

**69**

**COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES  
(2017-2018)**

**SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**SIXTY-NINTH REPORT**

REQUEST FOR DROPPING OF  
ASSURANCES  
(ACCEDED TO)

*(Presented to Lok Sabha on 04 January, 2018)*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

***January, 2018/Pausa, 1939 (Saka)***

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(2017-2018)

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NEW DELHI

*January, 2018/Pausa, 1939 (Saka)*

**CGA No. 319**

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES\*  
(2017-2018)

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank” — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri Tariq Anwar
5. Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
6. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadiya
7. Shri P.K. Kunhalikutty
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 K.C. Venugopal
14. Shri S.R. Vijayakumar
15. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

- |                       |   |                         |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Shri U.B.S. Negi   | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i>  |
| 2. Shri P.C. Tripathy | — | <i>Director</i>         |
| 3. Shri S.L. Singh    | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

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\* The Committee has been re-constituted *w.e.f.* 01 September, 2017 *vide* Para No. 5800 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated 18 September, 2017.

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

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
- @3. Vacant
4. Shri Anto Antony
5. Shri Tariq Anwar
6. Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
7. Shri Narraubhai 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

- |                       |   |                         |
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| 1. Shri U.B.S. Negi   | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i>  |
| 2. Shri P.C. Tripathy | — | <i>Director</i>         |
| 3. Shri S.L. Singh    | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

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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.

@ Shri E. Ahamed passed away on 01 February, 2017.

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances (2017-2018), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Sixty-Ninth Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2016-2017) at their sitting held on 15 May, 2017 considered Memoranda Nos. 117 to 136 containing requests received from the various Ministries/ Departments for dropping of pending Assurances and decided to drop 03 Assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 02 January, 2018 the Committee (2017-2018) considered and adopted their Sixty-Ninth Report.

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

NEW DELHI;  
02 January, 2018  
12 Pausa, 1939 (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. 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 (2016-17) considered Twenty Memoranda (Appendix-I) containing requests received from various Ministries/ Departments for dropping of Assurances at their sitting held on 15 May, 2017.

3. After having considered the grounds cited by the Ministries/Departments, the Committee were convinced and decided to drop the following three Assurances:—

S.No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
1.	USQ No. 5162 dated 24.04.2015	Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)	National Offset Policy (Appendix-II)
2.	USQ No. 2346 dated 09.05.2016	Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)	FTA between India and Australia (Appendix-III)
3.	USQ No. 1393 dated 05.03.2010	Finance (Department of Economic Affairs)	Implementation of Investment Commission Recommendations (Appendix-IV)

4. The details of the Assurances arising out of the replies and the reason(s) advanced by the Ministries/Departments for dropping of the above mentioned 03 Assurances are given in Appendices-II to IV.

5. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee dated 15 May, 2017 are given in Appendix-V.

NEW DELHI;  
02 January, 2018  
12 Pausa, 1939 (Saka)

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



**APPENDIX I**

**STATEMENT SHOWING SUMMARY OF REQUESTS RECEIVED FROM  
VARIOUS MINISTRIES/DEPARTMENTS REGARDING  
DROPPING OF ASSURANCES**

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question/Discussion/References	Ministry	Department	Brief Subject
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	117	USQ No. 3411 dated 23.12.2008	Commerce and Industry	Department of Commerce	Wheat Import Scam
2.	118	USQ No. 5162 dated 24.04.2015	Commerce and Industry	Department of Commerce	National Offset Policy
3.	119	USQ No. 2346 dated 09.05.2016	Commerce and Industry	Department of Commerce	FTA between India and Australia
4.	120	USQ No. 2269 dated 10.03.2016	Road Transport and Highways	—	Road Transport and Safety Bill
5.	121	USQ No. 2199 dated 10.03.2016	Road Transport and Highways	—	Linking of Backward Areas to NHs
6.	122	USQ No. 250 dated 23.11.2011	Department of Atomic Energy	—	Civil Nuclear Cooperation
7.	123	USQ No. 2675 dated 13.03.2013	Department of Atomic Energy	—	Protest against Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant
8.	124	USQ No. 2121 dated 06.05.2016	AYUSH	—	National Institute of Medicinal Plants and National Institute of Geriatrics
9.	125	USQ No. 3612 dated 19.03.2013	Information and Broadcasting	—	Committee on Content of National Channels
10.	126	USQ No. 2556 dated 10.05.2016	Home Affairs	—	Scheme for Infrastructure Development
11.	127	USQ No. 516 dated 26.11.2014	Environment, Forest and Climate Change	—	Tiger Protection Force
12.	128	USQ No. 1393 dated 05.03.2010	Finance	Department of Economic Affairs	Implementation of Investment Commission Recommendations
13.	129	USQ No. 5608 dated 28.04.2015	Youth Affairs and Sports	Department of Sports	Irregularities in Implementation of Sports Schemes

