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

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

SEVENTY-FIFTH REPORT

REVIEW OF PENDING ASSURANCES
PERTAINING TO THE MINISTRY
OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 5 April, 2018)



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 2018/Chaitra, 1940 (Saka)

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NEW DELHI

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2017-2018)	(iii)
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2016-2017)	(v)
INTRODUCTION	(vii)
REPORT	
I. Introductory	1
II. Review of Pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)	4
III. Implementation Reports	9
APPENDICES	
I. USQ No. 3411 dated 23.12.2008 regarding 'Wheat Import Scam' ...	10
II. USQ No. 608 dated 09.12.2013 regarding 'National Policy on Rubber.'	11
III. USQ No. 1810 dated 16.12.2013 regarding 'Export of Hi-Tech Products'	12
IV. USQ No. 1237 dated 18.07.2014 regarding 'Development of Domestic Retail Business'	14
V. USQ No. 1013 dated 28.11.2014 regarding 'DGTR'	15
VI. USQ No. 892 dated 27.02.2015 regarding 'Duty on Import of Cotton'	16
VII. USQ No. 5104 dated 24.04.2015 regarding 'Amendment in Tea Act'	17
VIII. USQ No. 5162 dated 24.04.2015 regarding 'National Offset Policy' ...	18
IX. USQ No. 1927 dated 31.07.2015 regarding 'Ordinance for restricting Extension of Tea Garden'	19
X. USQ No. 3021 dated 07.08.2015 regarding 'Expert Committee in Rubber Sector'	20
XI. USQ No. 2388 dated 14.12.2015 regarding 'Anti-Dumping Probe against Dry Cell Battery Imports'	22
XII. USQ No. 111 dated 25.04.2016 regarding 'Misuse of Export Promotion Schemes'	23
XIII. Special Mention dated 27.04.2016 (Shri Rangaswamy Dhruva- Narayana, M.P.) regarding 'Tobacco Farming'	24
XIV. USQ No. 1262 dated 02.05.2016 regarding 'Problem faced by Tea Industry'	28
XV. USQ No. 1317 dated 02.05.2016 regarding 'Review of Performance of DGFT'	30

(ii)

	PAGE
XVI. USQ No. 2346 dated 09.05.2016 regarding 'FTA Between India and Australia'	31
XVII. SQ No. 103 dated 25.07.2016 (Supplementary by Shri Prathap Simha, M.P.) regarding 'Enactment of New Act on Coffee' ...	32
XVIII. SQ No. 104 dated 25.07.2016 (Supplementary by Shri Ramen Deka, M.P.) regarding 'Small Tea Growers'	34
XIX. USQ No. 2417 dated 01.08.2016 regarding 'Agricultural Trade with Foreign Countries'	40
XX. USQ No. 3484 dated 08.08.2016 regarding 'Liberalised Visa Policy to Boost Trade'	42
XXI. USQ No. 3577 dated 08.08.2016 regarding 'Grants provided to Traders'	43
XXII. Extracts from Manual of Practice and Procedure in the Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, New Delhi	45

ANNEXURES

I. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee (2016-17) held on 06 April, 2017	49
II. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee (2017-18) held on 04 April, 2018	54

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 E.T. Mohammed Basheer
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> |

* 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.

** Nominated to the Committee *Vide* Para No. 6261 of Lok Sabha Bulletin—Part II dated 08 January, 2018 *Vice* Shri P.K. Kunhalikutty resigned on 02 January, 2018.

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

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank” — *Chairperson*

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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

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Shri R.S. Kambo | — | <i>Additional Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri P.C. Tripathy | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 3. Shri S.L. Singh | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

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

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

INTRODUCTION

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

2. The Committee (2016-2017) at their sitting held on 06 April, 2017 took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) regarding pending Assurances from the 14th Session of the 14th Lok Sabha to the 09th of Session of the 16th Lok Sabha.

3. At their sitting held on 04 April 2018, the Committee (2017-2018) considered and adopted their Seventy-Fifth Report.

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

5. For facility reference at and convenience, the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

NEW DELHI;
04 April, 2018
14 Chaitra, 1940 (Saka)

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

REPORT

I. Introductory

The Committee on Government Assurances scrutinize the Assurances, promises, undertakings etc., given by the Ministers from time to time on the floor of the House and report the extent to which such Assurances, promises, undertakings have been implemented. Once an Assurance has been given on the floor of the House, the same is required to be implemented within a period of three months. The Ministries/ Departments of Government of India are under obligation to seek extension of time required beyond the prescribed period for fulfillment of the Assurance. Where a Ministry/Department are unable to implement an Assurance, that Ministry/Department are bound to request the Committee for dropping it. The Committee consider such requests and approve dropping, in case, they are convinced that grounds cited are justified. The Committee also examine whether the implementation of Assurances has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose and the extent to which the Assurances have been implemented.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2009-10) took a policy decision to call the representatives of the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, in a phased manner, to review the pending Assurances, examine the reasons for pendency and analyze operation of the system prescribed in the Ministries/ Departments for dealing with Assurances. The Committee also decided to consider the quality of Assurances Implemented by the Government.

3. The Committee on Government Assurances (2014-2015) decided to follow the well established and time tested procedure of calling the representatives of the Ministries/Departments of Government of India, in a phased manner and review the pending Assurances. The Committee took a step further and decided to call the representatives of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs also as all the Assurances are implemented through them.

4. In pursuance of the *Ibid* decision, the Committee on Government Assurances (2016-2017) invited representatives of the Ministry of Commerce (Department of Commerce) and the representatives of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to render clarification with respect to delay in implementation of the 21 Assurances given during the period from the 14th Session of the 14th Lok Sabha to the 9th Session of the 16th Lok Sabha (Appendices-I to XXI).

5. However, due to paucity of time, the Committee could examine in detail only the following 09 Assurances pertaining to the Ministry at their sitting held on 06 April, 2017:—

Sl.No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
1.	USQ No. 3411 dated 23.12.2008	Wheat Import Scam (Appendix-I)
2.	USQ No. 608 dated 09.12.2013	National Policy on Rubber (Appendix-II)
3.	USQ No. 1810 dated 16.12.2013	Export of Hi-Tech Products (Appendix-III)
4.	USQ No. 1237 dated 18.07.2014	Development of Domestic Retail Business (Appendix-IV)
5.	USQ No. 1013 dated 28.11.2014	DGTR (Appendix-V)
6.	USQ No. 892 dated 27.02.2015	Duty on Import of Cotton (Appendix-VI)
7.	USQ No. 5104 dated 24.04.2015	Amendment in Tea Act (Appendix-VII)
8.	USQ No. 5162 dated 24.04.2015	National Offset Policy (Appendix-VIII)
9.	USQ No. 1927 dated 31.07.2015	Ordinance for restricting Extension of Tea Garden (Appendix-IX)

6. The Extracts from Manual of Practice and Procedure in the Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs laying guidelines on the definition of an Assurance, the time limit for its fulfillment, dropping/deletion and extension, the procedure for fulfillment etc., besides maintenance of Register of Assurances and periodical reviews to minimize delays in implementation of the Assurances are reproduced at Appendix-XXII.

7. During oral evidence, the Committee while drawing the attention of the representatives of the Ministry to the long pendency in the fulfillment of the

21 Assurances enquired about the mechanism for reviewing the pending Assurances in the Department. The Secretary, Department of Commerce informed that every Monday, a meeting of senior officers takes place in the Department to review the progress made in the fulfilment of the Assurances and the discussions are also held on how to fulfil these Assurances. The Department further informed that last year they were able to dispose of a lot of Assurances as a result of a campaign undertaken at Secretary level.

8. The Secretary submitted during evidence that out of the 21 pending Assurances taken up for oral evidence, 04 Assurances mentioned at Appendices III, XVII, XVIII and XIX have been brought to the notice of the Department for the very first time.

9. However, the representative of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs clarified that the Lok Sabha Secretariat wrote to the Department about the abovementioned four Assurances and endorsed the copy thereof to them. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs themselves had also sent the requisite official communication in respect of these four Assurances twice to the Department of Commerce. As per the Committee's record, Lok Sabha Secretariat had sent official written Communication about the Assurances in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

10. Subsequently, Implementation Reports in respect of the Assurances mentioned at Appendices No. XII and XIV have since been laid on 06.04.2017 and those of the Assurances mentioned at Appendices No. II, III, IV, VI, VII, X, XI, XVIII and XX on 08.08.2017. The Implementation Reports of the two Assurances mentioned at Appendix XIII and XV have also been laid on 22.12.2017 while the two Assurances mentioned at Appendix VIII and XVI have since been dropped by the Committee 15.05.2017.

Observations/Recommendations

11. The Committee note that out of 21 Assurances given by the Department of Commerce during the period from the 14th Session of the 14th Lok Sabha to the 9th Session of the 16th Lok Sabha and taken up by them at their sitting held on 06 April, 2017, 13 Assurances have since been implemented after a lapse of about 01 year to 4 years and two Assurances dropped while the remaining 6 Assurances are still pending for implementation even after delays ranging from one year and seven months to more than 09 years. The inordinate delay in fulfilment of the Assurances not only indicates lackadaisical attitude of the Department in undertaking proper follow-up action once an Assurance has been made but also proves that the weekly meetings conducted by the Department to review implementation of the Assurance are ineffective. Since the utility and relevance of an Assurance are lost due to delay in its fulfilment, the Committee desire that the Ministry should conduct these review meetings more professionally and discuss threadbare the challenges/problems in implementation of Assurances with a view to finding solutions to expedite fulfilment of the pending Assurances. Furthermore, the Committee took strong exception to the contention of the Secretary, Department of Commerce during the oral evidence that the four Assurances mentioned at Appendices III, XVII, XVIII and XIX had been brought to their notice for the first

time. While the fact of the matter is that both the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs had sent official written communications about these four Assurances in the years 2014, 2015 and 2016. Deeply concerned over the matter, the Committee desire that the Department of Commerce should investigate the matter without delay to plug the loopholes and furnish a detailed report in this regard. The Committee observe that lack of co-ordination between the Department of Commerce and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the nodal Ministry is the major reason behind delays and lapses in the fulfilment of the pending Assurances pertaining to the Department. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department of Commerce should adopt a pro-active approach, sensitize their officials concerned about the importance of the Parliamentary Assurances and enhance the level of co-ordination with other Ministries/Departments concerned, especially the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for early/timely implementation of all the pending Assurances.

