

**63**

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

**SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**SIXTY-THIRD REPORT**

REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF  
ASSURANCES  
(ACCEDED TO)

*(Presented to Lok Sabha on 10 August, 2017)*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

***August, 2017/Shravana, 1939 (Saka)***

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**CGA No. 313**

*Price:* ₹ 49.00

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Published under Rule 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Fifteenth Edition) and Printed by the General Manager, Government of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi-110 002.

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES\*  
2016-2017

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

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

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri U.B.S. Negi — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri P.C. Tripathy — *Director*
3. Shri S.L. Singh — *Deputy Secretary*

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

\*\* Nominated to the Committee *vide* Para No. 5328 of Lok Sabha Bulletin—Part II dated 30 May, 2017 *vice* Shri E. Ahamed expired on 01 February, 2017.

## INTRODUCTION

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

2. The Committee at their sitting held on 09 March, 2017 *inter-alia* considered Memoranda Nos. 77 to 96 containing requests received from the Ministries/ Departments for dropping of pending Assurances and decided to drop 07 Assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 09 August, 2017 the Committee considered and adopted their Sixty-Third Report.

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

NEW DELHI;  
09 August, 2017  

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18 Shravana, 1939 (Saka)

DR. RAMESHPOKHRIYAL "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. In case, the Ministry find it difficult to implement the Assurance on one ground or the other, they are required to request the Committee on Government Assurances to drop the Assurance 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 (2016-2017) *inter alia* considered the following requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of Assurances at their sitting held on 09 March, 2017:—

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry/Department	Subject
1.	SQ No. 51 dated 27.04.2016	Atomic Energy	Production Target of Atomic Energy (Appendix-I)
2.	SQ No. 222 (Supp. by Shri Sharad Tripathi, M.P.) dated 09.12.2014	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs)	Standards and Testing of Food Products (Appendix-II)
3.	SQ No. 105 dated 01.12.2014 (Supplementary by Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher, M.P.)	Culture	Financial Assistance to Artists (Appendix-III)
4.	SQ No. 183 dated 06.05.2016 (Supplementary by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, M.P.)	Defence (Department of Defence)	Women Pilots (Appendix-IV)

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry/Department	Subject
5.	USQ No. 672 dated 08.07.2009 SQ No. 90 dated 25.11.2009 USQ No. 3595 dated 01.12.2010	Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Setting up of National Environment Protection Authority National Environment Protection Authority Setting up of NEPA (Appendix-V)
6.	USQ No. 1955 dated 02.12.2011 USQ No. 3927 dated 21.03.2013 USQ No. 5180 dated 26.04.2013	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	Indian Inclusive Innovation Fund Innovative Fund Innovation Fund (Appendix-VI)
7.	USQ No. 1280 dated 13.08.2013	Social Justice and Empowerment	National Commission for Senior Citizens (Appendix-VII)

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

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

5. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee, dated 09 March, 2017 are given in Appendix-VIII.

NEW DELHI;  
09 August, 2017  
18 Shrivana, 1939 (Saka)

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



## APPENDIX I

### MEMORANDUM NO. 77

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Starred Question No. 51 dated 27.04.2016, regarding "Production Target of Atomic Energy".

On 27 April, 2016, Shri Ramsinh Rathwa and Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' M.Ps. addressed a Starred Question No. 51 to the Minister of Atomic Energy. 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 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. 13/2/26/2016-Power/9458 dated 20 July, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the reply only reflects the factual position and does not constitute an Assurance. In this connection, it may be stated that the Plan-wise target for electricity generation used to be fixed by Planning Commission. With the establishment of NITI Aayog, the concept of five year plans has lost relevance. Further, as there would not be Thirteenth Five Year Plan, fixing target for production of atomic energy during the next five year plan, even in future, does not arise. Thus the Department would not be in a position to fulfil the Assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State (Prime Minister's Office), have requested to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated: 03.03.2017

*ANNEXURE*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 51  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.04.2016

**Production Target of Atomic Energy**

\*51. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:  
DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK":

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the production of nuclear power during each of the last three Five Year Plans, plan-wise;

(b) the target set for the production of atomic energy by the end of the current and the next Five Year Plan;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to achieve the target; and

(d) the details of the safety and security measures taken in the operation of atomic power plants and the mechanism put in place to ensure that these are complied with strictly?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRASINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 51 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 27.04.2016 BY SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA AND DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK' REGARDING PRODUCTION TARGET OF ATOMIC ENERGY.

