

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

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

EIGHTY-SECOND REPORT

**REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF ASSURANCES
(NOT 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-Second 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. 02 to 21 containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 25 pending Assurances and decided to pursue 06 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 requests of the Ministries/Departments, the Committee are not convinced with the reasons furnished for dropping of the following 06 Assurances:-

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
1.	USQ No. 3690 dated 08.12.2016	Ports, Shipping and Waterways	Container Business (Appendix –II)
2.	USQ No. 2893 dated 05.08.2021	Ports, Shipping and Waterways	National Port Grid (Appendix –III)
3.	USQ No. 1106 dated 18.09.2020	Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary (Appendix –IV)
4.	USQ No. 3482 dated 15.07.2019	Finance (Department of Financial Services)	IMA Jewellery Case (Appendix –V)

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
5.	SQ No. 81 dated 08.02.2017 (Supplementary by Shri Ninong Ering, M.P)	Communications (Department of Telecommunications)	Digital Transactions (Appendix –VI)
6.	SQ No. 384 dated 19.07.2019 (Supplementary by Shri Naranbhai Kachhadiya, M.P.)	Textiles	Status of Sericulture (Appendix –VII)

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 06 Assurances are given in Appendices -II to VII.

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- VIII.

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

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. 3

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3690 dated 08.12.2016 regarding "Container Business".

On 08 December, 2016, Shrimati Vasanthi M., M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3690 regarding Container Business to the then Minister of Shipping (now Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways). 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 Shipping (now Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways) within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways *vide* O.M. No. H-11016/18/2016-PD-VI(PD-IV) dated 16.03.2022 have stated as under:-

"With regard to development of Vizhinjam Port, it is stated that the construction commenced in December 2015 and the project was scheduled for completion in December 2019. However, due to delay in the construction of breakwater, the completion of the port project is delayed, due to which progress of other project activities are also affected. About 18 working months (with 8 working months in a year) are further required to complete the pending works.

As regards development of new Major Port at Enayam in Tamil Nadu, due to continued protests from fishermen groups and local public, an alternative site was identified at Kanniyakumari District. Expression of Interest (EOI) for developing a Transshipment Hub near Kanniyakumari on PPP mode was invited on 20.02.2021. However, since it has now been decided to make V.O.Chidambaranar Port as a Transshipment Hub Port, the EOI in respect of Kanniyakumari Port was cancelled on 19.03.2021. As such, it is not possible to fulfil the assurance."

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

The Committee may consider.

DATED :- 18/11/2022
NEW DELHI

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3690

TO BE ANSWERED ON 8th DECEMBER, 2016

CONTAINER BUSINESS

3690. SHRIMATI VASANTHI M.:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- whether it is a fact that India accounts for a mere 6% of the global container business;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the details of container usage rate in percentage terms for shipping of various categories of items/cargo during each of the last three years and the current year, category-wise; and
- the steps taken by the Government to improve the container business?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a)to(d): In terms of data available from United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Report, the share of India's Container Business in Global Container Business is roughly 2%. The details of container usage rate in percentage terms for shipping of various categories of items/cargo during each of last three years and current year up to October, 2016, cargo-wise is given below:

(In 000 Tonnes)

Commodities	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17* Upto Oct. 2016	
	Tonnage	% Share	Tonnage	% Share	Tonnage	% Share	Tonnage	% Share
POL Crude + Product	187254	33.71	188771	32.47	195941	32.31	122038	32.98
Iron Ore**	26222	4.72	17909	3.08	15354	2.53	20898	5.65
Fertilizer	13724	2.47	16196	2.79	15898	2.62	9360	2.53
Coal - Thermal	71641	12.90	85339	14.68	98603	16.26	56056	15.15
- Coking	32751	5.90	32525	5.59	27352	4.51	28589	7.73
Container -Tonnage	114671	20.64	119443	20.55	123119	20.30	72004	19.46
- TEUs	7457	-	7960	-	8197	-	4923	-
Other Misc.	109224	19.66	121161	20.84	130198	21.47	61102	16.51
TOTAL	555487	100.00	581344	100.00	606465	100.00	370047	100.00