II. Review of Pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce).

12. In the succeeding paragraphs, the Committee deal with some of the pending Assurances critically examined by them.

A. *Wheat Import Scam*

13. In reply to USQ No. 3411 dated 23.12.2008 regarding 'Wheat Import Scam' (Appendix-I), it was stated that further status of the ongoing investigation in the wheat import scam involving the offices of State Trading Corporation has not been intimated to STC by CBI so far.

14. The Department of Commerce in their Status Note furnished in April, 2017 explained the position with regard to fulfilment of the Assurance as follows:—

“The matter relates to import of 2 million MT of wheat by STC for delivery to Public Distribution System on Government account in January and February, 1998. The tenders were floated by STC and contract was finalised with the Australian Wheat Board. Australian wheat was found acceptable in terms of Prevention of Food Adulteration norms, other quality parameters and pricewise competitive. Various allegations were made about this deal right from the decision of the Government to import upto conclusion of the contract by STC CBI on the basis of preliminary enquiry, registered a regular case on allegations of connivance and various acts of commission/omission in procurement of wheat from Australian Wheat Board in 1998. Subsequently, in 2004, CBI informed that the subject case had been closed for lack of evidence particularly on account of non-cooperation from concerned Australian Authorities and the closure report was filed in the Court and the same was accepted. However, in July, 2008, CBI informed that further investigation in the case has commenced, CBI on 26.02.2013 had informed that the domestic investigation in the case has been completed. During investigation, Letter Rogatories (LRs) and Supplementary LRs were issued to various countries for collecting additional evidence. STC has forwarded a copy

of CBI letter dated 17.03.2017 which states that the case is pending further investigation for want of execution of LRs w.e.f 01.12.2010. Accordingly, Lok Sabha Secretariat has been requested for placing the request before the Committee of Assurance for dropping the Assurance since the matter is still under investigation and is beyond the purview of this Department and no time line can be predicted for fulfilment of the Assurance.”

15. Briefing on the CBI investigation during oral evidence, the Secretary, Department of Commerce deposed before the Committee as under:—

“Wheat Import Scam case started in 1998 and was given to CBI for investigation. In 2004, CBI informed that the subject case had been closed. However, in 2008 CBI informed that further investigation in the case has commenced. After that the Department sent various references to CBI to know the status of the case. The Assurance remained pending because it's subject matter was ongoing in nature. But now we have received the reply from the CBI and we'll send the Implementation Report soon.”

16. The Committee wondered as to whether the CBI can reopen a case on its own without informing the Department concerned and asked as to whether the CBI informed the Department in advance about the reopening of the case. The Secretary, Department The Commerce elucidated as under:—

“The allegations were made not only against our Department but also against Cabinet Secretariat, Department of Food, STC and FCI Procurement was done by STC. However, the decision to import essential commodities was taken by a Committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. This procurement was in this regard only. As the complaints were serious, we sent reference directly to the CBI in 1998. After that, the CBI gave a Report to the Cabinet Secretary in 2004 that due to lack of evidence they are closing the case for now. The Closure Report was given before the Special Judge in January, 2004. The process to reopen the case was not initiated from our side.”

17. Replying to a related query, another representative of the Department submitted as under:—

“CBI, in their letter have informed that the domestic investigation has been completed. They asked for help from other countries. In that regard, they are yet to receive proper response.”

Observations/Recommendations

18. The Committee are concerned to note that the Assurance given in reply to USQ No. 3411 dated 23.12.2008 regarding “Wheat Import Scam” still remains to be fulfilled even after a lapse of more than 9 years. The Committee were informed that the scam was unearthed in the year 1998 and was given to CBI for investigation. Subsequently, in 2004, CBI informed that the subject case has been closed. However, in July, 2008, CBI again informed the Department that further investigation in the case has commenced. Around this time the Department requested the Committee for dropping of the Assurance on the

ground that the matter was ongoing in nature and was under investigation by the CBI which was beyond the purview of the Department. The Committee were further informed that in March, 2017 CBI stated that the case is pending for further investigation for want of execution of Letter Rogatories. This chain of events exposes the lack of coordination between the Department and CBI. The Committee understand that such matters, especially those involving foreign countries, take much time but at the same time they feel that the need to ensure accountability in the matter is paramount so that the country's overall interest is protected. Moreover, an Assurance cannot be dropped just because CBI investigation into the matter would take a considerable time. Observing that the action in the matter is in progress, the Committee desire that the Department furnish a Part Implementation Report detailing the action taken and progress made in the matter. The Committee further desire that the Department should coordinate and pursue the matter vigorously with the CBI for expediting the investigation so that the Assurance is fulfilled at the earliest.

B. Directorate General of Trade Remedies

19. In reply to USQ No. 1013 dated 28.11.2014 regarding 'DGTR' (Appendix - V), it was stated that the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) is yet to be constituted.

20. However, the Department of Commerce in their Status Note furnished in April 2017 stated as under:—

“With the approval of Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister, it was decided that the reply given does not constitute an Assurance. Therefore, Lok Sabha Secretariat has been requested to delete the said Assurance from the list of pending Parliamentary Assurances. Further, proposal for transformation of DGAD into DGTR is under consideration.”

21. During oral evidence, the representative of the Department of Commerce elaborated the position with regard to the Assurance as under:—

“The Department was of the view that it doesn't constitute an Assurance. Hence in March, 2015 we took approval of the Minister and requested the Committee for dropping the Assurance.”

22. When the Committee conveyed that the said request of the Department was considered by the Committee and after much consideration it was decided not to accede to the request of the Department, the representative of the Department responded as under:—

“We will send the Implementation Report”

Observations/Recommendations

23. The Committee cannot accept the contention of the Department that the reply to USQ No. 1013 dated 29.11.2014 does not constitute an Assurance as the reply primarily expresses that the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) is yet to be constituted and the Department are bound to complete the

process. Moreover, it is the prerogative of the Committee to treat a reply as an Assurance or otherwise and once an Assurance is given, it is incumbent upon the Ministry to fulfil it. The Committee, therefore, had decided not to accede to the request of the Department for dropping the Assurance. The Committee were then informed that the proposal for transformation of DGAD into DGTR is under consideration. The Committee find that the constitution of Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) is a mere redesignation of the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) with full staff strength which should not take such a long time of more than three years to arrive at a decision. Furthermore, the main function of the Department is to take anti-dumping and countervailing (anti-subsidy) measure with the basic intent to eliminate injury caused to the domestic industry by the unfair trade practices of dumping and subsidization and to create a level playing field for the domestic industries by re-establishing a situation of open and fair competition in the Indian market. Such a crucial factor for promoting Indian industries, especially in the era of Make in India initiative, cannot be overlooked. While deplaring the Department for unnecessarily questioning the wisdom of the Committee as to what constitutes an Assurance instead of making concerted efforts to fulfill the Assurance, the Committee desire that the Department should pursue the matter in right earnest till its logical conclusion and implement the Assurance without further delay.

C. Ordinance for Restricting Extensions of Tea Garden

24. In reply to USQ No. 1927 dated 31.07.2015 regarding 'Ordinance for Restricting Extension of Tea Garden' (Appendix-IX), it was stated that the Government of West Bengal has prohibited through an order issued on 23rd July, 2001 further development of tea nursery and tea plantation in new areas in North Bengal with effect from 30th June, 2001. Under the provisions of Tea Act 1953, all the tea growers need to be registered with Tea Board after obtaining "No Objection Certificate" from the concerned State Government. In the absence of No Objection Certificate from Government of West Bengal, Tea Board is unable to register the small growers who have planted tea after 2001. Following the prohibition, the benefits of various subsidy schemes of the Tea Board could not be extended to these small growers. About 20,000 small growers in North Bengal are reported to be affected due to this development. The Central Government has taken up the matter of prohibition of expansion of area of tea nursery and tea plantation in West Bengal with the State Government in July, 2015. The reply from the State Government has not been received.

25. In their Status Note furnished in April, 2017, the Department apprised the position on with regard to implementation or otherwise of the Assurance as under :—

“The fulfilment statement submitted in this regard has been treated as 'partially implemented by the Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha. The matter is being taken up with the State Government of West Bengal so as to submit a full Implementation Report.”

26. When the Assurance was taken up during evidence, the representative of the Department of Commerce further explained the position as under:—

“The issue is that the State Government of West Bengal has prohibited further development of tea plantation w.e.f. 2001. We took up the matter with the State Government of West Bengal. We have been writing to them time and again. Communication has been sent from the Hon'ble Minister to the Chief Minister. Commerce Secretary has also written to the Chief Secretary. I have personally spoken to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Industry Department and he has told me that a Group of Ministers was constituted to deliberate on the issue and they have communicated that a decision on the matter will soon be taken because the benefits of various schemes could not be extended to small growers. We will get the information about the decision of the State Government and thereafter we'll submit the Implementation Report.”

27. The Committee pointed out that the subject matter was discussed earlier also during its study visit to Darjeeling, West Bengal and at that time the Department informed that the work will get done within days. To this, the Secretary, Department of Commerce responded during evidence as under:—

“Due to the decision of the West Bengal State Government, in spite of having a scheme, we are not able to help small agriculturists. We have pursued the matter but things which come under the purview of State Government are very difficult to comply.”

28. When the Committee specifically pointed out that the Department need to pursue the matter vigorously with the State Government since more than 2 lakh people are getting affected due to this issue, the Secretary, Department of Commerce replied as under:—

"Its been 17 years. This policy of West Bengal State Government is of 2001. We are still waiting for final completion. We are following the case on regular basis. Whenever our Hon'ble Minister goes there, this issue is raised. Hopefully now the decision will arrive. I have written a letter on 23.03.2017 and I will again write to them in April, 2017.”

