

**COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2022-2023)**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

EIGHTY-FIRST REPORT

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

Presented to Lok Sabha on 09/02/2023



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2023 / Magha, 1944 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2022 - 2023)**

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL - Chairperson

MEMBERS

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

SECRETARIAT

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

* The Committee have been constituted w.e.f. 09 October, 2022 *vide* Para No. 5363 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 09 November, 2022

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances (2022-2023), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Eighty-First Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2022-2023) at their sitting held on 23 November, 2022 *inter-alia* considered Memorandum Nos. 2 to 21 containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 25 pending Assurances and decided to drop 19 Assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 07 February, 2023 the Committee on Government Assurances (2022-2023) considered and adopted this Report.

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

NEW DELHI;

07 February, 2023

18 Magha, 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 (2022-2023) considered Twenty Memoranda (Appendix-I) containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 25 pending Assurances at their sitting held on 23 November, 2022.

3. After having considered the grounds cited by the Ministries/Departments, the Committee are convinced and decided to drop the following 19 Assurances :-

S. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
1.	USQ No. 806 dated 02.12.2021	Petroleum and Natural Gas	Ethanol Prices (Appendix –II)
2.	USQ No. 1985 dated 09.12.2021	Road Transport and Highways	Conversion of SHs into NHs in Kerala (Appendix –III)
3.	(i) USQ No. 15 dated 18.07.2018 (ii) USQ No. 1463 dated 19.12.2018	Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs)	(i) Integrated Legal Division (ii) Integrated Legal Division

S. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
	(iii) USQ No. 4054 dated 17.07.2019		(iii) Integrated Legal Division (Appendix –IV)
4.	(i) USQ No. 2334 dated 13.12.2021 (ii) USQ No. 2455 dated 13.12.2021 (iii) USQ No. 2475 dated 13.12.2021	Finance (Department of Economic Affairs)	(i) Regulating Cryptocurrency (ii) Impact of Cryptocurrency (iii) Complaints of Digital Currencies (Appendix –V)
5.	USQ No. 5734 dated 06.04.2022	Electronics and Information Technology	Delay in Data Protection Bill (Appendix –VI)
6.	USQ No. 784 dated 07.02.2022	Finance (Department of Economic Affairs)	Virtual Currencies (Appendix –VII)
7.	USQ No. 1084 dated 26.07.2021	Petroleum and Natural Gas	Exit From Oil Business (Appendix –VIII)
8.	USQ No. 527 dated 22.07.2021	Road Transport and Highways	Construction of New NH (Appendix –IX)
9.	USQ No. 2162 dated 15.03.2022	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture Research & Education)	Zero Budget Natural Farming (Appendix –X)
10.	USQ No. 2180 dated 15.03.2017	Law and Justice (Legislative Department)	Electoral Bribery as Cognisable Offence (Appendix –XI)
11.	USQ No. 3004 dated 16.12.2021	Petroleum and Natural Gas	Manufacturing of Bio-Ethanol (Appendix –XII)
12.	USQ No. 4473 dated 20.03.2020	Information and Broadcasting	Amendment in Cable Television Networks Regulation Act (Appendix –XIII)
13.	USQ No. 2929 dated 11.03.2020	Railways	Dedicated Freight Corridor (Appendix –XIV)

S. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
14.	(i) SQ No. 4 dated 19.11.2009 (ii) USQ No. 1618 dated 13.02.2019	Railways	(i) Crimes in Trains (ii) Crimes in Moving Trains (Appendix -XV)

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 19 Assurances are given in Appendices -II to XV.

5. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee dated 23 November, 2022, whereunder the requests for dropping of the Assurances were considered, are given in Appendix-XVI.

NEW DELHI;

07 February, 2023

18 Magha, 1944 (Saka)

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2022-2023)

Statement showing summary of requests received from various Ministries/Departments regarding dropping of Assurances and considered by the Committee on 23 November, 2022

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question/ Discussion References	Ministry	Department	Brief Subject
1	2	USQ No. 806 dated 02.12.2021	Petroleum and Natural Gas		Ethanol Prices
2	3	USQ No. 3690 dated 08.12.2016	Ports, Shipping and Waterways		Container Business
3	4	USQ No. 2893 dated 05.08.2021	Ports, Shipping and Waterways		National Port Grid
4	5	USQ No. 1985 dated 09.12.2021	Road Transport and Highways		Conversion of SHs into NHs in Kerala
5	6	(i) USQ No. 15 dated 18.07.2018 (ii) USQ No. 1463 dated 19.12.2018 (iii) USQ No. 4054 dated 17.07.2019	Law and Justice	Department of Legal Affairs	(i) Integrated Legal Division (ii) Integrated Legal Division (iii) Integrated Legal Division
6	7	(i) USQ No. 2334 dated 13.12.2021 (ii) USQ No. 2455 dated 13.12.2021 (iii) USQ No. 2475 dated 13.12.2021	Finance	Department of Economic Affairs	(i) Regulating Cryptocurrency (ii) Impact of Cryptocurrency (iii) Complaints of Digital Currencies
7	8	USQ No. 1106 dated 18.09.2020	Environment, Forest and Climate Change		Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary
8	9	USQ No. 5734 dated 06.04.2022	Electronics and Information Technology		Delay in Data Protection Bill

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question/ Discussion References	Ministry	Department	Brief Subject
9	10	USQ No. 3482 dated 15.07.2019	Finance	Department of Financial Services	IMA Jewellery Case
10	11	USQ No. 784 dated 07.02.2022	Finance	Department of Economic Affairs	Virtual Currencies
11	12	USQ No. 1084 dated 26.07.2021	Petroleum and Natural Gas		Exit From Oil Business
12	13	USQ No. 527 dated 22.07.2021	Road Transport and Highways		Construction of New NH
13	14	USQ No. 2162 dated 15.03.2022	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Department of Agriculture Research & Education	Zero Budget Natural Farming
14	15	USQ No. 2180 dated 15.03.2017	Law and Justice	Legislative Department	Electoral Bribery as Cognisable Offence
15	16	USQ No. 3004 dated 16.12.2021	Petroleum and Natural Gas		Manufacturing of Bio-Ethanol
16	17	USQ No. 4473 dated 20.03.2020	Information and Broadcasting		Amendment in Cable Television Networks Regulation Act
17	18	SQ No. 81 dated 08.02.2017 (Supplementary by Shri Ninong Ering, M.P.)	Communications	Department of Telecommunications	Digital Transactions
18	19	USQ No. 2929 dated 11.03.2020	Railways		Dedicated Freight Corridor
19	20	SQ No. 384 dated 19.07.2019 (Supplementary by Shri Naranbhai Kachhadiya, M.P.)	Textiles		Status of Sericulture
20	21	(i) SQ No. 4 dated 19.11.2009 (ii) USQ No. 1618 dated 13.02.2019	Railways		(i) Crimes in Trains (ii) Crimes in Moving Trains

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM No. 2

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 806 dated 02.12.2021 regarding "Ethanol Prices."

On 02 December, 2021, Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, Shri Raja Amareshwara Naik and Shri Bhola Singh, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 806 to the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The text of the Question alongwith the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas vide D.O No. P-13038(13)/2/2022-CC(E-42872) dated 07th June, 2022 and O.M. No. P-13038(13)/2/2022(E-42872) dated 24 August, 2022 have stated as under:-

"The decision of the CCEA to accord authority to the Oil CPSEs to decide the pricing of 2G ethanol was conveyed to the Oil CPSEs vide letter dated 17.11.2021 of MoPNG and therefore, the same was replied clearly in the affirmative.

