

**72**

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

**SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**SEVENTY-SECOND REPORT**

REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF ASSURANCES  
(NOT ACCEDED TO)

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



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

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

SEVENTY-SECOND REPORT

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ASSURANCES  
(2017-2018)

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

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

**CGA No. 322**

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\*Implementation Reports laid on 08.08.2017.

@Implementation Reports laid on 22.12.2017.

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. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri P.K. Kunhalikutty\*\*
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. Vijayakumar

SECRETARIAT

- |                       |   |                         |
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| 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.

\*\* 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 (2017-2018), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Seventy-Second Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2016-2017) at their sitting held on 30 June, 2017 considered Memoranda Nos. 137 to 161 containing requests received from the various Ministries/Departments for dropping of pending Assurances and decided to pursue 18 Assurances.

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

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

NEW DELHI;  
02 January, 2018  
12 Pausha, 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 (2016-2017) considered Twenty Five Memoranda (Appendix-I) containing requests received from various Ministries/ Departments for dropping of Assurances at their sitting held on 30 June, 2017.

3. After having considered the requests of the Ministries/Departments, the Committee are not convinced with the reasons furnished for dropping the following 18 Assurances:—

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
1.	USQ No. 1482 dated 03.05.2016	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution)	Food Scam (Appendix-II)
2.	USQ No. 1932 dated 05.05.2016	Coal	Scam regarding Jobs against Land (Appendix-III)
3.	USQ No. 4493 dated 08.08.2014	Defence (Department of Defence)	Cases of Irregularities in Defence Sector (Appendix-IV)
4.	USQ No. 2299 dated 06.05.2016	Defence (Department of Defence Production)	Offset Obligations for Defence Contracts (Appendix-V)
5.	USQ No. 1958 dated 05.05.2016	Drinking Water and Sanitation	Defunct Toilets (Appendix-VI)
6.	USQ No. 2845 dated 29.08.2012	Finance (Department of Revenue)	Customs Intelligence Units (Appendix-VII)
7.	*USQ No. 386 dated 27.07.2010	Information and Broadcasting	Paid News
	*USQ No. 214 dated 09.11.2010		Paid News

\*Implementation Reports laid on 08.08.2017.

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
	*USQ No. 948 dated 16.07.2014		Paid News (Appendix-VIII)
8.	@USQ No. 2229 dated 06.05.2016	Information and Broadcasting	Revamping of PIB (Appendix-IX)
9.	@USQ No. 3759 dated 19.03.2015	New and Renewable Energy	Hydrogen Fuel Cells (Appendix-X)
10.	*USQ No. 3022 dated 17.12.2015	Power	Mazdoors of Electricity Department (Appendix-XI)
11.	SQ No. 109 dated 03.03.2016	Power	Effective Implementation of Electricity Act, 2003 (Appendix-XII)
12.	SQ No. 83 dated 02.03.2016 (Supplementary by Shri Dharmendra Yadav M.P.)	Railways	Railway Development Fund (Appendix-XIII)
13.	SQ No. 483 dated 10.05.2012 (Supplementary by Shri Sharad Yadav M.P.)	Railways	Survey for Gauge Conversion (Appendix-XIV)
14.	USQ No. 1907 dated 05.05.2016	Road Transport and Highways	Coastal Roads Converted into NHs (Appendix-XV)
15.	USQ No. 904 dated 28.04.2016	Road Transport and Highways	Religious Places Connected with Highways (Appendix XVI)
16.	USQ No. 1171 dated 02.05.2016	Steel	Steel Plants (Appendix-XVII)
17.	USQ No. 3979 dated 13.08.2015	Textiles	Land Scam (Appendix-XVIII)
18.	USQ No. 1859 dated 05.05.2016	Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation	Management of Inter- State River Basins (Appendix-XIX)

\*Implementation Reports laid on 08.08.2017.

@Implementation Reports laid on 22.12.2017.

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 18 Assurances are given in Appendices-II to XIX.

5. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee dated 30 June, 2017 are given in Appendix-XX.

6. The Committee desire that the Government should take note of the Observations of the Committee, as contained in Annexure-II to Appendix-XX and take appropriate action, for the implementation of the Assurances expeditiously.

NEW DELHI;  
02 January, 2018  
12 Pausha, 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/Deptt.	Department	Brief Subject
1.	137	USQ No. 1482 dated 03.05.2016	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	Department of Food & Public Distribution	Food Scam
2.	138	USQ No. 1932 dated 05.05.2016	Coal		Scam regarding Jobs against Land
3.	139	USQ No. 1841 dated 05.05.2016	Coal		Involvement of Nagpur Based Companies in Coal Scam
4.	140	USQ No. 4493 dated 08.08.2014	Defence	Department of Defence	Cases of Irregularities in Defence Sector
5.	141	USQ No. 2299 dated 06.05.2016	Defence	Department of Defence Production	Offset Obligations for Defence Contracts
6.	142	USQ No. 1958 dated 05.05.2016	Drinking Water and Sanitation		Defunct Toilets
7.	143	USQ No. 1317 dated 08.08.2011	Environment, Forest and Climate Change		NEAMA
8.	144	USQ No. 1951 dated 26.03.2012	Environment, Forest and Climate Change		Setting up of NEAMA
9.	145	USQ No. 2845 dated 29.08.2012	Finance	Department of Revenue	Customs Intelligence Units
10.	146	USQ No. 3831 dated 17.08.2010 USQ No. 5191 dated 08.05.2012	Home Affairs		Chakma-Hajong Refugee Issue Chakma and Hajong Issue
11.	147	USQ No. 386 dated 27.07.2010 USQ No. 214 dated 09.11.2010 USQ No. 948 dated 16.07.2014	Information and Broadcasting		Paid News Paid News Paid News
12.	148	USQ No. 2229 dated 06.05.2016	Information and Broadcasting		Revamping of PIB
13.	149	USQ No. 2749 dated 25.11.2010	Law and Justice	Department of Legal Affairs	Autonomy to Law Commission of India
14.	150	USQ No. 3759 dated 19.03.2015	New and Renewable Energy		Hydrogen Fuel Cells
15.	151	USQ No. 4263 dated 22.03.2013	Petroleum and Natural Gas		Investment in Oil Fields of Iran
16.	152	USQ No. 3022	Power		Mazdoors of Electri-

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question/Discussion References	Ministry/Deptt.	Department	Brief Subject
17.	153	dated 17.12.2015 SQ No. 109 dated 03.03.2016	Power		city Department Effective Implementa- tion of Electricity Act, 2003
18.	154	USQ No. 3816 dated 25.08.2011	Railways		PM Rail Vikas Fund
19.	155	SQ No. 83 dated 02.03.2016 (Supp. by Shri Dharmendra Yadav, M.P.)	Railways		Railway Develop- ment Fund
20.	156	SQ No. 483 dated 10.05.2012 (Supp. by Shri Sharad Yadav, M.P.)	Railways		Survey for Gauge Conversion
21.	157	USQ No. 1907 dated 05.05.2016	Road Transport and Highways		Coastal Roads Converted into NHs
22.	158	USQ No. 904 dated 28.04.2016	Road Transport and Highways		Religious Places Connected with Highways
23.	159	USQ No. 1171 dated 02.05.2016	Steel		Steel Plants
24.	160	USQ No. 3979 dated 13.08.2015	Textiles		Land Scam
25.	161	USQ No. 1859 dated 05.05.2016	Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation		Management of Inter- State River Basins

## APPENDIX II

MEMORANDUM NO. 137

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1482 dated 03.05.2016 regarding "Food Scam."

On 03 May, 2016, Shri Rajkumar Saini M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1482 to the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. 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 Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) within three months from the date of reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) *vide* O.M. F. No. 18-19/2016-PD-II dated 06 January, 2017 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

“That the Assurance would take long time keeping in view the lengthy process of trials and appeals in Court cases and is not likely to be fulfilled in near future as the investigation process and final action thereon may take considerable amount of time.”

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1482  
ANSWERED ON 03.5.2016

**Food Scam**

1482. SHRI RAJKUMAR SAINI:

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

(a) whether a scam involving misappropriation of food items worth crores of rupees have been reported from several States including Haryana during the year 2015-16;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State and item-wise; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard including the action taken against the persons found guilty indicating the details of the recoveries made?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) to (c): There have been reports about irregularities in implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in certain regions/ States including Haryana in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, they are sent to State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. A statement indicating State-wise number of complaints on TPDS including complaints related to Haryana for period 2015-16 is at Annexure-I.

Relevant clauses of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 and Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2015, mandates the State/UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. Under the said Control Orders, the State/UT Governments are responsible for implementing TPDS and are competent to take action against those indulging in malpractices in TPDS. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of these Orders is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, both the Orders empower State/UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders.

The Information received from Government of Haryana regarding alleged food scam is at Annexure-II.