Observations/Recommendations

29. The Committee note that the subject matter of the Assurance relates to an order of the State Government of West Bengal issued on 23.07.2001 prohibiting expansion of area of tea nursery and tea plantation in new areas of North Bengal w.e.f. 30 June, 2001. Following the prohibition, the benefits of various schemes of Tea Board could not be extended to small growers and thousands of small growers in North Bengal are reported to be affected due to this development. The Department of Commerce informed that the Assurance is deemed to have been fulfilled as they have taken up the matter with the State Government of West Bengal several times for reconsideration and review of its orders and since it is the State Government which has to take decision as per its own laws and policies, no further action from the Union Government is envisaged. The Committee were informed that a reply has

recently been received by the Department from the State Government stating that a decision on the matter will soon be arrived at. The Committee were assured that as soon as a decision is received from the State Government, the Department will complete the Assurance. However, the same is still awaited. The Committee feel that subject matter of the Assurance requires careful consideration as it is affecting thousands of small tea growers of West Bengal and the Department cannot wash their hands off totally. Even if it is primarily a State matter, the Ministry needs to pursue the matter vigorously with the the State Government of West Bengal at the highest level with full might for expediting reconsideration and review of the State Government's order in the overall interest of the country's tea industry so that the Assurance can be fulfilled at the earliest and the benefits of various subsidy schemes of the Tea Board can be extended to the small tea growers of North Bengal.

III. Implementation Reports

30. As per the statements of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Implementation Reports in respect of the Assurances given in reply to the following SQ/USQs have since been laid on the Table of the House on the dates as mentioned against each :—

Appendix II	USQ No. 608 dated 09.12.2013	08.08.2017
Appendix III	USQ No. 1810 dated 16.12.2013	08.08.2017
Appendix IV	USQ No. 1237 dated 18.07.2014	08.08.2017
Appendix VI	USQ No. 892 dated 27.02.2015	08.08.2017
Appendix VII	USQ No. 5104 dated 24.04.2015	08.08.2017
Appendix X	USQ No. 3021 dated 07.08.2015	08.08.2017
Appendix XI	USQ No. 2388 dated 14.12.2015	08.08.2017
Appendix XII	USQ No. 111 dated 25.04.2016	06.04.2017
Appendix XIII	Special Mention dated 27.04.2016	22.12.2017
Appendix XIV	USQ No. 1262 dated 02.05.2016	06.04.2017
Appendix XV	USQ No. 1317 dated 02.05.2016	22.12.2017
Appendix XVIII	SQ No. 104 dated 25.07.2016	08.08.2017
Appendix XX	USQ No. 3484 dated 08.08.2016	08.08.2017

NEW DELHI;
04 April, 2018
14 Chaitra, 1940 (Saka)

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

APPENDIX I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3411
ANSWERED ON 23.12.2008

Wheat Import Scam

3411. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

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

(a) whether wheat import scam involving the officers of State Trading Corporation has come to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter is being investigated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action being taken against such persons?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) (b), (c) & (d) CBI on the basis of preliminary enquiry, registered a regular case on the allegations that certain officers of the Cabinet Secretariat, Department of Food, STC, FCI connived together and in pursuance of the same did various acts of commission/omission in procurement of 2 million MT of wheat from Australian Wheat Board during the year 1998. This Department had furnished the bio-data of Dr. S.M. Dewan, the CMD, STC, as sought by CBI in this regard. Later, in a note submitted to the Cabinet Secretary on the result of the investigation, CBI has stated that for want of conclusive evidence against the accused persons, a closure report was filed in the court of Special Judge, Delhi, on 3.1.2004 and the Court after due consideration accepted the same on 17.01.2004. In July, 2008 CBI have requisitioned certain documents/files from STC, returned by them, relating to the above case stating that further investigations in the matter has now commenced. Further status of the ongoing investigation has not been intimated to STC by CBI so far.

APPENDIX II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 608
ANSWERED ON 9.12.2013

National Policy on Rubber

608. SHRIA. GANESHAMURTHI:

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

(a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost rubber production and rubber industry in the country;

(b) whether the Government is considering formulation of a National Rubber Policy on the lines of national policies of petroleum, textiles and information technology;

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

(d) whether the Government has solicited the opinion/suggestions and held consultations with the various stakeholders for providing inputs for the said policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said policy is likely to be introduced and implemented?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) Several programmes covering research, extension and provision of financial assistance were implemented during 11th Five Year Plan to increase rubber production through new planting, replanting of uneconomic plantations and productivity enhancement. During 11th plan, Rubber Board extended financial assistance for planting rubber in 90,132 ha. These programmes have been continued during 2012-13 and 2013-14, pending the approval of 12th plan proposals. During 2012-13, financial assistance was extended to 19,826 ha. for planting rubber. Rubber Board also provides technical consultancy and training for rubber products manufacturing.

(b) to (e) The Government is considering formulation of a rubber policy after taking the views of all stakeholders.

APPENDIX III

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1810
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2013

Export of Hi-Tech Products

1810. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

Will the Ministry of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to examine the export potential of various States in the country including Jharkhand and if so, the details thereof along with the contributions made by each State in the total export from the country;

(b) the details of exportable items identified from each State including the quantity of the such items exported and foreign exchange earned during the last three years;

(c) the number of products that come under the focus market scheme and special focus market scheme;

(d) whether the domestically manufactured hi-tech products are not able to compete in the international markets and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of hi-tech products from the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) Recently, the IIM, Kozhikode has done a study on the export potential of the four southern States while IIM, Shillong has done a similar study for the eight States in the North-East. The recommendations made in these studies are under examination. A study has been conducted, on infrastructure Bottlenecks in industrial Clusters, emerging ports and airports by Federation of Indian Export Organisation, while another study on India's Infrastructure needs by 2014 & 2020 has also been conducted by the same organization. Separately, different Export Promotion Councils also get studies undertaken by Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), no specific study has been conducted to examine the export potential of Jharkhand.

(b) Data on details of exportable items identified from each State including the quantity of such items exported and foreign exchange earned is not being maintained.

(c) Export of all products to Focus Market countries and Special Focus market countries except ineligible category mentioned at para 3.14.3 of FTP (2009-14), are

entitled for benefit under the scheme. Presently 125 countries are under Focus Market Scheme (FMS) and 50 countries are under Special Focus Market Scheme (Special FMS).

(d) The domestically manufactured hi-tech products find it difficult to compete in the international market as there are many disability factors such as the domestic IT hardware manufacturing sector was the first sector hit by the zero customs duty regime, as a result of implementation of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1). Accordingly, the customs duty on the specified 217 tariff lines was reduced to zero% in a phased manner and *w.e.f.* 2005, the entire 217 tariff lines are at zero% basic customs duty; India has entered into Free Trade Agreement (FTA)/Preferential Trading Agreement (PTA) with a number of countries/trading blocks and more agreements are under negotiation, wherein import of electronics hardware from these countries shall be at a preferential rate of duty, which is lower than the normal tariff rate and there are a number of other disability factors such as high level of taxation; high cost of power, finance & freight; inadequate infrastructure; high transaction cost, lack of supply chain etc. which render, indigenous electronics hardware manufacturing uncompetitive and discourage capital intensive and large level of investments.

(e) Government has notified the National Policy on Electronics (NPE) 2012 to promote the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector in the country. The Policy envisions creating a globally competitive ESDM industry to meet the country's needs and serve the international market. Further the following schemes are also aimed towards boosting the export of hi-tech telecom products from the country:

(i) Focus Market Schemes (FMSs); (ii) Focus Products Schemes (FPS); (iii) Market Linked Focus Product Scrip (MLFPS); (iv) Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS); (v) Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme; and (vi) Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme.

APPENDIX IV

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1237
ANSWERED ON 18.07.2014

Development of Domestic Retail Business

1237. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

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

(a) the Government proposes to frame the National Trade Policy for developing the domestic retail business in the country;

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

(c) whether the size and nature of the retail trade in the country has undergone a major shift during the last few years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for strengthening and developing domestic retail business in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be Laid on the Table of the House.

APPENDIX V

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1013
ANSWERED ON 28.11.2014

DGTR

1013. SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:

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

(a) whether the setting up of a Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has provided a level playing field to the industry and exporters, enabling them to effectively compete against the Imported goods in the domestic market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) is yet to be constituted. Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) (to be re-designated as DGTR when full staff strength is provided) conducts anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations on the basis of duly substantiated petitions filed by domestic industries and recommends imposition of duty, wherever appropriate, to the Department of Revenue. DGAD has recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty on 249 products since 1992, against 46 number of countries.

The basic intent of the anti-dumping and countervailing (anti-subsidy) measures is to eliminate injury caused to the domestic industry by the unfair trade practices of dumping and subsidization and to create a level playing field for the domestic industries by re-establishing a situation of open and fair competition in the Indian market.

APPENDIX VI

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 892
ANSWERED ON 27.02.2015

Duty on Import of Cotton

892. SHRI J. C. DIVAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has rejected the proposal of the Ministry of Textiles to impose 10 per cent duty on overseas sale of cotton beyond the declared exportable surplus limit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) & (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

APPENDIX VII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5104
ANSWERED ON 24.04.2015

Amendment in Tea Act

5104. SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the 1953, Tea Act to give more teeth to the Tea Board of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Tea Board has sought powers to monitor the working of tea gardens, making its approach more direct and proactive than the present reactive attitude; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) & (b) The Tea Act was enacted in 1953 with the objective of controlling the tea Industry pursuant to relevant international agreements and developing the industry as well as production and marketing of tea. As the sector has undergone several changes since inception of the Tea Act, 1953, the Law Commission in its 159th Report has, *inter alia*, recommended amendment of the Tea Act, 1953.

(c) & (d) The Government undertook an exercise for consulting stakeholders, and obtaining their views on the amendments to the Tea Act, 1953 including the provisions related to monitoring the working of tea gardens. The interests and views of all stakeholders is taken into account in finalizing the amendments.

APPENDIX VIII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5162
ANSWERED ON 24.04.2015

National Offset Policy

5162. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to finalise the National Offset Policy to boost the manufacturing sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof along with the sectors selected for its implementation;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the manufacturing sector thereby;

(d) the manner in which the policy is likely to help in attracting investments, acquiring new technology and raw material, enhancing Research and Development (R&D) capability, boosting exports and Make in India programme; and

(e) the time by which the policy is likely to be implemented?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN):

(a) to (e) The draft Offset Policy is still under formulation and going through the consultative process.

APPENDIX IX

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1927
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2015

Ordinance for Restricting Extension of Tea Garden

1927. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken note that Government of West Bengal had issued an order in 2001 prohibiting expansion of area of tea nursery and tea plantation in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact of the said order on small tea growers in the State indicating the number of tea growers affected thereby;

(d) whether the Union Government has taken up the matter with the State Government to review the said order;

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the State Government thereto; and

(f) the present status of the matter?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) The Government of West Bengal has prohibited through an order issued on 23rd July, 2001 further development of tea nursery and tea plantation in new areas in North Bengal with effect from 30th June, 2001.