The scope of the National Policy on Biofuels (NPB)-2018, which was brought up by the Government, encompasses Advanced biofuels which are produced from lignocellulosic feedstock, non-food crops or industrial waste and residue streams as "Biofuels" which can be used as transportation fuel or in stationery applications. As per NPB-2018, an indicated target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of biodiesel in diesel was proposed by 2030. The Government has advanced the target of 20% ethanol blending from 2030 to 2025-26.

In furtherance of the above decision. Oil PSUs are setting up 2G ethanol Bio refineries at Panipat in Haryana, Bathinda in Punjab, Bargarh in Odisha, Numaligarh in Assam and Devangere in Karnataka. The work is currently in full flow and some bio-refineries are in advanced stage of construction, Hence, the answer given was not for a prospective action and the bio-refineries are very well in the course of being commissioned."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State, Petroleum and Natural Gas, have requested the Committee to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

DATED:- 18/11/2022

NEW DELHI:

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 806
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd DECEMBER, 2021

Ethanol Prices

806. DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:
 SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
 SHRI BHOLA SINGH:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has granted approval for fixing higher ethanol price derived from different sugarcane based raw materials under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme for 2021-22;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government accorded authority to Oil Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) in the country to decide the pricing for 2G ethanol as well as the setting up advanced Bio-fuel refineries in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government to promote the use of alternative and environment friendly fuels and to reduce import dependence for energy requirements and give a boost to the agriculture sector in the country?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
 (श्री रामेश्वर तेली)

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM &
 NATURAL GAS
 (SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) & (b): Government has fixed higher ethanol price derived from different sugarcane based raw materials under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme for Ethanol Supply Year (ESY 2021-22 – period from 1st December, 2021 to 30th November, 2022) as compared to preceding ESY 2020-21. The ex-mill price of ethanol fixed by the Government are from C heavy molasses route Rs.46.66 per litre, from B heavy molasses route Rs.59.08 per litre and from sugarcane juice / sugar / sugar syrup route Rs.63.45 per litre. Additionally, GST and transportation is to be paid to the suppliers.

(c) & (d): Government has accorded authority to Oil Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) in the country to decide the pricing for Second Generation (2G) ethanol. Oil PSEs are setting up 2G ethanol bio refineries in the country at Panipat in Haryana, Bathinda in Punjab, Bargarh in Odisha, Numaligarh in Assam and Devangere in Karnataka.

(e): The steps taken by the Government to promote use of bio-fuels, includes allowing use of sugarcane and food grains (maize and surplus stocks of rice with Food Corporation of India) for conversion to ethanol; administered price mechanism for procurement of ethanol under EBP Programme including enhanced ex-mill price of ethanol year on year from ethanol supply year 2017; lowered GST rate to 5% on ethanol for EBP Programme; amendment in Industries (Development & Regulation) Act for free movement of ethanol; interest subvention scheme for enhancement and augmentation of ethanol production capacity in the country.

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

MEMORANDUM No. 5

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1985 dated 09 December, 2021 regarding "Conversion of SHs into NHs in Kerala."

On 09 December, 2021, Shri Rajmohan Unnithan, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1985 to the Minister of Road Transport and Highways. The text of the Question alongwith the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

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

3. In this regard, The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways vide O.M. No. H-11016/57/2021/KL/Zone-III. dated 11 May, 2022, have stated as under:-

"the Policy for declaration of new National Highways is still in consultation process within Government for its finalization. The proposals on declaration of new NHs will be processed once new guidelines/criteria are finalized. Hence the Assurance can't be fulfilled unless the policy is finalized. Therefore, it is requested to drop the Assurance from the list of pending Assurances."

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

The Committee may consider.

DATED :- 18/11/2022

NEW DELHI:

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1985
ANSWERED ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2021**

CONVERSION OF SHs INTO NHs IN KERALA

1985. SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had accorded in-principle sanctions to upgrade two State highways in Hosdurg- Pannathur-Bhagamandala-Madikkeri Road and the Cherkkala -Kalladukka Road in North Kerala and if so, the details and the present status thereof;
- (b) whether the Detailed Project Report and the Alignment Report have already been submitted in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said project have been stopped;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to revive the proposed projects; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (e) This Ministry has approved 12 road stretches in Kerala as in-principle National Highways including the stretches Hosdurg-Pannathur-Bhagamandala-Madikkeri Road and the Cherkkala - Kalladukka Road for further upgradation, subject to outcome of Detailed Project Report (DPR). Both the stretches are under DPR stage.

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES**

MEMORANDUM No. 6

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

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 15 dated 18 July, 2018 regarding "Integrated Legal Division." (Annexure-I).
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 1463 dated 19 December, 2018 regarding "Integrated Legal Division." (Annexure-II).
- (iii) Unstarred Question No. 4054 dated 17 July, 2019 regarding "Integrated Legal Division." (Annexure-III).

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

2. The replies to the Questions were treated as Assurances and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs) within three months from the date of the replies but the Assurances are yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs) vide O.M. No. H-11016/28/2018-Admn.I (LA) dated 28th February, 2022 have inter-alia stated as under:-

"While Implementation of Integrated Legal Division (ILD) Scheme will lead to specialization of some officers by way of their posting in some Ministries/Departments but this will affect the growth of Indian Legal Service (ILS) officers in diverse legal fields which is of much more importance. This will also impact the independence and uniformity of advice by the officers and the quality of advice will suffer in such cases which will create chaos. The issue of ILD was also considered by the Sectoral Group 9 on Governance (SGoS-9), however, in view of the position elaborated above, a decision was taken not to include this issue in the SGoS report.

At the Movement, the need to strengthen the Indian Legal Service is of prime Importance through smooth recruitment process in the service by suitably amending the ILS Rules and restructuring of the Indian Legal Service. Accordingly, a decision has been taken at the level of Hon'ble MLJ to keep the issue of Integrated Legal Division in abeyance till such time the Indian Legal Service is strengthened by way of smooth regular recruitment and a sufficient number of officers become available in the service. As such, it is not feasible to fulfill the above Assurance. "

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of Law and Justice, have requested the Committee to drop the above 03 Assurances.

The Committee may consider.

