

**COMMITTEE
ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2021-2022)**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

SIXTY-THIRD REPORT

**REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF
ASSURANCES
(ACCEDED TO)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on...३१/०७/... 2022



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

July, 2022/

Ashadha, 1944 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2021 - 2022)**

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Prof. Sougata Ray **
3. Shri Nihal Chand
4. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
5. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel
6. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
7. Shri Kaushlendra Kumar
8. Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete
9. Shri Santosh Pandey
10. Shri M.K. Raghavan
11. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu
12. Dr. Bharatiben D. Shiyal
13. Shri Indra Hang Subba
14. Smt. Supriya Sule
15. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. | Shri J.M. Baisakh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Dr. Sagarika Dash | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Krishna C. Pandey | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Sanjeev Kumar Gulati | - | Committee Officer |

* The Committee has been constituted w.e.f. 09 October, 2021 vide Para No. 3202 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 18 October, 2021

** Nominated to the Committee vide Para No 4711 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 06 June, 2022 vice Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay resigned on 01 June, 2022

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances (2021-2022), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Sixty-Third Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2021-2022) at their sitting held on 11 January, 2022 *inter-alia* considered Memorandum Nos. 12 to 36 containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 41 pending Assurances and decided to drop 33 Assurances.
3. At their sitting held on 18 April, 2022, the Committee on Government Assurances (2021-2022) considered and adopted this Report.
4. The Minutes of the aforesaid sittings of the Committee form part of the Report.

NEW DELHI;

२० July, 2022

२१ Ashadha, 1944 (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 (2021-2022) considered Twenty-five Memoranda (Appendix-I) containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 41 pending Assurances at their sitting held on 11 January, 2022.

3. After having considered the grounds cited by the Ministries/Departments, the Committee are convinced and decided to drop the following 33 Assurances :-

S. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
1.	Discussion on the Dam Safety Bill dated 02.08.2019 by Shri Jayadev Galla, MP, (Page No. 181)	Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation)	Discussion on the Dam Safety Bill, 2019 (Appendix -II)
2.	(i) SQ No. 47 dated 20.11.2019 (ii) USQ No. 1468 dated 27.11.2019	Electronics and Information Technology	(i) Mobile Phone Data (ii) Data Protection Law

S. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
	(iii) USQ No. 2536 dated 04.12.2019 (iv) USQ No. 2554 dated 04.12.2019 (v) USQ No. 2602 dated 04.12.2019 (vi) USQ No. 2664 dated 04.12.2019 (vii) USQ No. 2713 dated 04.12.2019 (viii) USQ No. 3804 dated 11.12.2019 (ix) USQ No. 3897 dated 11.12.2019 (x) USQ No. 3902 dated 11.12.2019 (xi) USQ No. 1476 dated 10.02.2021		(iii) Social Media Monitoring Hub (iv) Data Protection Bill (v) Privacy Violation and Data Protection (vi) Protection of Data Privacy (vii) Selling of Private Information of Social Media Users (viii) Data Collected by Social Networking Companies (ix) Illegal Activities on Social Media (x) Misappropriation of Data (xi) Chinese Investment in Data-Reliant Sectors (Appendix –III)
3.	USQ No. 3024 dated 06.08.2018	Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)	National Integrated Logistics Policy (Appendix –IV)
4.	USQ No. 1428 dated 10.02.2021	Coal	Diversifying PSUs in the Coal Sector (Appendix –V)
5.	USQ No. 4674 dated 24.03.2021	Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)	Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) (Appendix –VI)
6.	SQ No. 343 dated 10.08.2018 (Supplementary by Kumari Sushmita Dev, MP)	Corporate Affairs	CSR Funds (Appendix –VII)

S. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
7.	USQ No. 1927 dated 31.07.2015	Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)	Ordinance for Restricting Extension of Tea Garden (Appendix –VIII)
8.	(i) USQ No. 3883 dated 11.12.2019 (ii) USQ No. 647 dated 05.02.2020	Communications (Department of Telecommunications)	(i) Complaints Against Telecom Operators (ii) Complaints Against TSPs (Appendix –IX)
9.	(i) SQ No. 96 dated 08.02.2021 (ii) USQ No. 17 dated 19.07.2021	Culture	(i) Expert Committee on Indian Culture (ii) Committee to Study Indian Culture (Appendix –X)
10.	USQ No. 4698 dated 24.03.2021	Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)	Logistics Policy (Appendix –XI)
11.	USQ No. 2284 dated 08.03.2021	Culture	Declaration of Barpeta Town as Heritage Town (Appendix –XII)
12.	USQ No. 248 dated 25.02.2015	Department of Atomic Energy	Atomic Fuel (Appendix –XIII)
13.	USQ No. 2235 dated 02.12.2019	Education (Department of Higher Education)	IIT and IIM (Appendix –XIV)
14.	(i) USQ No. 4603 dated 22.07.2019 (ii) USQ No. 4633 dated 22.07.2019 (iii) USQ No. 4692 dated 22.07.2019 (iv) USQ No. 70 dated 03.02.2020	Education (Department of Higher Education)	(i) Investment for Quality Education (ii) Transform Higher Education (iii) Vision of Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) (iv) EQUIP Programme (Appendix –XV)

S. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
15.	(i) USQ No. 3169 dated 15.03.2021 (ii) USQ No. 120 dated 19.07.2021	Education (Department of School Education & Literacy)	(i) Syllabus on Freedom Fighters (ii) History Textbooks (Appendix –XVI)
16.	USQ No. 3931 dated 20.03.2015	Finance (Department of Economic Affairs)	Bitcoin Exchange and Trading (Appendix –XVII)
17.	USQ No. 2201 dated 02.12.2019	Tribal Affairs	National Water Projects in Tribal Areas (Appendix –XVIII)

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 33 Assurances are given in Appendices -II to XVIII.

5. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee dated 11 January, 2022, whereunder the requests for dropping of the Assurances were considered, are given in Appendix-XIX.

NEW DELHI;

20 July, 2022

29 Ashadha, 1944 (Saka)

RAJENDRA AGRAWAL,
CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2021-2022)

Statement showing summary of requests received from various Ministries/Departments regarding dropping of Assurances and considered by the Committee on 11 January, 2022

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question/ Discussion References	Ministry	Department	Brief Subject
1	12	Discussion on the Dam Safety Bill dated 02.08.2019 by Shri Jayadev Galla, MP, (Page No. 181)	Jal Shakti	Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation	Discussion on the Dam Safety Bill, 2019
2	13	(i) SQ No. 47 dated 20.11.2019 (ii) USQ No. 1468 dated 27.11.2019 (iii) USQ No. 2536 dated 04.12.2019 (iv) USQ No. 2554 dated 04.12.2019 (v) USQ No. 2602 dated 04.12.2019 (vi) USQ No. 2664 dated 04.12.2019 (vii) USQ No. 2713 dated 04.12.2019 (viii) USQ No. 3804 dated 11.12.2019 (ix) USQ No. 3897 dated 11.12.2019	Electronics and Information Technology		(i) Mobile Phone Data (ii) Data Protection Law (iii) Social Media Monitoring Hub (iv) Data Protection Bill (v) Privacy Violation and Data Protection (vi) Protection of Data Privacy (vii) Selling of Private Information of Social Media Users (viii) Data Collected by Social Networking Companies (ix) Illegal Activities on Social Media

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question/ Discussion References	Ministry	Department	Brief Subject
		(x) USQ No. 3902 dated 11.12.2019 (xi) USQ No. 1476 dated 10.02.2021			(x) Misappropriation of Data (xi) Chinese Investment in Data-Reliant Sectors
3	14	USQ No. 3024 dated 06.08.2018	Commerce and Industry	Department of Commerce	National Integrated Logistics Policy
4	15	USQ No. 1428 dated 10.02.2021	Coal		Diversifying PSUs in the Coal Sector
5	16	USQ No. 4674 dated 24.03.2021	Commerce and Industry	Department of Commerce	Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)
6	17	SQ No. 343 dated 10.08.2018 (Supplementary by Kumari Sushmita Dev, MP)	Corporate Affairs		CSR Funds
7	18	USQ No. 1927 dated 31.07.2015	Commerce and Industry	Department of Commerce	Ordinance for Restricting Extension of Tea Garden
8	19	(i) USQ No. 3883 dated 11.12.2019 (ii) USQ No. 647 dated 05.02.2020	Communications	Department of Telecommunications	(i) Complaints Against Telecom Operators (ii) Complaints Against TSPs
9	20	USQ No. 4860 dated 31.03.2017	Defence	Department of Defence	LCA Tejas
10	21	USQ No. 3386 dated 16.03.2021	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Use of Antibiotics on Food Crops
11	22	USQ No. 4430 dated 23.03.2021	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Ban of 27 Insecticides
12	23	USQ No. 3435 dated 16.03.2021	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Department of Agriculture Research & Education	Control of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question/ Discussion References	Ministry	Department	Brief Subject
13	24	(i) SQ No. 96 dated 08.02.2021 (ii) USQ No. 17 dated 19.07.2021	Culture		(i) Expert Committee on Indian Culture (ii) Committee to Study Indian Culture
14	25	USQ No. 3422 dated 15.07.2019	Culture		Reconstitution of Cultural Advisory Board on Archaeology
15	26	USQ No. 4698 dated 24.03.2021	Commerce and Industry	Department of Commerce	Logistics Policy
16	27	USQ No. 2284 dated 08.03.2021	Culture		Declaration of Barpeta Town as Heritage Town
17	28	USQ No. 248 dated 25.02.2015		Department of Atomic Energy	Atomic Fuel
18	29	USQ No. 2235 dated 02.12.2019	Education	Department of Higher Education	IIT and IIM
19	30	(i) USQ No. 4603 dated 22.07.2019 (ii) USQ No. 4633 dated 22.07.2019 (iii) USQ No. 4692 dated 22.07.2019 (iv) USQ No. 70 dated 03.02.2020	Education	Department of Higher Education	(i) Investment for Quality Education (ii) Transform Higher Education (iii) Vision of Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) (iv) EQUIP Programme
20	31	(i) USQ No. 3169 dated 15.03.2021 (ii) USQ No. 120 dated 19.07.2021	Education	Department of School Education & Literacy	(i) Syllabus on Freedom Fighters (ii) History Textbooks

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question/ Discussion References	Ministry	Department	Brief Subject
21	32	USQ No. 2817 dated 12.03.2021	Environment, Forest and Climate Change		Protection of Giant Leatherback Nesting Site
22	33	USQ No. 3783 dated 20.03.2013	Education	Department of Higher Education	National Book Promotion Policy
23	34	USQ No. 3931 dated 20.03.2015	Finance	Department of Economic Affairs	Bitcoin Exchange and Trading
24	35	USQ No. 986 dated 08.02.2021	Tribal Affairs		Preserving the Language and Culture of the Tribes
25	36	USQ No. 2201 dated 02.12.2019	Tribal Affairs		National Water Projects in Tribal Areas

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
MEMORANDUM No. 12

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurances given in reply to the discussion on the Dam Safety Bill, 2019 at Page No. 180-181."

On 02 August, 2019, the following Assurances were given during the discussion on the Dam Safety Bill, 2019 by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (Now the Ministry of Jal Shakti) :-

Part -I "A friend from Telangana discussed about Polavaram Dam, a friend from Andhra discussed about Polavaram Dam. Polavaram has been declared as a National Project. Jayadev Galla Saheb also talked about the reimbursement of the expenditure incurred by the Indian Government on the Polavaram Dam. The Finance Department has raised some objections and asked them to present the audited account of Rs. 5 thousand crore spent on Right bank and Left bank canal. An audited account of about Rs. 3 thousand crore has been presented. Rest is still left. When the remaining amount is presented, then further reimbursement will be considered"

Part-II "National Committee on Dam Safety is the technical body. As I said, it is not a regulatory authority. Shri Jayadev Galla ji while speaking expressed concern that the proposal of picking seven Members from States will take a long time for a particular State. The first thing I want to tell you for your knowledge is that the assumption that the States will not have the right to choose representatives does not hold good. The States will decide about the representatives but provisions will be made to put to rest the concern of the States which have a large number of dams that a separate category should be made for them so that they do not have to wait for so many years. As far as the clarifications sought by other Hon'ble Members is concerned, I will try to send a written reply to each and every Member who has asked for the clarifications."

2. The above replies were treated as Assurances and were required to be implemented within three months of the replies but the Assurances are still pending.

3. The Ministry of Jal Shakti Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation vide O.M. No. H-11012/6/2020-BM Section-MOWR/18-20 dated 01.01.2021 has requested to drop the Part-I of the above Assurance on the

grounds that Implementation Report of the Assurance has been sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to be laid on the Table of the House. The Implementation Report has since been laid on the Table of the House on 08.12.2021.

4. Further, the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation) vide O.M. No. H-11012/6/2020-BM Section-MOWR/429-431 dated 15.12.2020 has requested to drop the Part-II of the Assurance on the following grounds:-

"The Part-II of the Assurance made is in respect of the concerns of some of the States regarding composition of National Committee on Dam Safety. The Hon'ble Minister (Jal Shakti) during discussion on the Bill on 02.08.2019 mentioned that concerns of the States regarding their representation in the National Committee on Dam Safety could be suitably addressed while framing Rules under the proposed Dam Safety Act. In this regard, it may be mentioned that the Rules will be finalized after enactment of the proposed Dam Safety Act. Further, it may be mentioned that the Dam Safety Bill, 2019 has been passed by Lok Sabha on 2nd August, 2019. The Bill needs to be taken up for consideration in Rajya Sabha. The Notice for Consideration & Passage of the Bill in Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session, 2020 of the Parliament was sent to Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, however, the Bill could not be taken up for consideration in Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session, 2020. Subsequently, Notice for Consideration & Passage of the Bill in Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon Session, 2020 of the Parliament was again sent to Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, however, the Bill could not be taken up for consideration in Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon Session, 2020. As such, no time limit can be prescribed for passage of the Bill from Parliament and subsequently, no time limit can be prescribed for fulfillment of the aforesaid Assurance."

5. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State (Jal Shakti) (Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation) has requested the Committee drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

DATED : 03/01/2022

NEW DELHI

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT (RAJAHMUNDRY): My clarification is with regard to rehabilitation and resettlement concerning Polavaram project. When can we expect release of funds for resettlement and rehabilitation of tribals and villagers? It has nothing to do with the construction of Polavaram project.

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Clause 49 of this Bill provides that the Central Government is competent to amend any provision of the Schedules I, II and III. Now, my clarification from the hon. Minister is this. This provision is part of this Bill. Parliament is competent to legislate with respect to this Schedule. Is it constitutionally permissible to delegate Parliament's legislative power to the Central Government that these Schedules can be amended by way of notification issued in the Official Gazette only? It is because the legislative power of Parliament cannot be delegated to the Central Government.