Under the provisions of Tea Act 1953, all the tea growers need to be registered with Tea Board after obtaining "No Objection Certificate" from the concerned State Government. In the absence of No Objection Certificate from Government of West Bengal, Tea Board is unable to register the small growers who have planted tea after 2001. Following the prohibition, the benefits of various subsidy schemes of the Tea Board could not be extended to these small growers. About 20,000 Small Growers in North Bengal are reported to be affected due to this development.

(d) to (f) The Central Government has taken up the matter with the State Government of West Bengal in July, 2015. The reply from the State Government has not been received.

APPENDIX X

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3021
ANSWERED ON 7.08.2015

Expert Committee in Rubber Sector

3021. PROF. K. V. THOMAS:

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

(a) whether the Government has set up an Expert Committee in the Rubber Sector to examine the relevant issues and recommend National Policy on Rubber, if so, the composition and terms of references thereof;

(b) whether the Committee has since submitted its report to the Government and National Policy on Rubber has been finalised;

(c) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee and salient features of the policy along with the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor along with the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The Government of India constituted an Expert Committee on June 16, 2014 to examine issues relating to production, development and exports of rubber and related products and make recommendations for a broad based policy relating to all types of rubber *i.e.* Natural Rubber (NR), Synthetic Rubber (SR) and Reclaimed Rubber (RR). The Expert Committee is headed by the Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce and consists of experts and stakeholders of rubber industry including representatives of relevant Ministries and Departments of the Central Government, State Governments of Kerala and Tripura, Rubber Board, Associations of NR growers, Associations of rubber based industries including manufacturers of tyres, latex, block rubber, synthetic rubber and academic & research oriented institutions in the Government and the Non-Governmental sector.

As per the Terms of Reference (ToRs), the Expert Committee is mandated to examine issues related to rubber production, development, consumption and exports and suggest a National Policy on Rubber in the interest of both the growers as well as consumers. The ToRs include examination of all issues related to Natural Rubber, Synthetic Rubber and Reclaimed Rubber and review of relevant policies and programmes in the interest of faster and equitable growth of the sector.

(b) The Committee has not submitted its final report on the National Policy on Rubber.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Committee has engaged itself in wide consultation with various segments of industry and farmers. The final report is contingent on conclusion of the process of consultations.

APPENDIX XI

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2388
ANSWERED ON 14.12.2015

Anti-Dumping Probe against Dry Cell Battery Imports

2388. SHRI HUKUM SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has initiated anti-dumping investigation into the import of AA dry cell batteries after finding *prima facie* evidence of dumping of goods originating or exported to India from two Asian countries; and

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) & (b) Yes Madam. The Directorate General of Anti-dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) has initiated an anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of AA Dry Cell Batteries, originating in or exported from China PR and Vietnam, on 20.10.2015. The investigation is under progress.

APPENDIX XII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 111
ANSWERED ON 25.04.2016

Misuse of Export Promotion Schemes

111. SHRI RAMTAHAL CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government has ascertained the names of such companies during the last three years which are misusing the export promotion schemes;

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

(c) the action taken against these companies and the rules under which action has been taken against them?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the house.

APPENDIX XIII

Special Mention

dt. 27.4.2016

Government of Maharashtra is providing food to these distressed women workers through Food Security Scheme. Hon'ble Praniti Susheel Kumar Shinde, MLA has started a Food Bank there. Subhash Babu Deshmukh Ex-MP, has started a food shelter for them. ...*(Interruption)* Hon. Kharge Ji, we are facing greater hardships than you.*(Interruption)* We have more difficulties.

Comrade Adam master is roaming here and there with 10,000 women workers. Don't they have any self respect? Are they supposed to suffer? Shouldn't their children get education? Shouldn't their daughters get married? If they remain unemployed, how they would.

Solapur is facing drought conditions, too. Therefore, I would like to urge upon Hon'ble Prime Minister, our powerful leaders and others to find a solution to this issue. Either they should get some kind of alternative employment or this condition of printing space should be scrapped. Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: कुंवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चंदेल को एडवोकेट शरद बनसोडे द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।

श्री राजेन्द्र अग्रवाल (मेरठ): आदरणीय अध्यक्ष जी, मैं सदन के माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान चाइनीज़ मांझे के उपयोग से होने वाली दुर्घटनाओं की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ।

महोदया, मेरे लोक सभा क्षेत्र मेरठ में 11 अप्रैल, 2016 को यानी 15 दिन पहले ही, चाइनीज़ मांझे से पतंग उड़ाने के समय एक दस वर्षीय बालक शहजाद की पतंग 33 हजार किलोवाट की हाई टेंशन लाइन में उलझ गयी तथा मांझे में करेंट दौड़ने से गम्भीरतापूर्वक झुलसने के परिणामस्वरूप उस बच्चे का देहांत हो गया। इस दर्दनाक हादसे के अलावा देश भर में चाइनीज़ मांझे के कारण पहले भी इंसानों एवं पक्षियों के घायल होने व मृत्यु होने की घटनाएं हो रही हैं। यह मांझा जानलेवा होने के साथ ही जहरीले व नॉन बायोडिग्रेडेबल संगठकों से निर्मित होने के कारण पर्यावरणीय दृष्टि से भी अत्यंत हानिकारक है। कुछ प्रदेशों जैसे गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र और राजस्थान में पर्यावरण संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1986 के अंतर्गत चाइनीज़ मांझे की बिक्री व उपयोग को प्रतिबंधित किया हुआ है। इस प्रतिबंध के बावजूद मांझे से हो रही दुर्घटनाओं पर प्रभावकारी रोक नहीं लग पायी है, जिसका प्रमुख कारण चाइनीज़ मांझे की सटीक परिभाषा का अभाव है। एक स्पष्ट परिभाषा नहीं होने के कारण इस मांझे के विक्रेता कानूनी दायरे से बाहर चले जाते हैं तथा उनके खिलाफ कोई कार्रवाई नहीं हो पाती है।

अध्यक्ष जी, मेरा आपके माध्यम से सरकार से अनुरोध है कि सर्वप्रथम टेक्सटाइल टेक्नोलॉजी के विशेषज्ञों के साथ मिलकर इस मांझे को स्पष्ट रूप से परिभाषित किया जाए। उत्तर प्रदेश सहित पूरे देश में चाइनीज़ मांझे अथवा इसी प्रकार के हानिकारक मांझे के भंडारण, बिक्री व उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगाया

जाए तथा इस प्रतिबंध का उल्लंघन करने वालों पर दंडात्मक कार्रवाई करना सुनिश्चित किया जाए। आपने मुझे बोलने का अवसर प्रदान किया, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

माननीय अध्यक्ष: श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत, कुँवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चंदेल, श्री भैरों प्रसाद मिश्र, श्री चन्द्र प्रकाश जोशी, श्री सुधीर गुप्ता, श्री रोड़मल नागर को श्री राजेन्द्र अग्रवाल द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।

SHRIR. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR): Madam Speaker, thank you.

I want to raise an important issue regarding tobacco farmers. Tobacco is an important commercial and dry crop grown in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. About 45.7 million people are involved in this, including farmers, farm labourers, workers, retailers, etc. Thirty lakh farmers are dependent on this industry.

Now, the Union Government has decided to put pictorial health warning covering 85 per cent of the space on both sides of the packet, which is up by 40 per cent. The Parliamentary Committee concerned had recommended that the pictorial warning could occupy only fifty per cent of the packet. But the recommendation has not been taken into consideration. Now, the cigarette factories are on the verge of closure.

I would request the Union Government to take adequate steps to go for alternative farming system and provide adequate money for this purpose. Also reduce the coverage of pictorial warning so that the tobacco industries could resume production. Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: कुँवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चंदेल को श्री आर० धुवनारायण द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): I would like Shri Kharge also to hear this seriously. This is a serious problem. The entire House, at one time or the other, has to discuss this issue. In seven districts of Karnataka and seven or eight districts of Andhra Pradesh, tobacco crop is the main livelihood. But the WHO and other agencies are all saying that smoking is injurious to health, which is also a fact.

Keeping that in mind, world public opinion is growing stronger day by day to discourage smoking—whether it is cigarette or *bidi* also. The point raised by the hon. Member is about the livelihood opportunities of *bidi* workers — whether it is Sholapur or Adilabad of Andhra Pradesh or in Karnataka or in Kerala. There is a problem between these two. One is the public opinion worldwide and the health experts advise to dissuade people from smoking. Pictorial warning is one such step in that direction. The court is also monitoring the case. At one stage or other we have to evolve a broad consensus because the Government alone taking a decision unilaterally again lead to other consequences also.

This morning, I met farmers from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. We have been meeting earlier also. We have to slowly encourage farmers to go for alternate crops. That is the only way. Otherwise, we cannot continue with this situation....(Interruptions)

SHRI R. DHURUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR): Is the Government thinking of announcing a special package?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I would be discussing with the Ministers of Commerce and Agriculture about this problem. The Health Minister is very serious because he has been receiving inputs from the WHO and other organizations. We have to find out some solution to this problem. I would like to discuss informally with the Congress Leader of the House and other hon. Members also. We would try to find some solution. In the last one or two years we have been agitating but we were not able to find out any meaningful and practical solution. If somebody has got good suggestions and ideas, they are welcome; we would discuss the same.