DATED :- 18/11/2022

NEW DELHI:

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.15

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 18TH JULY, 2018

Integrated Legal Division

**15. DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN
SHRI P. NAGARAJAN:**

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to create/set up an Integrated Legal Division (ILD) in all the Ministries and Departments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the aims and objectives behind setting up of the ILD in all the departments;
- (d) the total expenditure likely to be incurred yearly by setting up the proposed ILD; and
- (e) the decision taken by the Government on the submitted proposal?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS
(SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY)**

- (a) to (e) : The Government intends to set up Integrated Legal Divisions to be manned by Indian Legal Service (ILS) Officers, in different Ministries/Departments as per grouping, on functional basis with the objective that assistance on matters relating to Legal Advice and legislative drafting is readily available to them. The proposal is being firmed up for obtaining approval of the Competent Authority. The expenditure likely to be incurred in implementing this proposal will depend upon the number of ILS Officers approved for being posted to Ministries/Departments or clusters thereof.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1463

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 19TH DECEMBER, 2018

Integrated Legal Division

**1463. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA
SHRI KUNWAR BHARATENDRA:**

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has planned an Integrated Legal Division (ILD) with the aim of reducing litigation and providing competent legal advice to stem huge losses to the exchequer and if so the details thereof;
- (b) whether such move will reduce the number of pending cases and if so the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government can provide the timeline for the Cabinet deliberation and release of final proposal; and
- (d) whether the Government would clarify if such a mechanism is intended to be established at the State level?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND CORPORATE
AFFAIRS
(SHRI P P CHAUDHARY)**

(a) to (d):

A proposal has been prepared to set up Integrated Legal Divisions (ILD). As part of the ILD Scheme, appropriate Officers will work in Ministries/Departments and clusters thereof, to facilitate the Ministries/Departments on the issues which are generally referred by them to the Ministry of Law & Justice for legal opinion, vetting etc. The objective of the proposal is to manage Government litigation by

providing appropriate and timely legal advice. The proposal is under consideration of the Government and may be put in place at the earliest after necessary approvals are obtained. The mechanism is intended for the Central Government Ministries/Departments only.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4054**

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17TH JULY, 2019

Integrated Legal Division

4054. DR. HEENA GAVIT:

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:

SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:

SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:

DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has planned an Integrated Legal Division (ILD);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether such a move would reduce the number of pending cases and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) the challenges being faced by the Government in the implementation of ILD and the steps being taken to remedy the same; and
- (e) whether the Government would clarify if such a mechanism is intended to be established at the State level and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR LAW & JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS &
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a)to(e): A proposal has been prepared to set up Integrated Legal Division (ILD) in various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government which will provide legal advice on relevant issues to these Ministries/Departments. This proposal is presently under consideration.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM No. 7

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurances given in replies to (i) Unstarred Question No. 2334 dated 13.12.2021 regarding "Regulating Cryptocurrency"; (ii) Unstarred Question No. 2455 dated 13.12.2021 regarding "Impact of Cryptocurrency "; and (iii) Unstarred Question No. 2475 dated 13.12.2021 regarding "Complaints of Digital Currencies".

The above mentioned Questions were asked by various MPs to the Minister of Finance. The texts of the Questions along with the replies of the Minister are as given in the Annexures (i), (ii) and (iii).

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

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) vide O.M. F. No. 3/26/2022-Cy dated 19 September, 2022 have stated as under:-

"The response that a bill on cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency is under finalization for consideration of the Cabinet was not intended to be an Assurance and finalization of any effective legislation on cryptocurrency require significant international collaboration to evaluate associated risks and benefits and evolution of common taxonomy and standards. In this regard, to bring on a consensus of common taxonomy and standards of cryptocurrencies globally, to bring any effective legislation cannot be bound in time limit and is also beyond the scope of this Ministry/Department."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated:- 18/11/2022

New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2334
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2021

Regulating Cryptocurrency

2334. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:
SHRI B.B.PATIL:
SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS:
DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:
SHRI RITESH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE

be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of regulatory framework for regulating cryptocurrency investments in India;
- (b) whether the Government has data on total investments made in cryptocurrencies by Indians and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to bring proper regulations for cryptocurrency/digital token currencies in the country and if so, the status thereof along with the steps taken in this regard and if not, the reasons for delay;
- (d) whether it would be allowed as an alternative payment system and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any safeguards would be provided to ensure that the investors and innocent and poor people are not exploited or fleeced and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the said currency will be available for everyone and if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it will be a transparent currency; and
- (g) the effective steps taken by the Government to ensure emerging opportunities in cryptocurrency sector

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): Currently, cryptocurrencies are unregulated in India. The Government does not collect data on investment in cryptocurrency.

(c) to (g): A Bill on the Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency is under finalisation for consideration of the Cabinet.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2455
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2021

Impact of Cryptocurrency

†2455. SHRI HEMANT SRIRAM PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the increasing impact of cryptocurrency in the country is likely to affect the economy of the county along with the common people; and
(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard during the last three years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a)& (b): RBI has been cautioning users, holders and traders of Virtual Currencies (VCs) vide public notices on December 24, 2013, February 01, 2017 and December 05, 2017 that dealing in VCs is associated with potential economic, financial, operational, legal, customer protection and security related risks. Further, RBI has also raised concerns on the de-stabilising effect of cryptocurrency on the monetary and fiscal stability of a country.

For examining the issues of VCs, the Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) which submitted its report in 2019. The IMC Report was further examined and a Bill on the Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency is under finalisation for consideration of the Cabinet.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2475
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2021

Complaints of Digital Currencies

2475. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to legalise the digital currency system in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has noticed that complaints/cheating cases of digital currencies have been reported in the country, including the recent reports from Karnataka; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of inquiry, if any, conducted in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): A Bill on the Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency is under finalisation for consideration of the Cabinet.

(c) & (d): The Government does not collect data on digital currencies. However, eight cases concerning cryptocurrency related fraud are under investigation by the Directorate of Enforcement. Further, a case has also been registered by the Bangalore Zonal Unit of the Directorate of Enforcement in respect of Bitcoin. Further disclosure of information of these cases will not be in larger public interest.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM No. 9

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 5734 dated 06.04.2022 regarding "Delay in Data Protection Bill".

On 06 April, 2022, Shri Manish Tewari, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 5734 regarding "Delay in Data Protection Bill" to the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology. 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 Electronics and Information Technology within three months from the date of reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology *vide* O.M. No. 2(154)/2022-Parl. dated 07 October, 2022 have stated as under:-

"The Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill, 2019 has been withdrawn on 3rd August 2022. Therefore, no further action can be taken up by this Ministry on this Assurance."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated:- 18/11/2022

New Delhi

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5734
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 06.04.2022

DELAY IN DATA PROTECTION BILL

5734. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that holding of consultations and deliberations on the Data Protection Bill causing an inordinate delay in the introduction of the Data Protection Bill despite the final report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Personal Data Protecting Bill being tabled;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the aforesaid facts undermines and contradicts the purpose of the Joint Parliamentary Committee and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Draft India Data Accessibility and Use Policy released by the Government proposes the sale of data and information collected by the various Government department and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is considering to attach monetary incentive to data collection, if so, whether it would incentivize departments to collect more and more granular personal data; and
- (f) whether the Government is aware of the fact that while the policy document uses the phrase "open data" 12 out of the 13 objectives listed are commercial?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) and (b): No, Sir. The Joint Committee of Parliament on Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 tabled its report in Parliament in December, 2021. The report comprises 93 recommendations including a Bill which is under examination. There have been no deliberations and consultations on the report of JCP.

(c): No, Sir.

(d),(e) and (f): Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had published the draft India Data Accessibility and Use Policy for Public Consultation. This policy doesn't envisage any sale of data or incentive for data collection. The objective of the draft policy is not commercialization.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM No. 11

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 784 dated 07.02.2022 regarding "Virtual Currencies".