As already mentioned, the operational responsibilities of Implementation of TPDS within the State including action to be taken against the defaulters including the State Government officials/officers rest with the concerned State/UT Government. Therefore, the information/details of employees/officers continuing to serve in the State Government Departments despite enquiries pending against them, contemplation of giving voluntary retirements to them etc., is not maintained in this Department.



*ANNEXURE I*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2015	2016
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	-
3.	Assam	34	1
4.	Bihar	106	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	6	-
6.	Delhi	113	2
7.	Goa	-	-
8.	Gujarat	8	-
9.	Haryana	35	2
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4	1
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	-
12.	Jharkhand	32	-
13.	Karnataka	16	-
14.	Kerala	16	3
15.	Madhya Pradesh	17	1
16.	Maharashtra	48	4
17.	Manipur	6	-
18.	Meghalaya	7	-
19.	Mizoram	-	-
20.	Nagaland	-	-
21.	Orissa	22	3
22.	Punjab	10	-
23.	Rajasthan	33	-
24.	Sikkim	-	-
25.	Tamil Nadu	22	1
26.	Telangana	10	-
27.	Uttarakhand	24	1
28.	Uttar Pradesh	197	21
29.	West Bengal	32	1
30.	Chandigarh	6	-
31.	D&N Haveli	-	-
32.	Puducherry	-	-
TOTAL :		818	45

## ANNEXURE II

The Government of Haryana *vide* Memo No. 3SB-I-2016/8791 dated 29.04.2016 has informed that during 2015-16 the following scam involving misappropriation in food items worth crores of rupees have been reported:

### 1. Food Department

The FCI *vide* letter dated 04.08.2015 has reported that during loading of racks special of wheat stock it was observed that the wheat stock at Ismailabad Centre is short. On the reporting of FCI the department had constituted 13 members team for special physical verification of stock. The team pointed out the shortage of 182091 filled wheat bags of 50 kg. Thereafter all the responsible officers and officials including team members of regular half yearly physical verification team for the period ending 30-06-2015 were placed under suspension and criminal case FIR No. 156 dated 16.11.2015 was registered against them at Police Station, Ismailabad Distt. Kurukshetra. The matter is under investigation of the police. After investigation and after assessment of the actual loss, chargesheets for major penalty will be issued later on. In this case the estimated loss is above 18 crores. The department has also issued prosecution sanction to prosecute the culprit in the case.

Further the special physical verification of wheat stock of Pehwa (Kurukshetra) was conducted by the team already constituted for Ismailabad centre and the Inter-Departmental Team reported shortage of 18882 filled wheat bags of 50 kg. Thereafter, all the responsible officers and officials including the physical verification team members who conducted regular half yearly physical verification for the period ending 30-06-2015 were placed under suspension and criminal case FIR No. 0118 dated 18-03-2016 was registered against them at Police Station, Pehwa. The matter is under investigation of the police and after investigation and after assessing the actual loss chargesheets for major penalty will be issued later on. In this case the estimated loss is about 2 crores.

### 2. Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited

A quantity of 7492.65 MT. paddy was allotted to M/s Shiv Shankar Rice Mill Badhali, Naraingarh for its milling and delivery of CMR to FCI during current K.M.S. 2015-16. The State Government constituted team to carry out the physical verification of the paddy stock given to the Rice Mills for its Milling. The Physical Verification Team carried out the Physical verification of the Paddy stock lying in the premises of M/s Shiv Shankar Rice Mill Badhali, Naraingarh (Ambala) and 6157.48 MT. paddy worth Rs. 10.67 crores was found short. An FIR No. 344 dated 26.12.2015 was got registered with the Police Station, Naraingarh, District Ambala, Haryana for misappropriation of paddy stocks. The Police Authorities had taken the custody of balance quantity of 1293.32 MT. paddy, 1.05 MT. Rice and 11 (eleven) nos. gunny bales lying in the premises of M/s Shiv Shankar Rice Mill. The Corporation had filed the application in the Court at Naraingarh on 29.02.2016 for taking said paddy and other articles on supardari the matter is pending with the court for final adjudication.

### APPENDIX III

#### MEMORANDUM NO. 138

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1932 dated 05.05.2016 regarding "Scam Regarding Jobs against Land".

On 05 May, 2016, Shri Ramdas C. Tadas M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1932 to the Minister of Coal. 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 Coal within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Coal *vide* O.M. F. No. 13011/20/2015-Vig. dated 24 June, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the thrust of the Assurance is regarding completion of CBI investigation, which is a time consuming process. The completion of the investigation by CBI is going to take a long time before any conclusion is arrived at and the Assurance can be fulfilled only thereafter. In this scenario the fulfillment of Assurance may take a long time."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:

*ANNEXURE*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1932  
ANSWERED ON 05.05.2016

**Scam Regarding Jobs against Land**

1932. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scam regarding the jobs against land by Coal India Limited (CIL) in Central Coalfields Limited, Ranchi, Ramgarh, Giridih and Rajrappa has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the officers and the persons involved in the scam;

(c) whether the Government proposes to investigate the matter through Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE/(I/C) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a First Information Report (FIR) against 8 officers of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) for getting irregular employment at Rajrappa area under the option of 'Package Deal', as per the 'Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy, 2012'. The CBI is investigating the case. In addition, a total of 25 complaints/grievances, 21 in the year 2015 and 4 in the year 2016 (upto 27.4.2016), were received in reference to jobs against land acquisition.

## APPENDIX IV

### MEMORANDUM NO. 140

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4493 dated 08.08.2014, regarding "Cases of Irregularities in Defence Sector".

On 08 August, 2014 Shri Hukumdev Narayan Yadav and Shri Jagdambika Pal, M.Ps. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4493 to the Minister of Defence. The text of the Question alongwith the reply of the Ministry 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 Defence within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Defence *vide* O.M. No. 17/DO(Vig.)/2015 dated 28 December, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That Hon'ble RM has observed that CBI taking up the cases for inquiry/ investigation cannot be an Assurance and is merely factual statement of facts."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:

*ANNEXURE*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4493  
ANSWERED ON 08.08.2014

**Cases of Irregularities in Defence Sector**

4493. SHRI HUKUMDEV NARAYAN YADAV:  
SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases of alleged irregularities/corruption relating to the Defence sector, particularly in Armed Forces registered during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the present status of each case;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for expeditious disposal of investigation in the cases of alleged irregularities/corruption relating to defence sector; and

(d) the other measures taken/being taken by the Government to check irregularities/corruption in defence sector during the said period and the success achieved as a result thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) & (b) During the last three years and upto 30th June of the current year, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered cases of alleged irregularities/corruption as per the following break-up:—

Year	No. of regular cases	No. of preliminary enquiries	Total
2011	18	05	23
2012	30	08	38
2013	21	08	29
2014 (upto 30.06.2014)	13	03	16
	82	24	106

Out of the above 106 cases, 07 cases have been closed. The remaining cases are in various stages of inquiry, investigation and trial etc.

(c) & (d) Well defined procedures with adequate checks and balances, are prescribed in Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) for capital procurement and in Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) for revenue procurement. The existing procedure contain stringent provisions aimed at ensuring higher degree of probity, public accountability and transparency. Whenever any irregularity/corruption in defence procurement comes to light, the case is instantaneously handed over to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for thorough investigations.

## APPENDIX V

### MEMORANDUM NO. 141

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2299 dated 06.05.2016, regarding "Offset Obligations for Defence Contracts".

On 06 May, 2016, Shri Kaushalendra Kumar, Dr. Ratna De (Nag) and Shri Kamesh Paswan, M.Ps. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2299 to the Ministry of Defence. The text of the Question alongwith 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 Defence within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Defence *vide* I.D. No./DOMW/2016/5460/2299 dated 19 September, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the reply of the Ministry was pertaining to the details of offset obligations, arising out of signed offset contracts since introduction of offset guidelines. With regard to the contracts to be signed in future *i.e.* under finalization, it was stated in the reply that the requisite details shall only be known once the contracts are signed. Since the offset details about the contract not yet signed cannot be obtained at this stage, it is submitted that the reply needs to be treated as furnished in full and it does not appear to be a case of Assurance."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2299  
ANSWERED ON 06.05.2016

**Offset Obligations for Defence Contracts**

2299. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:  
DR. RATNA DE (NAG):  
SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of offset obligations for the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) in respect of all defence contracts signed by the Government since introduction of the offset policy along with the details of defence contracts currently under finalization;

(b) the details of offset credits fulfilled against the total obligations in respect of each of defence contracts signed since inception of said policy;

(c) whether any extension was granted to OEMs for their offset obligations;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the penalty, if any, charged for delay in discharging offset obligations; and

(e) the total offset obligations anticipated for the period 2017-2026 along with the list of Indian companies likely to be benefited from these contracts and the value of work executed by each of the Indian company?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Since introduction of offset guidelines, 29 offset contracts (19-Indian Air force, 7-Indian Navy and 3-Indian Army) have been signed. The total offset obligations work out to BUSD 6.13 approx. (contracts with different denominations converted to USD) and are to be discharged by 2022. Details of offset obligations for contracts under finalization shall only be known once the contracts are signed.

