

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

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

SEVENTY-NINTH REPORT

**REVIEW OF PENDING ASSURANCES
PERTAINING TO THE MINISTRY
OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH
EASTERN REGION**

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 09 August, 2018)



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 2018/Shravana, 1940 (Saka)

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

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank” — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri Tariq Anwar
5. Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
6. Shri Naranbhai 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 *vide* Shri P.K. Kunhalikutty resigned on 02 January, 2018.

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-Ninth Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2017-2018) at their sitting held on 27 December, 2017 took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region regarding a pending Assurance given in the 10th Session of the 16th Lok Sabha.

3. At their sitting held on 08 August, 2018 the Committee (2017-2018) considered and adopted their Seventy-ninth Report.

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

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

NEW DELHI;
08 August, 2018

17 Shrawana, 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 fulfilment 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 (2014-15) 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 (2017-18) invited representatives of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and the representatives of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to render clarification with respect to delay in implementation of an Assurance given in the 10th Session of the 16th Lok Sabha. The Committee

examined the following pending Assurance pertaining to the Ministry at their sitting held on 27 December 2017:

USQ No. dated	Subject
USQ No. 1307 dated 23.11.2016	Mobile Air Dispensary (Appendix-I)

5. 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 fulfilment, dropping/deletion and extension, the procedure for fulfilment etc., besides maintenance of Register of Assurances and periodical reviews to minimize delays in implementation of the Assurances are reproduced at Appendix-II.

6. During oral evidence, reminding that the Ministries/Departments are required to implement an Assurance within a period of 3 months, the Committee pointed out the delay in fulfilling the Assurance. The Committee enquired about the system of implementing/monitoring Assurances at any level in the Ministry and whether the Ministry have set any standard or criteria for reviewing the pending Assurances. The Committee, then, specifically enquired as to whether any fortnightly or monthly review meetings at the level of Joint Secretary or Secretary as well as at lower levels were held regularly to implement the Assurances. The Committee also enquired as to whether the Ministry have prepared any network with a view to complete the Assurances. The Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region deposed before the Committee as under:—

"First of all, I want to apologize on behalf of my Department that we could not apply for extension beyond three months. It was a mistake on our part. Our Department actually do not have Assurances and hence we do not follow any practice in this regard. This is the only Assurance that the Department have. I admit that we should have done this but we have made a mistake and we apologize before the Committee. I assure the Committee that in future, if we are not able to implement the Assurance, then, in that situation we will ask for further extension of three months."

Observations/Recommendations

7. The Committee note that the Assurance given in reply to USQ No. 1307 dated 23.11.2016 regarding 'Mobile Air Dispensary' is pending for more than one and a half years. The inordinate delay in fulfilment of the Assurance indicates lack of seriousness on the part of the Ministry in dealing with Assurances given by the Minister on the floor of the House. It also reflects inadequate monitoring and follow-up action on the part of the Ministry. The review of the pending Assurance reveals that the Ministry have failed to put in an effective mechanism to deal with the Assurance as well as the Assurances which may have to be given in future. Accordingly,

no review has been done so far by the Ministry to expedite implementation of the Assurance. As in the other Ministries/Departments, it is imperative for the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region to have such a mechanism to review and implement the Assurances, especially those involving other Ministries/Departments. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of DoNER should urgently devise and put in place an effective mechanism to ensure effective and timely implementation of their Assurances.

II. Review of the Pending Assurance

8. In the succeeding paragraphs, the Committee deal with the pending Assurance pertaining to the Ministry of DoNER and examined by them.

A. Mobile Air Dispensary

9. In reply to USQ No. 1307 dated 23.11.2016 regarding 'Mobile Air Dispensary' (Appendix-I), it was stated that a suggestion had been received for launching of Mobile Air Dispensary Service. A final view on this issue is being worked out.

10. In their Status Note furnished in December, 2017, the Ministry explained the position regarding fulfilment of the Assurance as under:—

"A suggestion was received for launching of Mobile Air Dispensary Services in the remote areas of North Eastern Region. The matter was discussed during an Inter-ministerial meeting chaired by the Secretary, DoNER on 20.03.2017. The representative of Pawan Hans Ltd. stated that the suggestion is technically feasible from the point of view of setting up of an emergency response/evacuation service, which is technically called Health Emergency Medical Services (HEMS). The HEMS will facilitate emergency medical assistance where immediate and rapid transportation is essential.

The representative of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) stated that the Mobile Air Dispensary Service is presently not covered under any of the scheme of the Ministry and that at the present level of resources it would not be feasible for the Ministry to support the proposal of Mobile Air Dispensary Service.