On 07 February, 2022, Shri D.K. Suresh, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 784 regarding "Virtual Currencies" to the Minister of Finance. The text of the Question alongwith the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

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

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) vide O.M. No. 3/26/2022-Cy dated 19 September, 2022 has stated as under:-

"This sector is still evolving and issues connected with the sector require careful examination with experts and stakeholders and international coordination, accordingly Government is in the process of such consultation was not intended to be an Assurance. The consultations on the cryptocurrency with international organizations and experts are to prevent regulatory and supervisory arbitration. So, to bring on a consensus of common taxonomy and standards of cryptocurrencies globally to make any effective legislation cannot be bound in time limit and is also beyond the scope of this Ministry/Department."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated:- 18/11/2022

New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 784

ANSWERED ON: 07.02.2022

Virtual Currencies

Doddaalahalli Kempegowda Suresh

Will the Minister of

FINANCE

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any committee to study the issues related to virtual currencies and its impact on the economy of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the said committee;
- (c) whether the committee has given any specific recommendation on prohibiting the cryptocurrencies in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to implement the recommendations of the committee; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on 2nd November, 2017 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (EA) with member representatives from Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity), Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for examining the issues of Virtual Currencies (VC) and to propose specific action to be taken in this matter. The details of the recommendations made by the said committee are at Annexure-1.

(c): Yes, Sir. The Committee, inter-alia, recommended that all private cryptocurrencies, except any cryptocurrency issued by the State, be banned in India.

(d) & (e): The Government examined the IMC report in consultation with concerned ministries & regulators (RBI & SEBI). However this sector is still evolving and issues connected with this sector require careful examination, consultation with experts and stakeholders, and international coordination. Accordingly, Government is in the process of such consultation. With regard to introduction of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) the Government has included necessary amendments to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 in the Finance Bill, 2022 to provide for an enabling framework for introduction of CBDC.

Annexure-I

Major Recommendations of the Inter-ministerial Committee with regard to Virtual Currency:

1. Overview of Distributed Ledger Technology

(a) The Committee believes that DLT is an important new and innovative technology, which will play a major role in ushering in of the digital age. The DLT can be of great benefit to India in several financial and non- financial areas. In finance, DLT can be particularly beneficial in the areas of trade financing, lowering the costs of personal identification for KYC related issues, and improving access to credit.

(b) The Committee therefore recommends that the Department of Economic Affairs should identify uses of DLT and take necessary measures to facilitate the use of DLT in the entire financial field.

(c) RBI, SEBI, IRDA, PFRDA and IBBI should also focus on DLT to explore building of appropriate regulations for development of DLT in their respective areas.

(d) DLT can be used to reduce compliance costs for KYC requirements. MeitY may also explore the mechanisms through which customer information can be maintained on DLTs through a consent-based mechanism.

(e) MEITY and GSTN will need to play a major technology supportive role for exploring and building the uses of DLT for enabling trade financing by enabling the growth of trade invoicing through DLT.

(f) The Committee has proposed a specific legislation to promote and regulate use of DLT in the financial and associated fields.

2. Virtual Currencies

(a) The Committee notes with serious concern mushrooming of cryptocurrencies almost invariably issued abroad and numerous people in India investing in these cryptocurrencies. All these cryptocurrencies have been created by non-sovereigns and are in this sense entirely private enterprises.

(b) There is no underlying intrinsic value of these private cryptocurrencies. These private cryptocurrencies lack all the attributes of a currency. There is no fixed nominal value of these private cryptocurrencies, i.e., neither act as any store of value nor they are a medium of exchange. Since their inceptions, cryptocurrencies have demonstrated extreme fluctuations in their prices. Therefore, the Committee is of clear view that the private cryptocurrencies should not be allowed. These cryptocurrencies cannot serve the purpose of a currency. The private cryptocurrencies are inconsistent with the essential functions of money/currency, hence private cryptocurrencies cannot replace fiat currencies.

(c) A review of global best practises also shows that private cryptocurrencies have not been recognised as a legal tender in any jurisdiction.

(d) The Committee recommends that all private cryptocurrencies, except any cryptocurrency issued by the State, be banned in India.

(e) The Committee endorses the stand taken by the RBI to eliminate the interface of institutions regulated by the RBI from cryptocurrencies. The Committee also recommends that all exchanges, people, traders and other financial system participants should be prohibited from dealing with cryptocurrencies.

(f) Accordingly, the Committee has recommended a law banning the cryptocurrencies in India and criminalising carrying on of any activities connected with cryptocurrencies in India.

(g) The Committee also recommends the Government may consider establishing a Standing Committee to take into account the technological developments globally and within the country and also the views of global standard setting bodies. The Standing Committee could revisit the issues

addressed in the report as and when needed.

J. Central Bank Digital Currency

(a) The Committee is of the view that it would be advisable to have an open mind regarding the introduction of an official digital currency in India.

(b) It may be possible to visualise some models of future official digital currencies but as of date it is unclear whether there is clear advantage in the context of India to come up with a official digital currency. Hence, the Committee recommends that, if required, a Group may be constituted by the Department of Economic Affairs, with participation of the representatives of the RBI, MeitY and DFS for examination and development of an appropriate model of digital currency in India.

(c) If in due course of time, it is decided to issue a digital currency in India having the status of a legal tender, the Reserve Bank of India should be the appropriate regulator of such digital currency by virtue of its powers under Section 22 of the RBI Act.

4. Uses of DLT for other financial services

(a) The Committee recommends that the RBI examine the utility of using DLT based systems for enabling faster and more secure payment infrastructure, especially for cross-border payments.

(b) The Committee recommends that blockchain based systems may be considered by MeitY for building a low-cost KYC system that reduces the need for duplication of KYC requirements for individuals.

(c) The Committee is of the opinion that DLT based systems can be used by banks and other financial firms for processes such as loan-issuance tracking, collateral management, fraud detection and claims management in insurance, and reconciliation systems in the securities market. The Committee therefore recommends that financial sector regulators examine the uses of DLT in processes that can be incorporated by banks, insurance companies, securities exchanges etc. in their functioning.

(d) The Committee recommends that SEBI may evaluate use of DLT for IPOs and FPOs as an alternative to present system of issuances. The Committee also recommends that SEBI may examine whether the depository systems can move to DLT based system.

(e) Similarly, DLT can be beneficial for removing errors and frauds in land markets if the technology is implemented for maintaining land records. The Committee therefore recommends that various state governments may examine the feasibility of using DLT for land-records management.

(f) The Committee is of the view that DLT may be leveraged to improve the existing e-stamping system for the purposes of collection of stamp duty.

(g) The Committee is of the opinion that data localisation requirements proposed in the draft Data Protection Bill may need to be applied carefully, including with respect to the storage of critical personal data so as to ensure that there is no adverse impact on Indian firms and Indian consumers who may stand to benefit from DLT-based services.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM No. 12

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1084 dated 26.07.2021 regarding "Exit from Oil Business."

On 26 July, 2021, Ms. Mimi Chakraborty, M.P., addressed a Unstarred Question No. 1084 to the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The text of the Question alongwith the reply of the Minister are 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 Petroleum and Natural Gas within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.
3. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas vide O.M. No. M-12038(18)/1/2021 dated 28 October, 2021 have stated as under:-

"The matter has been examined in consultation with DIPAM, DIPAM has informed that the part of the reply to the Question which has been treated as 'Assurance' is not a 'Promised made' to the House. The given part of the reply forms a part of the New Public Sector Enterprise ("PSE") Policy for Atmanirbhar Bharat announced by the Government in February, 2021. The implementation of the Policy is an ongoing process. Further reaching any specific milestone is not entailed in the Policy in general or the part of the reply that has been treated as Assurance in particular."