(b) The offset obligations to be discharged by 31st December 2015 in respect of defence contracts signed so far amounts to BUSD 2.23 approx. Against which the vendors have reported discharge claims worth BUSD 1.78 approx. (subject to audit) through their quarterly reports.

(c) Offset contracts are co-terminus with the main contract and are extended if main contracts are extended.

- (d) (i) Low Level Transportable Radar (LLTR) : Since main contract extended.
- (ii) Fleet Tanker : To facilitate implementation of outstanding offset obligations. Penalty of Euro 2.07 million was recovered.
- (iii) HAROP-UAV : To facilitate implementation of outstanding offset obligations. Penalty of 80,500 USD was recovered.

(e) The offset obligations arising out of contracts under finalisation and Indian companies likely to be benefited shall only be known once the contracts are signed and implemented in totality.

## APPENDIX VI

### MEMORANDUM NO. 142

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1958 dated 05.05.2016, regarding "Defunct Toilets".

On 05 May, 2016, Shri Bharat Singh and Shri Dushyant Singh, M.Ps addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1958 to the Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The text of the Question alongwith 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 Drinking Water and Sanitation within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation *vide* O.M. No. H-11016/98/2016-SBM dated 2nd December, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That in para (f) of the said reply, steps taken/being taken by the Government to achieve the target of building toilets in rural areas and free the country from open defecation have been indicated. One of the steps is constitution of an expert committee under Dr. R.A. Mashelkar to examine new innovations. This Committee has enlisted various innovative technologies on Solid Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) and a compendium consisting of such technologies has been published and uploaded in the website of the Ministry for the benefit of various stakeholders. A Source Book on SLWM in Rural Areas has also been published by the Ministry. Examination of new technologies is a continuous process. Whenever new technologies are received they are examined to ascertain the viability of the technology, and the States and other stakeholders are intimated accordingly for their utilization as per their requirement. In view of the above, it is clear that the constitution of Expert Committee is a measure that has already been undertaken and does not appear to constitute an Assurance. The Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha may, therefore, kindly be requested that the portion of this Ministry's reply—'The Technology aspect is also being focused and an expert committee under Dr. R.A. Mashelkar has been constituted to examine new innovations; and exhibitions are organized to spread these technologies amongst the States and other stakeholders' may not be treated as an Assurance and may be deleted from the list."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Drinking Water and Sanitation have requested to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1958  
ANSWERED ON 05.05.2016

**Defunct Toilets**

1958. SHRI BHARAT SINGH:  
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of defunct toilets, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that in majority of cases the arrangement of sewage, waste disposal and water availability have not been taken care of;
- (c) the details of the remedial measures proposed to be taken to solve the said problem and to make Swachh Bharat Mission a success;
- (d) Whether large number of toilets are defunct/non-functional for reasons like poor quality of construction, incomplete structure, non-maintenance, etc.;
- (e) if so, the State-wise details of such defunct/non-functional toilets; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government to deal with the above shortcomings and hence providing adequate sanitation facilities for all on a sustainable basis?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) State-wise/Union Territory-wise, the number of defunct toilets as per Baseline Survey conducted in 2012-13 is at Annexure-1.

(b) and (c) Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) is one of the integral components of SBM(G) and under this component, activities like compost pits, vermin composting, biogas plants, low cost drainage, soakage channels/pits, waste stabilization ponds system reuse of waste water and system for collection, etc. can be taken up. Funds for Solid and Liquid Waste Management activities with a cap of Rs. 7/12/15/20 lakh are available for Gram Panchayats having upto 150/300/500/ more than 500 households.

To ensure adequate availability of water for toilets, under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) (SBM-G), the incentive for individual toilet has been increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000, to provide for water availability, including for storing water for hand-washing and cleaning.

(d) and (e) State-wise/Union Territory-wise, the number of defunct toilets as per Baseline Survey conducted in 2012-13 is at Annexure-1.

(f) Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), the incentive for individual toilet has been increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000 to construct good quality toilets. The Swachh Bharat Mission is also laying more focus on behaviour change and usage of toilets. The focus on capacity building has been increased, since there is a need to improve skills, especially those pertaining to community processes and triggering for collective behaviour change. In order to expand these skills and train the key stakeholders, State Level workshops involving all the key stakeholders such as Collectors, CEO, Zila Panchayats, Chairmen Zila Panchayats etc. are being held in different States. Regional workshops to cross-share learning amongst different States are also being held. The Government of India has also undertaken direct training of Collectors and more than 260 district Collectors from across India have been trained so far. The Centre-State coordination has been increased through increased visits to States, coordination meetings, and reviews. There is also a renewed focus on IEC and a 360 degree media campaign is being envisaged to further boost it. The social media—twitter (@swachhbharat), Facebook (Swachh Bharat Mission) and WhatsApp/HIKE—are being extensively used for sharing innovative ideas and cross learning. A National Rapid Action and Learning Unit has been constituted to institutionalise learning from the field and provide quick feedback. The technology aspect is also being focussed and an expert committee under Dr. R.A. Mashelkar has been constituted to examine new innovations and exhibitions are organised to spread these technologies amongst the States and other stakeholders.

State/UT-wise number of defunct toilets as per Baseline Survey—2012-13

Sl.No.	State/UT Name	No. of defunct toilets
1.	A & N Islands	801
2.	Andhra Pradesh	207951
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	21891
4.	Assam	637264
5.	Bihar	1754253
6.	Chhattisgarh	1031760
7.	Goa	0
8.	Gujarat	565377
9.	Haryana	19785
10.	Himachal Pradesh	58939
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	40799
12.	Jharkhand	949971
13.	Karnataka	127303
14.	Kerala	189842

Sl.No.	State/UT Name	No. of defunct toilets
15.	Madhya Pradesh	822556
16.	Maharashtra	705732
17.	Manipur	57767
18.	Meghalaya	20504
19.	Mizoram	1614
20.	Nagaland	3278
21.	Odisha	474063
22.	Puducherry	110
23.	Punjab	25966
24.	Rajasthan	766704
25.	Sikkim	0
26.	Tamil Nadu	1301898
27.	Telangana	42220
28.	Tripura	112668
29.	Uttar Pradesh	3259065
30.	Uttarakhand	110501
31.	West Bengal	1154448
	Total:	14465030

## APPENDIX VII

### MEMORANDUM NO. 145

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2845 dated 29.08.2012 regarding "Customs Intelligence Units".

On 29 August, 2012, Shri E.G. Sugavanam M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2845 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 (Department of Revenue) within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) *vide* OM F. No. 391/62/2012-Cus(AS) dated 03 November, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the matter for setting up the Customs Overseas Intelligence Units is pending with the Ministry of External Affairs. This Department is pursuing with them for deciding the matter at the earliest possible. As informed, the Ministry of External Affairs has already set up a Joint Intelligence Committee and several meetings of the Committee have also taken place. The matter has to be decided in consultation with the National Intelligence Board (NINTB). Hence, it is a time consuming process and might take some more time for deciding about feasibility of setting up the COIN units in various countries."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:

*ANNEXURE*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2845  
ANSWERED ON 29.08.2012  
**Customs Intelligence Units**

2845. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of countries in which Customs Intelligence Units have been set up;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to set up more such units in China and various other countries in the near future and its proposed functions thereof; and
- (c) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be set up?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Customs Intelligence Units are presently operational in eight countries—*viz.*, United States of America, United Kingdom, Belgium, Russia, United Arab Emirates, Republic of Singapore, People's Republic of China, Nepal;

(b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to expand the network of these posts including in China keeping in mind the need of trade facilitation and enforcement of Customs Laws.

(c) These will be set-up in consultation with the concerned Ministries.



## APPENDIX VIII

MEMORANDUM NO. 147

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

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 386 dated 27.07.2010 regarding "Paid News." (Annexure-I).
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 214 dated 09.11.2010 regarding "Paid News." (Annexure-II).
- (iii) Unstarred Question No. 948 dated 16.07.2014 regarding "Paid News." (Annexure-III).

The above mentioned Questions were asked by various M.Ps. to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. The contents of the Questions along with the replies of the Ministers are as given in Annexures (I to III).

2. The replies to the Questions were treated as Assurances by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurances are yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting *vide* O.M. No. 15/18/2010-Press dated 19.08.2015, O.M. No. 15/30/2010-Press dated 20.08.2015 and O.M. No. H-11016/47/2014-Press dated 19.08.2015 have requested to drop the Assurances given in replies on the following grounds:—

"As no time limit has been defined to amend the Representation of People Act, 1951 and finalization of draft PRBP Bill and considerable time is obviously required for the said process, the Committee on Government Assurances may be requested that the above mentioned Assurance may kindly be dropped in view of the facts as annexed".

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting have requested to drop the Assurances.