In an Inter-Ministerial Meeting chaired by the Secretary, MoCA on 05.05.2017, a view was taken that the scheme can be operated by Pawan Hans, if Ministry of DoNER is willing to finance the scheme. It was proposed to operate two units (based in Shillong and Imphal) each catering to three States. The proposal was to be NER specific to cover six (6) States. The Ministry of DoNER was of the view that the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare should own the scheme and operate through North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHM), Shillong and make available the medical, para-medic personnel, the medical equipment and medicines etc. The air transport

services can be rendered by Pawan Hans Ltd. on payment basis. MoCA was requested to formulate a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the scheme and refer to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, who may take up with Ministry of DoNER for funding.

MoCA forwarded a DPR submitted by Pawan Hans Ltd., wherein they have projected the monthly cost of operations for two Helicopters at Rs.1.87 crore per month seeking views of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of DoNER. Since then, the Ministry of Finance transferred the budget line on air connectivity from DoNER to MoCA.

In the meanwhile, in another development, the proposal for disinvestment of Pawan Hans Ltd. (PHL) has been initiated and understandably may reach conclusion in a very short time, therefore, a fresh view on the possible air operator would be required to be taken who would, now, have to be selected through bidding process.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has suggested that the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHM), Shillong can be the probable nodal point (subject to final approval of MoH&FW) to provide medicines, telephone facility, doctors and paramedic crew for 2-helicopters. The project report received from MoCA was forwarded to NEIGRIHM, Shillong for their comments advising them to provide separately the specific resources/fund requirements with specific timeline.

The requirements of infrastructure and medical equipment for introduction of Air Ambulance services in North East has been submitted by Ministry of H&FW (NEIGRIHM), Shillong for providing one time central assistance. This is under examination.

Accordingly, the fulfilment of the Assurance would depend upon the final view emerging through inter-ministerial process."

11. During oral evidence, the Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region elucidated the matter as under:—

"After the Assurance was given, our Department took action on it. The brief report of the action taken has been submitted before the Committee. At first, a suggestion was received for provision of helicopters to carry doctors to distant areas for Out Patient Department (OPD) purpose. It was then that the concept of Air Dispensary system emerged. When the matter was put up in the first Inter-Ministerial meeting conducted by the Ministry, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stated that although it is a good scheme but with the present level of resources at the country's disposal, it would not be feasible for the Ministry to support the expenditure likely to be incurred on it. After that, it was decided to replace the concept of

Air Dispensary System with Health Emergency Management Service which will facilitate emergency medical assistance where immediate and rapid healthcare is required. After that, the question arose as to who will fund/ sponsor the scheme. A meeting on this aspect was held between our Ministry and the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Representatives of Pawan Hans were also present in that meeting. The question still remains as to which Ministry should own the scheme."

12. The Secretary, Ministry of DoNER further submitted during Evidence as under:—

"The operationalisation/continuation of this scheme would not be possible without the participation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Hence in an inter-Ministerial meeting, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare were requested to give their comments. They communicated to us that they have a Centre 'NEIGRIHM' at Shillong. They provided us an estimate wherein some extra posts of doctors, one helipad and funds for other civil works were asked for the said work. Then it was also felt that one helicopter will not be able to cater to 8 States and at least two units would be required. We had a sitting in our Ministry few days back as to how to proceed in the matter. We have informed the Health Department that funding aspects of the scheme will be taken care of by our Ministry and the Ministry of Civil Aviation but as regards doctors, nurses and other medical equipment they will have to make the arrangements, They have assured us that they will help us. At present the discussions are going on as to the need for scheme and as to who will own the scheme. We will arrange the funds as soon as the matter is decided as to which Ministry will own the scheme."

13. When the Committee specifically pointed out that in case of disinvestment of Pawan Hans, other private agency can also be considered, a representative of the Ministry of Civil Aviation stated during evidence as under:—

"While supplementing the Hon'ble Secretary, I want to state that we have already communicated that we are ready to take the responsibility of providing funds for the air transport/operationalisation aspect of the scheme. We have also given a thought to the disinvestment of Pawan Hans and if the process goes smoothly then we will select another air operator by issuing a tender in a transparent way for this particular operation."