श्री राजू बिष्ट (दार्जिलिंग): अध्यक्ष महोदय, दार्जिलिंग, डूअर्स और तराई के जो इलाके हैं, वे सेस्मिक जोन के हिसाब से चौथे नंबर पर आते हैं। कांग्रेस के जमाने में यह पारित हुआ था कि तीस्ता नदी पर 27 डैम्स बनाए जाएंगे। इनमें से चार डैम्स बन भी चुके हैं। मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि प्लैन की अपेक्षा पहाड़ी क्षेत्र में जो डैम बनता है, वह अलग टाइम का होता है। अगर वहां पहला वाला डैम टूट जाता है, तो सारे के सारे डैम्स टूट जाते हैं और यह आदमियों के लिए काफी रिस्की हो जाता है। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि अभी तीस्ता नदी को लेकर क्या विचार है? अभी तक वहां जितने भी डैम्स बने हैं, वहां के लोगों को पूरी तरह से मुआवजा नहीं मिला है। क्या उसके लिए कुछ किया जा रहा है? धन्यवाद।

माननीय अध्यक्ष: सभी माननीय सदस्य माननीय मंत्री जी से उनके चैम्बर में मिल लीजिए, वह आपकी सारी समस्याओं का समाधान कर देंगे।

श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सारे सम्मानीय सदस्यों को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। उन्होंने मुझे लिबर्टी दी है कि मैं बाद में सभी सदस्यों से व्यक्तिगत रूप से मिलकर उनके क्लैरिफिकेशन के बारे में लिखित रूप से बता सकूँ। माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, अपने विचार व्यक्त करते हुए भी कुछ सदस्यों ने कहा था और वापस क्लैरिफिकेशन में भी वही चीज पूछी है। तेलंगाना से आने वाले मित्र ने पोलावरम डैम के बारे में चर्चा की, आंध्र से आने वाले मित्र ने पोलावरम डैम के बारे में चर्चा की। पोलावरम डैम नेशनल प्रोजेक्ट डिक्लेयर हुआ है। पोलावरम डैम में भारत सरकार ने, जो खर्च किया है उसके रीअम्बर्समेंट की बात जयदेव गल्ला साहब ने भी की। रीअम्बर्समेंट के लिए फाइनेंस ने कुछ आपत्तियां लगाईं और उनको कहा था कि जो खर्च, जिस राइट बैंक और लेफ्ट बैंक कैनाल की वह बात करते हैं, उसके लिए जो पांच हजार करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए थे, उस पांच हजार करोड़ रुपये का एक बार ऑडिटेड एकाउंट प्रस्तुत करें। तीन हजार करोड़ रुपये के लगभग का एक ऑडिटेड एकाउंट अभी प्रस्तुत हुआ है, बाकी अभी शेष है। वे प्रस्तुत करेंगे, तब इसके ऊपर आगे रीअम्बर्समेंट पर विचार होगा।

दूसरा विषय, माननीय सदस्य ने चिंता व्यक्त की कि यह कब तक पूरा होगा? मैं माननीय सदन के संज्ञान के लिए और माननीय सदस्य को अवगत कराना चाहता हूँ कि पोलावरम प्रोजेक्ट के निर्माण की जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकार के पास है। मुझे यह सूचित करते हुए अत्यन्त दुख होता है कि राज्य सरकार ने कल एक बार फिर टेंडर को, जो कनसैशनर था, उसका टेंडर कैंसल कर दिया। मुझे लगता है कि यह एक नया अवरोध होगा और आने वाले समय में इसमें कितना समय लगेगा, इस समय के बारे में मुझे ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT: I was talking about rehabilitation and resettlement.

श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत: इसके कारण कॉस्ट एस्किलेशन भी निश्चित रूप से बढ़ने वाला है। मेरी बहन महुआ जी ने स्टेट कंसल्टेशन के बारे में बात की। हमने सभी स्टेट्स को कंसल्टेशन के लिए भेजा था। जिन स्टेट्स ने अपनी ऑब्जर्वेशन्स दीं, अपनी तरफ से प्रतिक्रियायें व्यक्त कीं, हमने

उनको एड्रेस करने का प्रयास किया है। मैं दुःख के साथ कहता हूँ कि वेस्ट बंगाल प्रदेश ने उसमें कोई प्रतिक्रिया ही नहीं दी। ... (व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, उन्होंने नेशनल कमेटी ऑन डैम सेफ्टी के बारे में बात की। नेशनल कमेटी ऑन डैम सेफ्टी टेक्निकल बॉडी है, जैसा मैंने कहा कि वह रेग्युलेटरी अथॉरिटी नहीं है। जयदेव गल्ला जी ने भी अपनी बात करते हुए इस बात के लिए चिंता व्यक्त की थी कि सात सदस्य आप राज्यों से लेंगे, उसका नंबर इतनी देरी से आएगा। पहली बात मैं आपके संज्ञान के लिए बताना चाहता हूँ कि जैसा कहा गया कि राज्यों को प्रतिनिधि चुनने का अधिकार नहीं होगा, राज्यों के प्रतिनिधि राज्य ही तय करेंगे, लेकिन राज्यों के प्रतिनिधियों की जो चिंता की है, निश्चित रूप से नियम बनाते समय हम इस बात का उपबंध करेंगे कि बड़े राज्य, जिनमें ज्यादा संख्या में बांध हैं, उनके लिए एक अलग से कैटेगरी बन जाए, ताकि उनको इतने वर्षों तक इंतजार न करना पड़े। बाकी माननीय सदस्यों ने जो क्लेरिफिकेशन्स मांगे हैं, वह सबके पास मैं लिखित में भेजने का प्रयास करूंगा।

माननीय अध्यक्ष : प्रश्न यह है:

“कि बांध संबंधी विफलता से संबंधित आपदाओं के निवारण के लिए विनिर्दिष्ट बांधों की निगरानी, निरीक्षण, प्रचालन और अनुरक्षण का उपबंध करने और उनके सुरक्षित कार्यकरण को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए संस्थागत क्रियाविधि तथा उनसे संबंधित या उनके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने वाले विधेयक पर विचार किया जाए।”

प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत हुआ।

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय सदस्यगण, सभा अब विधेयक पर खण्डवार विचार करेगी। चूंकि जिन सदस्यों ने इस विधेयक पर संशोधनों की सूचना दी है, वे सदन में अपने संशोधन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए उपस्थित नहीं हैं, इसलिए मैं सभी खण्डों को एक साथ सभा के निर्णय के लिए रखूंगा।

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH**

MEMORANDUM No. 13

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurances given in replies to:-

- (i) Starred Question No. 47 dated 20.11.2019 regarding "Mobile Phone Data." (Annexure-I)
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 1468 dated 27.11.2019 regarding "Data Protection Law." (Annexure-II)
- (iii) Unstarred Question No. 2536 dated 04.12.2019 regarding "Social Media Monitoring Hub." (Annexure-III)
- (iv) Unstarred Question No. 2554 dated 04.12.2019 regarding "Data Protection Bill." (Annexure-IV)
- (v) Unstarred Question No. 2602 dated 04.12.2019 regarding "Privacy Violation and Data Protection." (Annexure-V)
- (vi) Unstarred Question No. 2664 dated 04.12.2019 regarding "Protection of Data Privacy." (Annexure-VI)
- (vii) Unstarred Question No. 2713 dated 04.12.2019 regarding "Selling of Private Information of Social Media Users." (Annexure-VII)
- (viii) Unstarred Question No. 3804 dated 11.12.2019 regarding "Data Collected by Social Networking Companies." (Annexure-VIII)
- (ix) Unstarred Question No. 3897 dated 11.12.2019 regarding "Illegal activities on Social Media." (Annexure-IX)
- (x) Unstarred Question No. 3902 dated 11.12.2019 regarding "Misappropriation of Data." (Annexure-X)
- (xi) Unstarred Question No. 1453 dated 10.02.2021 regarding "Applicability of Whatsapp Privacy Policy."
- (xii) Unstarred Question No. 1476 dated 10.02.2021 regarding "Chinese Investment in Data-Reliant Sectors." (Annexure-XI)
- (xiii) Unstarred Question No. 1514 dated 10.02.2021 regarding "Impact of Change in Privacy Policy."
- (xiv) Unstarred Question No. 1581 dated 10.02.2021 regarding "Concerns on Amendments in Privacy Policy of Whatsapp."

The above mentioned Questions were asked by various MPs to the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology. The contents of the Questions along with the replies of the Minister mentioned at Sl. No (i) to (x) and (xii) in the above list are as given in Annexures (I to XI).

2. The three Assurances mentioned at Sl. Nos. (xi), (xiii) and (xiv) were already excluded from the list of pending Assurances by the Secretariat during the review of Examination of Debates as these do not constitute Assurances.

3. The replies to the Questions Sl. No (i) to (x) and (xii) were treated as Assurances by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology within three months from the date of replies but the Assurances are yet to be implemented.

4. In this regard, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology vide O.M. No. 24(1)/2020-CLES(Pt.-III) dated 01.12.2021 has stated as under:

"Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill, 2019 has already been introduced in Parliament (during the year December, 2019) which was referred to Joint Committee of Parliament (JCP). Now JCP has adopted the report on PDP Bill on 22.11.2021. This matter is now beyond the purview of MeitY and thus should be considered for dropping of the Assurance on part of MeitY."

5. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, has requested the Committee to drop the above mentioned Assurances.

The Committee may consider.

Dated :- 03/01/2022

New Delhi:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*47
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 20.11.2019

MOBILE PHONE DATA

*47 **SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:**
SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that a spyware/malware 'Pegasus' of Israel-based NSO group has reportedly been used to infect/spy/steal mobile phone data of many human rights activists, journalists and other eminent persons of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise along with the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the said breach of privacy has affected many people across the world and if so, the details thereof and the number of Indian citizens affected by this spyware;
- (d) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the reports of alleged use and purchase of the Pegasus spyware by Government agencies and if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government has asked WhatsApp to explain the aforesaid spyware attack and if so, the details thereof and the response received by the Government thereon;
- (f) whether the Government had received prior intimation in this regard from social media owners like WhatsApp, Facebook and if so, the details thereof along with the date on which such intimation was received and the action taken in this regard; and
- (g) whether the Government proposes to enact any law to safeguard the privacy of citizens from similar attacks as mandated by the apex court and if so, the details thereof along with the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION
NO. *47 FOR 20-11-2019 REGARDING MOBILE PHONE DATA**

.....

(a), (b) and (c) : Yes, Sir. Government has taken note of the fact that a spyware/malware has affected some Whatsapp users. According to WhatsApp, this spyware was developed by an Israel based company NSO Group and that it had developed and used Pegasus spyware to attempt to reach mobile phones of a possible number of 1400 users globally that includes 121 users from India.

(d) : Some statements have appeared, based on reports in media, regarding this. These attempts to malign the Government of India for the reported breach are completely misleading. The Government is committed to protect the fundamental rights of citizens, including the right to privacy. The Government operates strictly as per provisions of law and laid down protocols. There are adequate provisions in the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 to deal with hacking, spyware etc.

(e) and (f) : The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) published a vulnerability note on May 17, 2019 advising countermeasures to users regarding a vulnerability in WhatsApp. Subsequently, on May 20, 2019 WhatsApp reported an incident to the CERT-In stating that WhatsApp had identified and promptly fixed a vulnerability that could enable an attacker to insert and execute code on mobile devices and that the vulnerability can no longer be exploited to carry out attacks.

On September 5, 2019 WhatsApp wrote to CERT-In mentioning an update to the security incident reported in May 2019, that while the full extent of this attack may never be known, WhatsApp continued to review the available information. It also mentioned that WhatsApp believes it is likely that devices of approximately one hundred and twenty one users in India may have been attempted to be reached. Based on media reports on 31st October, 2019, about such targeting of mobile devices of Indian citizens through WhatsApp by spyware Pegasus, CERT-In has issued a formal notice to WhatsApp seeking submission of relevant details and information.

(g) : Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology is working on the Personal Data Protection Bill to safeguard the privacy of citizens, and it is proposed to table it in Parliament.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1468
 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 27.11.2019

DATA PROTECTION LAW

1468 . SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to prevent the falling of supersensitive and personal data into the hands of unscrupulous elements and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Justice Srikrishna Committee on data protection has submitted its report and if so, the details and the major recommendation thereof;
- (c) whether the committee has identified thirteen categories of sensitive and personal data and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the same; and
- (e) the reasons for delay in enacting law pertaining to data protection?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 (SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a): Yes, Sir. At present the Information Technology Act, 2000 has provisions for protection of sensitive personal data, wherein section 43A provides for privacy and security of Sensitive Personal data. Further, to strengthen the protection of personal data, the Government constituted a committee of experts on data protection, chaired by Justice (Retd.) B.N. Srikrishna, Supreme Court of India to look into all aspects relating to personal data protection. The committee gave its report, along with draft Personal Data Protection Bill on 27th July, 2018.

(b): Yes, Sir. The Report & the Draft Bill of the Srikrishna Committee are available at: <https://meity.gov.in/data-protection-framework>.

(c): The Committee in the referred draft Bill proposes definitions and short list sensitive personal data under section 3(29) and 3(35) respectively.

(d) and (e): Wide consultations were held on the draft bill and open feedback was solicited on the contents of the bill. These are currently being processed and it is proposed to table the bill in Parliament.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2536
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.12.2019

SOCIAL MEDIA MONITORING HUB

2536. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to setup social media monitoring hub for mass surveillance of citizens of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the privacy of the citizens?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b): There is no such proposal with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. Government is committed to freedom of speech and expression and privacy of its citizens as enshrined in the constitution of India.

(c): Section 43A and section 72A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides for privacy and security of data in digital form. Section 43A of the Act provides for compensation to be paid to the affected users in case of unauthorized access of information and leakage of sensitive personal information respectively. It mandates 'body corporate' to implement 'reasonable security practices' for protecting 'sensitive personal information' of individuals. Section 72A of the Act provides for punishment in the form of imprisonment upto 3 years and fine for disclosure of information in breach of the lawful contract.

To further strengthen privacy and personal data protection of citizens, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on 31st July 2017 constituted a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice B N Srikrishna, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, to look into all aspects relating to personal data protection. The committee gave its report on 27th July, 2018. The Committee also submitted a draft Personal Data Protection Bill. Wide consultations were held on the draft Bill and open feedback was invited on the contents of the Bill. These are currently being processed and it is proposed to table the Bill in Parliament.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2554
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.12.2019

DATA PROTECTION BILL

2554 . SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state?

- (a) the salient features of the proposed Data Protection Bill drafted by the Government;
- (b) the details of the recommendations of B. N. Srikrishna Committee on protection of personal data along with those accepted by the Government;
- (c) the details of recommendations of the said committee not accepted by the Government and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the aforesaid Bill is different from the US and European data privacy law and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on 31st July 2017, vide OM No.3(6)/2017-CLES, constituted a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice B N Srikrishna, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, to look into all aspects relating to personal data protection. The committee gave its report on 27th July, 2018. The Committee also submitted a draft Personal Data Protection Bill. Wide consultations were held on the draft bill and open feedback was invited on the contents of the bill. These are currently being processed and it is proposed to table the bill in Parliament. The Report & the Draft Bill of the Srikrishna Committee are available at: <https://meity.gov.in/data-protection-framework>. The committee had made an extensive study about the privacy laws in various countries, and these details are available in the report. The proposed bill seeks to incorporate best practices from all such laws.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 LOK SABHA
 UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2602
 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.12.2019

PRIVACY VIOLATION AND DATA PROTECTION

**2602. DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.: SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
 DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE: DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:
 SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE: SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:**

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state?

- (a) the details of status of the personal data protection law;
- (b) whether all the submission made regarding the personal data protection law will be disclosed as a measure to ensure transparency and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the procedure for individuals to complain on privacy violations until the personal data protection law is enacted;
- (d) the number of complaints received by the Government on privacy violations in each of the last three years;
- (e) whether the Government has formed a committee on Non Personal Data Governance Framework and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether public consultation will be held for framing policies on non personal data and if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) whether the Government plans to sell non-personal data belonging to various Government department and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on 31st July 2017, vide OM No.3(6)/2017-CLES, constituted a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice B N Srikrishna, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, to look into all aspects relating to personal data protection. The committee gave its report on 27th July, 2018. The Committee also submitted a draft Personal Data Protection Bill. Wide consultations were held on the draft bill and open feedback was invited on the contents of the bill. These are currently being processed and it is proposed to table the bill in Parliament.