(*) Provisional

(**) Includes pellets also

Government is regularly monitoring the Port modernization & infrastructure projects for increasing the capacity of the ports and to bring them to international standards through construction & modernisation of berths, installation of state of art equipment for handling Containers and dredging projects to accommodate large size container vessels at major ports. For giving boost to Container business, the Government is contemplating development and setting up of transshipment ports at Enayam and Vizhinjam.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH

MEMORANDUM No. 4

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2893 dated 05.08.2021 regarding "National Port Grid".

On 05 August, 2021, Shrimati Shardaben Anilbhai Patel and Shrimati Rita Bahuguna Joshi, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2893 regarding National Port Grid to the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. 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 Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways *vide* O.M. No. H-11016/07/2021-IPRCL dated 19.04.2022 have stated as under:-

"This Ministry has earlier constituted a committee for development of Non Major Port. The committee deliberated on the matter of repealing the very old Indian Ports Act, 1908 with contemporaneous, modern and dynamic legislation to enable sustainable growth and development of all Ports in India (both Major and Non Major) in line with the country's international obligations. Now this Ministry is going to repeal the Indian Ports Act, 1908 and working on a new Indian Ports Act - 2022. Cabinet Note on new Indian Ports Act, 2022 will be finalized shortly. There is no further role of the committee."

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

The Committee may consider.

DATED :- 18/11/2022
NEW DELHI

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2893
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH AUGUST, 2021

NATIONAL PORT GRID

2893. SHRIMATI SHARDABEN ANILBHAI PATEL:
SHRIMATI RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any specific proposal/ policy/ plan/ strategy/scheme to develop a National Port Grid connecting the big and small ports of the country;
- (b) if so, the details along with the beneficial outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it will have any environmental impact and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether such a move will require creation of additional infrastructure and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) to (d) The Ministry constituted Maritime States Development Council (MSDC) in the year 1997 for creating a synergy between Major Ports and Minor Ports. It is an Apex Advisory Body for the development of Maritime Sector which aims to ensure integrated development of Major and Non-Major Ports. MSDC monitors development of Minor Ports, Captive Ports and Private Ports in the Maritime States with a view to ensure that their integrated development with Major Ports and to assess their needs of other infrastructure requirements like Roads, Rail, IWT and make suitable recommendation to the concerned Ministries/Departments. In order to synergize the activities between Major Ports and Non-Major Ports, a Committee has been constituted in the Ministry. The committee has been entrusted with responsibility to analyze the prospects and support required by non-operational non-major ports for their development into operational port.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM No. 8

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1106 dated 18.09.2020 regarding "Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary".

On 18 September, 2020, Shri M. K. Raghavan, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1106 regarding "Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary" to the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. 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 Environment, Forest and Climate Change within three months from the date of reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change *vide* O.M. F. No. 17-1/2021-WL dated 12 September, 2022 have stated as under:-

"It is informed that the draft notification of 'Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary' has been expired on 31.07.2022 and therefore no further action arise on the said notification."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, have requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

Dated:- 18/11/2022

New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1106
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.09.2020

Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary

1106. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the threats faced by over two lakh people inhabited around the Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary of Kozhikode in view of the recent orders and notifications issued in this regard;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to tackle grievances of such inhabitants living in the surrounding areas of the Sanctuary; and
- (c) the further steps taken by the Government to ensure peace and harmony for the human settlements and safety of wild animals?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) & (b) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has recently issued draft notification for Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary based on the proposal of State Government of Kerala vide S.O. 2634(E) dated 05.08.2020. An area to an extent varying from 0 (zero) to 1.0 kilometre around the boundary of Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary has been proposed as ESZ which mostly includes Reserved forests, Kutyadi Hydro Electric Project and rest being non forest area having few human habitations in 13 villages having a total population of about 10000, the land mostly includes plantations such as rubber and coconut which are permitted in the ESZ area. There is a provision for submitting grievances and remarks in connection to the draft notification within 60 days from the date of issue of draft notification. The final notification will be issued only after considering and studying all these complaints or remarks on the draft notification.
- (c) The important steps taken by the Government to ensure peace and harmony for the human settlements and safety of wild animals are as follows:
 - i. Financial assistance is provided to the State/Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Integrated Development of