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

The Committee may consider.

DATED:- 18/11/2022

NEW DELHI:

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1084
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th JULY, 2021

Exit from Oil Business

1084. MS. MIMI CHAKRABORTY:

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to exit from oil business and sell 100 percent of Government share to private entity;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that without any survey and single effort, the Government wants to exit from the oil business; and
- (c) if so, the reasons and supportive facts with documents why the Government does not sustain in public organization thereof?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(श्री रामेश्वर तेली)

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) to (c) Disinvestment is the subject matter of Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and DIPAM has informed that in February, 2021, the Government has notified New Public Sector Enterprise ("PSE") Policy for Atmanirbhar Bharat. New PSE Policy delineated 4 broad Strategic Sectors, which includes Petroleum Sector, based on the criteria of national security, energy security, critical infrastructure, provision of financial services and availability of important minerals. In Strategic sectors, bare minimum presence of the existing public sector commercial enterprises at Holding Company level will be retained under Government control. The remaining enterprises in a strategic sector will be considered for privatisation or merger or subsidiarization with another PSE or for closure.

NITI Aayog has been mandated to make recommendations with regard to the CPSEs under Strategic Sectors that are to be retained under the Government Control or to be considered for privatisation or merger or subsidiarization with another PSE or for closure. Government will consider the recommendations of NITI Aayog and decide on case to case basis.

Privatisation will minimise the presence of Government in the PSEs and to make available newer investment opportunities for private sector, so as to allow infusion of private capital, technology, innovation and best management practices. This will also eliminate unnecessary overlap of PSEs within the same sector and improve economies of scale and reduce wasteful administrative costs. Post disinvestment growth of PSEs may generate higher economic activities resulting in new job opportunities and growth of the ancillary industries. The resources unlocked would be used to finance various social sector/ developmental programmes of the Government, which shall benefit the public.

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

MEMORANDUM No. 13

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 527 dated 22 July, 2021 regarding "Construction of New NH."

On 22 July, 2021, Shri Abdul Khaleque, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 527 to the Minister of Road Transport and Highways. The text of the Question alongwith the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

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

3. In this regard, The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways vide O.M. No. H-11011/09/2022-Parl. dated 25th March, 2022, have stated as under:-

"The reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 527, dated 22.07.2021 uploaded on the Lok Sabha Questions and Answer Portal is authentic and is reproduced as under:

(a)&(b) Yes sir, the proposal dated 11th March 2020 regarding declaration of a new National Highway (NH) connecting Goroimari in Barpeta district with Kabaitari in Bongaigaon district was received in the Ministry. The Ministry considers declaration of some state roads as new NHs from time to time based on requirement of connectivity, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

(c)&(d) No proposal for conversion of State Highways No. 2 from Barpeta to North Salmara via Jania and Lengtisinga into National Highways has been received from State Government.

Approved/final version of the Answer to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 527 answered on 22.07.2021 is as uploaded on the portal of Lok Sabha. However, hard copy of a slightly different version of Answer has inadvertently been delivered to Lok Sabha Secretariat, which has been treated as an Assurance.

The undersigned is further directed to request that the electronic version of reply to Lok Sabha Question No. 527 dated 22.07.2021 as uploaded on the Lok Sabha Question and Answer Portal may kindly be treated as final & taken on record. The hard copy of reply may kindly be ignored.

It is further requested that Assurance, if any, may be considered based on the reply as uploaded on the Lok Sabha Questions & Answer Portal; and the Assurance arising out of the hard copy of the reply may please be dropped & deleted from the Pending list of Assurances."

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

The Committee may consider.

DATED :- 18/11/2022

NEW DELHI:

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 527
ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2021**

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW NH

527. SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received a proposal dated 11th March 2020 from public representative regarding construction of a new National Highway (NH) connecting Goroimari in Barpeta district with Kabaitari in Bongaigaon district;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes conversion of State Highway No. 2 from Barpeta to North Salmara via Jania and Lengtisinga into National Highway; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) & (b): Yes sir, the proposal dated 11th March 2020 regarding declaration of a new National Highway (NH) connecting Goroimari in Barpeta district with Kabaitari in Bongaigaon district was received in the Ministry. However, policy for declaration of new National Highways is in consultation process for its finalization. The proposals on declaration of new NHs will be processed once new guidelines/criteria are finalized.

(c) & (d): No proposal for conversion of State Highway No. 2 from Barpeta to North Salmara via Jania and Lengtisinga into National Highway has been received from State Government.

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

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2162 dated 15.03.2022 regarding "Zero Budget Natural Farming".

On 15 March, 2022, Shri Ravneet Singh Bittu, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2162 regarding "Zero Budget Natural Farming" to the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. 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 Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture Research & Education) within three months from the date of reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture Research & Education) *vide* O.M. F. No. NRM/1-5/2022-AFC dated 06 September, 2022 has proposed to drop the ibid Assurance on the following grounds/reasons:

- Agricultural research usually takes longer period of 3-5 years of drawing any valid conclusions and developing technology/process/model through multi locational studies.
- The field experiments were initiated during *Kharif* season of 2020 and data of only two years is available for analysis.
- After 3-4 years of field experimentation, the data so collected would be analyzed statistically for drawing valid inferences."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, have requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

Dated:- 18/11/2022

New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2162
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH MARCH, 2022

ZERO BUDGET NATURAL FARMING

2162. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee on the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has recently submitted its report on various aspects of zero budget natural farming in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that this Committee has raised concerns on the large scale switch to zero-budget natural farming in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government intend to take any action on the recommendations of this expert committee on zero-budget natural farming; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): The committee has suggested the following:

- i. Based on the limited available data, information collected and interaction with stakeholders from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, the Committee observed for considering natural farming as one of the options for promoting in the rainfed and hilly areas initially;
- ii. The Committee also observed for long-term multi-location study on natural farming in different environments;
- iii. Integrated production systems encompassing the natural farming and agro-ecological approaches are recommended by the Committee considering the growing population and limitation in terms of natural resources.

(d) & (e): Indian Council of Agricultural Research has initiated a study on "Evaluation and validation of Natural Farming Practices in different Agro-ecologies" at 20 locations covering 16 States.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
MEMORANDUM No. 15

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2180 dated 15.03.2017 regarding "Electoral Bribery as Cognisable Offence."

On 15 March, 2017, Shri Jose K. Mani, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2180 to the Minister of Law and Justice. 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 Law and Justice (Legislative Department) within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard The Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) vide O.M. No. H-11016/06/2017-Leg.II dated 20 January, 2020 had requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:-

"The Ministry of Home Affairs (Judicial wing) has, vide its OM dated 04.04.2019 informed that the draft formulation which, inter-alia, has the proposal to amend the sections 171E, 171F of IPC to make the offence as cognizable was forwarded to all the State Government. Further, on the advice of Ld. SG, the said draft formulation was also forwarded to Law Commission seeking their advice on Legislative intent/adequacy/appropriateness of the proposed amendments. The response from the Commission is awaited. Further, the Law Commission has since wound up its activities on 31.08.2018. A fresh Law Commission is yet to be appointed.

It is apparent that the matter is still under consideration of the Ministry of Home Affairs and there is uncertainty as to when this long pending Assurance would be fulfilled."