(b): No Sir/Madam, any written submission made to the Ministry by an Individual/ Agency/Company in response to this specific consultation process is deemed confidential and is meant to be read by the intended recipient in order to address specific concerns and such document is not available for public dissemination.

(c) and (d): Presently relief against privacy violation can be sought under the provisions of IT Act 2000 (Section 43 A) & the Information Technology (Reasonable security practices and procedures and sensitive personal data or information) Rules, 2011, wherein such complaints are handled by

the Adjudication officer who is an officer of the State government and data regarding the number of such complaints is not available with us.

(e) and (f): Yes Sir/Madam, details available at <https://meity.gov.in/data-governance>. The Committee's work is going on and it is actively engaging with various stakeholders and consulting them.

(g): There is presently no such proposal.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2664
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2019

PROTECTION OF DATA PRIVACY

2664. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- (a) whether the Government proposes to protect and secure the citizen's data and ensure its privacy and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to restrict the cross border data flow by the global technological companies along with the guidelines laid down by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the action taken and the status of compliance by these companies in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on 31st July 2017, vide OM No.3(6)/2017-CLES, constituted a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice B N Srikrishna, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, to look into all aspects relating to personal data protection. The committee gave its report on 27th July, 2018. The Committee also submitted a draft Personal Data Protection Bill. Wide consultations were held on the draft bill and open feedback was invited on the contents of the bill. These are currently being processed and it is proposed to table the bill in Parliament. The Report & the Draft Bill of the Srikrishna Committee are available at: <https://meity.gov.in/data-protection-framework>.

(a) and (c): The Government is working on a comprehensive Personal Data Protection Bill 2019 which will address the issue of cross border data flow.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2713
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.12.2019

SELLING OF PRIVATE INFORMATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA USERS

2713. SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether instances of selling of private information of users through social networking sites have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) whether the Government has made any rule to prevent the misuse of shared private information of users without their consent and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b) : There are media reports about instances of unauthorized use of personal data and data breaches of private information of users through social networking sites. Based on the media reports regarding data breach by Cambridge Analytica, Government had approached Cambridge Analytica as well as Facebook separately on 23.03.2018 seeking clarifications. Cambridge Analytica responded on 03.04.2018 that they do not have any Facebook data of Indian citizens. On 05.04.2018, Facebook informed the Government that data of estimated 562,455 Indian's may have been accessed by Cambridge Analytica through installations of the App developed by GSR and installed by Indians. As there were perceived inconsistencies, Government again approached both companies separately and asked Cambridge Analytica for additional details emphasizing that any data concerning Indians is required to be given due sanctity.

(c): Section 43A and section 72A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides for privacy and security of data in digital form. Section 43A of the Act provides for compensation to be paid to the affected users in case of unauthorized access of information and leakage of sensitive personal information respectively. It mandates 'body corporate' to implement 'reasonable security practices' for protecting 'sensitive personal information' of individuals. Section 72A of the Act provides for punishment in the form of imprisonment upto 3 years and fine for disclosure of information in breach of the lawful contract.

Also, Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under section 79 of the IT Act, 2000 require that the intermediary shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall publish the rules and regulations, privacy policy and user agreement for access or usage of its computer resource by any person.

To further strengthen personal data protection of user, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on 31st July 2017 constituted a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice B N Srikrishna, former Judge, Supreme Court of India, to look into all aspects relating to personal data protection. The committee gave its report on 27th July, 2018. The Committee also submitted a draft Personal Data Protection Bill. Wide consultations were held on the draft bill and open feedback was invited on the contents of the Bill. These are currently being processed and it is proposed to table the Bill in Parliament.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3804
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 11.12.2019

DATA COLLECTED BY SOCIAL NETWORKING COMPANIES

3804. SHRI RAM SWAROOP SHARMA:

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the data taken/collected by the social networking companies from its consumers is safe and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the storage centres of the above companies exist in India and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to issue any guidelines for such companies to set up storage centres in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be issued; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a) to (e) : Presently there is no legal provision to mandate local storage of data in the country. However, section 43A provides for compensation to be paid to the victim in case of unauthorized access of information and leakage of sensitive personal information respectively. It mandates 'body corporates' to implement 'reasonable security practices' for protecting 'sensitive personal information' of individuals. The Information Technology (Reasonable security practices and procedures and sensitive personal data or information) Rules, 2011 notified under section 43A mandates that body corporate must provide policy for privacy and disclosure of information, so that user is well aware of the type of personal data collected, purpose of collection and usage of such information. The rules also specify mode of collection of information, disclosure of information, transfer of information, etc.

In addition, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology is working on the Personal Data Protection Bill to safeguard the privacy of citizens, and proposes to table it in Parliament. The Bill proposes local storage of critical and sensitive personal data.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3897
 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 11.12.2019

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

3897. SHRIMATI SAJDA AHMED:

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

- (a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent illegal activities on social media;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to formulate a law on social media regulation and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of complaints received by the Government pertaining to violation of sovereignty of the country and privacy of an individual along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 (SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a) and (b): The social media platforms are intermediaries as defined in the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. They have to follow certain due diligence as prescribed in the Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under section 79 of the IT Act. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has proposed to amend the said Rules and invited public comments. Based on the comments, amendment to the Rules are being finalised.

(c): Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above. A total of 4192 and 3847 complaints for blocking of URLs under the above said provisions of section 69A of the Act were received by MeitY during the year 2018 and 2019 (till August) respectively. Government has taken appropriate action for blocking of URLs following the norms prescribed in the rules notified under section 69A of the Act. Data for complaints pertaining to violation of sovereignty of the country is not maintained separately. Further, complaint related to privacy of individual is beyond the legal scope of section 69A. MeitY is working on the Personal Data Protection Bill to safeguard the privacy of citizens, and proposes to table it in Parliament.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3902
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 11.12.2019

MISAPPROPRIATION OF DATA

3902. SHRI ANANTKUMAR HEGDE:

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has noticed any misappropriation of data from social media platforms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has notified any rules for applications or gadgets using facial recognition systems, to safeguard users' privacy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a) and (b): Based on the media reports regarding interference by Cambridge Analytica in Indian elections, Government had approached Cambridge Analytica as well as Facebook separately on 23.03.2018 seeking clarifications. Cambridge Analytica responded on 03.04.2018 that they do not have any Facebook data of Indian citizens. On 05.04.2018, Facebook informed the Government that data of estimated 562,455 Indian's may have been accessed by Cambridge Analytica through installations of the App developed by GSR and installed by Indians. As there were perceived inconsistencies, Government again approached both companies separately and asked Cambridge Analytica for additional details emphasizing that any data concerning Indians is required to be given due sanctity.

(c) and (d): Section 43A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides for compensation to be paid to the victim in case of unauthorized access of information and leakage of sensitive personal information respectively. It mandates 'body corporates' to implement 'reasonable security practices' for protecting 'sensitive personal information' of individuals. The Information Technology (Reasonable security practices and procedures and sensitive personal data or information) Rules, 2011 notified under this section defines sensitive personal information which includes biometric information. The Rules mandate that body corporate must provide policy for privacy and disclosure of information, so that user is well aware of the type of personal data collected, purpose of collection and usage of such information. The rules also specify mode of collection of information, disclosure of information, transfer of information, etc.

In addition, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology is working on the Personal Data Protection Bill to safeguard the privacy of citizens, and proposes to table it in Parliament.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 LOK SABHA
 UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1476
 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.02.2021

CHINESE INVESTMENT IN DATA-RELIANT SECTORS

1476. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the growing concerns of industry groups regarding Chinese investment in Indian firms operating in heavily data reliant sectors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;
- (c) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure that there is no danger of the malicious transfer of data;
- (d) whether the Government is willing to outline any strategy that can protect national security with respect to data protection while encouraging entrepreneurial activity;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefore?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 (SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a) and (b): Foreign Direct Investment (FD) proposals from China, being a land bordering country, are being examined in accordance with Press Note 3(2020) of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and other relevant instructions / guidelines of DPIIT. Thus, such proposals in data reliant sectors such as IT/ITES are being scrutinised in detail as per guidelines issued by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Further, an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Home Secretary to examine such FDI proposals taking into consideration relevant factors such as desirability, national security considerations etc.

(c) to (f): Section 43A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides safeguards for sensitive personal information collected by a body corporate. Further, section 72A of the IT Act provides for punishment for disclosure of information in breach of the lawful contract. Further, Government has already moved the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 in Parliament which is presently under the consideration of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The Bill provides safeguards for privacy and security related interests.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM NO. 14

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3024 dated 06.08.2018 regarding "National Integrated Logistics Policy".

On 06th August 2018, Shri Anto Antony, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3024 to the Minister of Commerce & Industry. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

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

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Commerce) vide O.M. No.H-11016/10/2018\Logistics dated 29th October, 2021 has stated as under:-

"PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 13th October, 2021 with the aim of coordinated planning and execution of infrastructure projects to bring down logistics costs in India. The Gati Shakti digital platform, which will bring together 16 Ministries including Rail and Roadways, will help in removing long-standing issues such as disjointed planning, lack of standardization, problems with clearances, and timely creation and utilization of infrastructure capacities. PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for Multi-modal connectivity shall supplement Commerce & Industry in the country."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce, ^(and Industry) has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

DATED: 03/01/2022

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3024
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06th AUGUST, 2018

NATIONAL INTEGRATED LOGISTICS POLICY

3024. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to introduce a National Integrated Logistics Policy to supplement commerce and industry in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof including its salient features and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

वणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a)& (b): Yes, Madam. The proposed policy will focus on enabling integrated development of logistics sector in the country. The policy will strengthen and prioritise the key objectives/ thrust areas and governance framework for logistics in India.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM NO. 15

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1428 dated 10.02.2021 regarding "Diversifying PSUs in the Coal Sector".

On 10th February 2021, Dr. Beesetti Venkata Satyavathi and various other MPs addressed a Unstarred Question No. 1428 to the Minister of Coal. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Coal *vide* O.M. F.No. CA-54016/3/2021-CA/CPIAM dated 6th May, 2021 has stated as under:-

"It is mentioned that 'in principle' Board approvals have been obtained for diversification in Aluminium smelter, solar wafer manufacturing, clean coal technologies and solar power generation etc. These project proposals are at very initial stages of their preparation and will take considerable time in finalizing by the PSUs based on the market conditions and feasibility reports. This Ministry has already provided complete / full information which was presently available about these proposed projects. Hence, the reply may not be treated as Assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

DATED: 03/01/2022

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1428
ANSWERED ON 10/02/2021

DIVERSIFYING PSUS IN THE COAL SECTOR

1428. DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:
SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV:
SHRI N. REDDEPPA:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA:
SHRI T.R.V.S. RAMESH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government plans to diversify the Public Sector Undertakings in the Coal Sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans to transform the coal companies to energy companies and also include Clean Coal Technologies to provide sustainability to coal business; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): In principle Board approvals have been obtained for diversification in Aluminum smelter, solar wafer manufacturing, clean coal technologies and solar power generation etc. However, full details will be available only after finalization of all projects including preparation of Feasibility Reports, DPRs etc.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM NO. 16

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4674 dated 24.03.2021 regarding "SEIS".

On 24th March 2021, Shri Manoj Tiwari, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4674 to the Minister of Commerce & Industry. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Commerce) *vide* O.M. F.No.01/61/180/226/AM19/PC-3/226 dated 05.10.2021 has stated as under:-

"This Directorate vide Notification No. 29 dated 23.09.2021 has notified the list of eligible services and rates under SEIS for services rendered in the FY 2019-20. Further, Government has decided to not extend the SEIS Scheme for services rendered in the FY 2020-21."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

DATED: 03/01/2022

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4674
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th MARCH, 2021

SEIS

4674. SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- whether the Government has announced any Scheme named as SEIS (Service Exports from India) to promote services trade under the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, and as per Notification no 57/2015-2020 dated 31/3/2020 and if so, the details thereof;
- the details of the extension given to this scheme, if any, along with the date and notification about the same;
- whether the service categories eligible under the aforesaid scheme for Financial Year 2019-2020 and its rates of reward on such services are not yet notified and if so, the details thereof; and
- the reasons for delay in the extension of SEIS for the Financial Year(FY) 2020-2021, whereas the incentives for other Sectors during the same Financial Year have already been extended by the Government?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

- (a) & (b): Yes Sir. Under the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, in order to boost services exports, a scheme, namely, the Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) was introduced, and has been implemented from FY 2015-16 to FY 2018-19 for notified services categories. The reward under SEIS is a percentage of the Net Foreign Exchange earned by a service provider in a particular financial year. Vide Notification 57 dated 31.03.2020, it was announced that the service categories eligible under the scheme and the rates for eligible services as rendered in FY 2019-20 shall be notified separately. These have not been notified. It was also notified that for the services rendered with effect from 01 April, 2020, decision on continuation of the scheme will be taken subsequently and notified accordingly. No extension of the Scheme for FY 2020-21 has been notified.

(c) & (d): The way forward on SEIS for FY 2019-2020 and extension of SEIS for FY 2020-21 is under consideration.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM NO. 17

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Starred Question No. 343 (Supplementary by Kumari Sushmita Dev, MP) dated 10.08.2018 regarding "Corporate Social Responsibility Funds".

On 10th August 2018, Shri Bheemrao B. Patil and Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey, M.Ps. addressed a Starred Question No. 343 to the Minister of Corporate Affairs. The contents of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is given in Appendix.

2. During the discussion, Kumari Sushmita Dev, M.P., raised the following Supplementary Question to the Minister of Corporate Affairs:-

"The hon. Minister has given a detailed reply vis-à-vis how he is monitoring violations of the Law which I am proud to say was introduced by Veerappa Moily Ji during his tenure. The important part about the North-Eastern States is that industrialization is low. There are a very few big companies which have this kind of turnover. Therefore, the Public Sector Units play a very important role. In my State, ONGC is one such Company. But if I look at the dismal figures in the State of Assam when it comes to expenditure of CSR, I would request the hon. Minister to ensure that some micro-management or some kind of scrutiny is there of how ONGC is spending. To give a small example to the hon. Minister, for the last two years, we are waiting for sanctioning of a electronic pyre in the Silchar crematorium but we have not got it. Sir, you have to reduce bureaucracy, especially, in the North-Eastern States because our pool of resources is very low. We are completely dependent on the Public Sector Companies. This is my humble request to the Minister."

3. In reply, the Minister of Corporate Affairs *inter-alia* stated as follows:-

"Madam, as regards the Silchar Electronic Pyre, I am happy to announce that Coal India itself will set it up over there. The hon. Member may kindly send me the details." (Page 36)

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

5. In this regard, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs *vide* O.M. No. F.No.08/02/2019-CSR dated 28.10.2021 have stated as under:

"Since the subject matter of the aforesaid Assurance pertains to Ministry of Coal, this Ministry has been constantly followed up with Ministry of Coal for fulfillment of the Assurance.

Ministry of Coal *vide* O.M. No. 54016/12019-CSR&W dated 16.09.2020 informed that 'Till dated, no such details with respect to the above proposal have been received in CIL from the Hon'ble MP or MoC or concerned authorities of State Government. A request from CIL for submission of project proposal under CSR for installation of electric pyre at Silchar Burning Ghat was sent to the District Collector-Cachar District, Assam on 30th January, 2019. Reminders for the same have been sent *vide* emails dated 14.11.2019, 07.02.2020 and 04.08.2020'. CIL would be in a position to honor the commitment made by the then Hon'ble Minister of Coal only after receipt of the details of the proposal and consent of the local authorities of the state.

Ministry of Coal *vide* O.M. No. 54016/12019-CSR&W dated 23.02.2021 further informed that 'In spite of reminders, we have not yet received any proposed from the District Authorities for the said proposal.