श्री प्रेम सिंह चन्दूमाजरा (आनंदपुर साहिब): अध्यक्ष महोदया, मेरी कांस्टीट्यूंसी साहबजादा जीत सिंह नगर में अभी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा बना है। 11 सितम्बर को माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी उसका इनऑर्गुरेशन करके आए, लेकिन अभी तक वहां से इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट्स शुरू नहीं हुईं। कहा जाता है कि कुछ एयरलाइंस तैयार नहीं हैं।

महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से विनती करना चाहता हूं कि एअर इंडिया तैयार हो सकती है, वहां से एअर इंडिया की इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट्स ही शुरू की जाएं। पहले इसके नाम का विवाद था, पंजाब सरकार ने शहीदे आजम भगत सिंह के नाम पर प्रपोज किया था, इसे हरियाणा असेम्बली ने भी पास कर दिया है, अब यह विवाद नहीं रहा। जहां तक इस शहर के नाम साहबजादा जीत सिंह नगर का ताल्लुक है, यह गुरु गोविंद सिंह जी के एल्डर सन के नाम पर है और गुरु गोविंद सिंह जी का 350वां जन्म दिन देश भर में राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर मनाया जा रहा है।

इसलिए हम चाहते हैं कि जल्दी से जल्दी उस हवाई अड्डे से इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट्स शुरू हों और वहां से ही नांदेड़ साहब के लिए डोमैस्टिक फ्लाइट्स के लिए मैंने कई बार माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन किया है। हमारी सरकार ने जो रेलगाड़ियां चलाई हैं, वहां से बहुत दूर जाना पड़ता है। पंजाब और हरियाणा के लोग बहुत कोशिश में हैं कि वहां से नांदेड़ साहब के लिए भी डोमैस्टिक फ्लाइट्स चलें। यही मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं।

माननीय अध्यक्ष: श्री रवनीत सिंह, श्री संतोख सिंह चौधरी, श्री ए० सम्पत एवं श्री भैरों प्रसाद मिश्रा को श्री प्रेमसिंह चन्दूमाजरा द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण यादव (बांका): माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक अति महत्वपूर्ण सवाल की ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूं। देश भर के राज्यों में खासकर जो घूमंतु बंजारा जातियां हैं, ये लोग खुले आसमान के नीचे जिंदगी के लिए विवश हैं। इनके साथ खैर, खैरवार, पुझार और नैय्या जाति की भी यही हालत है। इनके स्वास्थ्य, आवास, रोटी, कपड़ा और मकान की व्यवस्था नहीं है और इस समाज का जीवन देश के बीपीएल परिवार में भी नहीं है, इसलिए स्थिति बहुत ही बद से बदतर है। बाबा साहब अम्बेडकर ने संविधान बनाते समय कहा था कि समाज के अंतिम व्यक्ति को आगे बढ़ाया जायेगा, उसे सहारा दिया जायेगा, उसे अधिकार दिया जायेगा। लेकिन आज बंजारा जाति की

स्थिति बद से बदतर है। मैं मानता हूँ कि पूरे देश के नागरिक इस बात से सहमत होंगे कि आज बंजारा समाज की स्थिति देश में बहुत खराब है। पूर्व की सरकार ने इस समाज की वास्तविकता, आबादी तथा गन्ने के लिए रेनकी आयोग का गठन किया था। आयोग ने अपनी रिपोर्ट सरकार को सौंप दी है, किन्तु रिपोर्ट पर कार्रवाई आज तक नहीं हुई है। रेनकी आयोग के अनुसार लगभग 12 करोड़ जनसंख्या इस समाज की है। स्वच्छ भारत के निर्माण में बंजारा व घुमंतु समाज का स्वस्थ होना जरूरी है, क्योंकि यह समाज भारतीय समाज ही है।

अतः स्थिति की भयावहता को देखते हुए माननीय मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन है कि सरकार तत्काल सदन में अपनी स्थिति स्पष्ट करे और बंजारा और घुमंतु जाति के स्वास्थ्य आदि की व्यवस्था बेहतर हो। इसके साथ-साथ हमने खैर, खैरवार, पुझार और नैय्या जाति की व्यवस्था पर भी चर्चा की। हम सदन से मांग करते हैं कि इस पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जाए।

माननीय अध्यक्ष: श्री भैरों प्रसाद मिश्र, कुंवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चन्देल को श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण यादव द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam Speaker, I would like to invite the attention of the Government, through you, to a shocking incident which happened on 21st April, 2016. In a shocking incident on 21st April, a Nurse from Kerala, Chikku Robert, hailing from Angamali in Ernakulam District of Kerala was found murdered in Salalah Oman. Chikku Robert, a Staff Nurse with Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals, Salalah, had been working in the institution for the past three years. The incident came to light after Chikku did not report for her night duty. Sources said that Chikku was three months pregnant and planning to come to her native place after two months. It is also reported that a Pakistani national has been put under detention and is being investigated in the case. Till now her body has not been brought to her home town. Her mortal remains are in a mortuary in the custody of Royal Oman Police. I would request the Government to intervene in this matter immediately and take all necessary steps to expedite the transfer of the mortal remains of Chikku Robert to her home town.

Further, I would also like bring to the attention of the Government that thousands of nurses are working abroad, especially from Kerala. The security of these nurses is danger. Therefore, I would request the Government to take necessary steps to ensure the safety of Indian nurses who are working in many countries of the world.

APPENDIX XIV

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1262
ANSWERED ON 02.05.2016

Problems faced by Tea Industry

1262. SHRI V. ELUMALAI:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARASTE:
DR. K. GOPAL:
SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA:

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

(a) whether the Indian Tea Industry/Tea gardens of West Bengal are facing a host of problems ranging from ageing tea bushes to climate change;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with total number of tea growers employed in Tea Industry especially in tea gardens of West Bengal;

(c) the impact of these problems on their jobs and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to address them;

(d) whether the Tea Industry has requested for a special tax rate and if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto and the details of direct employment provided by the Tea Industry especially to women during the last three years;

(e) whether there are no minimum wages for tea industry in West Bengal and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether the Government/Companies have shown interest in taking over tea estates in North Bengal and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN):
(a) & (b) Lower productivity caused by old age of the plantations and senile tea bushes is a critical problem facing the Indian tea industry. Besides, climate change leads to higher incidence of pest and disease resulting in loss of production. The total number of workers directly engaged in Tea Plantations in the country is 11,28,458 which includes 3,27,029 in West Bengal.

(c) Ability of the tea gardens to keep the labour gainfully employed at times comes under stress because of fall in production and productivity. Under the XII Plan

Scheme namely 'Tea Development and Promotion Scheme', the Tea Board extends financial assistance to the tea estates and also to the small tea growers, *inter alia*, for replanting, rejuvenation and consolidation of the old aged tea bushes. Non-chemical method of pest control is promoted to address the pest/disease problem of the industry. Measures taken also includes water harvesting during drought period and development of well-designed artificial drainage system to flush out excess water to nearby streams and riverlets. Financial assistance in the form of subsidy at the rate of 25% of the capital cost not exceeding Rs.80,000/- per hectare for creation of Irrigation facilities is provided under the 'Tea Development and Promotion Scheme'. Tea Board has supported replanting and rejuvenation of tea bushes over an area of nearly 52520 hectare during the XI Plan and XII Plan.

(d) Representations are received from tea industry from time to time on issues seeking tax relief/concession and incentives. Such representations are regularly reviewed by the Government in line with overall policy for promoting overall industrial growth. The tea industry provides direct employment to 11,28,458 workers which includes 6,20,625 women workers.

(e) The wages for workers employed in tea estates in West Bengal are fixed through a process of collective bargaining held at periodic intervals of three years between the Management, the Workers' Union and the State Government. The present minimum wages for tea workers in West Bengal as per the said tripartite agreement made on 20.02.2015 is Rs. 132.50.

(f) Tea Board has received 19 (Nineteen) bid applications in response to various Expressions of interest (EoI) invited by the Tea Board for management of the gardens covered by the Central Government notification issued on 28-1-2016.

APPENDIX XV

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1317
ANSWERED ON 02.05.2016

Review of Performance of DGFT

1317. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has invited bids from global consultant firms for a "white paper on functioning of Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)" to study global best practices and assess the structure and scope of DGFT;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also plans to review the performance of DGFT; and
- (d) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) & (b) Yes, Madam, Department of Commerce had invited request for proposal (RFP) from consultancy firms for preparing a White Paper to identify key policy and regulatory objectives related to the functions of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. Since no response was received till 11.04.2016, which was the last date of submission of the proposal, the RFP has been floated again. The last date for submission of the proposal is 13th May, 2016.

(c) & (d) Yes, as part of the ongoing review of functioning of DGFT, many procedures and processes are being streamlined in order to facilitate ease of doing business for the exporters.

APPENDIX XVI

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2346
ANSWERED ON 09.05.2016

FTA between India and Australia

2346. SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

APPENDIX XVII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 103
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2016

Enactment of New Act on Coffee

103. SHRI PRATHAP SHMHA:

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

- (a) the names of the countries which are the main buyers of Indian coffee;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to repeal the Coffee Act, 1942 and bring new Coffee Bill, 2016 and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has sought comments from the public/stakeholders in this regard and if so, the details thereof along with the response of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether coffee planters associations/stakeholders have requested the Government to exempt plantation from the levy of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) under the proposed dual GST structure and if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) whether India's coffee output is expected to drop due to poor rains and hot temperatures hitting plantation, during the crucial flowering stage and if so, the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 103 FOR ANSWER ON 25TH JULY, 2016 REGARDING "ENACTMENT OF NEW ACT ON COFFEE"

(a) the Main buyers of Indian Coffee are Italy, Russian Federation, Germany, Belgium and Turkey which account for more than 50% of coffee exports from India.

(b) The existing Coffee Act was enacted more than seventy years back. Over the years, the role of the Coffee Board has changed and many provisions of the existing Act have become redundant, especially after abolition of Coffee Pooling System in 1996. The present activities of the Coffee Board are more focused on facilitating increase in production, quality upgradation, research and market promotion.

Accordingly, it has been proposed to repeal the Coffee Act, 1942 and enact a new legislation, the Coffee Bill, 2016.

(c) The draft Coffee Bill, 2016 was prepared based on consultations with representatives from industry, growers, traders, exporters and various departments of Central and State Governments. It was posted on the websites of the Department of Commerce and Coffee Board for seeking further suggestions from stakeholders. The suggestions received were regarding the control of coffee industry, definition of coffee and coffee estate, cognizance of offence under the Act etc. which are being examined.

(d) the Coffee Exporters Association have represented to Department of Commerce for adding green coffee beans to the exempted list in the proposed Goods and Services Tax. The matter is under consideration.

(e) It has been estimated that there is a likelihood of decline in coffee production in 2016-17 by 8% as compared to that in 2015-16 due to lack of timely rains and high temperature during the crucial flowering stage. The Coffee Board is providing focused support for water augmentation and extension activities to coffee growers under the 'Integrated Coffee Development Project'. Further, coffee growers have been covered under the Rainfall Insurance Scheme for Coffee under which the growers are given compensation for crop losses due to erratic rainfall.