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:

*ANNEXURE*

Facts for Dropping of Assurance

The issue 'Amendment to the Press Council Act, 1978' was continuously being examined in the Ministry during the last sixteen years, however, no final decision has been arrived till date.

At present, the matter was again under examination in the Ministry meanwhile, the Press Council of India (PCI) reconstituted for its XII term on 10th October, 2014 and a new Chairman took charge of the Council *w.e.f.* 25th November, 2014. It was decided to seek the views of new Chairman in the said matter.

PCI was therefore, asked to furnish the same immediately. At this, PCI has recently informed that the issue of amendment to the Press Council Act, 1978 would be thoroughly discussed in its Council's meeting scheduled to be held in August, 2015.

The issue would further be examined in the Ministry after receiving the views of Chairman, Press Council of India which is expected to receive by end of August, 2015, if possible.

As one of the provisions in the proposed amendments to the Press Council Act is to bring Electronic Media under the purview of PCI, a wide consultation would be required with the various stakeholders such as News Broadcasters Association (NBA), News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA), Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC), Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) and the representatives of several Media Houses etc.

M/o I&B would be in a position to take any decision in this respect when consensus would be made amongst the stakeholders in the said matter. Further, draft Note for Cabinet and the draft Bill would be prepared in consultation with M/o Law & Justice and various concerned Ministries/Departments and then, one Note along with the Bill duly approved by Hon'ble Minister of Information & Broadcasting would be sent to the Cabinet for its approval. Thereafter, the same would be introduced in the Parliament and after the approval of Parliament, the Bill would emerge as Act and it would publish in the Gazette of India.

However, it may not be anticipated that the above mentioned process would take how much time.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 386  
ANSWERED ON 27.07.2010

**Paid News**

386. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the recent phenomenon of paid news has assumed alarming proportion particularly as a serious electoral malpractice;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to check this phenomenon?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) & (b) There have been a number of media reports that sections of elections and print media have received monetary considerations for publishing or broadcasting in favour of particular individuals or organization, what is essentially advertisement disguised as news. This is commonly referred to as 'paid news'. This phenomenon of paid news could cause a double jeopardy to the democracy through influence on the press functioning as also on the free and fair election process.

(c) The Press Council of India (PCI), an autonomous body set up under Press Council Act, 1978 for preserving the freedom of press and maintaining and improving the standard of newspapers and news agencies in India, has constituted a sub-Committee to examine the 'Paid News Syndrome'. The sub-Committee has submitted its report for consideration of the full Council. In a special meeting of the Council held on 26.04.2010, the report of the sub-Committee was considered and the Council decided to constitute a Drafting Committee to draft a report drawing upon the information and findings of the sub-Committee. The Drafting Committee has been given a time-frame of three months to finalize the Report and the Committee is expected to submit its report by the end of July, 2010.

The Government will take appropriate action on receiving the recommendations of the Press Council of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 214  
ANSWERED ON 09.11.2010

**Paid News**

214. SHRI RAJAGOPAL LAGADAPATI:  
SHRI K. JAYASURYA PRAKASH REDDY:  
SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted by the Press Council of India (PCI) to look into the issue of Paid News has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the major findings and recommendations made in the said report;

(c) whether the Government has initiated consultations with the Press Council of India (PCI), the Election Commission and the other stakeholders in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement such recommendations of the Committee?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Press Council of India (PCI) constituted a sub-Committee to consider the issue of 'Paid News' and to collect evidence from stakeholders including Election Commission of India.

(b) The PCI, drawing upon the information and findings of the sub-Committee's report has released its 'Report on Paid News' on 30th July 2010. The major recommendations made in the Report are given below:—

- Representation of the People Act, 1951, be amended to make incidence of paid news a punishable electoral malpractice;
- The Press Council of India must be fully empowered to adjudicate the complaints of 'paid news' and give final judgement in the matter.;
- Press Council Act be amended to make its recommendations binding and electronic media be brought under its purview; and
- Press Council of India should be reconstituted to include representatives from electronic and other media.

(c) & (d) The recommendations of the Report are under consideration.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 948  
ANSWERED ON 16.07.2014

**Paid News**

948. SHRI RANGASWAMY DHROVANARAYANA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring new rules regarding paid news;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said rules are likely to be implemented; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING, ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) The Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country and also to inculcate the principles of self regulation among the press, has formulated 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the media. These norms prescribe that news should be clearly demarcated from advertisements by printing disclaimers. As far as news is concerned, it must always carry a credit line and should be set in a typeface that would distinguish it from advertisements. The Council has also drawn up a set of guidelines that are applicable to financial journalism and also on reporting of elections.

Besides, based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Information Technology, inclusion of provision in the 'Press and Registration of Books and Publication Bill' to check the incidents of paid news is proposed.

So far as electronic media is concerned, all private satellite TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme & Advertising Codes prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder.

However, the issue of electoral reforms in its entirety, which *inter alia*, includes issue relating to election time paid news, has also been referred to the Law Commission of India for its recommendations. On receipt of the recommendations of the Law Commission, the matter will further be examined in consultation with the Stakeholders.

## APPENDIX IX

### MEMORANDUM NO. 148

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2229 dated 06.05.2016 regarding "Revamping of PIB".

On 06 May, 2016 Shri P.R. Sundaram, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2229 to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. 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 Information and Broadcasting within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting *vide* O.M. No. H-11016/44/2016-Press/PPC dated 07 February, 2017 has requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the Assurance marked *w.r.t.* same answer given by the Ministry in response to a similar Question raised in Rajya Sabha by Dr. V. Maitreyan on 03.05.2016 has been deleted by Rajya Sabha Secretariat while stating that it was decided by them not to treat the replies to the Question under reference Assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:

*ANNEXURE*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2229  
ANSWERED ON 06.05.2016

**Revamping of PIB**

2229. SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to revamp the Press Information Bureau (PIB) and its allied departments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether a number of posts are lying vacant for many years in the said departments, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government would consider to wind up such departments of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the effective alternate steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING [COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE (RETD.)]: (a) & (b) In order to bring about the convergence and synergy in the functioning of few Media Units engaged in field level activities, a functional integration has been done wherein Principal Director General, Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP) has been made responsible for the working of Song & Drama Division (S&DD), Public Information Campaign (PIC), Activities of Press Information Bureau (PIB) and Exhibition Wing of Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP). Further, a proposal to merge the said units with DFP is also under consideration.

(c) to (e) All vacant posts lying in the above Media Units of the Ministry are regularly being filled up except those which are in deemed abolition category.

## APPENDIX X

### MEMORANDUM NO. 150

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3759 dated 19.03.2015 regarding "Hydrogen Fuel Cells".

On 19 March, 2015, Shri Pralhad Joshi, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3759 to the Minister of New and Renewable 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 Ministry of New and Renewable Energy within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy *vide* OM No. 107/196/2015-NT dated 31 March, 2017 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the proposal from Indian Oil Corporation Limited for setting up Centre of Excellence on Hydrogen Energy and Fuel Cells in the campus of National Institute of Solar Energy was examined in the Ministry but it has not been agreed to."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:



*ANNEXURE*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3759  
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2015

**Hydrogen Fuel Cells**

3759. SHRI PRALHAD VENKATESH JOSHI:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research and development is being conducted to understand the usage of hydrogen fuel cells in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to set up hydrogen fuel research centres in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) & (b) Yes, Madam. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy under its broad based Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) programme has been supporting projects at academic institutions, research and development organizations and industry for development of hydrogen and fuel cells. A total twenty six RD&D projects on hydrogen and fuel cells are presently under implementation with the support of the Ministry.

(c) & (d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited R&D Centre, Faridabad has developed a proposal for setting up a Centre of Excellence for Hydrogen Energy and Fuel Cells in the campus of the National Institute of Solar Energy at Gwalpahari, Gurgaon, Haryana.

## APPENDIX XI

### MEMORANDUM NO. 152

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3022 dated 17.12.2015 regarding "Mazdoors of Electricity Department".

On 17 December, 2015, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3022 to the Minister of Power. 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 Power within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Power *vide* O.M. No. 28(L)/30/2015-R&R dated 20 January, 2017 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That an Implementation report was sent to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs *vide* this Ministry's O.M. No. 28(L)/30/2014-R&R dated 13.10.2016 Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs *vide* OM No. 3(1)/2016-Impl.-I dated 23.08.2016 has intimated that said implementation report was laid before the Table of the House on 10.08.2016 and has been treated as partially implemented. In this regard, it is once again reiterated that action is now to be taken by A&N Administration and being a purely administrative matter, currently no action is pending at the end of Government of India. It is particularly mentioned that an Assurance on the same subject in Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1986 of 05.05.2016 has already been deleted."