- (a) The nuclear power generation during the IX, X and XI Plans was 72187, 90354 and 109642 Million Units respectively.
- (b) The target set for generation of electricity from nuclear power in the current (XII) Plan was 241748 Million Units. The target for the next five year plan has not been finalised.
- (c) The Government has taken measures to ensure availability of adequate fuel for the existing capacity and to facilitate nuclear power capacity addition based on both indigenous technologies and with foreign technical cooperation.

- (d) The requirements for safety & security measures to be taken in the operation of atomic power plants are prescribed in the codes, guides & other regulatory documents developed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The compliance to these requirements is one of the licensing conditions for operation of atomic power plants. AERB has an established process for reviewing both nuclear safety and security aspects during operation of these plants. Apart from this, AERB conducts periodic regulatory inspections of these plants to monitor compliance to the established regulatory requirements.

Safety is accorded utmost attention in all aspects of nuclear power *viz.* siting, design, construction, commissioning and operation. The operation of nuclear power plants is carried out by highly trained and licensed personnel, strictly in line with the approved procedures and technical specifications.

## APPENDIX II

### MEMORANDUM NO. 78

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Supplementary to Starred Question No. 222 dated 09 December, 2014 by Shri Sharad Tripathi, M.P. regarding "Standards and Testing of Food Products"

On 09 December, 2014 Shri Rama Kishore Singh, M.P. addressed a Starred Question No. 222 to the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

2. During the Discussion, Shri Sharad Tripathi, M.P., raised the following Supplementary Question to the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution:—

"Whether the Minister would please formulate a policy on the preservation of food products through Indian system, Ayurvedic system in coordination with Health Ministry."

3. In reply, the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Shri Ram Vilas Paswan) stated as follows:—

"We will pass the proposal of Hon'ble member."

4. The above reply was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

5. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) *vide* O.M.No 12/21/2014-BIS dated 15 July, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That this Department *vide* D.O. letter dated 07.04.2015 requested Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to take appropriate action on the suggestion made by the Hon'ble M.P. and compliance in this regard may be sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat with information to this Department. Subsequently, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare *vide* its O.M. No. H11012/1/2015-DFQC dated 25.06.2015 forwarded the Assurance to Ministry of AYUSH as the subject matter of the Assurance falls within the domain of that Ministry. Ministry of AYUSH *vide* its O.M. No. H11021/01/2016-DCC (AYUSH) dated 27.01.2016 (copy enclosed) informed that it has not evolved standards of preservatives and other excipients permitted in the manufacturing of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani products and, therefore, they cannot accept transfer of the Assurance. A meeting with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of AYUSH was held on 01.06.2016 in this Department to discuss the matter.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was of the view that matters relating to Ayurvedic products, systems, processes, etc. pertains to Ministry of AYUSH while Ministry of AYUSH mentioned that it deals only with Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani Drugs and not with food products and so the issue of ownership of the subject could not be resolved. Ministry of AYUSH *vide* its O.M. dated 13.06.2016 has again informed that in the manufacturing of Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani (ASU) Drugs, excipients including preservatives described in the Indian Standards Act, 1986 are permitted. There are no other standards of preservative prescribed or notified for Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani Drugs."

6. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated: 03.03.2017

*ANNEXURE*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 222  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2014

**Standards and Testing of Food Products**

\*222. SHRI RAMA KISHORE SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken note of sale of sub-standard food products and beverages in the market and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any norms/rules have been formulated regarding the quality standards and testing of food products and beverages, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for compliance of such norms/rules;

(c) whether any consultations have been held with various stakeholders including Ministries/ Departments and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in this regard and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to put in place a new arrangement for testing and formulation of quality norms and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the effective steps taken to create awareness among the consumers about the quality of food products and beverages?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 222 FOR 09.12.2014 REGARDING STANDARDS AND TESTING OF FOOD PRODUCTS.

(a) Yes, Madam. As per information received from State/UT Governments, the number of food samples analysed is 72,200 out of which 13,571 have been found adulterated and misbranded in the year 2013-14.

