture is being looked after by Department of Public Enterprises / under Ministry of Heavy Industries. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is not concerned with the subject matter. The Comments /views of the
Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Department of Dublic Enterprises	of DPE and thus on the issue of implementation of reservation f policy in such companies, DPE has no comments to offer.
Public Enterprises Department of Lega Affairs, Ministry o Law & Justice	f Agreement entered into between BFCL, GAL, Focu, and June, GDF International relating to Petronet LNG Limited dated 2 nd June, 2001 in regard the shareholding pattern it is stated that that "in accordance with the existing policy of the Government of India (which currently holds more than 50% equity in each of the Promoters), Government Companies presently hold 50% of the Equity and each of the promoters individually hold 12.5% of the equity. While it is intended that the total shareholding of Government Companies shall not at any time exceed 50% of the equity, this will be subject to any decisions of the Government of India to the contrary and the provision of the Act.
	That as per Clause 4A in regard to the limits of Government Holding in the Articles of Association of Petronet LNG Limited as amended
	in the Articles of Association of Perionet ENG Limited as annual on 12 th February, 2016 at any given point of time not more than fifty percent (50%) of the company's share capital shall be held, whether directly or indirectly, by the Government including any Government Company and Public Sector Undertaking. Therefore going by the observations of Ld Law Secretary

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	provides that "Not making any provi posts in favour of opinion of the State under the State". A State" shall include the Government ar all Local or other an the control of the Constitution provid regulate the recruit appointed to public affairs of the Union. It is stated that this SC/ST/OBC in posts is noted that in this stated that the Petro either as a Government	ion of Business Rules, 1961, the subject falling of DOPT "Reservation of posts in services for f citizens" Article 16 (4) of the Constitution hing in this article shall prevent the State from sion for the reservation of appointments or any backward class of citizens which, in the e, is not adequately represented in the service tricle 12 of the Constitution provides that "the the Government and Parliament of India and d the Legislature of each of the States and uthorities within the territory of India or under Government of India. Article 309 of the tes that Union/Central Government can ment and conditions of service of persons services and posts in connection with the and services under Central Government. It is matter Department of Legal Affairs have onet LNG Limited does not appear to qualify ent Company or Public Sector Undertaking. triment has no further comments to add.
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COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

(2017-2018)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

SEVENTEENTH SITTING

(14.03.2018)

MINUTES

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1645 hrs. in the Committee Room C, Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi

PRESENT

Dr. Kirit P. Solanki - Chairperson

MEMBERS - LOK SABHA

- 2. Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria
- 3. Shri P.K. Biju
- 4. Dr. (Smt.) Heena Vijaykumar Gavit
- 5. Smt. Pratima Mondal
- 6. Shri Ram Charitra Nishad
- 7. Shri Ravindra Babu Pandula
- 8. Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram
- 9. Shri Krupal Balaji Tumane
- 10. Shri Vikram Usendi
- 11. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma
- 12. Dr. Bhagirath Prasad

MEMBERS - RAJYA SABHA

- 13. Shri Shamsher Singh Dullo
- 14. Shri D. Raja
- 15. Smt. Wansuk Sylem
- 16. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

- 1. Shri N.C. Gupta, Joint Secretary
- 2. Shri D. R. Shekhar, Director
- 3. Shri V.K. Shailon, Deputy Secretary
- 4. Shri Mukesh Kumar, Under Secretary

WITNESSES

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At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee. The Committee then considered the following draft reports:

- (i) Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventh Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject "Reservation for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Board of Excise and Customs".
- (ii) Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject "Status of implementation of reservation policy in those companies who have 50% Government and 50% private equity like PETRONET LNG Limited".
- (iii) Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject "Reservation for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)".

2. After due consideration, the Committee adopted the above mentioned reports without any modification. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to present these reports to both the Houses of Parliament in the current session of the Parliament.

3.	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXXX
4.	xxxxx	XXXXX	xxxxxx

5. The sitting of the Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX II

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction)

4. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration

Total: 01 Percentage: 35.00 %

5. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government have not been received (*Nil*)

Total: 00 Percentage: 0%