

COMMITTEE
ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2020-2021)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)
THIRTIETH REPORT

REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF
ASSURANCES
(NOT ACCEDED TO)

Presented to Lok Sabha on.....09-03-....., 2021



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

March, 2021/ Phalguna, 1942 (Saka)



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* Implementation Report laid on 10.08.2020.

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2020 – 2021)**

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL

- Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay
3. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
4. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
5. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel
6. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
7. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
8. Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete
9. Shri Santosh Pandey
10. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras
11. Shri M.K. Raghavan
12. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu
13. Dr. Bharatiben Dhirubhai Shyal
14. Shri Indra Hang Subba
15. Smt. Supriya Sule

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Pawan Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Lovekesh Kumar Sharma - Director
3. Shri S. L. Singh - Deputy Secretary

* The Committee has been constituted w.e.f. 09 October, 2020 *vide* Para No. 1773 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 16 October, 2020



INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances (2020-2021), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirtieth Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2019-2020) at their sitting held on 10 August, 2020 *inter-alia* considered Memorandum Nos. 234 to 249 containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 18 pending Assurances and decided to pursue 02 Assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 03 December, 2020, the Committee on Government Assurances (2020-2021) considered and adopted this Report.

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

NEW DELHI;

05 March, 2021

14 Phalgun, 1942 (Saka)

**RAJENDRA AGRAWAL,
CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES**



REPORT

While replying to Questions in the House or during discussions on Bills, Resolutions, Motions, etc., Ministers sometimes give Assurances, undertakings or promises either to consider a matter, take action or furnish information to the House at some later date. An Assurance is required to be implemented by the Ministry concerned within a period of three months. In case, the Ministry finds it difficult to implement the Assurance on one ground or the other, it is required to request the Committee on Government Assurances to drop the Assurance and such requests are considered by the Committee on merits and decisions taken to drop an Assurance or otherwise.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2019-2020) considered Sixteen Memoranda (Appendix-I) containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 18 pending Assurances at their sitting held on 10 August, 2020.

3. After having considered the requests of the Ministries/Departments, the Committee are not convinced with the reasons furnished for dropping of the following 02 Assurances:-

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
1.*	SQ No. 208 dated 02.01.2018	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs)	Mandatory Hallmarking of Jewellery (Appendix -II)
2.	USQ No. 4732 dated 23.03.2018	Finance (Department of Financial Services)	Non-Reporting of Bank Scams by Auditors (Appendix -III)

* Implementation Report laid on 10.08.2020.

4. The details of the Assurances arising out of the replies and the reason(s) advanced by the Ministries/Departments for dropping of the above mentioned 02 Assurances are given in Appendices -II and III.

5. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee dated 10 August, 2020, whereunder the requests for dropping of the Assurances were considered, are given in Appendix-IV.

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

NEW DELHI;

05 March, 2021

14 Phalguna, 1942 (Saka)

**RAJENDRA AGRAWAL,
CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES**

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2019-2020)

Statement showing summary of requests received from various Ministries/Departments regarding dropping of Assurances and Considered by the Committee on 10 August, 2020

SI No.	Memo No.	Question/Discussion References	Ministry/Deptt.	Department	Brief Subject
1	234	SQ No. 339 dated 09.08.2017	Communications	Department of Telecommunications	Captive Mobile Radio Trunking Services
2	235	USQ No. 873 dated 20.12.2017	Railways		Internet in Trains
3	236	USQ No. 937 dated 21.12.2017	Jal Shakti		Inter-Linking of Rivers
4	237	USQ No. 938 dated 21.12.2017	Youth Affairs and Sports	Department of Sports	Funds for Sports Authority of Gujarat
5	238	SQ No. 164 dated 29.12.2017 (Supplementary by Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, M.P.)	Health and Family Welfare	Department of Health and Family Welfare	Cooperation in Health Sector
6	239	SQ No. 208 dated 02.01.2018	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	Department of Consumer Affairs	Mandatory Hallmarking of Jewellery
7	240	SQ No. 93 dated 08.02.2018	Jal Shakti		Inter-Linking of Rivers
8	241	USQ No. 3934 dated 20.03.2018	Housing and Urban Affairs		Inclusion in NCR
9	242	USQ No. 4732 dated 23.03.2018	Finance	Department of Financial Services	Non-Reporting of Bank Scams by Auditors
10	243	USQ No. 5348 dated 28.03.2018	NITI Aayog		Task Force on Elimination of Poverty
11	244	(i) USQ No. 6646 dated 06.04.2018 (ii) USQ No. 4109 dated 04.01.2019	Finance	Department of Economic Affairs	(i) Gold Policy (ii) New Gold Policy