(b) The standards for food products and beverages are prescribed in Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011 & Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues

Regulation, 2011. Every Food Business Operator in the country has to follow and comply with Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the Rules & Regulations, 2011 made thereunder. As per Section 29 of FSS Act, 2006, the Food Authority and the State Food Safety Authorities shall monitor and verify that the relevant requirements of law are fulfilled by food business operators at all stages of food business. The enforcement of the provisions of the Act, rules and regulations thereunder is primarily with the respective States/UTs. Accordingly, samples are drawn regularly by State /UT Governments and action is taken against the offenders in cases where samples are found to be non-conforming. Further, there are 152 Food Testing Laboratories under the purview of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for testing food products and beverages as per standards prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules Regulations, 2011.

(c) Yes, Madam. The draft regulations were notified in Gazette of India on 20th October, 2010 giving 60 days time for inviting suggestions/comments from all stakeholders. The draft was also uploaded on the FSSAI website [www.fssai.gov.in](http://www.fssai.gov.in) for comments/suggestions from various stakeholders including the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). After considering the comments/suggestions from the stakeholders, the regulations were finalized and notified on 1st August, 2011.

(d) Modernization/upgradation of food testing labs and formulation of quality norms is a continuous process. Further, FSSAI is in the process of harmonizing the existing Indian Standards with Codex and other international best practices.

(e) The consumers have been and are being made aware about food safety through mass media campaigns, documentary films, educational booklets, and stalls at Fairs/ Melas/ Events.

### APPENDIX III

#### MEMORANDUM NO. 82

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Supplementary to Starred Question No. 105 dated 01 December, 2014 by Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher, MP regarding "Financial Assistance to Artists".

On 01 December, 2014 Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher and Shri Raju Shetti, M.Ps., addressed a Starred Question No. 105 to the Minister of Culture. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

2. During the discussion, Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher, M.P., raised the following Supplementary Question to the Minister of Culture:—

"The Member *inter alia* asked as under :— I would like to ask whether the Government is ready to allow a Cultural Centre in Kannur."

3. In reply, the Minister of State (I/C) (Dr. Mahesh Sharma) stated as follows:—

"The Minister *inter alia* replied as under:— We will get it examined in the Ministry."

4. The above reply was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Culture within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

5. The Ministry of Culture *vide* O.M.F.No. 21-11/2015-ZCC Section dated 19 July, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That no proposal was received in the Ministry from Smt. P.K. Sreemathi Teacher, Member of Parliament. However, the Hon'ble M.P. addressed a letter dated 11.03.2015 to the Hon'ble Minister of Culture requesting him to set up a new Cultural Arts Centre in Kannur. A reply was sent to Smt. P.K. Sreemathi Teacher informing her that South Zonal Culture Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur, one of the seven Zonal Cultural Centres set up by the Ministry of Culture, catered to its member States including Kerala and that there was no proposal to set up any more cultural centre in the country."

6. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Culture have requested to drop the above Assurance."

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

DATED: 03.03.2017



*ANNEXURE*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 105  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1.12.2014

**Financial Assistance to Artists**

\*105. SHRIMATI P.K. SREEMATHI TEACHER:  
SHRI RAJU SHETTI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing any scheme to grant scholarship/ financial assistance to artists in the field of performing arts;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria fixed for providing financial assistance under the scheme;

(c) the amount of scholarship/Financial assistance being provided to each artist under the scheme, art and State-wise;

(d) the funds allocated and the expenditure incurred on the scheme along with the number of persons benefited under the scheme during each of the last three years; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government to preserve and promote various folk arts across the country?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM AND  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (e)  
A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 105 FOR 1st DECEMBER, 2014.

(a) Yes Madam. The Government is implementing two schemes namely "Scholarships to Young Artists in Different Cultural Fields" to grant scholarship/ financial assistance to artists in the field of performing arts in order to promote them in their respective fields and "Scheme for Award of Fellowship to Outstanding Persons in the Field of Culture" for research oriented projects in various fields of Art and Culture.

(b) Under the scheme of Scholarship upto 400 scholarships are given every year to young artistes in the age group of 18-25 years for advance training in the field of Indian Classical Music, Dance, Theatre, Visual Art, Folk and traditional and indigenous Art etc.

Under the scheme of Fellowship upto 400 (200 Junior in the age group of 25-40 years and 200 Senior in the age group of above 40 years) Fellowship are given every year to outstanding persons in the fields of art and culture. Junior fellows are given fellowship @Rs. 10,000/-pm and Senior Fellows @20,000/- pm for a period of 2 years.