4. In view of the above, with the approval of Minister of State (I/C) for Power, Coal, NRE and Mines have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:

*ANNEXURE*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF POWER  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3022  
ANSWERED ON 17.12.2015

**Mazdoors of Electricity Department**

3022. SHRI BISHNU PADARAY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any direction from Hon'ble High Court with regard to retirement and pensionary benefits to the Mazdoors of Electricity department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

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

(c) whether there is any delay in the implementation of the directions; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor along with the time this issue is likely to be settled?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) & (b) The Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta in its order dated 09.04.2015 in the Case (Writ Petition No. 666/2012, Shri Loknathan & Others vs Union of India & Others) filed by the Mazdoors of Electricity Department of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, has given a judgment that the petitioners shall be deemed to be in service from the date of actual engagement only for the purpose of retirement and pensionary benefits and not for any other purpose.

(c) & (d) The Proposal for giving retirement and pensionary benefits to these 495 Mazdoors of Electricity Department of Andaman & Nicobar Islands for compliance of order of Hon'ble High Court is under process. The matter has been taken up with the Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance), Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) and Electricity Department of Andaman & Nicobar Islands for implementation of the Hon'ble Court Order.

## APPENDIX XII

### MEMORANDUM NO. 153

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Starred Question No. 109 dated 03.03.2016 regarding "Effective Implementation of Electricity Act, 2003".

On 03 March, 2016 Shri Laxmi Narayan Yadav and Shri Prataprao Jadhav, M.Ps. addressed a Starred Question No. 109 to the Minister of Power. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Power *vide* O.M. No. 28(L)/2/2016-R&R dated 20 January, 2017 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That in respect of the amendment in the Electricity Act, 2003 it is stated that the Standing Committee on Energy had given its recommendations on 07.05.2015 on the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 placed before the Lok Sabha on 19.12.2014. On the basis of the recommendation and further round of detailed discussion, the official amendment to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 are under finalization. Therefore, process of amendment in the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 are under finalization. Therefore, process of amendment in the Electricity Act, 2003 requires more time as it involves not only approval of Cabinet but a complete Parliamentary procedure is also required for its approval."

4. In view of the above, and citing that the Assurance may not be completed till the Parliament approves the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State (I/C) for Power, Coal, NRE and Mines, have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF POWER  
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 109  
ANSWERED ON 03.03.2016

**Effective Implementation of Electricity Act, 2003**

\*109. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN YADAV:  
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is satisfied with the implementation of Electricity Act, 2003, as amended from time to time, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the extent to which healthy competition has been brought in the power sector as a result thereof;

(c) whether the instances of violation of norms stipulated in the Electricity Act, 2003 to create a competitive environment has been reported, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has inquired about the enforcement of the said provision in various States including Delhi, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam, Government of India has enacted the Electricity Act, 2003 to consolidate the laws relating to generation, transmission, distribution, trading and use of electricity and generally for taking measures conducive to development of electricity industry and for protecting interest of consumers.

With de-licensing of generation (except through hydro projects) through the Electricity Act, 2003, the power sector has witnessed multiplicity of players in the segment. The Transmission capacity has also increased with participation of Private Sector.

Further, as per the Electricity Act, 2003, Regulatory Commissions have been empowered to frame necessary Regulations to implement the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003. Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERCs)/Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) have framed the necessary Regulations required in the Act. Power Market has been developed by the Central Commission as per the mandate under the Act. During the year 2014-15, through Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) and Power Exchange India Limited (PXIL), Open Access consumers under Day-Ahead market, have

transacted a volume of 12084.18 MU and 102.85 MU respectively. The trading licenses and the power exchanges authorised by the Commission have brought in the desired competition in power sector.

(c) Open Access is one of the cornerstones of the Electricity Act, 2003 to facilitate supply of electricity from the surplus region to deficit region and to tap the source of electricity such as captive generation and renewable generation. State commission have been empowered to permit open access on the existing Distribution Licensees network on payment of surcharges and wheeling charges. However, some instances of denial of open access have been brought before the Commissions. Some State Governments have issued orders under section 11 of the Electricity Act, 2003 restricting flow of electricity beyond their boundaries. The Commissions have taken action in line with the provisions of the Act. In some cases the issue is *sub-judice*.

(d) & (e) The Electricity being a concurrent subject, the provisions of the Act provides for the functions and responsibilities of the Central and State Governments as well as different statutory bodies and entities defined under the Act. The Central Government has been pursuing with the State Governments at various fora for implementation of various provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 from time to time. As per information provided by DERC, there is no instance of violation of norms observed as stipulated in the Electricity Act, 2003 to create a competitive environment in Delhi.

Though, there have been impressive achievement in the areas of augmentation of generation capacity, establishment of the National Grid, a multi-layered regulatory framework, private sector participation, development of electricity markets and exchanges and restructuring of State Electricity Boards, still there is a need to review the provisions keeping in view the overall objectives of the said Act to bring in further competition and efficiency. Accordingly, Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was introduced before the Lok Sabha on 19.12.2014. The Bill was then referred to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy. The Committee, after detailed examination, has submitted its report on 07.05.2015. Based on the recommendation of Standing Committee, the revised Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 is being finalized.

### APPENDIX XIII

#### MEMORANDUM NO. 155

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Supplementary to Starred Question No. 83 dated 02 March, 2016 by Shri Dharmendra Yadav, MP regarding "Railway Development Fund".

On 02 March, 2016 Shri Dharmendra Yadav and Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, M.Ps., addressed a Starred Question No. 83 to the Minister of Railways. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

2. During the discussion Shri Dharmendra Yadav, M.P., raised the following Supplementary to Starred Question No. 83 dated 02 March, 2016 to the Minister of Railways:—

"That Hon'ble Speaker through you I would like to ask that Hon'ble Railways Minister has partially discussed regarding the Rail Development Fund and World Development Bank. Hon'ble Member has placed the reply of written Question on the table of the House. He has not made it clear that whether any time limit was fixed for the formation of Rail Development fund and what will be the contribution of World Bank and Indian Railways for this purpose".

3. In reply, the Minister of Railways (Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu) stated as follows:—

"That once the matter reaches at a conclusive stage, this House will be communicated on the matter."

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

5. The Ministry of Railways *vide* O.M. No. 2016/FS Cell/7/1 dated 05 October, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That at the instance of the Government of India, the World Bank has got a detailed Scoping and Options Study done to assess the feasibility of setting up the Railways of India Development Fund (RIDF). This Ministry has requested the Ministry of Finance (MoF) for their clearance to the proposal for setting up RIDF. Beside MoF's clearance, setting up of RIDF involves extensive consultations with World Bank, other Ministries/Departments of the Government, NITI Aayog and regulatory bodies like RBI and SEBI. In view of this, no time frame for setting up of RIDF can be given."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 83  
ANSWERED ON 02.03.2016

**Railway Development Fund**

\*83. SHRIDHARMENDRA YADAV:  
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank and Railways have decided to work together for setting up the railway development fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions fixed in this regard;

(c) the present status of the Railway Development Fund;

(d) whether the Railways has allowed 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in major railway operations and if so, the details of the sectors in which 100 per cent FDI has been allowed; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to increase the income from non-railway operations?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) The World Bank has been approached to explore the possibility of setting up of a Railway infrastructure development fund. The World Bank has taken up a detailed scoping and options study for creating such a fund.

(d) Yes, Madam. Government has permitted 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in rail sector in construction, operation and maintenance of the following: (i) Suburban corridor projects (ii) High speed train projects (iii) Dedicated freight lines (iv) Rolling stock including train sets, and locomotives or coaches manufacturing and maintenance facilities (v) Railway Electrification (vi) Signaling systems (vii) Freight terminals (viii) Passenger terminals (ix) Infrastructure in industrial park pertaining to railway line/siding and (x) Mass Rapid Transport System.

(e) The Minister of Railways in his speech introducing the Railway Budget for 2016-17 has announced the following steps to increase the Railways' income from non-railway operations:



- (i) Station redevelopment through commercial exploitation of vacant land and space rights over station buildings.
- (ii) Monetizing land along tracks by leasing out this space for horticulture and tree plantation and for generating solar energy.
- (iii) Monetizing soft assets like data, software and some of the free services provided by Indian Railways and promoting e-commerce activities on websites.
- (iv) Advertising at stations, trains and land adjacent to tracks outside big stations and using customer-interfacing assets for earning advertising revenues and partnering with agencies for co-branding.
- (v) Overhaul of Parcel business by liberalizing current parcel policies including opening the sector to container train operators, online booking of parcels and expanding Railway service offerings to growing sectors such as e-commerce.

## APPENDIX XIV

### MEMORANDUM NO. 156

**Subject:** Request for dropping of assurance given in reply to Supplementary to Starred Question No. 483 dated 10 May, 2012 by Shri Sharad Yadav, MP, regarding "Survey for Gauge Conversion".