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	130	USQ No. 1316 dated 18.07.2014	Defence	Department of Defence	Defence Deals
15.	131	SQ No. 194 dated 03.08.2015	Railways	—	Status of Railway University
16.	132	USQ No. 1982 dated 09.03.2015	Railways	—	Railway Ticketing
17.	133	SQ No. 449 dated 08.05.2012	Information and Broadcasting	—	Press Council of India
18.	134	USQ No. 719 dated 27.11.2012	Information and Broadcasting	—	Power to PCI
19.	135	USQ No. 1143 dated 20.03.2012	Information and Broadcasting	—	Paid News
		USQ No. 7518 dated 22.05.2012		—	Paid News
		SQ No. 69 dated 27.11.2012		—	Paid News
		USQ No. 1792 dated 04.12.2012		—	Paid News on TV Channels
20.	136	USQ No. 1534 dated 03.05.2016	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare	Rural Godowns

## APPENDIX II

MEMORANDUM NO. 118

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 5162 dated 24.04.2015 regarding "National Offset Policy".

On 24 April, 2015, Shri Rattan Lal Kataria, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 5162 to the Minister of Commerce and Industry. 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 Commerce and Industry within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) *Vide* O.M. F. No. 1/2/2015-Offset Policy dated 11 February, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That drafting of National Offset Policy is still at formative stage. The draft policy would require intensive inter-Ministerial consultations, and discussions with other stakeholders. As the draft policy is still at a very initial and nascent stage, it would be premature either to predict the final shape of the policy or the time frame by which the said policy could be finalized and implemented. As of now, there is no consensus or unanimity among the concerned Government Departments/Ministries. Therefore, a view has yet to be taken at the level of the Government whether to frame a National Offset Policy or to continue with the sectoral offset policies existing in some Departments. As such, it is not possible to give any definite time frame for preparing the National Offset Policy."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry with the approval of Minister of State (I/C) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI;  
Dated: 12.5.2017.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5162  
ANSWERED ON 24.4.2015

**National Offset Policy**

5162. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to finalise the National Offset Policy to boost the manufacturing sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof along with the sectors selected for its implementation;
- (c) the benefits likely to accrue to the manufacturing sector thereby;
- (d) the manner in which the policy is likely to help in attracting investments, acquiring new technology and raw material, enhancing Research and Development (R&D) capability, boosting exports and Make in India programme; and
- (e) the time by which the policy is likely to be implemented?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN) :  
(a) to (e) The draft Offset Policy is still under formulation and going through the consultative process.

### APPENDIX III

MEMORANDUM NO. 119

**Subject :** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2346 dated 09.05.2016 regarding "FTA between India and Australia."

On 09 May, 2016, Shri S. Rajendran, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2346 to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce). 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 Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) *Vide* OM No. 21/3/2015/-FT(Oceania) dated 20 July, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the conclusion of CECA negotiations with Australia will also depend upon the negotiation strategy of the Australian side, on which Government of India has no control. Trade negotiations, at times, take a number of years to conclude. Further, during the process of negotiations of a trade agreement with any country, the steps taken by the Government for reducing or eliminating duty on certain items are finalised in consultation with the line Ministries and stakeholders. Utmost care is taken to protect the interest of the indigenous Industries. However, steps taken by the Government are not disclosed till the finalisation of the agreement."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State (I/C) for Commerce and Industry, have requested to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI;  
Dated: 12.5.2017.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2346  
ANSWERED ON 9.5.2016

**FTA Between India and Australia**

2346. SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Australia are underway;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the talks on a Trade Agreement between the two countries have been delayed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for zero duty on auto parts, textiles, fresh fruits, etc. in the service sector?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN):  
(a) Yes Madam. A comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Australia is under negotiation.

(b) to (d) Nine Rounds of negotiations and a number of inter-sessional meetings have been held so far between the two sides. In the process of negotiations the two sides have exchanged two round of offers in goods market access and services market access. These have been examined by both sides. The conclusion of CECA negotiations will also depend upon the negotiation strategy of Australian side, on which Government of India has no control.

(e) Details of negotiations cannot be informed at this stage.

## APPENDIX IV

### MEMORANDUM NO. 128

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1393 dated 05.03.2010 regarding "Implementation of Investment Commission Recommendations."