For both the schemes online applications are invited every year and Meritorious candidates are selected on the basis of their performance/interview by Expert Committees constituted by the Ministry.

(c) Under the scheme of Scholarship each selected artist is given scholarship @ Rs. 5000/- per month for a period of two years. Under the scheme of Fellowship each selected Junior Fellow is given fellowship @ 10,000/- per month and Senior Fellow @ Rs. 20,000/- per month for a period of two years. The amount of Scholarship and Fellowship is released in 4 six monthly instalments. There is no art and State-wise quota in both the Schemes.

(d) The funds allocated and the expenditure incurred on both the schemes of Scholarship and Fellowship during the last three years, year-wise along with the number of persons benefited under both the schemes during the last three years are as under:—

Year	No. of persons benefited under Scholarship	No. of persons benefited under Fellowship	Amount allocated (In lakh)	Expenditure incurred (In lakh)
2011-12	400	400	651.00	648.99
2012-13	400	377	1035.00	1000.00
2013-14	400	398	776.00	776.00

(e) The Government has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres having their headquarters at Patiala, Udaipur, Allahabad, Kolkata, Deemapur, Nagpur and Thanjavur with objective to preserve promote and disseminate the traditional folk and tribal arts and culture of all the States/Union Territories. The Government has been carrying out various activities and organising programmes at the national, Zonal and local levels through their Zonal Cultural Centres to preserve and promote various folk arts across the country.

## APPENDIX IV

### MEMORANDUM NO. 85

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Supplementary to Starred Question No. 183 dated 06 May, 2016 by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, M.P. regarding "Women Pilots".

On 06 May, 2016, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab and Shri Arjun Meghwal, M.Ps., addressed a Starred Question No. 183 to the Minister of Defence. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

2. During the Discussion, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, M.P., raised the following Supplementary Question to the Minister of Defence:—

"I would like to know from the Government as to what are the Government's reservations not to induct women pilots into fighter combat stream on a permanent basis and why this decision has been taken so late as compared to other countries, particularly when the Government is committed to gender equality in the country."

3. In reply, the Minister of Defence (Shri Manohar Parikkar) stated as follows:—

"The Minister *inter alia* replied as under:—I assure the Member that this decision would be taken very soon once we induct the three women pilots who have been selected."

4. The above reply was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Defence within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

5. The Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence) *vide* O.M.No 198/DO/D(Air-II)/16 dated 01 August, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the Government, in December 2015, has accorded approval for women to join as Short Service Commission Officer (SSCO) in the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force on experimental basis for a period of five years. As per the scheme, women trainees have undergone stage-I & stage-II training. Based on the suitability and willingness, the first batch of three women officers have been commissioned as SSCO into fighter stream in June 2016. The scheme is at a very nascent stage and is aimed at facilitating an examination of IAF's future combat employment philosophies and policies for employability of women in the flying branch, based on results of this experiment. This experimental scheme is planned for a period of five years and a decision on future utilization of women in this fighter stream would emerge only after an in-depth analysis of the results of this experimental scheme. Hence, no concrete

decision can be taken for now. Therefore, the reply to supplementary should not be treated as Assurance."

6. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Defence have requested to drop the above Assurance."

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated: 03.03.2017

*ANNEXURE*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 183  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6.5.2016

**Women Pilots**

\*183. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:  
SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate number of aircraft for training of pilots have been inducted in the Indian Air Force (IAF), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether IAF is facing shortage of pilots including women pilots in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has initiated any specialised programmes including survival techniques for women pilots, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether women fighter pilots have also been inducted in IAF, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to Bridge the gap between sanctioned and actual strength of pilots and to bring gender parity in the Air Force?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARIKKAR): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 183 FOR ANSWER ON 6.5.2016

At present adequate number of trainer aircraft are available for training of pilots in the Indian Air Force (IAF). The details of trainer aircraft are as follows:

Pilatus PC-7	:	For Basic Flying Training
Kiran Mk I/IA	:	For Intermediate Fighter Trainer
Hawk 132	:	For Advanced Fighter Training

The available strength of pilots in IAF is sufficient to meet the current operational requirements.

All pilots of IAF undergo basic survival training conducted periodically. Post trifurcation of Fighter, Transport and Helicopter streams, survival training and drills are again conducted in the respective streams. Women pilots undergo the same training imparted to the male counterparts. In addition, male & women pilots also undergo same type of specialised Jungle and Snow Survival Course.