On 10 May, 2012, Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav and Shri Laxman Tudu, M.Ps. addressed a Starred Question No. 483 to the Minister of Railways. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

2. During the discussion Shri Sharad Yadav, M.P., raised the following Supplementary to Starred Question No. 483 dated 10 May, 2012 to the Minister of Railways:—

"Shri Sharad Yadav (Madhepura): Madam Speaker, I admit that this question is more concerned with survey but few Hon. Members have added issue of gauge conversion alongwith, I would like to know about a big scheme. Gondia and Jabalpur Rail line will lessen a distance of around 200 km between South and North. This is an old scheme which covers naxal area and is pending for years. Mukul Roy ji should intervene because this scheme is pending since long. The completion of this Rail line would save fuel and lessen distances and business activities will increase between Nagpur and Jabalpur. Moreover a large centre of business will be developed in the South and the North. I request that this scheme should be considered seriously, whether there is a way out to complete this scheme expeditiously? Though, Railways have many a projects, and Railways alone is not responsible for it. But nobody discusses as to how Railways should be made capable. This is unfortunate that works of Rail line between Gondia and Jabalpur are not getting completed. Otherwise it would have benefitted a lot."

3. In reply, the Minister of Railways (Shri Mukul Roy) stated as follows:—

"We can assure this august House that this project will be completed very soon. So, I can assure you that the Gondia-Jabalpur Project will be completed very soon."

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

5. The Ministry of Railways *vide* O.M. No. 2012/W-1/PQL/BS/Genl. 21 dated 11.06.2013 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That Gondia-Jabalpur Gauge conversion and Balaghat Katangi (GC) including Katangi-Tirodi New line project was sanctioned in 1996-97. Gondia-Balaghat section (42 Km) including MOIL siding (42+7 Km) and Balaghat-Katangi section (46.8 Km) of this project has been commissioned on

06.09.2005 and 23.03.2010 respectively. In respect of Balaghat-Nainpur (75.41 Km) section clearance of Ministry of Environment and Forests is still awaited. In respect of Nainpur-Jabalpur section, clearance has been received and earth work is under process. As regards, Katangi-Tirodi new line, Final Location Survey has been completed and Land Acquisition proposals has been submitted. In the Railway Budget 2013-14, Rs. 70 crore has been allotted. It may be observed that project is passing through forest areas and clearance from MoEF is mandatory for acquisition of forest land which is a time consuming process. At present, Ministry of Railways have a huge throw forward of projects and more than 1.5 lakh crore is required to complete these pending projects. Keeping in view the resource crunch being faced by Ministry of Railways, allocation to various projects is minimal and as such completion of these projects take long time and no time-frame can be fixed for completion of this project. In view of the position, brought out above, keeping the Assurance pending till such time, will not serve any fruitful purpose."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 483

ANSWERED ON 10.05.2012

**Survey for Gauge Conversion**

\*483. SHRI PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAO:  
SHRI LAXMAN TUDU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and the present status of the surveys for gauge conversion in the country announced in the last three Rail Budgets, route-wise, zone-wise;

(b) the details of the funds allocated/spent thereon so far, route-wise/zone-wise;

(c) the reasons for the delay in the completion of the pending surveys along with the time frame set for completion of these surveys; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to expedite the completion of pending surveys?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Starred Question No. 483 by Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhao and Shri Laxman Tudu to be answered in Lok Sabha on 10.05.2012 regarding survey for gauge conversion.

(a) & (b) During the last three Budgets, total 7 surveys for gauge conversion of 1147 Km length have been sanctioned, out of which survey for 881 Km have been completed and remaining 266 Km is targeted to be completed by 30.09.2013.

Details & present status of surveys for gauge conversion taken up during last three Railway Budgets are given as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Railway Zone	Length (in KM)	Upto date expenditure (Lakhs)	Outlay 2012-13 (Lakhs)	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Survey Completed						
1.	Ahmedpur-Katwa	Eastern	52	15.60	Nil	Work sanctioned
2.	Lucknow-Lakhimpur-Pilibhit via Sitapur	North Eastern	263	39.60	Nil	Work sanctioned

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Chhindwara-Nainpur to Mandla Fort	South East Central	182	4.20	Nil	Work sanctioned
4.	Nagbhir-Nagpur	South East Central	106	31.8	Nil	Sent to Planning Commission for approval
5.	Ahmedabad-Botad & Dhasa-Jetalsar	Western	278	41.70	Nil	Work sanctioned
Total			881	132.90		
Surveys in Progress						
1.	Katosan-Bahucharaji-Ranuj	Western	76	Nil	0.1	Survey taken up. Targeted to be completed by 30.09.2013
2.	Veraval-Talala-Visavadar (Veraval-Dhasa Jn. via Talala-Visavadar-Khijadia)	Western	190	Nil	0.1	Survey taken up. Targeted to be completed by 30.09.2013
Total			266	0		

(c) & (d) There is no delay in completion of surveys.

## APPENDIX XV

### MEMORANDUM NO. 157

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1907 dated 05 May, 2016 regarding "Coastal Roads Converted into NHs".

On 05 May, 2016, Shrimati Jayshreeben Patel, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1907 to the Minister of Road Transport and Highways. The text of the Question alongwith 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 Road Transport and Highways within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways *vide* O.M. No. H-11016/49/2016-P&M dated 10 June, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the said proposal is being finalized. Thereafter, the proposal would be sent to Cabinet for approval. It is pre-mature to say anything about launching of the said project until the proposal is approved by the Cabinet. Further, on an earlier occasion the similar statement made in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2356 for 10.08.2015 raised by Shri Avinash Rai Khanna has been dropped on the same ground as intimated by Rajya Sabha Secretariat *vide* their letter No. RS.1/236/181/2015-Com. III dated 2nd December, 2015. Hence, on similar grounds, the answer given by this Ministry in the instant case may not be qualified for an Assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:

*ANNEXURE*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1907  
ANSWERED ON 05.05.2016

**Coastal Road Converted into NHs**

1907. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to Starred Question No. 75 dated 3 December, 2015 on "National Highways on Coastline" and to state the further progress made to identify the stretches of coastal roads to be converted into National Highways, State/UT-wise?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): The Government is reviewing the proposed "Bharatmala" programme keeping in view the limited available budgetary resources for ongoing programmes. The investment decision for the proposed "Bharatmala" programme, including development of coastal road connectivity, is yet to be taken.

## APPENDIX XVI

### MEMORANDUM NO. 158

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 904 dated 28 April, 2016 regarding "Religious Places Connected with Highways".

On 28 April, 2016, Shri C.R. Chaudhary, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 904 to the Minister of Road Transport and Highways. The text of the Question alongwith 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 Road Transport and Highways within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways *vide* O.M. No. H-11016/33/2016-P&M (SPZ) dated 13 June, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the said proposal is being finalized. It is pre-mature to say anything about launching of the said project until the proposal is approved by the Cabinet. Further, on an earlier occasion the similar statement made in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2356 for 10.08.2015 raised by Shri Avinash Rai Khanna has been dropped on the same ground as intimated by Rajya Sabha Secretariat *vide* their letter No. RS.I/236/181/2015-Com. III dated 2nd December, 2015. Hence, on similar grounds, the answer given by this Ministry in the instant case may not be qualified for an Assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 904  
ANSWERED ON 28.4.2016

**Religious Places Connected with Highways**

904. SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of religious (pilgrimage) places connected with main roads during last two years by National Highways Authority of India in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the details of financial assistance provided to Rajasthan State;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to connect all religious/ tourist places with roads during current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said plan is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has not been mandated with connecting religious (pilgrimage) places with main roads. However, the National Highways network entrusted to the NHAI are being developed and maintained depending upon the traffic requirement etc.

(c) to (e) The Ministry has taken up detailed review of National Highways (NHs) network with a view to improve the road connectivity *inter-alia* to religious places in consultation with State Governments. However, this project/scheme is yet to be approved.

## APPENDIX XVII

MEMORANDUM NO. 159

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1171 dated 02.05.2016 regarding "Steel Plants".

On 02 May, 2016 Dr. Swami Sakshiji Maharaj, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1171 to the Minister of Steel. 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 Steel within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Steel *vide* O.M. F.No. 2(16)/2016-RM-I dated 23 December, 2016, have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That setting up of Steel Plant at Nagarnar is a long drawn process which involves clearances from various statutory authorities, acquisition of land, selection of agencies/consultants for the project and placement of order for major packages to be pursued in the long term. In addition to above, it is to say that CCEA in its meeting held on 27.10.2016 has approved the disinvestment of NISP."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF STEEL  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1171  
ANSWERED ON 02.05.2016

**Steel Plants**

1171.DR. SWAMI SAKSHIJI MAHARAJ:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the public and private sector steel plants being run in various parts of the country including Uttar Pradesh at present, State/UT-wise;

(b) the estimated number of new steel plants proposed to be set up in the next three years, State/UT-wise:

(c) the details of the physical and financial targets set and achieved by these plants during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to encourage investment and production in Steel Sector?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) The number of the public and private sector steel plants being run in various parts of the country at present State/UT-wise, including Uttar Pradesh are given in the *Annexure*.