SI No.	Memo No.	Question/Discussion References	Ministry/Deptt.	Department	Brief Subject
12	245	USQ No. 72 dated 18.07.2018	Railways		Monitor the Rail Line through Drone
13	246	(i) USQ No. 1880 dated 30.07.2018 (ii) USQ No. 1100 dated 17.12.2018	Labour and Employment		(i) Linking Fine with Inflation under Social Security Laws (ii) Labour Laws
14	247	SQ No. 36 dated 12.12.2018	Railways		High Speed Rail Corridor
15	248	SQ No. 28 dated 12.12.2018	Railways		Rail Accidents
16	249	USQ No. 885 dated 14.12.2018	Finance	Department of Revenue	Goods and Services Tax

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
MEMORANDUM NO. 289

Appendix-II

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Starred Question No. 208 dated 02.01.2018 regarding "Mandatory Hallmarking of Jewellery".

On 2nd January 2018, Shri S.R. Vijaya Kumar and Shri Suman Balka, M.Ps., addressed a Starred Question No. 208 to the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) vide O.M. No. 12/41/2017-BIS dated 29th September 2018 have stated as under:-

".....as regards the finalization of hallmarking regulations under the new BIS Act, 2016 are under finalization, it is stated that the BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations, 2018 has been notified by the BIS in the Official Gazette vide notification dated 14th June, 2018.

As regards taking final decision in the matter of making hallmarking of precious metal articles mandatory by the Central Government, it is stated that BIS Act, 2016 has enabling provisions for making hallmarking of precious metal articles mandatory by the Central Government. However, a decision may be taken by the Central Government only after taking into consideration interests of various stakeholders and ensuring availability of infrastructure in this regard in the country. This process of making hallmarking mandatory being a policy decision cannot be qualified in terms of time period.

Niti Aayog's Committee on Transforming India's Gold Market has also recommended that hallmarking should be made mandatory in a phased manner, giving enough time for necessary infrastructure development and to the jewelers to clear the existing stock."

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

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

DATED: 05/08/2020



Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *208
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.01.2018

MANDATORY HALLMARKING OF JEWELLERY

*208. SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR: SHRI SUMAN BALKA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made the hallmarking of 14 carat, 18 carat and 22 carat jewellery along with carat count mandatory from January, 2018 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the World Gold Council (WGC) has submitted a report on 'Mandatory Hallmarking: Global practices and road map for India' to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and if so, the details thereof along with the main recommendations made by the WGC in this regard;
- (c) whether jewellers have opposed the recommendations of the WGC, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the response of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has received representation regarding implementation of hallmarking of 20 carat gold jewellery and if so, the details thereof along with the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether the Government is also working on bringing hallmarking regulations under the new BIS Act, 2016 and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री
(श्री राम विलास पासवान)

THE MINISTER OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK
SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*208 FOR 02.01.2018 REGARDING
MANDATORY HALLMARKING OF JEWELLERY.

(a) : The BIS Act, 2016 has enabling provisions for making hallmarking of precious metal articles mandatory by the Central Government. However, Central Government is yet to take a final decision in the matter.

(b) : World Gold Council (WGC) has not submitted any such report to BIS. However, on the website of WGC a report dated 7th December, 2017 is available in which the key recommendations include:

- i. BIS should plan to introduce mandatory hallmarking in a phased manner.
- ii. Credibility of hallmarking may be raised through tighter enforcement and a technology solution to eliminate counterfeit hallmarking, etc.

(c) : No representation has been received by the Government so far from jewellers on the recommendation of WGC report.