Government has accorded approval for women to join as Short Service Commission officers in the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force on experimental basis for a period of five years. As per the scheme, such women trainees undergoing Stage-I training at Air Force Academy are required to be assessed for their suitability for entry into fighter stream. Based on the suitability and willingness, 03 women trainees have been selected for Stage-II training.

Overall shortage of pilots in IAF has been reduced to 164 as on 1.2.2016. This shortage of 164 pilots is likely to be made good in next two years at the current induction rate. IAF follows a gender neutral policy for recruitment of pilots. All opportunities that are available to join the IAF are extended to both men and women candidates.

## APPENDIX V

### MEMORANDUM NO. 86

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurances given in replies to:—

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 672 dated 08 July, 2009 regarding "Setting up of National Environment Protection Authority". (Annexure-I)
- (ii) Starred Question No. 90 dated 25 November, 2009 regarding "National Environment Protection Authority". (Annexure-II)
- (iii) Unstarred Question No. 3595 dated 01 December, 2010 regarding "Setting up of NEPA." (Annexure-III)

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, Shri Dhruva Narayana, Shri S.R. Jeyadurai and Shri Chandrakant Khaire, M.Ps. addressed the above mentioned USQ 672, SQ 90 and USQ 3595 respectively to the Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. 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 Environment, Forests and Climate Change (IA Division) *vide* DO letter No. F.No. 9(1)/2010-PL dated 18 April, 2016, DO letter No. F.No. 9(8)/2009-PL dated 18 April, 2016 and DO letter No. F.No. 9(24)/2010-PL dated 18 April, 2016 respectively have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the concept of National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) is no more under consideration of the Ministry; therefore, Ministry is not in a position to fulfil the Assurance. The Ministry is considering the recommendation of High Level Committee (HLC) providing for setting up of National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) at central level and State Environment Management Authority (SEMA) at State level. The matter was also taken up for discussion by Hon'ble Committee on Government Assurance during its meeting held on dated 15.02.2015 and in view of the position mentioned above Hon'ble Committee suggested the Ministry to make a request for dropping of the Parliamentary Assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change requested to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated: 03.03.2017

*ANNEXURE I*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 672  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.07.2009

**Setting up of National Environment Protection Authority**

672. SHRIASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Environment Protection Authority;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the Authority is likely to be set up?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) A proposal to set up a National Environment Protection Authority to strengthen enforcement and monitoring of compliance of environmental statutes and to improve environmental planning and management is in a conceptual stage. The details and time schedule for setting up of the Authority are yet to be formalized.



*ANNEXURE II*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 90  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2009

**National Environment Protection Authority**

\*90. SHRIDHRUVANARAYANA:  
SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of the State Ministers of Environment and Forests was held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the issues discussed therein and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) for grant of environmental clearances and enforce environmental laws and standards;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some of the State Governments have objected to the setting up of such a body;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government also proposes to modernize and revamp the environmental clearances and regulatory compliance; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Conference of State Ministers of Environment and Forests was held in New Delhi on 18.8.2009.

(b) The issues discussed during the Conference were centered around 6 agenda items. The agenda items related to: (i) Monitoring compliance with environmental and forestry related laws and regulations and the roadmap for institution-building; (ii) Improving our approach to river cleaning using innovative models and enhanced coordination between Centre, States and Local Bodies; (iii) Strategies for increasing forest cover and enhancing synergies between

'Green India Mission', National Afforestation Programme and CAMPA funds; (iv) Strengthening of State Forest Departments by Modernisation, Infrastructure development & Capacity building of forest officials; (v) Protection of Forests in the context of the implementation of the " The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers" (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006; (vi) Wildlife management including tiger conservation and issues related to man-animal conflict.

(c) and (d) The Government is considering setting up of a National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) and the proposal is in a conceptual stage. The configuration and scope of the proposed NEPA is yet to be finalised. A discussion paper has been circulated and has also been uploaded in the Ministry's website for comments.

(e) and (f) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has responded that the establishment of a new body has to be viewed carefully in the context of the existence of State Pollution Control Boards and the Central Pollution Control Board as the constitution of NEPA may cause intervention in the rights of the States and may create dispute for smooth environmental governance.