Wildlife Habitats, for providing better protection to wildlife including rare species of animals, improvement of their habitat and to ensure harmonious existence of human settlements with wild animals.

- ii. The local communities are involved in conservation measures through eco-development activities who help the forest department in protection of wildlife.
- iii. Rare and endangered species found in India, like Tiger, Snow Leopard, Great Indian Bustard, Gangetic Dolphin, Dugong, etc. have been listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby providing them highest degree of protection.
- iv. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for stringent punishment for violation of its provisions. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).
- v. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau coordinates with State/UTs and other enforcement agencies to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
MEMORANDUM No. 10

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3482 dated 15.07.2019 regarding "IMA Jewellery Case".

On 15 July, 2019, Shri Shivakumar C. Udasi, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3482 regarding "IMA Jewellery Case" to the Minister of Finance. 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 Finance (Department of Financial Services) 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 Financial Services) *vide* O.M. F. No. 3/8/2019-BO.II dated 28 October, 2022 has stated as under:-

"SFIO has informed that as per information received by them from the investigation team, other law enforcement agencies are being actively pursued for obtaining documents/digital records. On receipt of the said documents, analysis/examination will be done. It may be emphasized that necessary investigative process is continuing. Further, purport of the original Parliament Question, was to primarily confirm whether any investigation is being conducted or not. This was replied in affirmative in the answer to the said Question. Details of the same have also been provided in the answer, as well as to the Lok Sabha Secretariat from time to time. As mentioned by SFIO above further analysis/examination will only be done on receipt of the said documents by SFIO from other law enforcement agencies."

4. In view of the above, as no further action is pending as required in the said Question, 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
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3482
ANSWERED ON MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019/ ASHADHA 24, 1941 (SAKA)

IMA JEWELLERY CASE

3482. SHRI SHIVAKUMAR C. UDASI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether I Monetary Advisory (IMA) Jewellery Fraud case came to light with an audio clip in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted an investigation into the said case; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (b): The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has informed that based on First Information Report (FIR) of Bangaluru Police, ED has registered a case against I Monetary Advisory Private Limited (IMA) and related entities under the Prevention of Money laundering Act, 2002.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Office of the Director General of Corporate Affairs (DGoCA) has informed that Registrar of Companies (ROC), Bangalore has received a complaint against a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) namely IMAIP Bullion and Trading LLP registered with ROC, Bangalore for collection of amount from public at large by inducing them as partners in the said LLP.

(c) to (d): Based on the report of ROC Bangalore, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has ordered an investigation against IMAIP Bullion and Trading LLP.

As per information received from the Government of Karnataka, a case has been registered and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted for investigation of the aforesaid case.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH
(LOK SABHA)

MEMORANDUM No. 18

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Supplementary to Starred Question No. 81 dated 08 February, 2017 by Shri Ninong Ering, MP regarding "Digital Transaction."

On 08 February, 2017 Shri B. Vinod Kumar and Shri Suman Balka, M.Ps. addressed a Starred Question No. 81 to the Minister of Planning. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

2. During discussion Shri Ninong Ering, M.P., raised the following Supplementary Question:-

"I would like to through you, tell the hon. Minister that communication in Arunachal Pradesh especially in places like Kra Daadi, Upper Subansiri, Upper Sinang, Anini and Anjaw is a very difficult thing. When we speak about Digital India, when we speak about the communication system itself, when we do not get any internet facility even in Itanager, the Capital of Arunachal Pradesh, I do not know how we are going to take up the schemes in the NITI Aayog through Digital India. What kind of provisions have you kept for our State Arunachal Pradesh and also the other parts of the North-East?"