Observations/Recommendations

14. The Committee note with concern that the Assurance given on the floor of the House in November, 2016 on an important issue relating to Mobile Air Dispensary for remote and far flung areas of the North Eastern Region with the provision of a helicopter equipped with medical and para medic personnel, medical equipment, medicines etc. has been delayed

inordinately and still, there has been no proper co-ordination among the Ministries concerned *i.e.* the Ministry of DoNER, Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare regarding how to deal with the Assurance. The Committee's scrutiny has revealed that initially a suggestion was received for launching of Mobile Air Dispensary services in the remote areas of North Eastern Region. The matter was discussed during an Inter-Ministerial meeting on 20.03.2017 wherein the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare showed their inability to support the proposal with the level of resources at their disposal. After that, it was proposed that the suggestion is technically feasible from the point of view of setting up of an emergency response/evacuation service which would facilitate emergency medical assistance where immediate and rapid transportation is essential. In another Inter-Ministerial meeting held on 05.05.2017, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare were requested to own the scheme and operate it through NEIGRIHM, Shillong and to make available medical and para-medical personnel, medical equipment, medicines etc. It was also proposed that the scheme can be operated by Pawan Hans Limited on payment basis by operating 2 helicopters at a cost of Rs. 1.87 crore per month wherein each one was supposed to cater to three States. Meanwhile, proposal of disinvestment of Pawan Hans Limited had been initiated. The Ministry of DoNER apprised the Committee that discussions were still going on with regard to the requirement of the scheme and its ownership aspects. The Ministry, however, assured the Committee that as soon as a final decision on these matters would arrive, the required amount for the scheme would be made available. The Ministry of Civil Aviation have also expressed their willingness to take responsibility of providing funds for air transport/operationalisation aspect of the scheme. The Committee are dismayed to find that even after a lapse of more than one and a years, much progress could not be made to implement the Assurance. Needless to mention, people living in many remote, hilly and inaccessible parts of the North Eastern Region face tremendous trouble, transport bottlenecks, long delays, etc. in having access to modern medical treatment and facilities even in today's 21st Century. The launching of the proposed Mobile Air Dispensary would have been a game changer in this regard. The nodal Ministry *i.e.* the Ministry of DoNER should have adopted a pro-active approach and enhanced the level of co-ordination with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and other stakeholders to expedite the process as it is their responsibility to implement the Assurance with the help and assistance of other Ministries and stakeholders concerned. Observing that the Ministry of Civil Aviation are ready to take the responsibility of air transportation part of the scheme and also considering the fact that the subject matter of the Assurance is sensitive and related to human lives, it is for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide the requisite man and material for the scheme now to implement the Assurance. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

should not allow the matter to fall into a quagmire of technicalities/red tapism and instead give utmost priority to it and pursue the matter earnestly and vigorously with a view to ensuring that a final outcome is emerged through Inter-Ministerial process at the earliest and the Assurance fulfilled. The Committee while lauding the fact that the Ministry do not have any other pending Assurance, direct the Ministry to furnish a Part Implementation Report of the Assurance so that the work done and efforts made by the Ministry to implement the Assurance become noticeable.

NEW DELHI;
08 August, 2018

17 Shravana, 1940 (Saka)

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

APPENDIX I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1307

ANSWERED ON 23.11.2016

Mobile Air Dispensary

1307. SHRI SUMAN BALKA:
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for launching of Mobile Air Dispensary service for remote and far flung areas of Northeast with the provision of a Helicopter with a doctor, necessary equipment and medicines to fly on regular basis and as and when required; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION [DR. JITENDRA SINGH]: (a) to (b) A suggestion has been received for launching of Mobile Air Dispensary service. A final view on this issue is being worked out.

APPENDIX II

(Vide para 5 of the Report)

Extracts from Manual of Practice and 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 Committee on Government Assurances of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, is given at Annexure 3. 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 request should have</p>

	<p>the approval of their Minister and this fact should be 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 and 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 Annexure 4 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 Annexure 5.</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>

Procedure for fulfilment of an assurance	<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>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, effort 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 Ministry concerned and 15 copies thereof (bilingual) in the prescribed proforma as at Annexure 6, 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 Parliamentary Unit for completing column 7 of its register.</p> <p>8.7.3 The implementation reports should be sent to the Ministry of the Parliamentary Affairs and not to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat. No advance copies of the implementation reports are to be endorsed to the Lok/Sabha Secretariat either.</p>
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Laying of the implementation report on the Table of the House	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 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.
Obligation to lay a paper on the Table of the House <i>vis-a-vis</i> assurance on the same subject	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 Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in the prescribed proforma (Annexure 6) in the manner already described in para 8.7.2.
Committees on Government Assurances LSR 323, 324 RSR 211-A	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.
Reports of the Committees on Government Assurances	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.
Effect on assurance on dissolution of the Lok Sabha	8.12 On dissolution of the Lok Sabha, all assurances, promises or undertakings 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.