APPENDIX XVIII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 104
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2016

Small Tea Growers

*104. SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN:

SHRI RAMEN DEKA:

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

(a) the total number of small tea growers in various States of the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to unveil a new notification/guidelines for setting up mini and micro factories for small tea growers through the Tea Board of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of these guidelines; and

(d) the details of various benefits/assistance being provided by the Government to small tea growers including the measures to boost there tea cultivation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 104 FOR ANSWER ON 25TH JULY, 2016 REGARDING "SMALL TEA GROWERS".

(a) Estimated number of small tea growers in various States of the country is around 2 lakh. State-wise details are at annexure.

(b) and (c) In order to encourage the small tea growers to have their own tea producing units and get better price for their produce, it has been proposed to amend the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 so as to define Mini and Micro factories and to exempt them from obtaining No Objection Certificate for manufacturing tea.

(d) Various benefits/assistance being provided by the Government to small tea growers including the measures to boost their tea cultivation are as follows:

- (i) The Tea Development and Promotion Scheme Implemented by the Tea Board has a separate component for the development of small tea growers. The scheme aims at addressing the special needs of small tea growers, particularly in the area of improving production and productivity and establishing processing factories with special focus on enhancement of quality. Financial assistance of around Rs. 55.56 crore has so far been extended to the small tea growers in the XII plan.
- (ii) A separate Directorate under Tea Board, headquartered at Dibrugarh, Assam has been set up for catering to the development needs of small tea growers. The Directorate through its sub-regional offices carries out extension activities aimed at improving quality, consistency and better price realization of Tea.
- (iii) In order to ensure better price to small tea growers who supply tea leaves to factories, price sharing formulate have been notified for different tea growing States. Payment of green leaf price to the growers is closely monitored by the District Green Leaf Price Monitoring Committees.

ANNEXURE

Estimated State-wise break up of the Small Tea Growers in the country:

State	No. of Small Growers
Assam	95500
Tamil Nadu	50000
West Bengal	29800
Kerala	10000
Bihar	5000
Tripura	3500
Nagaland	2300
Himachal Pradesh	1000
Mizoram	850
Arunachal Pradesh	600
Meghalaya	500
Uttarakhand	500
Manipur	250
Sikkim	200
Total	200000

SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN (MAYILADUTHURAI): Hon. Speaker Madam, the Government of Tamil Nadu headed by the hon. Chief Minister Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has extended various concessions not only to small tea growers but also to tea industries and launched Amma Tea to benefit the tea industry in Tamil Nadu. With a view to providing permanent solution to the recurring crisis in the tea market, the Government of Tamil Nadu created a Price Stabilization Fund with an initial corpus of Rs. 12 crore. This Price Stabilization Fund will be a permanent one. From July, 2004 to June, 2016, a total of Rs. 1,870 crore has been disbursed under this Scheme benefitting more than 70,000 members across 15 industrial cooperative tea factories. In view of frequent fluctuation in the tea market, the small tea growers are suffering due to low rates of green leaves received by them. Will the Government of India extend subsidy or grant to the small tea growers during such crisis period?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Madam, may I ask him to repeat his question?

HON. SPEAKER: Yes. I also could not get it. Shri Bharathi Mohan, what is your specific question? You are reading the whole page.

SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN (MAYILADUTHURAI): Madam, during the 11th Plan period, the Tea Board of India was extending subsidy to the tea factories at the rate of 25 per cent of machinery cost under the modernization scheme whereas during the 12th Plan period, this scheme was stopped by the Tea Board. Will it be restarted?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Since the hon. Member is specifically asking about the Plan related expenditure, I would like to say that the subsidy of 25 per cent of unit cost for tea machinery is still there under the Tea Quality Upgradation and Product Diversification Scheme. So, I am not sure if the Member is misquoting it. It is still there in the 12th Plan among the various things that we do in terms of the Tea Quality Upgradation and Product Diversification Scheme for which a total of Rs. 300 crore have been allocated. One of the things that we do is for giving subsidy for machinery and that is the question that the Member has asked — providing subsidy of 25 per cent of unit cost for tea machinery and 50 per cent of the consultancy cost for ISO and so on. We are still giving it.

HON. SPEAKER: Have you got any second supplementary?

SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN (MAYILADUTHURAI): Will the Government of India extend the subsidy or grant to the small tea growers during such crisis period?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: We will provide it. There is no change at all.

SHRI RAMEN DEKA (MANGALDAI): I would like to know whether the Government has any proposal or plan to address the grievances of the tea growers of north bank of River Brahmaputra who are facing difficulty in selling their leaves as there is lack of infrastructure and facilities; they are at the whims of the big fish.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Madam Speaker, for the issue of lack of infrastructure and lack of aggregation centres we have in fact proposed — and that has been made a part of my answer too - that the Directorate under the Tea Board, headquartered at Dibrugarh extends facilities. If that is insufficient — I will be soon visiting Assam for tea-related matters — the Member and the tea-growers are very welcome to point out where the deficiencies are. We are willing to address it. Certainly, we will take up the issues of the small tea growers. In this context, I would like to add that we are trying to make sure that the tea control order will come up with a clear statement of what mini and micro tea processing units would be; and these factories could be established by the SHGs. So, if they find that there are tea manufacturing centres inadequately placed and they do not have enough of them, we are willing to have micro and mini factories set up in places of difficult access where tea aggregation is becoming an issue; provisions are being made for this.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): West Bengal is the second biggest tea producing State after Assam. We have a large number of gardens in the districts of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri. We are facing a peculiar phenomenon where gardens belonging to large groups are closing down but new small tea gardens are coming up in places like Islampur in North Dinajpur district. I want to ask the Minister specifically what is the policy *vis-à-vis* small gardens and big gardens that the Government is adopting. Just before elections, the Commerce Minister went to West Bengal and said they were taking over seven sick gardens of the Duncans Group which are lying closed and Tea Board will look after them. May I inform the hon. Minister that four months after her announcement not one garden has opened, not one garden has been taken over. So, what is the policy of the Government with regard to opening of the closed tea gardens of the Duncans Group which she had announced in West Bengal just before the elections?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the Member. Probably, he is only partly informed of what has happened in the ground there. ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): I am fully informed. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: We did take over, as was announced. This was in consultation with the State Government. After consulting and having a meeting — I personally had a meeting with the owners of the Duncan tea gardens — which we took over the gardens, not all of them. In the process, I would like to say that there was also a litigation in which the Duncans took us to the court, saying, 'You cannot take it over'. I have been in constant touch with the State Government. My officials are in discussion with the Chief Secretary.

We have even very openly said to the State Government that we are even willing to go to the extent of extending the Central Government schemes for those workers

who are in deep hardship. They are not getting electricity; they are not getting food; there are no medicines. I have gone there ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): The State Government is giving them food and ration.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Prof. Saugata Roy, this is not the proper way. Do not interrupt like this.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Hon. Member, with due respect, you have asked me a question and with the permission of the Chair, I am giving an answer. I wish you hear me out fully. ... *(Interruptions)*

I have been there and I have seen it. After that, I am asking the State Government to see if the Central Government's schemes could be routed to these people who are suffering. That discussion is going on with the State Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No such interruptions please.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please complete your statement

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Only the Minister's reply will go on record.

... *(Interruptions)* ... *(Not recorded)*

HON. SPEAKER: Only the Minister's reply will go on record. Please do not interrupt like this.

... *(Interruptions)* ... *(Not recorded)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I wish the hon. Members listen to my answer. If they do not have the willingness to hear my answer, I wish they do not even ask me the question. Kindly hear me out

.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Do not do like that. You have to listen her.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): The Minister is not giving the answer.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAIMAN: I am not giving the answer, Madam!

.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You have asked a question and now you have to listen her.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, Minister. You may complete your reply. Do not listen to them.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Madam Speaker, there are discussions with the State Government and, particularly for the Duncans, we are in the process of identifying new agencies who can be handed over the management, just the management, to run these gardens and take over the management control alone, not anything else just so that the workers are not affected and just so that the total output

of high quality tea which comes from that area does not go down. I would like to say that the consultations are done along with the State Government in the matter. So, yes, it is taking time, but it is because we are in the process of consulting the State Government and finding out agencies which can run these gardens.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: अब गाड़ी में पेट्रोल डाल दो। प्रश्न संख्या 105

APPENDIX XIX

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2417
ANSWERED ON 01.08.2016

Agricultural Trade with Foreign Countries

2417. DR. K. GOPAL:

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

(a) whether India is presently targeting markets in Australia, South Africa and South Korea for mangoes and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is also looking at the United States, Japan and Vietnam for the export of grapes, while China for rice, fruits and vegetables and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the country's agri-exports fell to Rs. 95,744 crore during April-February of 2015-16 fiscal from Rs. 1,20,316 crore in the year ago period; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN):

(a) Yes, madam. Some varieties of mangoes from northern India are already being exported to Australia. In order to boost export of other varieties, the matter was pursued with the concerned Australian authorities to consider different varieties and other mitigation measures of Hot Water Treatment and Irradiation. In this regard, a delegation visited India in the month of June, 2016 to verify and certify three irradiation facilities for export of irradiated mangoes from the western and southern parts of India. Approval for certification of these facilities is under process.

In case of South Africa, the market access efforts are continuing. The National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has sent the required information to the South African Authorities and the response from them is awaited. The matter is being pursued through the Indian High Commission in South Africa to receive the final import requirement.

In case of South Korea, market access has been gained on 7th June, 2016. South Korean Quarantine Inspector has arrived in India on 11th July, 2016 for on-site pre-clearance programme at VHT facility at Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, for export of mangoes to South Korea.

(b) Yes, Madam. For export of grapes, the finalization of import risk analysis is awaited from the USA. In case of Japan and Vietnam, the import risk analysis with post-harvest mitigation measures is yet to be finalized by them. The matter is being pursued through the Indian Embassies in the respective countries.

As for China, India has already submitted priority list for market access of 5 fruits and vegetables to AQSIQ, China, as per their request for providing the priority list. Out of 5 products submitted in the priority list, the finalization of Protocol for okra is in the final stage and is pending with AQSIQ, China.

(c) India's export of Agricultural and Allied Products, during the period April, 2015-February, 2016; was Rs.1,43,802.55 crore as compared to Rs.1,68,918.94 crore over the same period in the previous financial year.

(d) The primary reasons for decline are: low commodity prices in the international market; shrinking of global demand; high domestic prices, as compared to the international prices, which has made our exports uncompetitive; unfavourable currency rate movements as compared to the competing countries etc.