(d) : A number of representations have been received from jewellers, various stakeholder associations wherein they have requested for inclusion of 20 carat grade also under hallmarking.

Based on the recommendations of the BIS technical committee, three grades, namely 14k, 18k and 22k, for manufacturing gold jewellery/artefacts under the Indian Standard 1417 have been notified w.e.f. 1st January, 2017. The technical committee had observed that since primary demand in gold jewellery/artefacts was under these three grades it will be prudent to keep these three grades only for hallmarking gold jewellery/artefacts in consumer interest.

(e) : The hallmarking regulations under the new BIS Act, 2016 are under finalization.

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4732 dated 23.03.2018 regarding "Non-Reporting of Bank Scams by Auditors"

On 23 March, 2018, Shri N.K. Premachandran, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4732 to the Minister of Finance. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) vide OM F. No. 9/97/2019-BOA-II dated 26 November, 2019 have stated as under:

"As the matter of Assurance relates to conducting investigation regarding criminal conspiracy behind Bank scams which is under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation, the completion of the investigation, filing of charge-sheet in cases wherever necessary as well as trial of the cases in a court is a time consuming process and may take a long time for completion. Therefore it is felt that it may not be feasible to fulfil the above Assurance within a reasonable time."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated:- 05/08/2020

New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4732

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 23rd MARCH 2018/ CHAITRA 2, 1940 (SAKA)

Non-Reporting of Bank Scams by Auditors

4732. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government examined the audit of the banks where scams were reported;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for auditors not reporting the scams;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce new scheme for transfer and posting of employees in the light of reported scams and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government conducted investigation regarding any criminal conspiracy behind the scams and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
(SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA)

(a) and (d): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that in case of Statutory Audit, banks appoint their auditors in terms of their Board-approved policy. Statutory Auditors primarily highlight shortcomings to RBI through Long Form Audit Report. As regards concurrent audit, RBI has issued guidelines in terms of which the Audit Committee of the Boards of banks review the system at the bank's level. Auditing through Risk Based Internal Audit is undertaken by banks themselves.

RBI has constituted an Expert Committee, to look into, *inter alia*, the role and effectiveness of various types of audits conducted in banks in mitigating the incidence of frauds.

(c): As per instructions of Central Vigilance Commission, Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are required to identify sensitive posts and to follow a rotation policy in respect of such posts.

Government has conveyed to PSBs that they should have their own objective, well laid-out transfer and posting rules, which should be followed strictly. Government has further conveyed that all decisions should be taken based on facts of the case and objectivity, and no such decision should be taken for any extraneous consideration. No proposal for change in these is under consideration of the Government.

(d): As per inputs from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), a number of FIRs relating to banks, in which offences under various provisions of law, including section 120B of the Indian Penal Code (which penalises criminal conspiracy), have been registered. These are under investigation.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

(2019-2020)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

TWELFTH SITTING

(10.08.2020)

The Committee sat from 1530 hours to 1635 hours in Committee Room "C", Parliament House Annex, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Agrawal - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
3. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
4. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
5. Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete
6. Shri Santosh Pandey

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Pawan Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Lovekesh Kumar Sharma - 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 that the sitting has been convened to consider 16 Memoranda containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 18 pending Assurances and for taking oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers). The Committee then took up the said 16 Memoranda (Memorandum Nos. 234 to 249) for consideration for dropping or otherwise of the relevant Assurances. After considering a few Memoranda, the Committee authorized the Hon'ble Chairperson to decide the Memoranda. The Chairperson subsequently decided to drop 16 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-I* and to pursue the remaining 02 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-II for implementation by the Ministry/Department concerned.

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The Committee then adjourned.