Further, Ministry of Coal *vide* their OM dated 27.10.2021 forwarded the letter from Coal India Limited wherein it is stated that no proposal either from District Administration or Hon'ble MP has been received and accordingly, requested the Ministry to take up the matter for dropping the Assurance."

6. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State for Corporate Affairs, has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

DATED: 03/01/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 343
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE 10TH AUGUST, 2018/
SHRAVANA 19, 1940 (SAKA)**

CSR FUNDS

QUESTION

***343. SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL:**

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्री
be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the funds utilised and unutilised along with the major activities/ programmes undertaken by various public sector and private sector companies under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) during the last three years in the country, State/UT-wise including Telangana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand;
- (b) whether some companies utilize CSR funds for their employees, transport facilities, beautification of the area, providing better facilities in schools and hospitals and maintaining public relations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure proper utilisation of CSR funds as per rules?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्री

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(श्री पीयूष गोयल)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN ANSWER TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 343* FOR 10TH AUGUST, 2018 REGARDING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FUNDS.

(a) to (d): Every company including public and private sectors companies having net worth of Rs. 500 crore or more or turnover of Rs. 1000 crore or more or net profit of Rs. 5 crore or more during the immediately preceding financial year is liable to spend at least 2% of the average net profits of the company made during the three immediately preceding financial years on CSR activities in areas or subjects specified in Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act). Moreover, according to Rule 4(5) of the Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014, the CSR projects or programmes or activities that benefit only the employees of the company and their families shall not be considered as CSR activities in accordance with section 135 of the Act. Whenever, violation of CSR provision is reported, the Registrar of Companies initiates action against such non-compliant companies after due examination of records. For the FY 2014-15, prosecution against 254 companies were sanctioned out of which 33 companies have filed applications for compounding. In addition to this, the Ministry has established Centralized Scrutiny and Prosecution Mechanism in April, 2018 for the financial year 2015-16 onwards on pilot basis for enforcement of CSR provisions. Based on inquiry, preliminary notices have been issued to 272 companies. The details of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure Public sector and Private sector companies-wise, Sector-wise and State/UT-wise including Telangana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand for the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are at Annexure A & B.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 343*

Details of CSR Expenditure PSUs and Non-PSUs

Financial Years		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17*	
Sl. No.	Company Type	No. of companies reported for CSR	CSR Expenditure (in Rs. Crore)	No. of companies reported for CSR	CSR Expenditure (in Rs. Crore)	No. of companies reported for CSR	CSR Expenditure (in Rs. Crore)
1	PSUs	315	2673.85	397	4163.09	132	1325.83
2	Other Companies	14629	6890.92	18787	9664.77	6154	3393.17
	Total	14944	9564.77	19184	13827.86	6286	4719.00

*Filings up to 30.11.2017 have been factored

SECTOR-WISE CSR EXPENDITURE FOR FY 2014-15, FY 2015-16 AND FY 2016-17

Sl. No.	Sectors	CSR Expenditure (In Rs. Crores)		
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17**
1	Health/ Eradicating Hunger/ Poverty and malnutrition/ Safe drinking water / Sanitation	2,382.27	4,330.21	1,201.37
2	Education/ Differently Abled/ Livelihood	3,021.47	4,689.81	1,605.05
3	Rural development	1,031.02	1,327.57	628.56
4	Environment, Animal Welfare, Conservation Of Resources	812.31	901.80	306.68
5	Swachh Bharat Kosh	94.52	323.24	89.35
6	Any Other Funds	272.58	322.63	137.70
7	Gender equality / Women empowerment / Old age homes / Reducing inequalities	172.63	331.50	122.60
8	Prime Minister's National Relief Fund	211.04	206.08	109.81
9	Encouraging Sports	53.36	134.76	51.73
10	Heritage Art and Culture	113.62	114.90	49.64
11	Slum Area Development	101.07	13.60	1.97
12	Clean Ganga Fund	4.64	32.52	22.97
13	Other Sectors (Technology Incubator And Benefits To Armed Forces, Admin Overheads and others*)	1,294.24	1,099.24	391.57
	Total Amount (in Rs. Crore)	9,564.77	13,827.86	4,719.00

* not specified

**Filings up to 30.11.2017 have been factored

ANNEXURE B

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 243*
STATE/UT-WISE CSR EXPENDITURE DURING FY 2014-15, FY 2015-16 AND 2016-17

Sl. No.	State/ UT	CSR Expenditure (In Rs. Crores)		
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.29	0.54	0.07
2	Andhra Pradesh	403.91	1,220.54	101.69
3	Arunachal Pradesh	11.03	1.49	7.98
4	Assam	133.07	166.81	38.28
5	Bihar	36.20	108.15	36.90
6	Chandigarh	1.73	5.08	4.17
7	Chhattisgarh	158.89	236.22	14.85
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	2.54	12.03	1.65
9	Daman & Diu	20.05	2.13	0.83
10	Delhi	214.24	468.18	229.87
11	Goa	26.60	30.25	10.54
12	Gujarat	296.53	550.98	152.04
13	Haryana	176.29	364.22	107.87
14	Himachal Pradesh	9.30	51.71	10.57
15	Jammu & Kashmir	40.57	103.02	27.83
16	Jharkhand	75.86	115.70	24.24
17	Karnataka	382.79	730.64	202.71
18	Kerala	64.30	129.24	50.94
19	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.30	0.00
20	Madhya Pradesh	137.15	178.94	213.48
21	Maharashtra	1,372.34	1,810.45	702.37
22	Manipur	1.57	5.93	6.03
23	Meghalaya	3.52	3.86	2.99
24	Mizoram	1.03	1.08	0.08
25	Nagaland	1.11	0.95	0.45
26	Odisha	249.50	604.26	191.43
27	Pondicherry	1.81	6.31	3.71
28	Punjab	53.86	68.17	20.17
29	Rajasthan	271.36	472.46	84.99
30	Sikkim	1.03	1.90	2.12
31	Tamil Nadu	498.89	597.60	202.53
32	Telangana	94.89	248.57	64.56
33	Tripura	1.16	1.47	0.60
34	Uttar Pradesh	138.64	406.93	120.34
35	Uttarakhand	69.99	71.50	30.74
36	West Bengal	178.61	399.89	121.12
37	Pan India**	4,434.12	4,650.39	1,928.26
	Grand Total	9,564.77	13,827.86	4,719.00

*Filings up to 30.11.2017 have been factored.

** Companies either did not specify the names of States or indicated more than one State where projects were undertaken.

(Q. 343)

श्री भीमराव बी. पाटील : अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैंने पूरा डिटेल अच्छे से पढ़ लिया, जवाब आ गया है। मेरा एक क्वेश्चन है, I would like to know the details of the CSR funds that have been used for the betterment of minorities and BPL persons in the country.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : डिटेल आपने दे दिया है?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, I do not understand as to what the question is.

SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL : I would like to know about the minorities and BPL persons.

श्री पीयूष गोयल : मैडम स्पीकर, जब सीएसआर का विषय होता है तो वह वास्तव में देश के हरेक नागरिक के लिए होता है, गरीब नागरिक के लिए होता है। हमें समाज में सब के लिए सामान्य चिंता है। 'सबका साथ, सबका विकास' हमारा 'क्रिडो' है। हम हरेक चीज को अलग-अलग मापदंड पर नहीं कर सकते। जो खर्च सीएसआर के माध्यम से होता है वह समाज और गरीबों के लिए ही होता है।

SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL: Madam, I do not want to ask any more supplementary question.

श्री रवीन्द्र कुमार पाण्डेय : अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि झारखंड में वर्ष 2014-15 में 7.86 करोड़ रुपये खर्च हुआ, वर्ष 2015-16 में 115.70 करोड़ रुपये खर्च हुआ, वर्ष 2016-17 में 242.24 करोड़ रुपये खर्च हुआ, यह कैसे घट गया, खर्च ज्यादा होना चाहिए था क्योंकि प्रोफिट बढ़ा है? मेरा मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि जो भी सीएसआर का काम है, वह पहले के बनिस्बत अच्छा हो रहा है, लेकिन इसमें थोड़ा सुधार की जरूरत है। मेरा मंत्री जी से आग्रह है कि झारखंड नया राज्य है और आपको वहां विशेष ध्यान होना चाहिए।

श्री पीयूष गोयल : मैडम स्पीकर, माननीय सांसद ने शायद ठीक से जवाब नहीं पढ़ा है। हमने ऊपर ही 2016 और 2017 में ऐस्ट्रिक लगाया है और नीचे लिखा है कि जो 30 नवम्बर, 2017 तक फाइलिंग्स आई थीं, यह वह डेटा है, जब पूरे साल का डेटा फाइल हो जाएगा तो फिगर स्वाभाविक रूप से बढ़ेगा, यह पहली बात है। दूसरा, झारखंड हम सभी के लिए बहुत प्रिय है और बहुत सुंदर प्रदेश है, बहुत अच्छा प्रदेश है। कोल मंत्री होने के नाते यह मेरा प्रमुख प्रदेश है, कोयला झारखंड से आता है। कोल इंडिया जैसी कंपनी मेरे अंडर है। अगर उसने सबसे अधिक काम किया है तो वह झारखंड में सीएसआर के माध्यम से किया है।

मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सांसद को विशेष रूप से बताना चाहूंगा कि कोल इंडिया ने खेल के लिए, वहां पर नेशनल स्टेडियम्स बने हुए हैं, वहां पर नेशनल गेम्स हुए थे। जब हम वर्ष 2014 में सत्ता में आए थे, वर्ष 2012-13 में ये स्टेडियम्स बहुत जर्जर हालत में थे। हमने इसको अपग्रेड करने के लिए 100 करोड़ रुपये की राशि सिर्फ दी। झारखंड के आदिवासी भाई-बहन हैं, उनको भी मौका मिले और वे भी आगे चल कर ओलम्पिक में मेडल जीत सकें। इसकी तैयारी के लिए वहां हर वर्ष चौदह सौ छात्र पढ़ेंगे। उनको बचपन से अच्छी खुराक मिलेगी, अच्छी शिक्षा मिलेगी, हम उनको भारत का गौरव बढ़ाने के लिए तैयार करेंगे। झारखंड में अच्छा काम हो रहा है, वहां और भी अच्छा काम होगा।

इसके अलावा कई कंपनियों ने स्टेट स्पेसिफाई नहीं किया है या जनरल सभी स्टेट्स में टोटल डाटा दिया है, उसमें स्टेटवाइज एलोकेशन नहीं हो सकता है। इसके बारे में नीचे लिखा है, करीब 4,500 करोड़ रुपया हर साल अलग राज्य में होता है, लेकिन स्टेट वाइज एलोकेशन नहीं है।

HON. SPEAKER: For this question, let me give preference to the Members from Jharkhand, Telangana and Maharashtra.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE : Madam Speaker, though India is the first and probably the only country to have statutorily mandated the CSR, yet there

are many loopholes in regulating and governing the CSR. Section 135 of the Companies Act of 2013 encourages the companies to give preference to local area and the area where it operates for CSR spending.

However, in most of the cases, the factories are located at some place and the Head Offices are located at the other place. In such cases, the local community is deprived of CSR funds because the factory management says that the decisions regarding the CSR are taken by the Head Office. I myself have experienced this. I have a large industrial area in my Constituency in Ambarnath and there are some tribal villages besides that industrial area. I had prepared a holistic plan for the development of this area but the same reason was told to me.

One more serious practice which has come to light is called U-turn. The promoters hire NGOs, transfer CSR funds to these NGOs and get those funds back thus turning the white money into black. Also, there is no expert in the company to decide which projects to be taken up on priority. Therefore, I would suggest if we can form a committee at the district level which can include the Collector, other representatives and the NGOs which can decide on the priority of spending of CSR.

श्री पीयूष गोयल: माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, मेरा मानना है कि सीएसआर एक्टिविटीज़ दिल से की जाती हैं, कानून और सरकार के कहने से नहीं की जाती हैं। इसके बावजूद सैक्शन 135 में लिखा है, इस इलाके में है, मैं इसे करैक्ट कर दूँ। इसके साथ ही हमने स्टिपुलेट किया है कि अगर कोई सीएसआर प्रोजेक्ट या प्रोग्राम कंपनी के एम्पलाइज़ या उनके परिवारों को बेनिफिट देगा तो उसे सीएसआर नहीं माना जाएगा। इसके अलावा एक चीज़ ध्यान में रखी जाए कि जो कंपनियां अपने

ईर्द-गिर्द काम करती हैं, उन कंपनियों को ही डायरेक्टली या इनडायरेक्टली लाभ होता है। हम चाहते हैं कि दूर दराज इलाकों में ज्यादा सीएसआर खर्च हो। जो पिछड़े हैं, जो वंचित हैं, एस्पिरेशनल डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स हैं, बैकवर्ड रीजन्स हैं, मेरे हिसाब से यहां अधिक सीएसआर खर्च करना ज्यादा उपयुक्त होगा, देशहित में होगा।

अगर आपकी कोई स्पेसिफिक प्रॉब्लम है, उसके लिए आपको लोकल मैनेजमेंट से ही बात करनी पड़ेगी। The Government does not micro manage what the CSR activity should be. जिस दिन सरकार उसमें घुस गई तो और प्रॉब्लम हो जाएगी, फिर हर चीज सरकार ही करती रहेगी। मुझे लगता है कि लोगों को स्वायत्तता देनी चाहिए ताकि वह तय करें कि क्या अच्छा काम करना है। अगर माननीय सदस्य के पास जानकारी है कि किसी ने मिसयूज किया है, किसी ने चोरी की है, तो आप जरूर लिखित रूप में दें, उस पर उचित कार्रवाई होगी।

हर कंपनी में सीएसआर कमेटी बनाने का प्रावधान कानून में है, जिसके तहत एक सीएसआर कमेटी बनती है।

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV : Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me an opportunity.

The hon. Minister has given a detailed reply *vis-à-vis* how he is monitoring violations of the law which I am proud to say was introduced by Veerappa Moily Ji during his tenure.

The important part about the North-Eastern States is that industrialization is low. There are a very few big companies which have this kind of turn over. Therefore, the public sector units play a very important role.

In my State, ONGC is one such Company. But if I look at the dismal figures in the State of Assam when it comes to expenditure of CSR, I would request the hon. Minister to ensure that some micro-management or some

kind of scrutiny is there of how ONGC is spending. To give a small example to the hon. Minister, for the last two years, we are waiting for sanctioning of a electronic pyre in the Silchar crematorium but we have not got it.

Sir, you have to reduce bureaucracy, especially, in the North-Eastern States because our pool of resources is very low. We are completely dependent on the public sector companies. This is my humble request to the Minister.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: I think the hon. Member has raised a very important point. I fully agree and sympathise with her. Madam, particularly after 2014, this Government has had the maximum focus on the North-East to the extent that almost every 15-20 days, one of the Union Ministers is in different parts of the North-East. We are working towards the development of the North-East on a mission mode.

We very sincerely believe that unless the North-Eastern and Eastern parts of India develop, India cannot see a holistic development as a nation. I will ensure that our Public Sector Companies focus even more on the North-East.

Madam, as regards the Silchar Electronic Pyre, I am happy to announce that Coal India itself will set it up over there. The hon. Member may kindly send me the details.