3. In reply, the Minister of Planning (Shri Rao Inderjit Singh) stated as follows:-

"Bharat Net will connect around two and half lakhs Panchayats in the coming days. Though the villages are more, around six and half lakhs, but Panchayats are around total two and half lakhs and the Government of India proposes to connect these within two phases and Arunachal Pradesh will be taken as a priority under this project."

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

5. The Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications vide O.M. No. 30-307/2017-USF dated 31 July, 2017 had requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:-

"That on 19.07.2017, the cabinet approved a modified strategy for implementation of Bharatnet. As per the revised strategy, all the remaining GPs in the country will be connected in Phase-II which is targeted to be completed by March, 2019. Since, Phase II of Bharatnet Project will cover all the balance GPs in the country including all the remaining GPs of Arunachal Pradesh, it is requested that the Assurance may please be dropped."

6. The above request of the Ministry was not acceded to by the Committee at their sitting held on 04 December, 2019. The Committee accordingly presented its 6th Report inter-alia recommending the Ministry to pursue the matter vigorously by making concerted efforts and fulfill the Assurance at the earliest. The Committee also directed the Ministry to apprise the progress made in the matter.

7. However, the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications) vide OM No. 30-307/2017-USOF dated 28 June, 2022 have again requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:-

"Bharat Net project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country (approx.2.5 lakh). As on 14.06.2022, 5,78,468 Km of Optical fibre Cable has been laid and 1,77,148 GPs have been made service ready in the country progressively.

On 30.06.2021, Union Cabinet had accorded approval for revised implementation strategy of BharatNet through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode in 16 States of the country including Arunachal Pradesh. Global Bids

were invited on 20.07.2021 for implementation under PPP model and opened on 27.01.2022, however, no response was received. The Cabinet had also accorded in principle approval for extending BharatNet to cover all inhabited villages in the remaining States and UTs. A revised strategy is under preparation to enhance the viability of the PPP model.

In Arunachal Pradesh, under Phase-I of BharatNet Project all the 79 GPs have been made service ready. Under Phase-II. 690 GPs have been made service ready out of the 1079 GPs which were planned to be covered through satellite media. The remaining 638GPs and around 3749 village are planned to be cover under PPP model.

As the scope of the BharatNet project has been extended to all the inhabited villages, it will take more time for the completion of the project."

8. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may re-consider.

NEW DELHI:

DATED: 18/11/2022

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *81
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2017

DIGITAL TRANSACTIONS

*81. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRI SUMAN BALKA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the NITI Aayog plans to rank States on the basis of digital transactions and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Aayog has asked the States to submit their digital transaction data;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereto;
- (d) whether the NITI Aayog has also suggested to incentivise digital payments by promising a fixed incentive for individual and also for district collectors/district magistrates/deputy commissioners; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF PLANNING
AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND
MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 81* REGARDING "DIGITAL TRANSACTIONS" RAISED BY SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR AND SHRI SUMAN BALKA DUE FOR ANSWER ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2017.

(a): It has been decided by NITI Aayog to rank the States/UTs on the basis of digital transactions. Details of the parameters are being worked out.

(b): No, Madam

(c): Does not arise.

(d) & (e): NITI Aayog had constituted a Committee of Chief Ministers on digital payments which submitted its interim report to Hon'ble Prime Minister on 24th January 2017. The Committee has, inter-alia, recommended various incentives for consumers and merchants in the form of cashback on digital spends, discounts on government payments via digital means, incentives to banking correspondents (BCs) and small merchants for digital transactions. The interim report of the Committee of Chief Ministers on digital payments can be seen on http://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/new_initiatives/book.pdf.