4. The above request of the Ministry was not acceded to by the Committee at their sitting held on 24.08.2020. The Committee accordingly presented their Thirty-Sixth Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 17 March, 2021 and acknowledged that such matters may take time but the Ministry need

to take sustained action to proactively pursue the matter with all concerned and implement the Assurance.

5. However the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) vide O.M. No. H-11016/06/2017-Leg.-II dated 12 May, 2022 has again requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:-

"The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) vide their letter No.5/2017-Judl Cell-I dated 26 April 2022, has informed that the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, in its 146th Report dated 23rd June, 2010, had recommended that there is a need for a comprehensive review of the Criminal Justice System of the Country.

Earlier the Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 111th and 128th Reports had also stressed upon the need to reform and rationalize the criminal law of the country by introducing a comprehensive legislation in Parliament rather than bringing about piecemeal amendments in respective Act. The Government agrees with the said recommendations of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs regarding need to reform and rationalize the criminal laws and introduction of comprehensive legislation in the Parliament. Accordingly, the Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated the process for comprehensive amendments to the criminal laws in consultation with all the Stakeholders which is a long drawn one and thus, no time-limit can be fixed or given in the matter for enacting such a legislation.

In view of the above, it may be stated that the necessary action has already been initiated by the MHA, however, the enactment of such a legislation may take some time and no rigid time frame can be given in the matter."

6. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of Law and Justice, has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may Re-consider.

DATED:- 18/11/2022

NEW DELHI:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2180

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH MARCH, 2017

ELECTORAL BRIBERY AS COGNISABLE OFFENCE

2180. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Chief Election Commissioner has reiterated Election Commission's long-standing demand to make electoral bribery a cognisable offence under the code of Criminal Procedure and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Centre had drawn up a draft Amendment Bill to the effect in consultation with the Law Ministry and also sought comments from States as criminal law and criminal procedure are in the Concurrent List; and
- (c) if so, the status of the Centre's efforts in this direction?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI P.P.CHAUDHARY)

(a): The proposal of the Election Commission for making electoral bribery a cognizable offence under section 171B of the Indian Penal Code is under consideration of the Government.

(b): Yes, Madam.

(c): The draft formulation drawn up in this regard has been circulated to all stake-holders for their final vetting.

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

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3004 dated 16.12.2021 regarding "Manufacturing of Bio-Ethanol."

On 16 December, 2021, Shri Sisir Kumar Adhikari, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3004 to the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The text of the Question alongwith the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

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

3. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas vide D.O No. P-13038(13)/3/2022-CC(E-42953) dated 1st June, 2022 and O.M. No. P-13038(13)/3/2022-CC(E-42953) dated 01 August, 2022 have stated as under:-

"The scope of the National Policy on Biofuels (NPB)-2018, which was brought up by the Government, encompasses Advanced biofuels which are produced from lignocellulosic feedstock, non-food crops or industrial waste and residue streams as "Biofuels" which can be used as transportation fuel or in stationery applications. As per NPB-2018, an indicated target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of biodiesel in diesel was proposed by 2030. The Government has advanced the target of 20% ethanol blending from 2030 to 2025-26.

In furtherance of the above decision. Oil PSUs are setting up 2G ethanol Bio refineries at Panipat in Haryana, Bathinda in Punjab, Bargarh in Odisha, Numaligarh in Assam and one demonstration project for 2G at Panipat. The work is currently in full flow and some bio-refineries are in advanced stage of construction, Hence, the answer given was not for a prospective action and the bio-refineries are very well in the course of being commissioned."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State, Petroleum and Natural Gas, have requested the Committee to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

DATED:- 18/11/2022

NEW DELHI:

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3004
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th DECEMBER, 2021

MANUFACTURING OF BIO-ETHANOL

3004. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of second generation bio-ethanol manufacturing projects supported by the Pradhan Mantri Ji-van Yojana (PMJY) since its inception till date; and
- (b) the details of funds allocated and disbursed under this yojana, year-wise since its inception till date?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री
 (श्री रामेश्वर तेली)

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM &
 NATURAL GAS
 (SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a): Four Second Generation (2G) Bio-Ethanol commercial plants under construction are supported by the Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana. These are being setup at Panipat (Haryana) by IOCL, Batinda (Punjab) by HPCL, Bargarh (Odisha) by BPCL, and Numaligarh (Assam) by NRL. One demonstration project for 2G Ethanol at Panipat by IOCL is also supported.

(b): Financial assistance of Rs. 150 crore each to these four bio-ethanol projects and Rs. 15 crore to one demonstration project have been approved under the Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana.

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES**

MEMORANDUM No. 17

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4473 dated 20.03.2020 regarding "Amendment in Cable Television Network Regulation Act."

On 20 March, 2020, Shri P. Raveendranath Kumar, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4473 to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. 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 Information and Broadcasting within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide O.M. No. N-45007/3/202-DAS dated 06 October, 2022 have stated as under:-

"The Amendment to any legislation is an ongoing process to make it relevant with the change in technology, incorporate stakeholders suggestions and other inputs received. In this context the amendment to Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 was being considered and stakeholders were also consulted. On 15/01/2020, NIB invited suggestion from the stakeholders/general public for various amendments in the CTN Act, 1995. The suggestions received have been duly note but no decision has been taken on them.

Meanwhile, the technology in the broadcasting sector is changing in fast pace and to keep up the Cable Television Network (Regulations) Act, 1995 updated, comprehensive analysis of this Act is also needed which completely changed the scope of the legal amendments. The change in the technology has made OTT platforms as a potent tool to distribute the contents. The mode of distribution of contents are also converging. The changed scenario of technology requires a completely new umbrella Act which may be very different from the present CTN Act in its scope and regulations. Such an exercise shall take some time after due consultation. In view of the above, no time line can be prescribed for the amendment of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995."

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

The Committee may consider.

DATED :- 18/11/2022

NEW DELHI:

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

Annexure

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4473
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2020)**

AMENDMENT IN CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS REGULATION ACT

4473. SHRI P. RAVEENDRANATH KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has invited comments/ suggestions from various stakeholders in connection with the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any recommendations have been received by the Government regarding non-renewal of license under this new bill from the State Governments so as to restrict them to run TV channels; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)**

(a) to (d) : Based on the recommendations of various specialized agencies, Government has proposed certain amendments to the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, which have been put up in public domain on the website of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, www.mib.gov.in, for inviting comments/ suggestions from general public/ stakeholders.

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

Appendix - XIV

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2929 dated 11.03.2020 regarding "Dedicated Freight Corridor".

On 11 March, 2020, Shri Rajan Vichare, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2929 to the Minister of Railways. 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 Railways within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Railways *vide* O.M. No. 2019/Infra/14/6 dated 09 February, 2021 had requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:-

"Ministry of Railways has recently decided to undertake preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for new Dedicated Freight corridors on the following routes :

1. East Coast corridor- Kharagpur to Vijayawada

2. East-West Sub-corridor:

(i) Bhusaval- Wardha - Nagpur - Rajkharswan - Kharagpur-
Uluberia-Dankuni

(ii) Rajkharswan-Kalipahari-Andal

3. North – South sub-corridor - Vijayawada- Nagpur-Itarsi

The work of preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of the above mentioned new Dedicated Freight Corridors were entrusted to Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) well before the question raised by the Hon'ble Member of the Parliament in Lok Sabha on 11-03-2020, therefore, the reply given may not be treated Assurance."