* Not enclosed

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2019-2020)

Annexure-II

Statement Showing Assurances not dropped by the Committee on Government Assurance (2019-2020) at their sitting held on 10.08.2020

S.No.	Memo No.	SQ/USQ No. and date	Ministry/ Department	Subject	Remarks
1.*	239	SQ No. 208 dated 02.01.2018	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs)	Mandatory Hallmarking Jewellery of	The Assurance pertains to two matters viz. finalization of hallmarking regulations under the new BIS Act, 2016 and making hallmarking of precious metal articles mandatory by the Central Government. As regards the finalization of hallmarking regulations under new BIS Act, the Ministry has informed that the BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations, 2018 has been notified by the BIS in the Official Gazette. With regard to making hallmarking of precious metal articles mandatory by the Central Government, the Ministry has informed that being a policy decision, the process of making hallmarking mandatory cannot be qualified in terms of time period. Further, the Committee have been informed that Niti Aayog's Committee on Transforming India's Gold Market has also recommended that hallmarking should be made mandatory in a phased manner, giving enough time for necessary infrastructure development and to the jewellers to clear the existing stock. The Committee find that in sum and substance the Assurance has been fulfilled. The Committee would urge upon the Ministry to provide/furnish the Implementation Report to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs at the earliest for

*Implementation Report laid on 10.08.2020.

S.No.	Memo No.	SQ/USQ No. and date	Ministry/ Department	Subject	Remarks
2.	242	USQ No. 4732 dated 23.03.2018	Finance (Department of Financial Services)	Non-Reporting of Bank Scams by Auditors	<p>being laid on the Table of the House and fulfil the Assurance.</p> <p>The Ministry has requested to drop the Assurance on the ground that it essentially pertains to investigation by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into criminal conspiracy behind bank scams. The Ministry has stated that as the completion of CBI investigation, filing of charge-sheet in cases wherever necessary as well as trial of cases in a court is likely to take considerable period of time, it will not be feasible for them to fulfil the Assurance within a reasonable time. The Committee understand that such matters may take time but at the same time there is an imperative need to ensure accountability in the matter so that those involved in the criminal conspiracy behind bank scams can be brought to book. In view of the need to uphold transparency, accountability and probity in the matter, the Committee urge upon the Ministry to earnestly pursue the matter with the CBI for expediting the investigation. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the initiatives taken by the Ministry as well as the progress made in the matter.</p>

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2020-2021)
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)
FIRST SITTING
(03.12.2020)

The Committee sat from 1100 hours to 1215 hours in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Agrawal - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

2. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
3. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
4. Shri Santosh Pandey
5. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Pawan Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Lovekesh Kumar Sharma - Director
3. Shri S.L. Singh - Deputy Secretary

WITNESSES

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At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened to (i) chalk out future programme of the Committee; (ii) consider and adopt 14 draft Reports; (iii) consider 25 Memoranda containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping or otherwise of 61 pending Assurances; and (iv) take oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Civil Aviation regarding pending Assurances.

2. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration and adoption the following 14 Draft Reports:-

- (i) Draft Seventeenth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)';
- (ii) Draft Eighteenth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)';

- (iii) Draft Nineteenth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Power';
- (iv) Draft Twentieth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports)';
- (v) Draft Twenty-First Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)';
- (vi) Draft Twenty-Second Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)';
- (vii) Draft Twenty-Third Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers)';
- (viii) Draft Twenty-Fourth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence)';
- (ix) Draft Twenty-Fifth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)';
- (x) Draft Twenty-Sixth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)';
- (xi) Draft Twenty-Seventh Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)';
- (xii) Draft Twenty-Eighth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)';
- (xiii) Draft Twenty-Ninth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)'; and
- (xiv) Draft Thirtieth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)'.

3. The Committee adopted all the above mentioned 14 Draft Reports without any amendment and authorized the Chairperson to present the Reports at a later date.

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The Committee then adjourned.

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2019 - 2020)**

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay
3. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
4. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
5. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel
6. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
7. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
8. Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete
9. Shri Santosh Pandey
10. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras
11. Shri Parbatbhai Savabhai Patel
12. Shri M.K. Raghavan
13. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu
14. Dr. Bharatiben Dhirubhai Shyal
15. Smt. Supriya Sule

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Pawan Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Lovekesh Kumar Sharma - Director
3. Shri S. L. Singh - Deputy Secretary

* The Committee was constituted w.e.f. 09 October, 2019 *vide* Para No. 609 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 09 October, 2019