(g) and (h) This Ministry had issued a draft notification dated 19.1.2009 to amend the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 inviting comments. The comments received have been examined by a Committee whose recommendations have been accepted by the Ministry. The recommendations *interalia* include exemption of bio-mass based power plants up to 15 MW, and retaining the threshold limit of 20,000 sq.m. for construction projects.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3595  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1.12.2010

**Setting up of NEPA**

3595. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up National Environmental Protection Authority (NEPA);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely function of the Authority; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) A proposal to set up a National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) or a National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) to strengthen enforcement and monitoring of compliance of environmental statutes and to improve environmental planning and management with a focus on environmental impact assessment and coastal zone management is in a conceptual stage. The details and time schedule for setting up of the Authority are yet to be formalised.

## APPENDIX VI

### MEMORANDUM NO. 91

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurances given in replies to:—

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 1955 dated 02 December, 2011 regarding "Indian Inclusive Innovation Fund". (Annexure-I)
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 3927 dated 21 March, 2013 regarding "Innovative Fund". (Annexure-II)
- (iii) Unstarred Question No. 5180 dated 26 April, 2013 regarding "Innovation Fund". (Annexure-III)

Shri Somen Mitra, Shri Mahabali Singh and Shri Nityananda Pradhan, M.Ps. addressed the above mentioned USQ 1955, USQ 3927 and USQ 5180 respectively to the Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The contents of the questions along with the replies of the Ministers are as given in Annexure (I, II, 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 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises *vide* DO Letter No. 12(8)/2014- SSI/P.A./USQ730 dated 30 May, 2016 and 23 November, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has now, with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises decided to close down the 'India's Inclusive Innovative Funds Scheme'."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, have requested to drop the above Assurances.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated 03.03.2017

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1955  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12. 2011

**Indian Inclusive Innovation Fund**

1955. SHRI SOMEN MITRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance for setting up of the Indian Inclusive Innovation Fund (IIIF);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the objects and reasons behind setting up of this fund;

(c) whether the creation of such fund would help in addressing the problems of a large section of the society; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which it is likely to prove helpful?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The National Innovation Council, which was set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda, has proposed the setting up of an India Inclusive Innovation Fund.

(b) to (d) The objective of the Fund is to support innovations which have an impact on the lives of the bottom half of the population in the fields of education, health, livelihood, agriculture etc.

*ANNEXURE II*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3927  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2013

**Innovative Fund**

3927. SHRI MAHA BALI SINGH:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to create Innovation Fund in order to make Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) all over the country technologically better and more competitive to produce better products by research and development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide incentives for new innovations under the scheme to increase competition among the SMEs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action plan formulated in this regard?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) & (b) No, Madam. National Innovation Council in collaboration with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has proposed to set up a dedicated fund in the name of 'India Inclusive Innovation Fund' for promoting grassroot innovations with social returns as well as modest economic returns. The total corpus of this fund is proposed to be Rs.5,000 crores of which the Government contribution may be upto the maximum of only 20% *i.e.*, Rs.1,000 crores.

(c) & (d) No, Madam. The India Inclusive Innovation Fund would back enterprises developing innovative solutions primarily for citizens who lie in the lower half of India's economic pyramid, with limited physical and institutional access to basic services. This fund and its investee enterprises would not only address developmental needs but would address these needs in a commercially viable fashion. This fund would, therefore, operate as a for-profit entity with a social investment focus. The focus of the fund, therefore, is not for increasing competition among the SME.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5180  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.04.2013

**Innovation Fund**

5180. SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up/proposes to set up an Innovation Fund for inclusive economic growth; and
- (b) if so, the details and its current status thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Innovation Council in collaboration with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has proposed to set up a dedicated fund in the name of 'India Inclusive Innovation Fund' for promoting grassroot innovations with social returns as well as modest economic returns. This fund would, operate as a for-profit entity with a social investment focus. The India Inclusive Innovation Fund would back enterprises developing innovative solutions primarily for citizens who lie in the lower half of India's economic pyramid, with limited physical and institutional access to basic services. At present, the scheme is at the stage of consideration by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC).