4. The above request for dropping of the Assurance was not acceded to by the Committee at their sitting held on 28 September 2021. The Committee accordingly presented their 57th Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 15 March, 2022 and recommended the Ministry to pursue the matter vigorously with all concerned till its logical conclusion and fulfill the Assurance at the earliest.

5. However, the Ministry of Railways *vide* 2021/Infra/14/08 dated 30 June, 2022 has stated as under:-

"Ministry of Railways has decided to undertake preparation of Survey and Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for new Dedicated Freight corridors on the following routes :

1. East Coast corridor- Kharagpur to Vijayawada

2. East-West Sub-corridor:

(i) Bhusaval- Wardha - Nagpur - Rajkharswan - Kharagpur-
Uluberia-Dankuni

(ii) Rajkharswan-Kalipahari-Andal

3. North – South sub-corridor - Vijayawada- Nagpur-Itarsi

The work of detailed survey and preparation of DPRs for the above mentioned three DFC Corridors/Projects has been entrusted to DFCCIL and the same is in progress. Preparation of DPR is only a preliminary step. The DFC Projects are highly capital intensive and the final decision regarding the sanction of any DFC Project depends upon many factors such as technical feasibility, financial and economic viability, traffic demand and availability of funds and financing options etc. In view of the facts given in Para-3 above, it is submitted that the reply given by this Ministry does not come in the category of Assurance as the position given is the factual status and no Assurance/commitment has been made by the Ministry on this issue."

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

The Committee may reconsider.

DATED:- 18/11/2022
NEW DELHI

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2929
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2020**

DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR

†2929. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any concrete policy for dedicated freight corridor;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the number of trains to be handed over to private sector during the last five years; and**
- (d) the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b) Presently, Ministry of Railways is implementing two Dedicated Freight Corridors namely, Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor from Ludhiana to Dankuni (1856 km.) and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor from Dadri to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (1504 km.). These corridors are targeted to be completed in phases by December 2021. In addition, Ministry of Railways has decided to undertake Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for new Dedicated Freight corridors on the following routes :

- 1. East Coast corridor- Kharagpur to Vijayawada**
- 2. East-West Sub-corridor (i) - Bhusaval-Wardha-Nagpur-Rajkharswan-Kharagpur-Uluberia-Dankuni**
East-West Sub-corridor (ii) - Rajkharswan-Kalipahari-Andal
- 3. North - South sub-corridor - Vijayawada- Nagpur-Itarsi**

(c) & (d): A Concession Agreement has been signed between Ministry of Railways (MOR) and Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) on 28th February 2014 which inter alia enjoins DFCCIL to allow authorized Railway users including Indian Railways to run their own trains on the DFC network.

Appendix - XV

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

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

- (i) Starred Question No. 4 dated 19 November, 2009 regarding "Crimes in Trains" (Annexure-I); and
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 1618 dated 13 February, 2019 regarding "Crimes in Moving Trains" (Annexure-II);

The above mentioned Questions were addressed by Shri Hansraj G Ahir and various other M.Ps., to the Minister of Railways. The contents of the Questions along with the replies of the Ministers are given in Annexures I and II.

2. The replies to the Questions were treated as Assurances 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. The Ministry of Railways *vide* O.M. No. 2012/Sec(Spl)/100/6 dated 11 January, 2013 had requested to drop the Assurance along with nine other Assurances on the following grounds:-

"The Ministry of Railways has accorded its approval for amendment in the RPF Act. Approval of the Ministries of the Home Affairs and the Law and Justice has also been obtained on the above proposal and on the advice of the Cabinet Secretariat, consultation with the States is under process which will be completed in due course. As the Ministry of Railways has already initiated requisite action in the above matter, it is for consideration that these Assurances may be closed."

4. The above request for dropping of the Assurances was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 12 February, 2015 and it was decided not to drop the Assurances. The Committee, accordingly, presented their Twelfth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 30 April, 2015 and observed that Ministry of Railways had accorded its approval for amendment in the RPF Act. Further, approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Law and Justice had also been obtained on the proposal and on the advice of the Cabinet Secretariat consultation with the States was under process. The Committee, therefore, desired that the process of consultation with the States might be expedited and the matter be brought to its logical conclusion. The Committee also desired to be apprised of the progress made in the matter.

5. However, the Ministry of Railways *vide* OM No. 2012/Sec(Spl)/100/6(Part) dated 01 January, 2021 and OM No. 2019/Sec(Spl)/120/11 dated 19 January, 2021 had requested to drop the Assurances given in reply to SQ No. 04 dated 19.11.2009 and USQ No. 1618 dated 13.02.2019 as under:-

"A policy decision has been taken by Ministry of Railways to empower authorized officers to deal with certain passenger related offences. The implementation of the policy decision is under way and entails following of

legal procedure and consultation with stakeholders. Completion of many steps in the legal procedure are beyond the competence of the Ministry of Railways and likely to take considerable time. The Ministry of Railways has taken all possible steps under its competence for fulfillment of the Assurance and it can take no further steps for fulfillment of the Assurance."

6. The above request for dropping of the Assurances was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 12 April, 2021 and it was decided not to drop the Assurances. The Committee, accordingly, presented their Fifty-First Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 01 December, 2021 and observed that such matters take time, but in view of the sharp increase in crimes on moving trains, there is an urgent need to empower the authorized officers to deal with such offences. The Committee urge upon the Ministry to vigorously pursue the matter and expedite the fulfillment of the Assurance at the earliest.

7. In this regard, the Ministry of Railways vide O.M. No. 2012/Sec(Spl)/100/6(Part) dated 22.09.2022 and O.M. No. 2019/Sec(Spl)/120/11 dated 12.09.2022 has stated as under:-

"The proposal for amendment in RPF Act for empowering RPF to deal with passenger related offenses could not materialize due to the proposal not being supported by 18 States. The Ministry of Railways could not proceed further in the instant case in view of the opposition by States. Since the Ministry of Railways can take no further steps for fulfillment of the Assurances, the Assurance may please be dropped, as the 13 nos of Assurances of Lok Sabha on the same matter, have already been dropped by the CGA/Lok Sabha."

8. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways, has requested the Committee to drop the Assurances.

The Committee may reconsider.

Dated:- 18/11/2022
New Delhi

LOK SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO.4
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.11.2009**

CRIMES IN TRAINS

*** 4 SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :
SHRI P.T. THOMAS :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS (रेल मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases of crime including theft reported during the last three years and the current year in running trains;**
- (b) whether the safety of passengers is compromised due to the shortage of personnel in Railway Protection Force;**
- (c) if so, the steps taken to recruit personnel in the Railway Protection Force; and**
- (d) the other measures being taken by the Railways to prevent such crime cases?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(रेल मंत्री)**

(KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NUMBER 4 BY SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR AND SHRI P.T. THOMAS TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 19.11.2009 REGARDING CRIMES IN TRAINS.

(a): A statement showing the number of cases of theft & other crimes in running trains reported during the years 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009 (Up to June) are attached at Appendix -I

(b) & (c): No, Madam. Augmentation of strength and filling up of vacancies is a continuous exercise.

(d): According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police'(including Railways and Village Police) is a State subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore the statutory responsibility of the State Police, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State concerned.