(b) & (c) Steel is a de-regulated sector and the role of the Government is limited to that of a facilitator. The decisions to construct new steel plants are essentially taken by the respective companies, based on commercial considerations. However, a new integrated steel plant is being set up by NMDC Limited at Nagarnar, Chhattisgarh. The Government does not set physical and financial targets for the private sector. However, performance evaluation of public sector steel companies is done based on MoU targets.

(d) The Government has taken the following steps to encourage investment and production in Steel Sector:—

(i) In March, 2015, Government notified the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Amendment Act, 2015 to streamline coal block allocations to ensure raw material security to various sectors including steel.

(ii) In March, 2015 Government also notified Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 to streamline grant of Mining Leases in order to maintain sufficient availability of raw materials for the various sectors including steel sector.

- (iii) For ensuring raw material availability, the Government had amended MMDR Act, 2015 & Rules thereunder which provides the provision for allocation of Iron ore to 'specified end use' by the means of competitive bidding through e-auction.
- (iv) For reducing the stress in the steel sector, RBI has extended 5:25 scheme in July, 2015, whereby longer amortization period for loans to projects in infrastructure and core industries sectors, say 25 years, based on the economic life or concession period of the project, with periodic re-financing, say every 5 years, is allowed.
- (v) Government has issued Steel & Steel Products (Quality Control) Orders in March, 2012, and in December, 2015 to ensure that only quality steel is produced/imported in India.

Annexure to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1171 regarding Steel Plants

**PUBLIC SECTOR**

State	No. of Plants
Chhattisgarh	1
West Bengal	3
Odisha	1
Jharkhand	1
Tamil Nadu	1
Karnataka	1
Andhra Pradesh	1
(A) Total Public Sector	9

**PRIVATE SECTOR**

State	Units
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	12
Bihar	42
Jharkhand	132
Meghalaya	12
Odisha	101
Tripura	1
West Bengal	85
Chhattisgarh	68

Dadra and Nagar Haveli	27
State	Units
Daman and Diu	12
Goa	20
Gujarat	60
Madhya Pradesh	15
Maharashtra	74
Chandigarh	3
Delhi	2
Haryana	15
Himachal Pradesh	20
Jammu and Kashmir	8
Punjab	129
Rajasthan	64
Uttar Pradesh	101
Uttarakhand	20
Andhra Pradesh	35
Karnataka	27
Kerala	39
Puducherry	18
Tamil Nadu	111
Telangana	46
(B) Total Private Sector	1300
All Total (A+B)	1309

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

## APPENDIX XVIII

### MEMORANDUM NO. 160

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3979 dated 13.08.2015 regarding "Land Scam".

On 13 August, 2015, Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan and Dr. Kirit Somaiya, MPs, addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3979 to the Minister of Textiles. 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 Textiles within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Textiles *vide* OM F. No. 1/25/2015-NTC dated 05 September, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the reply is not a promise but is a factual piece of information."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:

*ANNEXURE*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3979  
ANSWERED ON 13.08.2015

**Land Scam**

3979. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:  
SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN:  
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether F.I.R. has been lodged in the case of land scam worth Rs. 170 crore in National Textile Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the quantum of loss of exchequer due to this scam;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the persons found guilty in the said land scam?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against few individuals in the matter of transfer of part of the land of Shree Madhusudan Mills to M/s. Hall & Anderson in terms of settlement arrived by National Textile Corporation Limited.

(b) to (d) The matter is under investigation of CBI.

APPENDIX XIX

MEMORANDUM NO. 161

**Subject:** Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1859 dated 05.05.2016, regarding "Management of Inter-State River Basins".

On 05 May, 2016 Shrimati Santosh Ahlawat, Shri Sumedhanand Sarswati and Shri Bahadur Singh Koli, M.Ps. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1859 to the Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. The text of the Question alongwith 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 Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation *vide* O.M. No. H-20011/30/2016-PP dated 04.11.2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the reply, partly produced in the reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 3 (answered on 25.04.2016) had also been treated as an Assurance, *vide* Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs communication dated 11.05.2016. However, later on Rajya Sabha Secretariat, *vide* their O.M. dated 20.07.2016, subsequently informed that it has been decided not to treat the reply of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 3 (answered on 25.04.2016) as Assurance and the Assurance stands deleted from the list of pending Assurances. In view of the above, as the reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 3 mentioned above has not been treated as Assurance, the similar reply given to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1859 (answered on 05.05.2016) may also not be treated as Assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

Dated: 27.06.2017

New Delhi:



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT &  
GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1859

ANSWERED ON 05.05.2016

**Management of Inter-State River Basins**

1859. SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:  
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:  
SHRI BAHADUR SINGH KOLI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference on Jal Manthan was held recently and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is committed to come out with a comprehensive legislation to take care of the management of inter-State river basins of the country in case the States agree over it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION (PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) Yes, Madam. This Ministry organized Jal Manthan-2 on 22-23 February, 2016 at New Delhi with the theme 'Integrated Approach for Sustainable Water Management'. The event was attended by several Ministers and senior officers of the Central and State Governments, representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations, eminent experts in the water sector, etc. During the event, different issues/problems relating to water conservation and management and measures to resolve them were *inter alia* discussed.

(b) & (c) This Ministry had constituted a Drafting Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice T.S. Doabia (Retd.) to study the activities that are required for optimum development of river basin and changes required in the existing River Board Act, 1956 for achievement of the same. The Committee submitted its Report containing the draft River Basin Management Bill in November, 2012. The draft River Basin Management Bill prepared by the Committee has been circulated among all States, Union Territories and related Union Ministries by this Ministry. The salient features of the draft River Basin Management Bill are annexed.

Further, this Ministry has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah on 28.12.2015 to examine the provisions of the draft River Basin Management Bill and suggest changes/modifications therein taking into account *inter alia* the emerging challenges in the water sector, reuse of waste water after treatment, the likely impact of climate change on water resources, importance of river restoration/rejuvenation, water contamination issue, etc.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (b) & (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1859 to be answered on 05.05.2016 regarding "Management of Inter-State River Basins."

SALIENT FEATURES OF DRAFT RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT BILL

- (1) The Draft River Basin Management Bill proposes establishment of separate River Basin Authorities for regulation and development of waters for twelve major inter-State river basins in the country.
- (2) It proposes principles of participation, cooperation, equitable and sustainable management, conjunctive use, integrated management, public trust doctrine and demand management for governing river basin development, management and regulation.
- (3) It proposes a two-tier structure for a River Basin Authority, consisting of a Governing Council comprising, *inter-alia*, of Chief Ministers of riparian States and an Executive Board comprising, *inter-alia*, of Secretaries of riparian States, charged with the technical and implementation powers for the Governing Council decisions.
- (4) It proposes each River Basin Authority should prepare a River Basin Master Plan for the inter-State river basin under its jurisdiction on the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management.
- (5) It proposes that the Governing Council follow persuasion, conciliation and mediation as means to resolve disputes, whenever any dispute or differences arises between two or more State Governments with respect to any recommendation given by the River Basin Authority or the refusal or neglect of any State Government to undertake any measures in pursuance of the River Basin Master Plan or Schemes.
- (6) It provides for referral of dispute(s) for resolution under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, when the Governing Council fails to determine the issue(s) or resolve the water dispute(s) or where the State Governments disagree with the decision tendered by such Governing Council.
- (7) It proposes that the River Basin Authority be empowered to have its own funds and requires them to prepare Annual Report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.
- (8) It proposes that the Central Government may give directions and make Rules for effective implementation of the provisions of the Bill. It also proposes that every River Basin Authority be empowered to make regulations for discharging its powers and functions etc.

**APPENDIX XX**

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES  
(2016-17)

**(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

NINTH SITTING

(30.06.2017)

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1545 hrs. in Room No. 133 (Chairperson's Chamber), Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri Tariq Anwar
5. Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia
6. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
7. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
8. Shri A.T. Nana Patil
9. Shri C.R. Patil
10. 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 took up 25 Memoranda (Memorandum Nos. 137 to 161) containing the requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of pending Assurances. After considering a few Memoranda, the Committee authorised the Hon'ble Chairperson to decide dropping or otherwise of the remaining Memoranda. Thereafter, the Chairperson decided to drop 07 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-I\* and to pursue the remaining 18 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-II for implementation by the Ministry/Department concerned.

The Committee then adjourned.

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\*Not enclosed.

ANNEXURE II

Statement showing Assurances not dropped by the Committee on Government Assurances (2016-2017)  
at their sitting held on 30.06.2017

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question	Ministry/ Department	Subject	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	137	USQ No. 1482 dated 03.05.2016	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution)	Food Scam	The request of the Ministry for dropping of the Assurance cannot be accepted simply for the reason that the same is not likely to be fulfilled in near future as the investigation process and final action taken thereon may take considerable amount of time. The Committee therefore, desire that the Ministry should impress upon all the police authorities concerned to expedite the investigation in FIR No. 156 dated 16.11.2015 and FIR No. 0118 dated 18.03.2016. Further, the Ministry may also request the Court at Naraingarh and expedite the pending case before them for final adjudication. The Committee would like to the apprised of the progress made in all the aforesaid cases.
2.	138	USQ No. 1932 dated 05.05.2016	Coal	Scam regarding Jobs Against Land	According to the Ministry, completion of CBI investigation is a time consuming process before any conclusion is arrived at and the Assurance can be fulfilled only thereafter and therefore, the Ministry has requested that Assurance be dropped. The Committee are of firm view that an Assurance cannot be dropped merely on such grounds. The Committee therefore, desire that the case

may be vigorously pursued with CBI till its logical conclusion. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in the matter.