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2017-2018)
(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)
SECOND SITTING
(27.12.2017)

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1745 hours in Committee Room "D", Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Naranbhai Kachhadiya
4. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
5. Shri A.T. Nana Patil
6. Shri C.R. Patil
7. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh

SECRETARIAT

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

WITNESSES

I. (a) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

1. Shri Naveen Verma, Secretary
2. Shri S.N. Pradhan, Joint Secretary
3. Shri S.P. Singh, Director
4. Dr. Harmeet Singh, Director
5. Ms. Samita Arora, Deputy Secretary

(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

1. Shri B. Bandyopadhyay, Deputy Secretary
2. Shri D.D. Maheshwari, Under Secretary

(c) Ministry of Civil Aviation

Ms. Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary

(d) Pawan Hans Limited

1. Shri T.A. Dayasagar, ED, Pawan Hans Limited

V. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

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

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda to take oral evidences of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence Production), Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy) and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on various pending Assurances.

2. The witnesses representing the Ministry of Department of North Eastern Region were then called in. Welcoming them, the Chairperson drew their attention to Direction 55(1) of the Direction by the Speaker, Lok Sabha regarding the confidentiality of the proceedings till the relevant report of the Committee is presented to Parliament. Thereafter, the Committee took their oral evidence on one pending Assurance of the Ministry of Department of North Eastern Region pertaining to the 10th Session of the 16th Lok Sabha as mentioned below:

I. USQ No. 1307 dated 23.11.2016 regarding Mobile Air Dispensary' (Sl. No. 1)

The Committee were informed that a suggestion was received for launching of Mobile Air Dispensary Services in the remote areas of North Eastern Region. The matter was discussed during an Inter-Ministerial meeting chaired by the Secretary, DoNER on 20.03.2017 wherein the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stated that with the present level of resources it would not be feasible for the Ministry to support the proposal of Mobile Air Dispensary Service. After that it was proposed that the suggestion is technically feasible from the point of view of sitting up of an emergency response/evacuation service, which is technically called Health Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) which will facilitate emergency medical assistance where immediate and rapid transportation is essential. In an Inter Ministerial meeting, the Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare were requested to own the scheme and operate it through NEIGRIHM, Shillong and to make available medical and para-medical personnel, medical equipment, medicines etc. The Committee were further informed that in yet another Inter-Ministerial meeting held on 05.05.2017 under the Chairmanship of Secretary of Civil Aviation, it was proposed that the scheme can be operated by Pawan Hans Limited on payment basis by operating 2 units (Helicopters) wherein each unit was supposed to cater to three States. The Ministry of Civil Aviation forwarded a DPR submitted by Pawan Hans Limited wherein they projected Rs. 1.87 crore per month as the monthly cost of operations for two helicopters. Meanwhile, proposal of disinvestment of Pawan Hans Limited had been initiated. The Ministry apprised the Committee that discussions are still going on with regard to requirement of the scheme and its ownership aspects. The Ministry assured the Committee that as soon as the final decision on these matters would arrive, the Ministry would make available the required amount. The Committee were concerned to note that even after a lapse of two years, there has been no co-ordination among the Ministries concerned with the result that the Assurance has been delayed inordinately. The Committee feel that being the nodal Ministry, it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region to implement the Assurance with the help and assistance of other Ministries concerned. The Committee were further informed by the representatives of Ministry of Civil Aviation that they are ready to take the responsibility of the air transportation part of the scheme and, in case Pawan Hans is disinvested, an air operator would be selected through transparent tender process to look after this scheme. The Committee felt that as the subject matter of the Assurance is related to human lives and the Government has responsibility towards North Eastern Region, this issue should not be allowed to fall into a quagmire of technicalities and should be given utmost priority. While lauding the fact that the Ministry do not have any other pending Assurance, the Committee directed the Ministry to ensure that a final outcome is emerged through inter-Ministerial process. The Committee further directed the Ministry to furnish a Part Implementation Report so that the work done and efforts made by the Ministry become noticeable.

3. The representatives of the Ministry of DoNER then withdrew.

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

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES

EIGHTH SITTING

**MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES (2017-18) HELD ON 8TH AUGUST, 2018
IN CHAIRPERSON'S CHAMBER ROOM NO. 133,
PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI.**

The Committee sat from 1000 hours to 1045 hours on Wednesday, 8th August, 2018.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Prof. Sugata Bose
4. Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia
5. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel

SECRETARIAT

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

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the following six (06) draft Reports without any amendment:

- (i) Draft 77th Report regarding "Review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs."
- (ii) Draft 78th Report regarding "Review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Coal."
- (iii) Draft 79th Report regarding "Review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region."

- (iv) Draft 80th Report regarding "Review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries."
- (v) Draft 81st Report regarding request for dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)
- (vi) Draft 82nd Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Not acceded to)

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

The Committee then adjourned.

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