On 05 March, 2010 Shri Nama Nageswara Rao, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1393 to the Minister of Finance. 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 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 Economic Affairs) *vide* O.M. F.No. 5/2/2010-FIU dated 20.09.2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the Investment Commission had submitted its first report titled "Investment Strategy for India" in February, 2006 and its second report titled "Thrust Areas" in December, 2007. The first report contained 152 multi-sectoral recommendations in 25 key sectors spanning infrastructure, manufacturing and service sectors, and also on knowledge economy. The second report contained 136 recommendations mainly in four thrust areas *viz* tourism, agriculture and food processing, textiles and garments and power. The report was circulated to all Ministries/Departments with a request to implement the recommendations wherever possible. Sufficient follow-up action was made to implement the recommendation of the Committee.

Some of the recommendations which were accepted have now been implemented (For e.g. Permitting 50 per cent FDI under the automatic route in Coal Mining Sector (Presently 100 per cent under automatic route), Permitting 100 per cent FDI under automatic route in all segments of the value chain from Petroleum and Natural Gas exploration to retailing, Permitting 100 per cent FDI Policy in green-field airports). Government has already progressed very much in liberalizing FDI Policy in the recent times.

It has also been noticed that a few recommendations have been incorporated into the natural course of Policy making of the various Ministries: for example the 'Make in India' initiative takes care of most Policy related and other improvements required in manufacturing sector, the 'National Skill Development Mission' had adequate measures for developing human resources bench strength, 'Digital India' covers area for improving the IT and ITeS sector, etc. 'National Mineral Exploration Policy, 2016 and 'The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016' has further provided

policy initiatives in the Mining Sector. 'National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016' has been implemented to promote the growth of Indian aviation sector.

There are several recommendations whose implementation is not limited to one Ministry/Department only (ex: 1st Report, Sl. No. 23-improve overall infrastructure Sl. No. 32: faster settlement of commercial disputes in the courts, etc.). Action on implementation of such recommendations is a continuous process and there may not be any milestones/target point where it can be said that it has been fully implemented. The status of some recommendation could not be ascertained as these recommendations are generic in nature and involvement of mutli-Departmental/Ministerial/State Governments.

In the present situation, seeking/collecting information on number of recommendations accepted or not accepted, reasons for not accepting it and measures to implement the recommendation may require diversion of human reasources which may not yield meaningful results and therefore may be avoided. Further such exercise may not give desireable results as a few recommendations may involve multi Departments/Ministries/State Government. etc. and may not have any milestones/target points. Therefore, this Department may not get desired inputs. Attention is invited to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs O.M. No. 6(1)/2012-Imp, dated 27.01.2012 suggesting Departments to seek deletion of those Assurances which are not feasible to be implemented/fulfilled."

4. In view of the above and considering practical difficulties in getting the information from all concerned Ministres/Departments/State Governments, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Finance have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI;  
Dated: 12.5.2017.



*ANNEXURE*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1393  
ANSWERED ON 5.3.2010

**Implementation of Investment Commission Recommendations**

1393. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations of the Investment Commission implemented and not yet implemented separately;

(b) whether some recommendations of the Investment Commission have not so far been implemented;

(c) if so, the reasons for not implementing the recommendations item-wise;

(d) whether any steps being taken/proposed to be taken to expedite the implementation of the recommendations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

**APPENDIX V**  
**MINUTES**  
**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES**  
**(2016-2017)**  
**(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)**  
**EIGHTH SITTING**  
**(15.05.2017)**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1730 hrs. in Committee Room "G-074", Parliament Library Building, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri Anto Antony
3. Shri Tariq Anwar
4. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
5. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
6. Shri C.R. Patil
7. Shri Taslimuddin
8. Shri K.C. Venugopal

**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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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. 117 to 136) 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 03 Assurances

as per details given in Annexure-I and to pursue the remaining 17 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-I\*, 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 AT THEIR SITTING HELD ON 15.05.2017

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question No./Discussion & Date	Ministry/ Department	Brief Subject
1	2	3	4	5
1.	118	USQ No. 5162 dated 24.04.2015	Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)	National Offset Policy
2.	119	USQ No. 2346 dated 09.05.2016	Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)	FTA between India and Australia
3.	128	USQ No. 1393 dated 05.03.2010	Finance (Department of Economic Affairs)	Implementation of Investment Commission Recommendations

## APPENDIX VI

### MINUTES

#### THIRD SITTING

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
ASSURANCES (2017-2018) HELD ON 02ND JANUARY, 2018 IN CHAIR-  
PERSON'S CHAMBER ROOM NO. '133', PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1545 hours on Tuesday, 2nd January, 2018.

#### PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

#### MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia
5. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
6. Shri C.R. Patil
7. Shri Sumil 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 six Draft Reports without any amendment:

- (i) Draft 67th Report regarding Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development).
- (ii) Draft 68th Report regarding Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Heavy Industry).
- (iii) Draft 69th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Acceded to).

- (iv) Draft 70th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Not acceded to).
- (v) Draft 71th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Acceded to).
- (vi) Draft 72th 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.*