In order to attract general public and facilitate significant behavioural change among public towards digital transactions two major schemes - Lucky Grahak Yojana for consumers and Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana for merchants have been launched. Under the schemes, cash awards are given to consumers and merchants who utilize digital payment instruments for personal consumption expenditures. During 25th December 2016 to 30th January 2017, 5,91,145 consumers and 35,000 merchants have won prizes worth Rs. 97.07 crores for digital payments made through Aadhar Enabled Payment System (AEPS), Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), Unified Payment Interface (UPI) and RuPay cards.

To incentivize the States/UTs for promotion of digital transactions, it was decided that Central assistance of Rs. 50 crore would be provided to the districts for undertaking Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities to bring 5 crore Jan Dhan accounts to digital platform. The fund allocation is based on proportion of Jan Dhan accounts of all States/UTs. Under the scheme an incentive @ Rs. 10/- is provided for every individual who has transited to digital payment mode and undertaken at least two successful transactions by any of the five digital payments modes viz: UPI, Rupay / Debit / Credit / Prepaid Cards, AEPS, USSD and E-Wallets. An amount of Rs. 13.32 crore has so far been released to 460 districts as first installment.

(Q. 81)

SHRI NINONG ERING : Madam Speaker, I am very grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to ask a question on digital transactions.

I would like to, through you, tell the hon. Minister that communication in Arunachal Pradesh especially in places like Kra Daadi, Upper Subansiri, Upper Siang, Anini and Anjaw is a very difficult thing. When we speak about Digital India, when we speak about the communication system itself, when we do not get any internet facility even in Itanagar, the Capital of Arunachal Pradesh, I do not know how we are going to take up the schemes in the NITI Aayog through Digital India. What kind of provisions have you kept for our State Arunachal Pradesh and also the other parts of the North-East?

श्री राव इंद्रजीत सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदया जी, मेंबर साहब ने एक बड़ा दुरुस्त सवाल किया है कि कई जगहें ऐसी हैं, जहां पर इंटरनेट कनेक्शन पूरे तौर पर उपलब्ध नहीं है। भारत सरकार इस बात से अवगत है कि जो बॉर्डर स्टेट्स हैं, चाइना के साथ लगे हुए या नॉर्थ ईस्ट के स्टेट्स हों, उनके अंदर ज्यादा जल्दी काम करवाने की आवश्यकता है, ताकि सभी को इंटरनेट उपलब्ध हो, टेलीफोन फ़ैसिलिटी उपलब्ध हो पाए। आज के दिन कुल मिलाकर जहां 2जी का मसला है। वहां 97 परसेंट कवरेज है, जहां 3जी का मसला है, वहां 63 परसेंट कवरेज है और जहां 4जी का मसला है, वहां 30 फीसदी पॉप्युलेशन कवर्ड होती है, यह नेशनल एवरेज है, अरुणाचल के लिए शायद यह कम हो, लेकिन हम पूरी तरह से इस बात से अवगत हैं और हमारा पूरा प्रयास होगा कि अरुणाचल प्रदेश के अंदर जल्द से जल्द यह सुविधा उपलब्ध कराई जाए और इस सुविधा को उपलब्ध करवाने के लिए, ग्राम पंचायतों को कनेक्ट करने के लिए भारत सरकार की योजना है। भारत नेट, जो कुल मिलाकर ढाई लाख पंचायतें हमारे देश के अंदर हैं, उनको आने वाले समय में कनेक्ट करेगा। गाँव तो ज्यादा हैं; साढ़े छः लाख के करीब हैं, लेकिन पंचायतें कुल मिलाकर ढाई लाख हैं और भारत सरकार ने इसको दो फेस के अंदर कनेक्ट करने के लिए सोचा है और सरकार की तरफ से अरुणाचल प्रदेश को इसमें प्रायोरिटी के तौर पर लिया जाएगा।