श्री सुशील कुमार सिंह: अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं बिहार के जिस इलाके से चुनकर आता हूँ, वह विकास के मामले में एकदम पिछड़ा एवं नक्सल प्रभावित इलाका है। मेरे संसदीय क्षेत्र के दोनों जिले-गया और औरंगाबाद विकास के मामले में देश का जो औसत विकास है, उससे काफी पीछे

हैं। उन इलाकों के विकास के लिए, उनको विकास की मुख्य धारा में लाने के लिए हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी की एक सोच के तहत देश के 115 जिलों को एस्पिरेशनल डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स के रूप में चुना गया है। अभी एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में इन्होंने एस्पिरेशनल डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स की चर्चा भी की है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या माननीय मंत्री जी की ऐसी कोई इच्छा या मंशा है कि जिन जिलों का चयन प्रधान मंत्री जी की सोच के तहत एस्पिरेशनल डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स के रूप में हुआ है, उनको विकसित करने के लिए, देश के औसत विकास तक लाने के लिए या उससे भी आगे ले जाने के लिए ये अपने मंत्रालय के माध्यम से कोई दिशा-निर्देश जारी करेंगे? देश के सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के जो उपक्रम हैं, उनके माध्यम से कॉर्पोरेट सोशल रेस्पॉन्सिबिलिटी के तहत उन जिलों के विकास के लिए क्या आप अपने मंत्रालय के माध्यम से कोई दिशा-निर्देश जारी करना चाहेंगे? यदि हां तो कब तक?

श्री पीयूष गोयल: अध्यक्ष महोदया, वास्तव में किस प्रोजेक्ट, किस प्लान के ऊपर सी.एस.आर खर्च करना है, किस एरिया में खर्च करना है, यह तो कंपनी के बोर्ड ऑफ डायरेक्टर्स या उनकी जो सी.एस.आर कमेटी है, वह तय करती है। मेरा व्यक्तिगत मानना है कि सरकार को उसमें दखलअंदाजी नहीं करनी चाहिए। लेकिन, एस्पिरेशनल डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स के प्रति हम सबको चिंता है। सभी को उसके बारे में अधिक चिंता करनी चाहिए। मैं समझता हूँ कि एक गाइडेंस के रूप में निकालने में मुझे कोई दिक्कत नहीं लगती है कि हम एक अपील भेज सकते हैं। मैं अपनी तरफ से एक अपील आपके माध्यम से देश से भी करूंगा तथा सभी माननीय सांसदों से भी कि जहां-जहां हो सके, हम उस पर विशेष ध्यान दें। लेकिन, जब एस्पिरेशनल डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स की स्कीम निकाली गयी, तब माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी की मंशा यह थी कि जो एग्जीस्टिंग हजारों-करोड़ रुपये अलग-अलग क्षेत्रों में खर्च करने के लिए जाते हैं, हम सब माननीय मंत्री और सब माननीय सांसद कोशिश करें कि वह पैसा अच्छे तरीके से खर्च हो, उसकी मानिट्रिंग हो, उसके लिए लोगों को जवाबदेह ठहराया जाए। हमारा मानना है कि जो पैसा ऑलरेडी एस्पिरेशनल डिस्ट्रिक्ट के लिए जाता है, अगर वह ईमानदारी से और अच्छे तरीके से गरीबों के काम में लग जाए, जैसे ग्राम स्वराज

अभियान के दौरान हमने 16 हजार विलेजेज में सैचुरेशन करने का एक प्रोग्राम बनाया। माननीय सांसद ने देखा होगा कि हम सब इलाकों में कुछ-न-कुछ विलेज, जहां दलित परिवार 50 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा रहते हैं, उन विलेजेज में हमने सात स्कीम्स सैचुरेट की, जो काफी सफलतापूर्वक हुईं जैसे हरेक घर में बिजली देना, हरेक महिला को उज्ज्वला का लाभ देना, घर में एल.ई.डी. लाइट्स जले, उनकी सुरक्षा के लिए उन्हें जन सुरक्षा इंश्योरेंस पॉलिसी मिलो। मैं समझता हूँ कि हमें सब एस्पिरेशनल डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स की तरफ विशेष चिंता करनी चाहिए, मैं राज्य सभा के माननीय सदस्यों से भी रिक्वेस्ट करूंगा। मैं अपना एमपीलैड फंड पूरे तरीके से एस्पिरेशनल डिस्ट्रिक्ट में, अपने स्टेट में दूंगा। अगर हम सब इसको नेशनल मिशन के रूप में लें तो बहुत अधिक काम हो सकता है।

माननीय अध्यक्ष: सब लोग इसमें इंट्रेस्ट ले रहे हैं। आपका काम बहुत अच्छा है। मैं दो-तीन लोगों को अलाऊ करूंगी, मगर आपका उत्तर शार्ट में और प्रश्न भी शार्ट में हो तब।

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam Speaker, you are really gracious and thank you for the opportunity.

I want to ask a short question. The hon. Minister has said that the Central Government does not want to micro manage the spending of CSR.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: आप इसको अच्छे से ले लें और काम करवाएं।

PROF. SAUGATA ROY : But when I look at the list provided by the Minister I find that the programmes of Government of India like *Swachh Bharat Kosh*, Clean Ganga Fund, Prime Minister's Relief Fund, Benefits to Armed Forces are being funded by CSR.

These projects can be funded by the Government of India straightaway rather than from the CSR Fund.

In this context, I just want to ask a short supplementary to the hon. Minister. Our Chief Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee has written to the

Prime Minister that since he is allowing contribution to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund from the CSR Fund, why can he not allow the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to benefit from the CSR Fund as States have many responsibilities for which they have very limited resources?

I would request the Minister to please agree to our CM's request and allow contribution to CM's Relief Fund from CSR Fund.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: At the outset, if people give it to the Swachch Bharat Kosh, or Prime Minister's National Relief Fund or Clean Ganga Fund, it is out of their own volition. We are not asking them or we are not directing them to do so and neither is the Prime Minister making any specific request that people may donate to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. It is entirely left to them. Maybe, some companies do not want to get into the hazzle of CSR Committee and monitoring the expenditure and so, they may be putting it there with the full confidence that our Prime Minister will take good care of that money and use it towards good effect for the people of the whole country. That is the idea that the funds are used for the benefit of the whole country. Clean Ganga affects West Bengal as much as it affects UP, Bihar and other States. It is for the whole nation. None of this is for any particular area or any particular State.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : जगदम्बिका पाल जी, शॉर्ट क्वेश्चन पूछिए। भाषण नहीं देना है।

श्री जगदम्बिका पाल : अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं बहुत शॉर्ट में प्रश्न पूछूंगा। मैं आपके प्रति आभारी हूँ।

माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि सी एस आर में हम अपील करेंगे, मेरा निवेदन है कि सी एस आर की एक गाइडलाइन है, जिस भी पीएसयू या प्राइवेट कंपनी को प्रॉफिट होगा, उसका दो प्रतिशत पैसा पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में खर्च होगा। अगर आपने यह गाइडलाइन बनाई है कि वे उसे अपनी

कंपनी के आस-पास खर्च करेंगे और पिछड़े डिस्ट्रिक्ट में खर्च करेंगे तो जिन 115 जिलों के लिए आप कोई एक्स्ट्रा बजट नहीं दे रहे हैं, केवल ऑन-गोइंग स्कीम्स चल रही हैं, उन 115 जिलों में अपील करने के बजाय, जब आपने सी एस आर गाइडलाइन में पिछड़े जनपद डाल रखे हैं तो क्या आप उसमें ये 115 एस्पिरेशनल डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स डालने की कार्रवाई करेंगे ? मैं स्पष्ट रूप से जानना चाहता हूँ।

श्री पीयूष गोयल: मैडम, मैं समझता हूँ कि वह फिर एक बार माइक्रो-मैनेजमेंट हो जाएगा। मुझे लगता है कि सभी कंपनीज, जिनको सी एस आर करना है, को स्वायत्तता देनी चाहिए। मेरा मानना है कि जो भारत के नागरिक हैं, जो भारत के व्यापारी हैं, जो उद्योग जगत से जुड़े हुए हैं, उनको कोई दो प्रतिशत या कुछ और बताने की जरूरत नहीं है। हमारी विरासत और हमारा इतिहास बताता है कि बिना किसी कानून के भी लोग बड़े रूप में स्कूल, कॉलेज, अस्पताल आदि खोलते थे। हम उस बात पर बहुत गर्व करते हैं। मुझे लगता है कि वे इसे अच्छी तरीके से करेंगे। मुझे उन पर विश्वास है।

SHRI K. N. RAMACHANDRAN: Madam, I will put a brief supplementary. ...
(Interruptions) I want to know one thing from the dynamic Minister.

I am belonging to an industrial area. As per rules, they have to spend two per cent of the profit towards CSR. But companies like Nissan and Honda which are functioning in my area are not concentrating on this aspect and no company is fulfilling these criteria. Who is the monitor of this aspect? Law says that the corporate itself should appoint the Director for CSR. There is no monitor for this part. Who is the monitoring authority? I want to know this from our dynamic Minister.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, we can only monitor the total amount that has been spent. That is also mentioned in the Annual Reports and the Ministry of

Corporate Affairs has to ensure that two per cent at least, it could be more than that, has been spent on it but the projects on which they are being spent are left to the discretion of the company. If there are any irregularities that come to any hon. Member's attention, he or she may flag it off to the Ministry and we will take appropriate action. If any particular company, which you feel, is not spending on it, and if you may write to us, we can take the details from the ROC records and check it out. But as regards actual spending, if there is any irregularity and it comes to the notice of the hon. Members that there is a misuse of that Fund, then please do let the Ministry of Corporate Affairs know about it so that we can take action.

SHRI K. N. RAMACHANDRAN : Who is the authority who is monitoring it?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: We cannot monitor the project on which anybody is spending this money. Otherwise we will have to have one more Department, one more level of bureaucracy and that will actually become a disincentive for people to do CSR rather than incentivising and encouraging them.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदया, उत्तर से थोड़ा कांट्रैडिक्शन लग रहा है। रिटन में उन्होंने कहा है कि हमने पॉयलट प्रोजेक्ट्स शुरू किए हैं और हम मॉनीटर कर रहे हैं। ओरल में कह रहे हैं कि सरकार को माइक्रो मैनेजमेंट में नहीं जाना चाहिए। ... (व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदया, मेरा सवाल यह है कि यह ऑडिट के बाहर रहता है और यह दो प्रतिशत का एक्सपेंडिचर है। उसको कंपनी के ऑडिट सिस्टम में ले आना चाहिए और आप सोशल ऑडिट चालू करें तब पता चलेगा कि जहां दिल है, वहां पॉकेट है या जहां पॉवर है, वहां पॉकेट है। आप सोशल ऑडिट करने का बंदोबस्त कर रहे हैं कि नहीं?

श्री पीयूष गोयल: माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदया, माननीय सांसद जी ने शायद ठीक से देखा नहीं है। मैं अभी तीन बार कह चुका हूँ। मैं चौथी बार रिपीट भी कर देता हूँ। यह दो प्रतिशत खर्च हुआ कि नहीं, यह मॉनीटर करना हम आरओसी के रिकार्ड से, उनकी रिपोर्ट्स देखकर करते हैं और जैसा मैंने जवाब में भी लिखा है कि अगर कोई वॉयलेशन मिलती है तो उस पर कार्रवाई होती है। पिछले साल वर्ष 2014-15 के एकाउंट्स स्टडी करके 254 कंपनीज को क्वैश्न किया गया था और जो उन पर एक्शन सैंक्शंड किया गया था, 33 कंपनीज ने उसमें फिर कम्पाउंडिंग के लिए रिक्वेस्ट भी की थी। मैं समझता हूँ कि एमाउंट पर मॉनीटरिंग करना हमारा दायित्व है और वह हम करते हैं लेकिन किस प्रोजेक्ट पर खर्च हुआ, यह कंपनी और उसकी सीएसआर कमेटी तय करती है। वह अपनी एनुअल रिपोर्ट में उसका ब्यौरा भी देती है कि कैसे इतना खर्च हुआ। ये जो हमने डिटेल्स निकाले हैं कि किस-किस प्रोजेक्ट में कितना खर्च हुआ, वह हमने उन्हीं रिपोर्ट्स से निकाला है। मैंने इस जवाब के लिए बैठकर कोई हजारों कंपनीज से डेटा नहीं मांगा है। यह उन रिपोर्ट्स में उपलब्ध है। यह पब्लिक डोमेन में है, आरओसी के रिकार्ड में है। अब ऑडिट और एड ही करते रहेंगे तो फिर आप लोग आरोप लगाएंगे कि मैं एज ए चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट्स का काम बढ़ा रहा हूँ।

माननीय अध्यक्ष: दिल और पावर में पावर का भी दिल स्ट्रांग होना चाहिए। वह बोल रहे हैं कि दिल को करना है या पावर को ज्यादा करना है।

श्री पीयूष गोयल: मैडम, हमारा दिल तो माननीय सांसद के लिए वैसे ही दीवाना है। हम तो उनकी सब चीजों को बहुत सीरियसली लेते हैं...(व्यवधान)

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Hemamalini – Not present.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM NO. 18

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1927 dated 31.07.2015 regarding "Ordinance for Restricting Extension of Tea Garden".

On 31 July, 2015, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1927 to the Minister of Commerce & Industry. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Commerce) vide OM F.No. T-54016/7/2015-Plant(A) dated 25 September, 2017 had requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the Assurance relates to modification in an order dated 23.07.2001 issued by the Government of West Bengal prohibiting expansion of tea plantation in West Bengal, the final decision lies with the State Government. The Central Government has taken up and actively pursued the matter with the State Government of West Bengal for reviewing the said order of 23.07.2001. Since the matter of modification in the order dated 23.07.2001 is to be done by the State Government of West Bengal, it is requested to kindly consider dropping the Assurance."

4. The above request for dropping of the Assurance was considered by the Committee at their Sitting held on 24th January, 2018 and it was decided not to drop the Assurance. The Committee accordingly presented their Eighty-Second Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 09 August, 2018 wherein the Committee *inter-alia* recommended that the Ministry need to take action in the matter with alacrity and specific timeline and pursue the matter with the State Government concerned at the highest level and implement the Assurance.

5. However, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Commerce) vide O.M. F.No.T-54016/7/2015-Plant(A) dated 28th December, 2020 had stated as under:-

"Efforts have been made by the Department of Commerce to obtain the response of the State Government of West Bengal on the issue of review of the notification prohibiting expansion of area of tea nursery and plantations in West Bengal. The matter has been taken up several times at the highest level. The last communication to the State Government was sent on 12.10.2020 at the level of Joint Secretary."

"As the Assurance relates to modification in an order dated 23.07.2001 issued by the Government of West Bengal, the final decision lies with the State Government. Even after regular followup, no response has been received from the Government of West Bengal and there is no role of the Central Government in the matter."

6. The above request for dropping the Assurance was again considered by the Committee at their Sitting held on 19 January, 2021 and it was decided not to drop the Assurance. The Committee accordingly presented their Forty-Seventh Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 3rd August, 2021. The Committee desired that the Ministry needs to devise ways and means to take appropriate action in the matter with alacrity and pursue the matter with the State Government concerned at the highest level so as to implement the Assurance.

7. However, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Commerce) *vide* O.M. F.No. T-54016/7/2015-Plant(A) dated 18th October, 2021 has stated as under:-

"Efforts have been made by the Department of Commerce to obtain the response of the State Government of West Bengal on the issue of review of the notification prohibiting expansion of area of tea nursery and plantations in West Bengal. The matter has been taken up several times at the highest level. The last communication to the State Government was sent on 22.06.2021 at the level of Joint Secretary. The reply from the State Government has not been received.

It is informed that Government of India vide Gazette Notification dated 23.08.2021 has suspended the operation section 12 to 16 of the Tea Act, 1953 (29 of 1953) until further order and with suspension of these section NoC of the concerned State Government is no longer required for registration with Tea Board and consequentially for availing the benefits under various schemes of the Tea Board."

8. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, has once again requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may re-consider.

NEW DELHI:

DATED: 03/01/2022

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1927
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY 2015
ORDINANCE FOR RESTRICTING EXTENSION
OF TEA GARDEN

1927(H). SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- 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;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the impact of the said order on small tea growers in the State indicating the number of tea growers affected thereby;
- whether the Union Government has taken up the matter with the State Government to review the said order;
- if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the State Government thereto; and
- the present status of the matter?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)

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.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM NO. 19

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurances given in replies to:-

- (i). **USQ No. 3883 dated 11.12.2019 regarding "Complaints against Telecom Operators"; and**
- (ii). **USQ No. 647 dated 05.02.2020 regarding "Complaints against TSPs.**

The above mentioned Questions were asked by various M.Ps. to the Minister of Communications. The contents of the Questions along with the replies of the Ministers are as given in Annexures I to II.

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

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications) vide O.M. Nos. File No: 15-18/2021-PG/I/PQ and File No: 15-18/2021-PG-I/PQ both dated 12th November, 2021 has stated as under:

"Telecom Regularity Authority of India (TRAI) vide its recommendations dated 10.03.2017 to DoT on 'Complaints/Grievance Redressal in Telecom Sector', had suggested a 3-tier structure of Ombudsman for the telecom sector.

The said recommendations/proposal was discussed in Telecom Commission (TC) meeting dated 01.05.2018 and the TC decided in principle to have two tier structure of Ombudsman for the telecom sector.

As the Telecom Commission (now DCC) has in-principle approved the setting up of Telecom Ombudsman for addressing the telecom consumer grievances, it is requested to kindly drop the aforesaid Assurances."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister of States for Communications, has requested the Committee to drop the Assurances.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

DATED: 03/01/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3883
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2019**

COMPLAINTS AGAINST TELECOM OPERATORS

**3883. SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has received complaints of subscribers against Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and if so, the details thereof along with the number of such complaints received by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year, TSP-wise;
- (b) action taken by the TRAI on such complaints;
- (c) whether the TSP have been found guilty in addressing such complaints of subscribers in an effective and time bound manner;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government against such TSPs;
- (e) whether the TRAI has any mechanism to monitor the efforts taken by the TSPs in addressing the grievances of subscribers;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the other corrective steps taken/ being taken by the Government in this direction?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS,
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

- (a) Sir, total numbers of complaints against Telecom Service Providers are as under:
1. Complaints received by TRAI:

Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019 (Jan. to November)
19819	21332	32265	26402

TSP wise details are enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

2. Complaints received by Government:

Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019 (Jan. to November)
60241	69406	54257	44890

TSP wise details are enclosed at Annexure-II.

(b) to (f) TRAI Act, 1997 does not envisage handling of individual consumer complaints by TRAI. However, complaints received in TRAI are forwarded to concerned service provider for appropriate action. TRAI has mandated all Telecom Service Providers to establish a two-tier complaint/grievance redressal mechanism for handling consumer complaints. In terms of this mechanism, a consumer can lodge service related complaints at the complaint centre of their Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). In case complaint is not redressed satisfactorily by the service provider at the complaint centre, an appeal can be registered with Appellate Authority of the TSPs.

(g) In case a grievance is not redressed even after exhausting the procedure as prescribed by TRAI, the complainant may approach Public Grievance Cell of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) along with all documentary evidence(s) for non-redressal of his grievance at concerned Service Provider level. Complainant may submit grievance in either of the following ways:

(i) by hand (ii) post (iii) fax (iv) phone Or (v) CPGRAMS Web Portal- URL : <http://www.pgportal.gov.in>.

The complaints so registered in DoT are forwarded to the concerned service provider/subordinate organization(s) with an advice to take appropriate action in the matter and to inform the complainant regarding the action taken towards the redressal of grievance. All the complaints received in DoT are monitored in a transparent, user friendly and structured manner by DoT staff and officers. DoT also provides an option to the complainant to raise his/her grievance through social media like twitter.

Apart from above DoT also took initiative to bring telecom consumers under the ambit of Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

Further, DoT is also considering to set-up Telecom Ombudsman for addressing the telecom consumer grievances.

Annexure-I**Number of Complaints Received in TRAI against Telecom Service Providers**

S.No.	Service Provider	2016	2017	2018	2019*
1	Aircel Cellular Limited	777	552	1821	13
2	Dishnet Wireless Ltd	0	0	1	0
3	Bharti Airtel Ltd. (Airtel)	6599	6932	12041	9150
4	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)	963	819	1102	1236
5	Loop Mobile (India) Ltd.	1	0	0	0
6	Loop Telecom Limited	0	0	0	0
7	Quadrant Televentures Ltd (HFCL)	26	29	9	1
8	Idea Cellular Ltd. (Idea)	2131	2594	3380	2129
9	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL)	318	268	295	195
10	Reliance Communications Ltd. (Reliance)	3429	2689	1108	10
11	Reliance Telecom Ltd	4	5	0	2
12	S Tel Private Ltd. (S Tel)	0	0	0	0
13	Sistema Shyam Teleservices Ltd (MTS)	405	176	80	0
14	Tata Teleservices Ltd. (TTSL)	771	601	753	289
15	Unitech Wireless (Tamil Nadu) Pvt. Ltd. (Uninor)	105	70	87	1
16	Vodafone India Limited (Vodafone)	4210	5394	8278	9190
17	Videocon Telecommunication Ltd. (Videocon)	36	7	2	1
18	Etisalat D.B. Telecom Pvt. Ltd. (Etisalat)	1	0	0	2
19	Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd	43	1196	3308	4183
Total		19819	21332	32265	26402

* Figures are till November 2019

List of TSPs	Total Number of complaints received			
	2019 (till 30.11.2019)	2018	2017	2016
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Corporate Office	18959	17155	28264	35319
Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd	1	0	1	0
M/s Vodafone Essar Mobile Services Ltd	3334	3757	3999	2741
M/s.Aditya Birla Telecom Ltd.	17	10	8	0
M/s.Aircel Cellular Ltd.	81	709	631	1022
M/s.Bharti Airtel Ltd.	5540	7111	7843	4326
M/s.HFCLInfotel Ltd.	4	16	54	39
M/s.Idea Cellular Ltd.	1504	2572	3104	2056
M/s.Reliance Communications Ltd.	246	855	3425	4614
M/s.Tata Teleservices Maharashtra Ltd.	140	385	693	798
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited Corporate office	10711	16584	17620	7929
Reliance JioInfocomm Limited	4339	4974	3353	811
Sistema Shyam Telecom Services	8	49	175	343
Telewings Communications	6	80	236	243
Total	44890	54257	69406	60241

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 647
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2020**

COMPLAINTS AGAINST TSPs

647. **SHRI HEMANT SRIRAM PATIL:
DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI D.K. SURESH:
SHRI RANJEETSINGH HINDURAO NAIK NIMBALKAR:
SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT:
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBAJIRAO MANE:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has received complaints of subscribers against Telecom Service Providers(TSPs) during each of the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof, TSP-wise;
- (b) whether TSPs have been found guilty in addressing complaints of subscribers in an effective and time bound manner in such complaints and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the TRAI has any mechanism to monitor the efforts taken by the TSPs in addressing grievances of subscribers and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) other corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS,
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

- (a) Sir, total number of complaints received in TRAI against the present Telecom Service Providers are tabulated below:

Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019
20522	30274	30131

TSP wise details are enclosed at Annexure-I.

- (b) to (c) TRAI Act 1997 does not envisage handling of individual consumer complaints to TRAI. As per the license conditions, any dispute relating to provision of service shall be redressed by service provider in accordance with the direction, order and regulations issued by Licensor/TRAI. In accordance with the above provisions, TRAI had laid down the framework for Redressal of grievances of telecom consumers by service providers through the Telecom Consumers Protection and Redressal of Grievances Regulations, 2012. These regulations provide for a two-tier Grievance Redressal Mechanism viz Complaint Centre and Appellate Authority. Complaint Centre will have Toll Free Consumer Care Number for complaints and service requests.

The Consumer Care Number could also be accessed from any network through an alternative number. If a consumer is not satisfied with the redressal of his complaint, or his complaint remains unaddressed or no intimation of redressal of the complaint is received within the specified period, he can approach the next tier – the Appellate Authority for redressal of his complaints. The appellate authority will have an advisory committee comprising of one member from the consumer organisation registered with TRAI and another member from the service provider. The appellate authority has to decide on every appeal within 39 days after considering the recommendations of the advisory committee. Time limits have been prescribed for redressal of complaints by the complaint centre and also appeal by the Appellate Authority.

TRAI has been monitoring the performance of service providers against the benchmark for above regulation, through Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports (PMRs) submitted by service providers. The details of Consumers Redressal Report submitted by Service Providers for the Quarter ending September 2019 is enclosed as **Annexure-II**.

(d) In case a grievance is not redressed even after exhausting the two tier procedure as prescribed by TRAI, the complainant may approach Public Grievance wing of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), along with all documentary evidence(s) for non-redressal of grievance at concerned Service Provider level. Complainant may submit grievance in either of the following ways:

(i) By hand (ii) By post (iii) Through FAX (iv) Through phone OR (v) CPGRAMS Web portal
[URL://www.pgportal.gov.in](http://www.pgportal.gov.in)

The complaints so registered in DoT are forwarded to the concerned service provider/ subordinate organizations(s) with an advise to take appropriate action in the matter and to inform the complainant regarding the action taken towards the redressal of grievance. All the complaints received in DoT are monitored in a transparent, user friendly and structured manner by DoT staff and officers. DoT also provides an option to the complainants to raise his/ her grievance through social media like twitter.

Apart from above DoT also took initiative to bring telecom consumers under the ambit of Consumer Protection Act, 2018.

Further, DoT is also considering to set-up Telecom Ombudsman for addressing the telecom consumer grievances.

Number of Complaints received in TRAI against Telecom Service Providers in last three calendar years

S.No.	Service Provider	2017	2018	2019
1	Bharti Airtel Ltd. (Airtel)	6932	12041	10552
2	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)	819	1102	1442
3	Quadrant Televentures Ltd (HFCL)	29	9	1
4	Idea Cellular Ltd. (Idea)	2594	3380	2141
5	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL)	268	295	228
6	Reliance Communications Ltd. (Reliance)	2689	1108	10
7	Tata Teleservices Ltd. (TTSL)	601	753	302
8	Vodafone India Limited (Vodafone)	5394	8278	10708
9	Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd	1196	3308	4747
Total		20522	30274	30131

Annexure-II

Consumer Redressal Report submitted by Service Providers (Period ending September 2019)									
Basic/Cellular/Broadband	Service Provider	Total no. of complaints received during the quarter and previous quarters pending complaints	Total number of complaints redressed	Total number of complaints redressed beyond time limit	Total No. of complaints pending	No. of appeals received	No. of appeals decided including backlog of previous quarter	No. of appeals decided beyond time limit	No. of appeals pending during the quarter ending
Basic	Airtel	402126	391719	17414	10407	6	7	1	3
Cellular		777385	639511	236156	137874	88	144	51	39
Broadband		523847	512278	26252	11569	3	4	1	0
Basic	BSNL	395991	319894	227736	76097	0	0	0	0
Cellular		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Broadband		181335	163323	92955	18012	0	0	0	0
Cellular	IDEA	3443525	3396380	225150	47145	49	52	0	6
Basic	MTNL	657382	639400	7347	17982	0	0	0	0
Cellular		26887	22404	2893	4483	3	3	0	3
Broadband		248999	226499	3021	22500	0	0	0	0
Basic	Quadrant	22247	22174	44	73	0	0	0	0
Broadband		11981	11570	825	411	0	0	0	
Cellular	Reliance Jio	1712922	1696332	20531	16590	895	1181	0	240
Basic	Tata	31062	31062	3757	0	4	4	0	0
Broadband		33045	31497	6988	1548	0	0	0	0
Broadband	Tata Sky	25931	25931	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cellular	Vodafone	3181514	3120042	263060	61472	217	224	16	8

Appendix-X

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM NO. 24

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurances given in replies to:-

- (i) Starred Question No. 96 dated 08.02.2021 regarding "Expert Committee on Indian Culture"; and
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 17 dated 19.07.2021 regarding "Committee to Study Indian Culture".

The above mentioned Question at S.No. (i) was asked by Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy and Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, MPs, and the Question at S.No. (ii) was asked by Shri S. Venkatesan, M.P. to the Minister of Culture. The contents of the Questions along with the replies of the Ministers are as given in Annexures I and II.

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

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Culture (Archaeological Survey of India) *vide* its O.M. F.No.T-17024/5/2021-EE-Part(1) and OM. F.No.T-17024/15/2021-EE dated 3rd November, 2021 and 9th November, 2021 respectively has stated as under:-

"The Archaeological Survey of India has a Central Advisory Board of Archaeology (CABA), with diverse and pluralistic membership from various quarters, another committee of similar nature may not be warranted and will be an unnecessary duplication of effort and membership and the subject matter, viz. Holistic Study of Origin and Evolution of Indian Culture since 12000 BP and its interface with other cultures of the world may be discussed and directed by the CABA."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Culture, has requested the Committee to drop the Assurances.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

DATED: 03/01/2022

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *96
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8.2.2021

EXPERT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN CULTURE

*96. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:
SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU

Will the **Minister of Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up an Expert Committee to conduct holistic study of the origin and evolution of Indian Culture since 12,000 years ago and its interface with other cultures of the world within the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its composition;
- (c) whether the Committee has no representative from the Southern States including Tamil Nadu which has a glorious past and is home to one of the oldest civilisations and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Committee does not consist of any woman, person from dalit community or person from religious minority and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has received any proposal from Tamil Nadu to reconstitute this Committee; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM

(Prahlad Singh Patel)

- (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.
- to
- (f)

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *96 FOR 8.2.2021**

- (a) A Committee for Holistic Study of Origin and Evolution of Indian Culture since 12,000 years before present and its interface with other Cultures of the World was set up in 2016. Currently, there exists no such committee to conduct holistic study of the origin and evolution of Indian Culture since 12,000 years.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) & (d) Does not arise.
- (e) & (f) Yes, Sir. In this regard, inter-alia the following representations are received on the subject:
1. Shri Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu to reconstitute the expert committee by inducting eminent scholars from Tamil Nadu.
 2. Shri V. Narayanasamy, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puducherry requested to reconstitute the expert panel having an expert from all the states and UTs.
 3. Shri Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) requested to reconstitute the expert committee by inducting eminent scholars from Tamil Nadu.

While reconstituting the Committee, due consideration would be given to all these suggestions.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 17
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.7.2021

COMMITTEE TO STUDY INDIAN CULTURE

17. SHRI S. VENKATESAN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) it was informed by Union Minister of Culture last year that a 16 member committee has been formed to study Indian culture and its growth however, the composition of the Committee without diversity came in for severe criticism;
- (b) whether that Committee still exists;
- (c) whether the said Committee has held any sittings so far and if so, the dates of sittings; and
- (d) whether there is any proposals of the Government to dissolve the Committee to ensure fair representation with diversity?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
(G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) A Committee for Holistic Study of Origin and Evolution of Indian Culture since 12000 to BP and its interface with other Cultures of the World was set up in 2016. The said committee had two meetings on 3.1.2017 and 2.5.2017.
- (c)
- (d) It has been decided to reconstitute the committee. While reconstituting the Committee, all the suggestions on diversity in membership would be given due consideration.

Appendix - XI

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM NO. 26

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4698 dated 24.03.2021 regarding "Logistics Policy".