The following measures have been taken for enhancing the security of passengers:-

- 1. 3586 trains are escorted by RPF/ GRP daily on an average.**
- 2. Integrated Security scheme consisting of CCTV Surveillance system, access control system, personal and baggage screening system and Bomb detection and disposal system has been finalized and the same is under implementation at 195 sensitive stations at an estimated cost of Rs.344.31 crores.**
- 3. Dog Squads in Divisions and Zones are being augmented.**
- 4. Commando Training is being imparted to selected RPF staff.**
- 5. Steps have been taken to enhance the quality and content of the training of RPF.**

6. Under modernization scheme security gadgets are being procured at an estimated cost of Rs.67.00 crores and the weaponry is being upgraded for enhancing the striking capability of RPF.
7. 10% reservation for women has been made in the recruitment of all ranks to ensure better service to lady passengers.
8. Regular coordination meetings are held with State Police at all levels to ensure proper registration and investigation of crime. Joint patrolling and escorting with GRP is also undertaken in disturbed and sensitive area.
9. Changes in provision of The Railways Act 1989 are under examination to provide more powers to RPF in prevention and detection of crime in Railways.

APPENDIX-I

APPENDIX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.4 BY SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR AND SHRI P.T. THOMAS TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 19.11..2009 REGARDING CRIMES IN TRAINS.

Years	Murder	Dacoity	Robbery	Drugging	TOPB*	Other IPC Crimes	Total
2006	40	118	207	363	5806	544	7078
2007	32	89	141	523	6179	666	7630
2008	26	77	140	466	6432	596	7737
2009 (Up to June)	12	38	104	233	3491	273	4149

* Theft Of Passengers Belongings

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1618
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2019**

CRIMES IN MOVING TRAINS

1618. DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether registering cases of crime on running trains is a complicated process due to confusion of jurisdiction and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether due to this, passengers face great difficulties to register theft and other criminal cases on moving trains and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Railway Protection Force is not empowered to register crimes on a moving train;**
- (d) if so, whether to ease the situation the Government is planning to give powers to Railway Protection Force to handle the complaints of crimes on a moving train; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1618 BY DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 13.02.2019 REGARDING CRIMES IN MOVING TRAINS

(a) to (e): Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law & order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP to provide better protection and security of passenger area & passengers and for matters connected therewith. However, to facilitate travelling passengers in running trains to report a crime, First Information Report (FIR) forms are available with TTE, Guard or RPF/GRP train escorting staff. After filling it up, the Form may be handed over to one of the said officials for registration of the case at the next Police Station irrespective of the jurisdiction. If the place of occurrence does not fall in their jurisdiction, the case is registered under Zero FIR and transferred to the concerned Government Railway Police Station having jurisdiction. Further course of action is taken by the Police as per extant legal provisions.

RPF is not empowered for registration and investigation of passenger related crime in station premises or moving trains. A proposal has been initiated for amendment in the Railways Act, 1989 which inter-alia envisages empowerment of RPF to deal with cases of theft of passengers' belongings and to initiate legal action against accused persons apprehended for insulting modesty of women passengers. After completion of inter-Ministerial consultations, proposal has been forwarded to the Cabinet Secretariat for approval.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2022-2023)
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)
FIRST SITTING
(23.11.2022)

The Committee sat from 1100 hours to 1230 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 Kaushlendra Kumar
5. Shri Khagen Murmu
6. Prof. Sougata Ray
7. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Shri J.M. Baisakh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Dr. (Smt.) Sagarika Dash | - | Director |
| 3. Shri M.C. Gupta | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. Smt. Vineeta Sachdeva | - | Under 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 Memorandum No.1 regarding working of the Committee on Government Assurances, Status of pending Assurances and to chalk out future programme of the Committee (ii) consider 20 Memoranda containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 25 pending Assurances; and (iii) take oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Railways regarding pending Assurances.

2. Thereafter, the Committee took up the 20 Memoranda (Memorandum Nos. 2 to 21) containing 25 Assurances for consideration for dropping or otherwise of the relevant Assurances. After brief deliberation, the Committee authorized the Hon'ble Chairperson to decide on Memoranda for dropping of the Assurances. The Chairperson subsequently decided to drop 19 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-I and to pursue the remaining 06 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-II* for implementation by the Ministries/Departments concerned.

3.	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX
4.	XXXXX	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 (2022-2023) at their sitting held on 23.11.2022.

Sl. No.	Memorandum No.	Question/Discussion References	Ministry/Department	Brief Subject
1.	2	USQ No. 806 dated 02.12.2021	Petroleum and Natural Gas	Ethanol Prices
2.	5	USQ No. 1985 dated 09.12.2021	Road Transport and Highways	Conversion of SHs into NHs in Kerala
3.	6	(i) USQ No. 15 dated 18.07.2018 (ii) USQ No. 1463 dated 19.12.2018 (iii) USQ No. 4054 dated 17.07.2019	Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs)	(i) Integrated Legal Division (ii) Integrated Legal Division (iii) Integrated Legal Division
4.	7	(i) USQ No. 2334 dated 13.12.2021 (ii) USQ No. 2455 dated 13.12.2021 (iii) USQ No. 2475 dated 13.12.2021	Finance (Department of Economic Affairs)	(i) Regulating Cryptocurrency (ii) Impact of Cryptocurrency (iii) Complaints of Digital Currencies
5.	9	USQ No. 5734 dated 06.04.2022	Electronics and Information Technology	Delay in Data Protection Bill
6.	11	USQ No. 784 dated 07.02.2022	Finance (Department of Economic Affairs)	Virtual Currencies
7.	12	USQ No. 1084 dated 26.07.2021	Petroleum and Natural Gas	Exit From Oil Business
8.	13	USQ No. 527 dated 22.07.2021	Road Transport and Highways	Construction of New NH

9.	14	USQ No. 2162 dated 15.03.2022	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture Research & Education)	Zero Budget Natural Farming
10.	15	USQ No. 2180 dated 15.03.2017	Law and Justice (Legislative Department)	Electoral Bribery as Cognisable Offence
11.	16	USQ No. 3004 dated 16.12.2021	Petroleum and Natural Gas	Manufacturing of Bio-Ethanol
12.	17	USQ No. 4473 dated 20.03.2020	Information and Broadcasting	Amendment in Cable Television Networks Regulation Act
13.	19	USQ No. 2929 dated 11.03.2020	Railways	Dedicated Freight Corridor
14.	21	(i) SQ No. 4 dated 19.11.2009 (ii) USQ No. 1618 dated 13.02.2019	Railways	(i) Crimes in Trains (ii) Crimes in Moving Trains

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2022-2023)
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)
FOURTH SITTING
(07.02.2023)

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1530 hours in Room No. 216 (Chamber of Chairperson), 'B' Block, Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Agrawal - Chairperson

Members

2. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
3. Shri Khagen Murmu
4. Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete
5. Shri Santosh Pandey
6. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu

Secretariat

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Shri J.M. Baisakh | - Joint Secretary |
| 2. Dr. (Smt.) Sagarika Dash | - Director |
| 3. Shri Mahesh Chand Gupta | - Deputy Secretary |
| 4. Smt. Vineeta Sachdeva | - Under Secretary |

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the following four (04) draft Reports without any amendments:-

- (i) Draft Seventy-Ninth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Minority Affairs';
- (ii) Draft Eightieth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals)';
- (iii) Draft Eighty-First Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)'; and

(iv) Draft Eighty-Second Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)'.

2. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to present the Reports during the ongoing session.

The Committee then adjourned.