3. 140 USQ No. 4493 dated 08.08.2014 Defence (Department of Defence) Cases of Irregularities in Defence Sector  
 It is the prerogative of the Committee to treat a particular reply as Assurance and the Ministry cannot question the wisdom of the Committee as to what constitutes an Assurance. The Committee, therefore, desire that the required details and status etc. of the cases under reference may be furnished to them without further delay.

4. 141 USQ No. 2299 dated 06.05.2016 Defence (Department of Defence Production) Offset Obligations for Defence Contracts  
 The contention of the Ministry that the reply does not appear to be a case of Assurance is not tenable. It is the prerogative of the Committee to treat a particular reply as an Assurance. The Committee regret to note that even after lapse of more than one year, the details of offset contract are yet to be finalised. The Committee, therefore, desire that coordinated efforts be made to expedite the contract so that the Assurance is implemented without further delay.

5. 142 USQ No. 1958 dated 05.05.2016 Drinking Water and Sanitation Defunct Toilets  
 The Committee find that in sum and substance the Assurance has been fulfilled. The Committee would urge upon the Ministry to lay the requisite Implementation Report detailing the work done by the Expert Committee under Dr. R.A. Mashelkar especially on the issue of

6.	145	USQ No. 2845 dated 29.08.2012	Finance (Department of Revenue)	Customs Intelligence Units	<p>examining new innovations and technologies on solid waste management.</p> <p>The Committee cannot accede to the request of the Ministry for dropping of the Assurance since an Assurance cannot be dropped merely on the ground that setting up of coin units is time consuming process and may take some time for deciding about feasibility of the Units in various countries. The Committee would like with the Ministry to coordinate with all concerned including the Ministry of External Affairs to expedite feasibility of setting up of COIN Units in various countries and the Assurance be implemented without further delay.</p>
7.	147	*USQ No. 386 dated 27.07.2010	Information and Broadcasting	Paid News	<p>The Committee do not see any justification for dropping of the Assurance merely on the ground that no time limit has been defined to amend the Representation of People Act, 1951 and finalization of draft Press and Registration of Books and Publications (PRBP) Bill and considerable time is required for the said process. The Ministry needs to pursue the matter vigorously with all the stakeholders including the Press Council of India and the Law Commission of India at the highest level so as to expedite the requisite process of amending the Representation of People Act, 1957 and the Press Council Act, 1978 with a view to checking the menace of paid news and consequently Assurance be fulfilled without further delay.</p>
		*USQ No. 214 dated 09.11.2010		Paid News	
		*USQ No. 948 dated 16.07.2014		Paid News	

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	148	USQ No. 2229 dated 06.05.2016	Information and Broadcasting	Revamping of PIB	The reason cited by the Ministry for dropping of the Assurance that the answer given by them in response to a similar Question raised in Rajya Sabha has not been treated as an Assurance by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat is not a valid ground for dropping the Assurance by the Committee. The Committee, therefore, cannot accede to the request of the Ministry for dropping of the Assurance. The Committee expect the Ministry to take expeditiously an appropriate decision on the proposal to merge various media units of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) in order to fulfill the Assurance without further delay.
9.	150 @	USQ No. 3759 dated 19.03.2015	New and Renewable Energy	Hydrogen Fuel Cells	Considering the importance of the proposed Centre of Excellence for Hydrogen Energy and Fuel Cells in the development and promotion of clean energy in the country, the Committee would like to examine the reasons given by the Ministry for rejecting the proposal of the Indian Oil Corporation for setting up of the Centre and the relevant study report of the Ministry in this regard.
10.	152 @	USQ No. 3022 dated 17.12.2015	Power	Mazdoors of Electricity Department	The Ministry of Power, being the nodal Ministry, are required to ensure implementation of the Assurance in coordination with the Administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The contention of the Ministry that USQ No. 1986 dated 05.05.2016 on the same subject had long been dropped is factually not correct.



11.	153	USQ No. 109 dated 03.03.2016	Power	Effective Implementation of Electricity Act, 2003	An Assurance cannot be dropped merely on the ground that its implementation would require more time. The Ministry needs to expedite the process of amendment in the Electricity (Amendment) Bill Act, 2014 in coordination with all stakeholders without further delay in order to fulfill the Assurance.
12.	155	USQ No. 83 dated 02.03.2016 (Supplementary by Shri Dharmendra Yadav, M.P.)	Railways	Railway Development Fund	The Assurance cannot be dropped simply on the ground that no time-frame for setting up of the Railways of India Development Fund (RIDF) can be given. The Ministry needs to coordinate and pursue the matter vigorously with all the Ministries/Departments/Agencies/Organizations and regulatory bodies concerned to expedite setting up of RIDF and implementation of the Assurance.
13.	156	SQ No. 483 dated 10.05.2012 (Supplementary by Shri Sharad Yadav M.P.)	Railways	Survey for Gauge Conversion	The request of the Ministry for dropping of the Assurance on the ground that railway gauge conversion projects take long time and no time-frame can be fixed for completion of Gondia-Jabalpur Gauge conversion project is untenable. The Committee expect the Ministry to adopt a pro-active approach and make earnest efforts to expedite completion of the project in coordination with all the stakeholders including the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change so as to fulfil the Assurance.
14.	157	USQ No. 1907 dated 05.05.2016	Road Transport and Highways	Coastal Roads Converted into NHs	According to the Ministry, it is premature to say anything about launching of the project until the proposal is approved by the Cabinet. Citing the decision of the Raja Sabha Secretariat to drop the Assurance on the

same ground by Ministry have claimed that the answer given by them may not be qualified as Assurance. However, the Committee are not concerned with the reasons given by the Ministry. The Committee find that the proposal concerned 'Bharatmala' programme including development of coastal road connectivity is being finalised. The Committee desire that the Ministry should step up their efforts so as to expedite the proposed project in order to fulfil the Assurance without further delay.

According to the Ministry, it is premature to say anything about landing of the project until the proposal is approved by the Cabinet. Citing the decision of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat to drop the Assurance on the same ground, the Ministry have claimed that the answer given by them may not be qualified as Assurance. However, the Committee are not concerned with the reasons given by the Ministry. The Committee find that the project/scheme for improving the road connectivity *inter alia* to religious places is being finalised. The Committee expect the Ministry to scale up their efforts to expedite the approval of the project scheme with a view to fulfilling approval of the project scheme with a view to fulfilling the Assurance.

The Committee would like to be apprised of the reasons for the decision to disinvest NISP even as the proposal

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|-----|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 15. | 158 | USQ No. 904 dated 28.04.2016  | Road Transport and Highways | Religious Places connected with Highways |
| 16. | 159 | USQ No. 1171 dated 02.05.2016 | Steel                       | Steel Plants                             |

for setting up of a new integrated steel plant at Nagarnar, Chhattisgarh is still pending. The Committee also desire the Ministry to furnish the correlation between the two decisions of the Government.

It is the prerogative of the Committee to treat a particular reply as an Assurance and the Ministry cannot question the wisdom of the Committee as to what constitutes an Assurance. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress of CBI investigation into case. The Committee expect the Ministry to coordinate with CBI and pursue the case vigorously for expeditious completion of CBI investigation and implementation of the Assurance.

The reason cited by the Ministry for dropping of the Assurance that the same answer given by them in response to a similar Question raised in Rajya Sabha has not been treated as an Assurance by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, is not a valid ground for dropping the Assurance by the Committee as requested by the Ministry. The Ministry needs to monitor and expedite the report of Dr. Mihir Shah Committee constituted for examination of draft River Basin Management Bill and its suggestion for changes/modification therein so that the Assurance on the same may be implemented at the earliest.

17. 160 USQ No. 3979  
dated 13.08.2015

Textiles

Land Seam

18. 161 USQ No. 1859  
dated 05.05.2016

Water Resources,  
River Development  
and Ganga  
Rejuvenation

Management  
of Inter-State  
River Basins

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\*Implementation Reports laid on 08.08.2017.  
@Implementation Reports laid on 22.2.2017.

## APPENDIX XXI

### MINUTES

### THIRD SITTING

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

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1545 hours on Tuesday, 02nd January, 2018.

#### PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

#### MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri Naran Bhai Kachhadia
5. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
6. Shri C.R. Patil
7. 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 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 Industries).
- (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 71st Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Acceded to).

(vi) Draft 72nd 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.*