## APPENDIX VII

### MEMORANDUM NO. 94

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1280 dated 13.08.2013, regarding "National Commission for Senior Citizens"

On 13 August, 2013 Prof.(Dr.) Ranjan Prasad Yadav and Shri Hamdullah Sayeed, M.Ps. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1280 to the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. 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 Social Justice and Empowerment within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment *vide* O.M. No. 15-36(17) 2013-14/AG-II dated 27th July, 2016 requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

“That the proposal of setting up of 'National Commission for Senior Citizens' during 12th Five Year Plan has since been dropped on the recommendations of the SFC of this Department and instead, to strengthen the existing National Council for Senior Citizens.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, have requested to drop the above Assurance. The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated 03.03.2017



ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1280  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.08.2013

**National Commission for Senior Citizens**

1280. SHRI RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:  
SHRI HAMDULLA A.B. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the report by a Non-Governmental Organisation that a large number of elderly people are subjected to abuse and are abandoned by their families;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to establish a National Commission for Senior Citizens at the Central level;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to address the problems of senior citizens?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) and (b) The Help Age India conducted a research in 20 cities in India in 2012 on elders abuse and the studies explored the nature and extent of abuse, main perpetrators of abuse, awareness on measures to prevent abuse etc. As per the findings of the study, it has, *inter alia*, been reported that the police helplines and services are known to majority of respondents but were never used due to lack of trust or to maintain family honour.

(c) to (e) The Planning Commission has approved the proposal of the 'Working Group on Social Welfare to formulate the XII Five Year Plan' to establish a National Commission for Senior Citizens. Accordingly, the Ministry has constituted an Expert Committee to formulate a new Scheme.

**APPENDIX VIII**

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES  
(2016-2017)

**(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**SIXTH SITTING**

(09.03.2017)

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1545 hours in Committee Room "C", Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Prof. Sugata Bose
4. Shri Naran Bhai Kachhadia
5. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
6. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
7. Shri A.T. Nana Patil
8. Shri C.R. Patil

SECRETARIAT

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

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At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda. Thereafter, the Committee took up 20 Memoranda (Memorandum Nos. 77 to 96) containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of pending Assurances. After considering a few Memoranda, the Committee authorized the Hon'ble Chairperson

to decide the dropping or otherwise of the Assurances contained in the remaining Memoranda. Thereafter, the Hon'ble Chairperson decided to drop 07 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.

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*The Committee then adjourned.*

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\*Not enclosed.

*ANNEXURE I*

STATEMENT SHOWING ASSURANCES DROPPED BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2016-2017)  
AT THEIR SITTING HELD ON 09.03.2017

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question No./ Discussion & Date	Ministry/ Department	Brief Subject
1	2	3	4	5
1.	77	SQ No. 51 dated 27.04.2016	Atomic Energy	Production Target of Atomic Energy
2.	78	SQ No. 222 dated 09.12.2014 (Supplementary by Shri Sharad Tripathi, M.P.)	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs)	Standards and Testing of Food Products
3.	82	SQ No. 105 dated 01.12.2014 (Supplementary by Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher, M.P.)	Culture	Financial Assistance to Artists
4.	85	SQ No. 183 dated 06.05.2016 (Supplementary by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, M.P.)	Defence (Department of Defence)	Women Pilots
5.	86	(i) USQ No. 672 dated 08.07.2009  (ii) SQ No. 90 dated 25.11.2009  (iii) USQ No. 3595 dated 01.12.2010	Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Setting up of National Environ- ment Protection Authority  National Environment Protection Authority  Setting up of NEPA
6.	91	(i) USQ No. 1955 dated 02.12.2011  (ii) USQ No. 3927 dated 21.03.2013  (iii) USQ No. 5180 dated 26.04.2013	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	Indian Inclusive Innovation Fund  Innovation Fund  Innovation Fund
7.	94	USQ No. 1280 dated 13.08.2013	Social Justice and Empowerment	National Commission for Senior Citizens

**APPENDIX IX**  
MINUTES  
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES  
(2016-2017)  
SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA  
**TWELFTH SITTING**

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2016-2017)  
held on 9th August, 2017 in Chairperson's Chamber Room No. 133, Parliament  
House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1530 hours on Wednesday,  
9th August, 2017.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
4. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
5. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri U.B.S. Negi — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri P.C. Tripathy — *Director*
3. Shri S.L. Singh — *Deputy Secretary*

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 four (04) draft Reports without any amendment:

- (i) Draft 63rd Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)
- (ii) Draft 64th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (not acceded to)

- (iii) Draft 65th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances  
(Acceded to)
- (iv) Draft 66th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances  
(not acceded to)

2. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to present the Reports during the current session of the Lok Sabha.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

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