On 24th March 2021, Shri Mitesh Rameshbhai Patel (Bakabhai) and Smt. Shardaben Anilbhai Patel, MPs, addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4698 to the Minister of Commerce & Industry. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

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

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Commerce) *vide* O.M. No. H-11016/5/2021-Admn./Log.(E-3153770) dated 18.11.2021 has stated as under:-

"The PM Gati Shakti-National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 13th October, 2021.

PM Gati Shakti underscores the key priorities of the Government in respect of development of an integrated logistics sector in India through a whole of Government approach and will *inter-alia*, help in coordinated planning and execution of infrastructure projects to bring down logistics costs in India. The Gati Shakti digital platform, which will bring together 16 Ministries including Rail and Roadways, will help in removing long-standing issues such as disjointed planning, lack of standardization, problems with clearances, and timely creation and utilization of infrastructure capacities. Further steps for strengthening the PM Gati Shakti are being taken with stakeholders consultation."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

DATED: 03/01/2022

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4698(H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th MARCH, 2021

LOGISTICS POLICY

4698(H). SHRI MITESH RAMESHBHAI PATEL (BAKABHAI):
SHRIMATI SHARDABEN ANILBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any logistics policy has been finalised;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which this policy is likely to be worked out;
- (c) whether a single window e-logistic market system is likely to be developed resulting in generation of employment and imparting skill development; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a) & (b): The draft National Logistics Policy is under stakeholders discussion and will be finalized on completion of the consultations.

(c) & (d): National Logistics Platform will be a unified interface for all logistics services by integrated digital solutions developed by different Ministries, agencies and private entities in logistics sector through open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). The draft National Logistics Policy *inter alia* details out several initiatives to promote skill development.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM NO. 21

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2284 dated 08.03.2021 regarding "Declaration of Barpeta Town as Heritage Town".

On 08th March 2021, Shri Abdul Khaleque, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2284 to the Minister of Culture. 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 Culture within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Culture *vide* O.M. F.No.T-26014/7/2021-WH-Part(1) dated 9th November, 2021 has stated as under:-

"In the process of fulfillment of Assurance the matter has thoroughly been examined and it has found that there is no such scheme under Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture to declare any town as Heritage Town."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Culture, has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

DATED: 03/01/2022

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2284
ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021

DECLARATION OF BARPETA TOWN AS HERITAGE TOWN

2284. SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering the demand to declare Barpeta Town known for innumerable "Satras" and other monuments a Heritage Town as raised earlier by me through Rule 377;
- (b) If so, whether it is being considered under National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenated and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive as informed by Housing & Urban Development Minister *vide* letter dated 4th May 2020;
- (c) the details of the latest status if it is under consideration for declaration as Heritage Town as informed by Minister of Tourism and Culture *vide* letter dated 18th June, 2020; and
- (d) if not, the reason therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

- (a) Yes Sir. Matter is under examination.
- (b) No Sir.
- (c) & (d) Matter is under examination.

Appendix - XIII

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM NO. 28

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 248 dated 25.02.2015 regarding "Atomic Fuel".

On 25th February 2015, Shri Naranbhai Kachhadiya and Shri D.S. Rathod, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 248 to the Prime Minister. 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 Department of Atomic Energy within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Department of Atomic Energy *vide* O.M. No. 13/2/2/2015-Power/12651 dated 22nd October, 2021 has stated as under:-

"Atomic Energy Commission in its 238th meeting held on 28.11.2020 has approved to maintain the uranium stockpile of 15000 MTU through replacement contracts with flexible amount of \pm 2000 MTU (i.e. 13000-17000 MTU) to accommodate mismatches between inflows and outflows from the stockpile. AEC has also recommended re-negotiation of contract with M/s. Kazatomprom and M/s. Cameco in line with the revised procurement plan. Accordingly, this Department has initialized procurement process i.e. import of uranium based on revised procurement plan. However, due to prevalent conditions in the country on account of the global pandemic i.e. Covid-19, the proposal for procurement of Uranium Ore Concentrates (UOC) has been deferred by the Competent Authority in the Government."

4. In view of the above, the Department, with the approval of the Minister of State (Prime Minister's Office), has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

DATED: 03/01/2022

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.248
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.02.2015

ATOMIC FUEL

248. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:
SHRI D.S. RATHOD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of atomic fuel/uranium required for atomic power plants operating and under construction in the country;
- (b) whether the country is self-reliant in the field of atomic fuel/uranium;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the details of locations where uranium deposits have been found during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) the measures being taken to find out new uranium reserves/mines in the country; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for acquisition of uranium mines in other countries to ensure constant supply for atomic reactors in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH) :

- (a) The approximate requirements of nuclear fuel/ uranium for Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors are as given below:

Unit Capacity (MW)	Annual Fuel Requirement at 85% Capacity Factor (tonnes UO ₂)
220	45
540	100
700	125

The approximate requirements of low enriched uranium for Light Water Reactors are as given below:

Unit Capacity (MW)	Annual Fuel Requirement (tones low enriched uranium)
160	6 (at 85% CF)
1000	25 (at 90% CF)

- (b)&(c) At present, there is a demand–supply mismatch of domestic uranium. Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL) a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Atomic Energy is operating seven uranium mines and two process plants in Jharkhand. A large underground mine and process plant at Tummalapalle in Andhra Pradesh has been constructed and expected to start production soon. Plan for capacity addition of this mine and plant has already been initiated. Production from these new projects are expected to enhance the indigenous uranium supply and substantially ease the uranium fuel demand-supply gap for indigenous reactors.
- (d) Atomic Minerals Directorate (AMD) has so far established 2,14,158 tonne of U₃O₈ equivalent to 1,81,606 tonne of Uranium in various States of India. Following extensive work for exploration of Uranium in the country, the identified in-situ reserves of uranium in the country have been progressing.
- (e) Department is examining various aspects of stock piling of uranium; and the relevant aspects of acquiring mining stake abroad would be examined thereafter.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM No. 29

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2235 dated 02.12.2019 regarding "IIT and IIM".

On 02 December, 2019, Shri N.K. Premachandran, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2235 to the Minister of Human Resource Development (now known as Ministry of Education). The text of the Question alongwith the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

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

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) vide O.M. F. No. H-22016-28/2019-TS.I dated 28 October, 2021 has stated as under:-

"The matter was taken up with IIT Madras, who have informed that-

i. Initially, the case of Ms. Fathima Lathief was handled by the Central Crime Branch, Tamil Nadu Police and an investigation was conducted by Addl. DCP level officer under Cr.No.327/2019 of CCB-I Greater Chennai Police, Chennai.

ii. Subsequently, Institute have received a communication from Shri Syed Bazlullah, Superintendent of Police, CBI, SCB, Chennai dtd. 06.01.2020 informing that CBI had registered a death case of Ms. Fathima Lathief in pursuance of Notification U/s.5 and 6 of DSPE issued by the Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu based on the request of Government of Tamil Nadu and the investigation was entrusted to Shri Ravi, Dy. S.P, CBI for investigation. The investigation reference of CBI is RC.4(S)/2019/CBI/SCB/Chennai. Presently, the case is being investigated by Shri Santhosh Kumar, Dy. S.P, CBI, Chennai.

iii. The CBI has started the investigations, and the investigation is still in progress. IIT Madras administration is fully cooperating with the CBI, and the necessary documents/records and required video footage, etc., called for by the investigating officers of the CBI are being immediately provided.

From the above, it is clear that the case is presently with CBI, and the Ministry of Education has no role in the matter. In view of the case being presently handled by CBI and no tentative time limit can be prescribed for fulfillment of Assurance. It is expected that the matter will

end to a logical conclusion as the case is being handled by independent investigating agency."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

Dated:- 03/01/2022

New Delhi

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2235
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2019**

IIT & IIM

2235. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

- Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry regarding the death of students in IIT campus and Hostels under suspicious circumstances, if so, the details thereof;
 - (b) the institution-wise details of death regarding the students in IIT and IIM during the last five years;
 - (c) whether the Government is aware that the deaths were reported as suicides;
 - (d) if so, whether the Government has taken any action for detailed enquiry;
 - (e) whether the Government received representation from Member of Parliament requesting to conduct enquiry regarding death of Fathima Latheef in IIT Chennai Hostel;
 - (f) if so, the action taken thereon; and
 - (g) whether the Government proposes to establish an effective system for enquiry and action on the complaints regarding mental harassment?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')**

- (a) : All cases of Deaths or Suicides in IITs are reported to the Local Police for taking appropriate action as per law.
- (b) : The institute-wise details of death of students in IIT and IIM during the last five years are annexed.
- (c) & (d): All the cases of deaths or suicides in IITs are enquired into by the local Police as per law. IITs provide full support to police authorities to enquire into the matter.
- (e) & (f) : Yes, Sir. Representations for conducting probe into suicide by Fathima Latheef, a student of Integrated MA first-year of IIT Madras have been received from various Members of Parliament. IIT Madras has informed that immediately after the incident was reported to the Hostel authorities, the police were informed. The police on arrival took over the custody of the Hostel room along with the materials inside and started investigations. Subsequently, the case has been transferred to the Central Crime Branch of Tamil Nadu Police. IIT Madras administration is fully cooperating with the police, who are continuing with their investigations.
- (g) : Systems are in place in IITs to enquire and take action in all complaints from students in IIT campuses, which includes Student Grievance Cell, Disciplinary Action Committee, Counselling Centres etc.

Annexure referred to in part (b) of reply to the Lok Sabha Un-Starred Question No. 2235 for 02.12.2019 asked by Shri N.K. Premachandran regarding "IIT & IIM".

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute	Total no. of death of students in last five years
1	IIT Bombay	07
2	IIT Delhi	04
3	IIT Kanpur	01
4	IIT Kharagpur	05
5	IIT Madras	07
6	IIT Guwahati	14
7	IIT Roorkee	02
8.	IIT BHU	01
9	IIT Hyderabad	05
10	IIT Patna	0
11	IIT Jodhpur	0
12	IIT Bhubanewar	02
13	IIT Gandhinagar	0
14	IIT Indore	0
15	IIT Ropar	0
16	IIT Mandi	0
17	IIT Tirupati	0
18	IIT Palakkad	0
19	IIT Bhilai	0
20	IIT Jammu	01
21	IIT Goa	0
22	IIT Dharwad	0
23	IIT(ISM) Dhanbad	01
	Grand Total	50

Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute	Total no. of death of students in last five years
1	IIM Ahmedabad	0
2	IIM Bangalore	0
3	IIM Calcutta	2
4	IIM Lucknow	1
5	IIM Indore	0
6	IIM Kozhikode	1
7	IIM Shillong	1
8	IIM Rohtak	0
9	IIM Ranchi	0
10	IIM Raipur	0
11	IIM Trichy	0
12	IIM Udaipur	0
13	IIM Kashipur	1
14	IIM Visakhapatnam	0
15	IIM Nagpur	2
16	IIM Amritsar	1
17	IIM Bodh Gaya	0
18	IIM Sambalpur	0
19	IIM Sirmaur	0
20	IIM J & K	1
	Grand Total	10

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
 MEMORANDUM No. 30

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurances given in replies to:-

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 4603 dated 22 July, 2019 regarding "Investment for Quality Education" (Annexure-I).
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 4633 dated 22 July, 2019 regarding "Transform Higher Education" (Annexure-II).
- (iii) Unstarred Question No. 4692 dated 22 July, 2019 regarding "Vision of EQUIP" (Annexure-III).
- (iv) Unstarred Question No. 70 dated 03 February, 2020 regarding "EQUIP Programme" (Annexure-IV).

The above mentioned Questions were asked by various MPs to the Minister of Human Resource Development (now known as Ministry of Education). The contents of the Questions along with the replies of the Minister are as given in Annexures (I to IV).

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

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) *vide* O.M. F. No. 24-13/2021-U.Policy dated 08 November, 2021 has stated as under:

"EQUIP was proposed to be a five-year vision plan (2019-20 to 2023-24) aimed at ushering transformations in India's higher education system in terms of improving access, quality, excellence, governance, accreditation, research & innovation, and technology resulting in greater employability of Indian youth and internationalization of the Higher Education system. A total 17 schemes pertaining to different bureaus of the D/o Higher Education were proposed to be merged into EQUIP. An EFC Note on the proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure in September 3rd, 2019 for in-principle approval before Inter-Ministrial Consultations. However, the Department of Expenditure observed that, "as of now, the scheme is completely unaffordable in the MTEF (Medium Term Expenditure Framework) and present fiscal environment and hence in principle approval is not possible. Therefore, majority of the schemes out of 17 schemes proposed to be subsumed under EQUIP, were allocated budgets in 2020-21 and 2021-22 as given below:

S. No.	Schemes	BE 2021-22 (Rs.in Crores)
1	Setting up of Inter Institutional Centres, Creation of Excellence Clusters & Network, Establishing Alliances and across Institutions	Discontinued
2	Training and Research in Frontier areas	Discontinued
3	National Mission in Education through ICT	135.32
4	Setting of Virtual Classrooms and Massive Open Online	200

	Courses (MOOCs)	
5	National Digital Library	20
6	e-Shodh Sindhu	154.61
7	Uchhatar Avishkar Abhiyan	Merged with IMPRINT
8	Implementation of the IMPRINT Research Initiative (Impacting Research Innovation and Technology)	25
9	Prime Minister Research Fellowship (PMRF)	150
10	Global Initiative for Academic Network (GIAN)	10
11	Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT)	90
12	Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)	3000
13	Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)	10
14	National Initiative for Design Innovation	35
15	Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Sciences (STARS)	25
16	Impactful Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS)	25
17	Support for Skill-Based Higher Education including Community Colleges (Terminated)	Transferred to MSDE
	Total	3879.93

Therefore, in order to avoid duplication of funds and efforts, with the approval of the competent authority, EQUIP was not pursued further in FY 2021-2022. Moreover, schemes having sunset period are also being aligned with New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 after its announcement on 29.07.2020.

4. In view of the above the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Education, has requested the Committee to drop the above mentioned Assurances.

The Committee may consider.

New Delhi

Dated: 03/01/2022

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4603
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22nd JULY, 2019

Investment for Quality Education

4603. SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the education quality upgradation and inclusion programme is likely to involve investment of Rs. 1.5 lakh crores over the next five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether much of the said demand will have to be met from the market; and
- (d) if so, whether the Government plans to raise it from the market?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')**

(a) to (d): The Government has received recommendations of 10 Experts Groups under Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP). The recommendations have been sent to State Governments and other related departments of Government of India for suggestions and comments. The Government has not taken a final decision on the recommendations, their likely financial implications and source of funding.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4633
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22nd JULY, 2019

Transform Higher Education

4633. DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT:

DR. PRITAM GOPINATH RAO MUNDE:

SHRI SRIRANGA APPA BARNE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has released a five-year vision and action plan to transform higher education by doubling enrolment and employability;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of the vision document;
- (c) the manner in which it will be beneficial for the betterment of higher education in the country as well as at par with the international standard;
- (d) whether the Government is looking at allowing top foreign universities from the US, the UK, Australia and other countries to set up off-campus centres in India;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which the said centers are started in the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')**

(a) to (f): The Government has received recommendations of 10 Experts Groups under Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) on 10 focus areas of higher education namely (i) Strategies for expanding access, (ii) Towards global best teaching/learning process, (iii) Promoting excellence, (iv) Governance reforms, (v) Assessment, Accreditation & Ranking systems, (vi) Promotion of research & innovation, (vii) Employability & Entrepreneurship, (viii) Using Technology for better reach, (ix) Internationalisation of Higher Education and (x) Financing higher education. The recommendations have been sent to State Governments and other

related departments of Government of India for suggestions and comments. The Government has not taken a final decision on the recommendations, their likely financial implications and source of funding.