Encouraging exports of agricultural products is a continuous process. The Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) an autonomous organisation under the Department of Commerce, provides financial assistance to the exporters through various components of its Plan Scheme *viz.* Infrastructure Development, Market Promotion, Quality Development and Transport Assistance. Besides these measures, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has put in place various schemes namely Market Development Assistance (MDA), Market Assistance Initiative (MAI) and Merchandise Export Incentive Scheme (MEIS) etc. to provide assistance to encourage exports.

APPENDIX XX

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3484
ANSWERED ON 08.08.2016

Liberalised Visa Policy to boost Trade

3484. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to roll out a liberalised visa policy to boost services trade in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made inter-ministerial consensus over this issue;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to club different visa categories such as tourist, business, medical and conference into one and long-term one and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NILRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (e) A liberalized visa regime helps in promotion of trade in services in different modes of supply particularly, Mode 2 which includes tourism, medical value travel and education services. The Department of Commerce accordingly advocates for a liberal regime with adequate safeguards and works with Ministry of Home Affairs who deals with the subject. As per Ministry of Home Affairs, rationalization and simplification of the visa regime is a continuous process. A proposal to further liberalize the visa policy is under consideration in Ministry of Home Affairs in consultation with all stakeholders.

APPENDIX XXI

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3577
ANSWERED ON 08.08.2016

Grants Provided to Traders

3577. SHRI NIMMALA KRISTAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY pleased to state:

(a) the details of the grants provided to the traders for import and export during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the amount of grants provided separately for the import-export of sugar, foodgrains, edible oils and oil cakes during the said period;

(c) the details of such traders/companies which have been provided more than rupees five crore as grants for carrying out such trade;

(d) whether certain products were imported by the government at higher rates which were subsequently exported at lower rates and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of companies against which the cases of irregularities have been registered during the last three years and the current year along with the action taken against the persons/companies found guilty?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Government provides incentives in form of duty credit scrips linked to merchandise export performance under chapter 3 of Foreign Trade Policy through the following schemes:

Merchandise Exports from India Scheme	Scheme currently available
Focus Product Scheme (FPS), Focus Market Scheme (FMS), Market Linked Focus Product Scrip (MLFPS), Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojna (VKGUY), Agri. Infrastructure Incentive Scrip and Incremental Export Incentive Scheme.	Schemes withdrawn but incentives still being given for past claims.

No such incentives are provided for imports. The details of such incentives provided for exports during the last three years and the current year is as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Export incentive-Rs. crore
1.	2013-14	16844
2.	2014-15	17768
3.	2015-16	15898
4.	Apr. —July 2016	6295

(b) Government has not provided any such export incentives to sugar, food-grains, and edible oils in the past 4 years. The amount of incentive provided for export of oil cakes during the last three years and the current year is as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Export incentive-Rs. crore
1.	2013-14	0.00
2.	2014-15	0.04
3.	2015-16	13.35
4.	Apr. —July 2016	7.61

(c) No traders/companies have been issued such export incentive for more than rupees five crore for export of Oil Cake during the last three years and the current year;

(d) & (e) Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the house.

APPENDIX XXII

(Vide Para 5 of the Report)

Extracts from Manual of Practice & Procedure in the Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, New Delhi.

Definition	<p>8.1 During the course of reply given to a question or a discussion, if a Minister gives an undertaking which involves further action on the part of the Government in reporting back to the House, it is called an 'assurance'. Standard list of such expressions which normally constitute assurances and as approved by the Committees on Government Assurances of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, is given at <u>Annex 3</u>. As assurances are required to be implemented within a specified time limit, care should be taken by all concerned while drafting replies to the questions to restrict the use of these expressions only to those occasions when it is clearly intended to give an assurance in these terms.</p> <p>8.2 When an assurance is given by a Minister or when the Presiding Officer directs the Government to furnish information to the House, it is extracted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from the relevant proceedings and communicated to the department concerned normally within 10 working days of the date on which it is given.</p>
Deletion from the list of assurances	<p>8.3.1 If the administrative department has any objection to treating such a statement as an assurance or finds that it would not be in the public interest to fulfil it, it may write to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat direct with a copy to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs within a week of the receipt of such communication for getting it deleted from the list of assurances. Such action will require prior approval of the Minister.</p> <p>8.3.2 Departments should make request for dropping of assurances immediately on receipt of statement of assurances from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and only in rare cases where they are fully convinced that the assurances could not be implemented under any circumstances and there is no option left with them but to make a request for dropping. Such requests should have the approval of their Minister and this fact should be</p>

	<p>indicated in their communication containing the request. If such a request is made towards the end of the stipulated period of three months, then it should invariably be accompanied with a request for extension of time. The department should continue to seek extension of time till a decision of the Committee on Government Assurances is received by them. Copy of the above communications should be simultaneously endorsed to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.</p>
Time limit for fulfilling an assurance	<p>8.4.1 An assurance given in either House is required to be fulfilled within a period of three months from the date of the assurance. This time limit has to be strictly observed.</p>
Extension of time for fulfilling an assurance	<p>8.4.2 If the department finds that it is not possible to fulfil the assurance within the stipulated period of three months or within the period of extension already granted, it may seek further extension of time direct from the respective Committee on Government Assurances under intimation to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as soon as the need for such extension becomes apparent, indicating the reasons for delay and the probable additional time required. Such a communication should be issued with the approval of the Minister.</p>
Registers of assurances	<p>8.5.1 The particulars of every assurance will be entered by the Parliament Unit of the department concerned in a register as at <u>Annex 4</u> after which the assurance will be passed on to the concerned section.</p> <p>8.5.2 Even ahead of the receipt of communication from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the section concerned should take prompt action to fulfil such assurances and keep a watch thereon in a register as at <u>Annex 5</u>.</p> <p>8.5.3 The registers referred to in paras 8.5.1 and 8.5.2 will be maintained separately for the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha assurances, entries therein being made session wise.</p>
Role of Section Officer and Branch Officer	<p>8.6.1 The section Officer incharge of the concerned section will:</p> <p>(a) scrutinise the registers once a week;</p> <p>(b) ensure that necessary follow-up action is taken without any delay whatsoever;</p> <p>(c) submit the registers to the branch officer every fortnight if the House concerned is in session and once a month otherwise, drawing his special attention to assurances which are not likely to be implemented within the period of three months; and</p>

	<p>(d) review of pending assurances should be undertaken periodically at the highest level in order to minimise the delay in implementing the assurances.</p>
	<p>8.6.2 The branch officer will likewise keep his higher officer and Minister informed of the progress made in the implementation of assurances, drawing their special attention to the causes of delay.</p>
<p>Procedure for fulfilment of an assurance</p>	<p>8.7.1 Every effort should be made to fulfil the assurance within the prescribed period. In case only part of the information is available and collection of the remaining information would involve considerable time, an implementation report containing the available information should be supplied to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in part scrutinize of the assurance, within the prescribed time limit. However, efforts should continue to be made for expeditious collection of the remaining information for complete implementation of the assurance at the earliest.</p> <p>8.7.2 Information to be supplied in partial or complete fulfilment of an assurance should be approved by the Minister concerned and 15 copies thereof (bilingual) in the prescribed proforma as at <u>Annex 6</u>, together with its enclosures, along with one copy each in Hindi and English duly authenticated by the officer forwarding the implementation report, should be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. If, however, the information being furnished is in response to an assurance given in reply to a question etc., asked for by more than one member, an additional copy of the completed proforma (both in Hindi and English) should be furnished in respect of each additional member. A copy of this communication should be endorsed to the Parliament Unit for completing column 7 of its register.</p> <p>8.7.3 The implementation reports should be sent to the Ministry of the Parlimentaentary Affairs and not to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat. No advance copies of the implementation reports are to be endorsed to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat either.</p>
<p>Laying of the Implementation report on the Table of the House</p>	<p>8.8 The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, after a scrutiny of the implementation report, will arrange to lay it on the Table of the House concerned. A copy of the statement, as laid on the Table, will be forwarded by the</p>

	<p>Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to the member as well as the department concerned. The Parliament Unit of the department concerned and the concerned section will, on the basis of this statement, make a suitable entry in their registers.</p>
<p>Obligation to lay a paper on the Table of the House <i>vis-a-vis</i> assurance on the same subject</p>	<p>8.9 Where there is an obligation to lay any paper (rule/order/notification, etc.) on the Table of the House and for which an assurance has also been given, it will be laid on the Table, in the first instance, in fulfilment of the obligation, independent of the assurance given. After this is done, a report in formal implementation of the assurance indicating the date on which the paper was laid on the Table will be sent to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs in the prescribed proforma (Annex 6) in the manner already described in para 8.7.2.</p>
<p>Committees on Government Assurances LSR 323, 324 RSR 211-A</p>	<p>8.10 Each House of Parliament has a Committee on Government assurances nominated by the Speaker/Chairman. It scrutinized the implementation reports and the time taken in the scrutinized of Government assurances and focuses attention on the delays and other significant aspects, if any, pertaining to them. Instructions issued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from time to time are to be followed strictly.</p>
<p>Reports of the Committees on Government Assurances</p>	<p>8.11 The department will, in consultation with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, scrutinize the reports of these two committees for remedial action wherever called for.</p>
<p>Effect on assurances on dissolution of the Lok Sabha</p>	<p>8.12 On dissolution of the Lok Sabha, all assurances, promises or undertaking pending implementation are scrutinized by the new Committee on Government assurances for selection of such of them as are of considerable public importance. The Committee then submits a report to the Lok Sabha with a specific recommendation regarding the assurances to be dropped or retained for implementation by the Government.</p>

ANNEXURE I

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2016-17)
(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)
SEVENTH SITTING
(06.04.2017)

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1645 hours in Committee Room "C",
Parliament House Annex, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agarwal
3. Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia
4. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
5. Shri A. T. Nana Patil
6. Shri K.C. Venugopal

SECRETARIAT

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

WITNESSES

** ** * ** **

**Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(Department of Commerce)**

1. Smt Rita Teaotia — *Commerce Secretary*
2. Shri A.K. Bhalla — *DG DGFT*
3. Shri A.V. Chaturvedi — *Additional Secretary*
4. Shri Inder Jit Singh — *Additional Secretary*
5. Shri Sunil Kumar — *Joint Secretary*
6. Shri Sudhanshu Pandey — *Joint Secretary*
7. Shri A.R. Rizvi — *Joint Secretary*
8. Shri Sanjay Chadha — *Joint Secretary*

Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- 1. Ms. Smita Jhingran — Secretary
- 2. Shri P.K. Singh — Advisor (Law), CCI

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

- 1. Shrimati Suman S. Bara — Deputy Secretary
- 2. Shri Mukesh Kumar — Under Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda.

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5. The representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) then withdrew and the representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) were called in for review of twenty one Assurances pertaining to them.

6. The Committee desired to know at the outset the existing mechanism for implementation of the Parliamentary Assurances in the Department so as to know the reasons for pendency in fulfillment of the Assurances some of which date back to eight years ago. The Ministry informed that every Monday, a meeting of the senior officers takes place in the Department to review the progress made in the fulfilment of the Assurances and the discussions were also held on how to fulfill these Assurances. The Department further informed that last year they were able to dispose of a lot of Assurances as a result of a campaign undertaken at Secretary level. The Committee desired that instead of making Assurances a part of their regular review meetings, the Ministry should conduct separate sittings to expedite fulfillment of the pending Assurances.

7. At this point, the Secretary, Department of Commerce requested the Committee to allow her to bring one or two issues to the knowledge of the Committee. The Secretary submitted that out of the twenty one pending Assurances taken up for oral evidence, four Assurances at Sl. Nos. 3, 17, 18 and 19 have been brought to the notice of the Department for the very first time. The Secretary further stated that in addition to this, there are four more Assurances at Sl. Nos.11,12, 13 and 14 which have since been fulfilled and the Compliance Reports in this regard have been sent. The Committee considered both these issues to be very important and asked the representatives of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as to whether the Ministry were earlier intimated about these Assurances. The representatives of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs informed that communications were indeed sent to the Department by both the Secretariat as well as the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The Committee were deeply concerned to note that the letters sent by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Secretariat are getting misplaced. The Committee directed the Department of

Commerce and Industry to co-ordinate with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Lok Sabha Secretariat and furnish a report in this regard. The Committee further desired that the Ministry should appoint an official specifically for the purpose for looking after the Assurances. Subsequently, the Committee were informed that two Assurances at Sl. Nos.12 and 14 have been laid on the Table of the House. The Assurance at Sl. No. 13 was regarding Calling Attention Motion and the Compliance Report was wrongly sent to the MPs concerned instead of sending it to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The Committee urged the Ministry to provide a copy of the report to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for laying it on the Table of the House. As regards Assurance at Sl. No.11, the Ministry stated that they have wrongly sent it to the Secretariat instead of sending it to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The Ministry assured the Committee that they would send the Implementation Report to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs shortly. The Committee then reviewed nine out of twenty-one Assurances (Annexure-IV) of the Department pertaining to the period from the 14th Session of the 14th Lok Sabha to the 9th Session of the 16th Lok Sabha as mentioned below :—

I. USQ No. 3411 dated 23.12.2008 regarding 'Wheat Import Scam' (Sl. No. 1)

The Committee were informed that the issue pertains to the Wheat Import Scam which was unearthed in the year 1998 and was given to CBI for investigation. Subsequently, in 2004, CBI informed that the subject case had been closed. However, in July 2008, CBI informed the Department that further investigation in the case has commenced. Since the matter was ongoing in nature and was under investigation by the CBI which was beyond the purview of the Department, a request was placed before the Committee for dropping the Assurance. The committee were further informed that recently a reply has been received from the CBI saying that the case is pending for further investigation. The Committee directed the Ministry to furnish a Part Implementation Report since action on the matter is in progress.

II. USQ No. 608 dated 09.12.2013 regarding 'National Policy on Rubber' (Sl. No. 2)

III. USQ No. 3021 dated 07.08.2015 regarding 'Expert Committee in Rubber Sector' (Sl. No. 10)

The Committee were informed that the Implementation Report sent by the Department in March, 2016 was treated as "partially fulfilled". The Department assured the Committee that a final report in the matter will be submitted in two months time. The Committee questioned as to how the Department are going to furnish the Implementation Report in two months when the national policy has not yet been formulated. The Department informed the Committee that they will take the decision based on the recommendations of the report of the expert Committee and fulfil the Assurance.

IV. USQ No. 1237 dated 18.07.2014 regarding 'Development of Domestic Retail Business' (Sl. No. 4)

The Committee were informed that the Assurance pertains to the Department of Consumer Affairs. However, they have refused to accept the transfer of the Assurance. The Ministry assured the Committee that they will obtain the inputs from the Department of Consumer Affairs and fulfil the Assurance shortly. The Committee desired that in cases where there is confusion as to which Ministry/Department the Assurance belongs, the Ministry/Department should bring the matter before the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs which is the nodal Ministry. The Committee directed that the matter must be brought to its logical conclusion in a time bound manner.

V. USQ No. 1013 dated 28.11.2014 regarding DGTR (Sl. No. 5)

The Committee were informed that in 2015, with the approval of the Minister, Lok Sabha Secretariat was requested to drop the Assurance. Recently also, the Secretariat has been sent a letter requesting for deletion of the same. The Committee informed the Department that their request was considered in the sitting of the Committee dated 06.10.2016 and after much consideration it was decided not to accede to the request of the Department and hence the Department were required to fulfil the Assurance. The Department assured the Committee that the implementation report in the matter would be laid shortly.

VI. USQ No. 892 dated 27.02.2015 regarding 'Duty on Import of Cotton' (Sl. No. 6)

The Committee were informed that the Assurance pertains to the proposal of the Ministry of Textiles to impose 10 per cent duty on overseas sale of cotton. The Department informed that the thrust of the Assurance pertains to Ministry of Textiles and no such proposal has been received from them. They have been asked to provide information. The Department assured the Committee that they will fulfil the Assurance shortly. The Committee desired that the Department should conduct a sitting with the Ministry of Textiles and if there is any dispute, they can inform the Committee and the Secretariat shall invite the other Ministries/Department concerned also to settle the matter expeditiously and amicably.

VII. USQ No. 5104 dated 24.04.2015 regarding 'Amendment in Tea Act' (Sl. No. 7)

The Department informed that their Implementation Report submitted in October, 2015 has been treated as "Partially Implemented" by the Committee. The Department further informed that the file is under submission for furnishing full Implementation Report. The Committee urged the Department to pursue the matter vigorously and submit the full Implementation Report at the earliest.

VIII. USQ No. 5162 dated 24.04.2015 regarding 'National Offset Policy' (Sl. No. 8)

The Committee were informed that the matter was examined in the Department and it was decided with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry to drop the idea to frame the National Offset Policy in the light of different views expressed in the meeting of Committee of Secretaries. The Department further informed

that the Compliance Report of the Assurance has been sent after completing the Assurance.

IX. USQ No. 1927 dated 31.07.2015 regarding 'Ordinance for restricting Extension of Tea Garden' (Sl. No. 9)

The Committee were informed that the State Government of West Bengal has prohibited further development of tea nursery and tea plantation in new areas in North Bengal *w.e.f.* 30 June, 2001. Following the prohibition, the benefits of various schemes of Tea Board could not be extended to small growers and thousands of small growers in North Bengal are reported to be affected due to this development. The Department further informed that they have taken up the matter with the State Government of West Bengal in 2015. The reply from the State Government has recently been received saying that a decision on the matter will soon be arrived at. The Department assured the Committee that as soon as they receive the decision from the State Government, they will complete the Assurance.

8. As the Committee fell short of time, the Chairperson decided to take up the remaining Assurances in due course of time.

9. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES

FIFTH SITTING

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2017-2018) HELD ON 4TH APRIL, 2018 IN CHAIRPERSON'S CHAMBER, ROOM NO. '133', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI.

The Committee sat from 1030 hours to 1100 hours on Wednesday, 4th April, 2018.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia
4. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
5. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
6. Shri A.T. Nana Patil

SECRETARIAT

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

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the following four Draft Reports without any amendment:

- (i) Draft 73rd Report regarding Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment);
- (ii) Draft 74th Report regarding Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs);
- (iii) Draft 75th Report regarding Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce); and

(iv) Draft 76th Report regarding Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of AYUSH.

3. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to present the Reports during the current Session of the Lok Sabha.

The Committee then adjourned.

ANNEXURE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2016-2017)
LOK SABHA

Statement of Pending Assurances of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(Department of Commerce) (from 14th Session of 14th Lok Sabha to
9th Session of 16th Lok Sabha)

S.No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
1.	USQ No. 3411 dated 23.12.2008	Wheat Import Scam
2.	USQ No. 608 dated 09.12.2013	National Policy on Rubber
3.	USQ No. 1810 dated 16.12.2013	Export of Hi-Tech Products
4.	USQ No. 1237 dated 18.07.2014	Development of Domestic Retail Business
5.	USQ No. 1013 dated 28.11.2014	DGTR
6.	USQ No. 892 dated 27.02.2015	Duty on Import of Cotton
7.	USQ No. 5104 dated 24.04.2015	Amendment in Tea Act
8.	USQ No. 5162 dated 24.04.2015	National Offset Policy
9.	USQ No. 1927 dated 31.07.2015	Ordinance for restricting Extension of Tea Garden
10.	USQ No. 3021 dated 07.08.2015	Export Committee in Rubber Sector
11.	USQ No. 2388 dated 14.12.2015	Anti-Dumping Probe against Dry Cell Battery Imports
12.	USQ No. 111 dated 25.04.2016	Misuse of Export Promotion Schemes
13.	Special Mention dated 27.04.2016 (Shri Rangaswamy Dhruvanarayana, M.P.)	Tobacco Farming

S.No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
14.	USQ No. 1262 dated 02.05.2016	Problems faced by Tea Industry
15.	USQ No. 1317 dated 02.05.2016	Review of Performance of DGFT
16.	USQ No. 2346 dated 09.05.2016	FTA between India and Australia
17.	SQ No. 103 dated 25.07.2016 (Shri Prathap Simha, M.P.)	Enactment of New Act on Coffee
18.	SQ No. 104 dated 25.07.2016 (Shri Ramen Deka, M.P.)	Small Tea Growers
19.	USQ No. 2417 dated 01.08.2016	Agricultural Trade with Foreign Countries
20.	USQ No. 3484 dated 08.08.2016	Liberalised Visa Policy to Boost Trade
21.	USQ No. 3577 dated 08.08.2016	Grants provided to Traders

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