At present, there is no law which allows the entry and operation of foreign educational providers to set up their campuses in India. However, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified the UGC (Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations 2016, which spell out the modalities regarding the eligibility criteria and the conditions for the collaboration of a foreign educational institution with an Indian educational institution. UGC regulations in this respect are available at <http://www.egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2016/170684.pdf>.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has also set norms for academic collaborations and twinning programmes between Indian and Foreign Universities/Institutions in the field of technical education, research and training in India. AICTE norms in this regard are available at <https://www.aicte-india.org/sites/default/files/APH%202019-20.pdf>.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4692
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22nd JULY, 2019

Vision of EQUIP

†4692. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has finalized and released a five year Vision Plan named Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP), if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if so, the composition and focus areas of the 10 Groups formulated to transform the higher education sector;
- (c) the goals set by the Groups for higher education sector;
- (d) whether the Groups have recommended modalities for implementation, investments and timelines and if so, the details thereof and the time by which the recommendations of the Group will be implemented; and
- (e) the steps taken to implement an innovative and transformational approach from primary to higher education level to make the Indian educational system more relevant and competitive globally?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) to (e): The Government has received recommendations of 10 Experts Groups under Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) on 10 focus areas of higher education namely (i) Strategies for expanding access, (ii) Towards global best teaching/learning process, (iii) Promoting excellence, (iv) Governance reforms, (v) Assessment, Accreditation & Ranking systems, (vi) Promotion of research & innovation,

(vii) Employability & Entrepreneurship, (viii) Using Technology for better reach, (ix) Internationalisation of Higher Education and (x) Financing higher education.

The recommendations have been sent to State Governments and other related departments of Government of India for suggestions and comments. The Government has not taken a final decision on the recommendations, their likely financial implications and source of funding.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 70
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3rd FEBRUARY, 2020

EQUIP Programme

70. SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI:
SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has finalized and released a five-year vision plan named Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to increase the employability in Higher Education Sector through this programme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) to (d): The Government has received recommendations of 10 Experts Groups under Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP). The recommendations were circulated to State Governments and other related departments of Government of India for suggestions and comments. The recommendations include increasing employability through various initiatives such as Vocational curriculum reforms, Internship platforms, creation of skills centres of excellence, infrastructural assistance to B.Voc institutions, counseling centres, etc. A final decision on the recommendations contained in EQUIP is under consideration.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM No. 31

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurances given in replies to (i) Unstarred Question No. 3169 dated 15.03.2021 regarding "Syllabus on Freedom Fighters"; and (ii) Unstarred Question No. 120 dated 19.07.2021 regarding "History Textbooks".

The above Questions were asked by Shri Ram Swaroop Sharma, Smt. Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah and Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel MPs., respectively to the Minister of Education. The texts of the Questions along with the replies of the Minister are as given in the Annexures I and II.

2. The replies to the Questions were treated as Assurances by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Education (Department of School Education & Literacy) within three months from the date of replies but the Assurances are yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Education (Department of School Education & Literacy) vide O.M. F. No. 4-9/2021-Sch.4 and F. No. 4-13/2021-Sch.4 both dated 22 October, 2021 has stated as under:-

"According to para 4.30 of National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, the formulation of a new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE), will be undertaken by the NCERT - based on the principles of the National Education Policy, 2020, front-line curriculum needs, and after discussion with all stakeholders including State Governments, Ministries, relevant Departments of the Central Government, and other expert bodies, and will be made available in all regional languages. The NCFSE document shall henceforth be revisited and updated once every 5-10 years, taking into account front-line curriculum.

Para 27.1 of NEP, 2020 provides that any policy's effectiveness depends on its implementation, such implementation will require multiple initiatives and actions, which will have to be taken by multiple bodies in a synchronized and systematic manner. Furthermore, as per para 27.3 of NEP, 2020, the implementation of NEP, 2020 to be completed in the decade of 2030-40.

The matter has been examined in pursuance of the new NEP, 2020 announced by the Government and it has been decided to prepare a new National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE). It has been decided that the NCF should be framed by incorporating and integrating the local & indigenous flavour from across the country through wider consultation. Accordingly all States/UTs have been

requested to develop the draft State curricular framework first which in turn would contribute to the preparation of National Curriculum Framework.

This Ministry has recently constituted the National Steering Committee (NSC) for development of National Curriculum Frameworks (NCF) on 21.09.2021. Hence, the process for preparation of the new NCFs has already been initiated. The development of Syllabus and textbooks will be taken up only after development of the NCF. The entire process is likely to take a considerable time. However, the entire process will be completed as per the time-lines given in the NEP as mentioned above."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated:- 03/01/2022

New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3169
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2021

SYLLABUS ON FREEDOM FIGHTERS

†3169. SHRI RAM SWAROOP SHARMA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to include the real stories of the sacrifices of the heroic people who laid down their lives in the freedom struggle of the country in the school and University curriculum for future generations of the country,
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, whether any such scheme is proposed in the near future and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) to (c) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)'s present set of textbooks have been prepared based on the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005. In these textbooks, there are several references to stories of the heroic freedom fighters who were part of the freedom struggle of India. Consequent upon announcement of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, a new National Curriculum Framework (NCF) will be prepared followed by development of textbooks in all subjects. The textbooks will be developed after extensive research and consultation. In higher education also, the NEP will be followed.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.120
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021

HISTORY TEXTBOOKS

†120. SHRIMATI MALA RAJYA LAXMI SHAH:
SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any remedial measures to rectify distortion of facts made in history in the past and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is proposing any plan to evaluate more fairly facts and information in the history about the local kings of North-South India of medieval period; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (c): The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), as a regular activity, update their textbooks before these are reprinted every year keeping in view the comments, suggestions and grievances received from different stakeholders. The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) has been undertaking various research projects/seminars/lectures/workshops with a focus to bring out the authenticated history of different regions of India. Further, consequent upon announcement of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, a new National Curriculum Framework (NCF) will be prepared followed by development of new textbooks in all subjects, including History, after extensive research and consultation.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM No. 34

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3931 dated 20 March, 2015 regarding "Bitcoin Exchange and Trading."

On 20 March, 2015, Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi, MP, addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3931 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 Home Affairs within three months from the date of reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.
3. The Ministry of Finance vide O.M. No. 2/5/2015-Cy.II dated 14 August, 2015 had requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:-

"That the issue related to exchange and trading of bitcoin is being examined in consultation with Reserve Bank of India (RBI). RBI informed that the very nature of digital currencies, which are typically online and therefore not limited to national jurisdictions, regulation would benefit from a coordinated global approach so as to be fully effective. The RBI is monitoring the developments in other jurisdictions with respect to virtual currencies and as such has adopted a policy of "wait and watch" for the present. Regulatory action, if required, would be considered in light of the global developments in this regard. Since, there is no position to take any concrete step to introduce regulatory mechanism at the moment and the action would depend on global developments, which are beyond the scope of this Department, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs may be requested to drop the Assurance."

4. The above request for dropping the Assurance was not acceded to by the Committee at their sitting held on 05 January, 2017. The Committee accordingly presented their Sixtieth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 10 August, 2017 and desired that the Ministry must pursue the matter with concerted efforts to fulfil the Assurance at the earliest.
5. However, the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) vide O.M. F. No. 2/19/2021-Cy dated 27 October, 2021 has stated as under:-

"The response that Government would take a decision on the recommendation of the IMC and the legislative proposal if any would be introduced in the Parliament following due process, was not intended to be an Assurance. In this respect due process on the decision for introducing legislative proposal includes action beyond the scope of this Ministry. Therefore the Assurance may kindly be treated as inadvertent and dropped."

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

The Committee may re-consider.

New Delhi:

Dated: 03/01/2022

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3931
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH MARCH, 2015/29TH PHALGUNA, SAKA,1936
BITCOIN EXCHANGE AND TRADING

3931. SHRIMATI MEENAKSHI LEKHI:

QUESTION

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that bitcoin currency base in the country has been on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has been introducing regulatory mechanism for bitcoin exchange and trading;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has studied any other crypto-currency forms; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI JAYANT SINHA)

(a) & (b): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that they have no information on the rise of bitcoin currency base in the country.

(c) & (d): RBI is presently examining the issues associated with the usage, holding and trading of virtual currencies, including bitcoins, under the extant legal and regulatory framework of the country, including foreign exchange and payment systems, laws and regulations.

(e) & (f) : No, Madam.

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH**

MEMORANDUM No. 36

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2201 dated 02.12.2019 regarding "National Water Projects in Tribal Areas".

On 02 December, 2019, Shri Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2201 to the Minister of Tribal Affairs. 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 Tribal Affairs within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs *vide* O.M. No. 16012/16/2019-FRA Computer No. 17707 dated 02.11.2021 has stated as under:-

"The last sentence of the reply 'Confirmation that Dr. Pullarao belongs to Schedule Tribe community is being sought from the State Government along with factual report on his representation' has been treated as an Assurance and to state that requisite confirmation along with factual report has already been sought by this Ministry from the State Government. The State Government has, however, not sent any confirmation/report."

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

The Committee may consider.

DATED :- 03/01/2022
NEW DELHI

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2201
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2019

NATIONAL WATER PROJECTS IN TRIBAL AREAS

2201. SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received petitions from diverse tribal villagers which have been displaced by National Water Projects in the last 60 days;
- (b) whether it is a fact that affected and displaced tribals have not received either financial compensation for their land lost or got replacement of land;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government has considered the petitions of the petitioners to redress their problems; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFIARS
(SMT. RENUKA SINGH SARUTA)

- (a) to (d) This Ministry has not received petitions during the last 60 days in connection with the displacement of tribal people due to National Water Project. However, one representation dated 16.11.2019 has been received from Dr. Pentapati Pullarao, B-18, Nizamuddin East , New Delhi-110013, who claims to be a project affected person under Polavaram Irrigation Project in Andhra Pradesh. In the representation, Dr. Pullarao has, inter-alia, sought implementation of NHRC order dated 06.11.2019 wherein State Government and National Monitoring Committee have been requested by NHRC to look into the recommendations made by the team consisting of senior officers of the Commission, who have visited the project area sometime in the year 2016 and pass appropriate orders in this regard.

Confirmation that Dr. Pullarao belongs to Scheduled Tribe community is being sought from the State Government along with factual report on his representation.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2021-2022)
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)
SIXTH SITTING
(11.01.2022)

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1615 hours in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Agrawal - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

2. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
3. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
4. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
5. Shri Santosh Pandey
6. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Pawan Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri S.L. Singh - Deputy Secretary

XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX
XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX

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) consider 25 Memoranda containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 41 pending Assurances; and (ii) take oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology regarding pending Assurances.

2. Thereafter, the Committee took up the said 25 Memoranda (Memorandum Nos. 12 to 36) containing 41 Assurances 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 remaining Memoranda. The Chairperson subsequently decided to drop 33 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-I and to pursue the remaining 08 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-II* for implementation by the Ministries/Departments concerned.

3. XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX
4. VVVVV XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX

- | | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 5. | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX |
| 6. | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX |
| 7. | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX |
| 8. | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX |
| 9. | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX |

The Committee then adjourned.

* Not related to this Report.

Statement showing Assurances dropped by the Committee on Government Assurances (2021-2022) at their sitting held on 11.01.2022.

Sl. No.	Memorandum No.	Question/Discussion References	Ministry/Deptt.	Brief Subject
1.	12	Discussion on the Dam Safety Bill, 2019 dated 02.08.2019 by Shri Jayadev Galla, MP, (Page No. 181)	Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation)	Discussion on the Dam Safety Bill, 2019
2.	13	(i) SQ No. 47 dated 20.11.2019 (ii) USQ No. 1468 dated 27.11.2019 (iii) USQ No. 2536 dated 04.12.2019 (iv) USQ No. 2554 dated 04.12.2019 (v) USQ No. 2602 dated 04.12.2019 (vi) USQ No. 2664 dated 04.12.2019 (vii) USQ No. 2713 dated 04.12.2019 (viii) USQ No. 3804 dated 11.12.2019	Electronics and Information Technology	(i) Mobile Phone Data (ii) Data Protection Law (iii) Social Media Monitoring Hub (iv) Data Protection Bill (v) Privacy Violation and Data Protection (vi) Protection of Data Privacy (vii) Selling of Private Information of Social Media Users (viii) Data Collected by Social Networking Companies

		(ix) USQ No. 3897 dated 11.12.2019		(ix) Illegal Activities on Social Media
		(x) USQ No. 3902 dated 11.12.2019		(x) Misappropriation of Data
		(xi) USQ No. 1476 dated 10.02.2021		(xi) Chinese Investment in Data- Reliant Sectors
3.	14	USQ No. 3024 dated 06.08.2018	Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)	National Integrated Logistics Policy
4.	15	USQ No. 1428 dated 10.02.2021	Coal	Diversifying PSUs in the Coal Sector
5.	16	USQ No. 4674 dated 24.03.2021	Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)	Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)
6.	17	SQ No. 343 dated 10.08.2018 (Supplementary by Kumari Sushmita Dev, MP)	Corporate Affairs	CSR Funds
7.	18	USQ No. 1927 dated 31.07.2015	Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)	Ordinance for Restricting Extension of Tea Garden
8.	19	(i) USQ No. 3883 dated 11.12.2019 (ii) USQ No. 647 dated 05.02.2020	Communications (Department of Telecommunications)	(i) Complaints Against Telecom Operators (ii) Complaints Against TSPs
9.	24	(i) SQ No. 96 dated 08.02.2021 (ii) USQ No. 17 dated 19.07.2021	Culture	(i) Expert Committee on Indian Culture (ii) Committee to Study Indian Culture

10.	26	USQ No. 4698 dated 24.03.2021	Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)	Logistics Policy
11.	27	USQ No. 2284 dated 08.03.2021	Culture	Declaration of Barpeta Town as Heritage Town
12.	28	USQ No. 248 dated 25.02.2015	Department of Atomic Energy	Atomic Fuel
13.	29	USQ No. 2235 dated 02.12.2019	Education (Department of Higher Education)	IIT and IIM
14.	30	(i) USQ No. 4603 dated 22.07.2019 (ii) USQ No. 4633 dated 22.07.2019 (iii) USQ No. 4692 dated 22.07.2019 (iv) USQ No. 70 dated 03.02.2020	Education (Department of Higher Education)	(i) Investment for Quality Education (ii) Transform Higher Education (iii) Vision of Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) (iv) EQUIP Programme
15.	31	(i) USQ No. 3169 dated 15.03.2021 (ii) USQ No. 120 dated 19.07.2021	Education (Department of School Education & Literacy)	(i) Syllabus on Freedom Fighters (ii) History Textbooks
16.	34	USQ No. 3931 dated 20.03.2015	Finance (Department of Economic Affairs)	Bitcoin Exchange and Trading
17.	36	USQ No. 2201 dated 02.12.2019	Tribal Affairs	National Water Projects in Tribal Areas

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2021-2022)
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)
EIGHTH SITTING
(18.04.2022)

The Committee sat from 1530 hours to 1630 hours in Committee Room No. 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Agrawal - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

2. Shri Nihal Chand
3. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
4. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
5. Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete
6. Shri M.K. Raghavan

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri J.M. Baisakh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri T.S. Rangarajan | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri S.L. Singh | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Vineeta Sachdeva | - | Under Secretary |

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At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda. Thereafter, the Committee Considered and adopted the following three (03) draft Reports without any amendments:-

- (i) Draft Sixty Second Report regarding 'Review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways';
- (ii) Draft Sixty-Third Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)'; and

- (iii) Draft Sixty-Fourth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for dropping of Assurances (Not Acceeded to)'.
(Note: 'Acceeded' is misspelled as 'Acceeded' in the original text)

2. The Committee also authorised the Chairperson to present the Reports at a later date after carrying out verbal and consequential changes.

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The Committee then adjourned.