डॉ. किरिट पी. सोलंकी : अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं सरकार तथा खासकर हमारे प्रधान मंत्री, श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी का आभारी हूँ कि उन्होंने विमुद्रीकरण करके कालाधन, भ्रष्टाचार और आतंकवाद को समाप्त करने के लिए एक बहुत बड़ा कदम उठाया है और उसके साथ-साथ लोगों को नेट बैंकिंग के लिए भी प्रोत्साहित किया है। मैं विशेष रूप से इसलिए आभारी हूँ कि सरकार ने भीम एप को लांच किया है, जिसकी वजह से बाबासाहेब

अम्बेडकर, जो एक बड़े अर्थशास्त्री थे, उनके नाम पर यह एप होगा और उसमें डिजिटल थम्ब इम्प्रेशन लगाकर ट्रांजैक्शन होगा। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस व्यवस्था के आने की वजह से गांवों के देहाती लोग, गरीब लोग, किसान और दलित आदि लोगों को बहुत फायदा मिलेगा।

मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि भीम एप को इम्पलिमेंट करने में और ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोगों को इसके दायरे में लाने के लिए हम कितने समय में कितने लोगों को इनक्लूड कर सकेंगे?

राव इंद्रजीत सिंह : मैडम, भीम एप एक ऐसी एप्लिकेशन है, जो अनेक बैंकों को एक छतरी के नीचे लाने का प्रयास कर रही है। जब डिजिटल इंडिया भारत सरकार की तरफ से छेड़ा गया तो उस समय अलग-अलग बैंकों ने अपनी अलग-अलग एप्लिकेशन लगा दी थीं, जिसकी वजह से कंज्यूमर्स को असुविधा होती थी। टाटा कंसल्टेंसी सर्विसेज के माध्यम से नीति आयोग ने एक ऐसी एप्लिकेशन निकाली, जो सबको एक ही छतरी के नीचे ला देती है और भीम एप्लिकेशन अभी थोड़े दिन पहले ही लागू हुई है। करीब 361 करोड़ रुपये की खरीद-फरोख्त लोगों ने इस एप्लिकेशन के माध्यम से की है। आने वाले समय में मुख्य धारा में आने के उपरांत यह ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोगों को फायदा पहुंचा पायेगी। आज के दिन केवल तीन फीसदी डिजिटल ट्रांजैक्शन हो पा रहे हैं। विश्व में कुछ मुल्क ऐसे हैं, खास तौर पर स्केन्डेनेवियन कंट्रीज में यह 90 फीसदी तक पहुंच गया है। भीम एप्लिकेशन के माध्यम से और दो-चार इंटरफेस वर्टिकल्स हैं, उनके माध्यम से जो डिजिटल ट्रांजैक्शंस होंगे, मैं समझता हूँ कि यदि वे 20-22 परसेंट भी हो जाएं तो इसका काफी ज्यादा फायदा जनता को होगा और काफी ज्यादा काला धन जो कैश के रूप में इस्तेमाल होकर खजानों में भरा जाता था, उसमें भी कटौती होगी। मैं समझता हूँ कि भारत के लिए डिजिटल इंडिया एक बहुत बड़ा फायदा करने वाली मुहिम है।

SHRI M.B. RAJESH : Madam Speaker, through you I would like to seek a reply from the hon. Minister regarding a serious issue related to the security of digital transactions.

Madam Speaker, recently about 32 lakh credit and debit cards were blocked by the State Bank of India, ICICI, HDFC and Axis Bank. Further, personal details including those related to AADHAAR and PAN cards of 70,000 lakh people appeared in the social media. All this goes to show the serious lapses existing in cyber security. Further, we do not have a regulator and we do not have a grievance redressal mechanism in this sphere. A lot of people including some of our

colleague MPs and top bureaucrats lost their money in this process. ... (Interruptions) Not including me but many of my colleagues lost money. Even money was withdrawn from abroad.

Madam Speaker, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what measures are already taken by the Government and in this serious scenario what new measures the Government proposes or intends to implement in order to ensure security of digital transactions.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Madam, I empathise with the hon. Member regarding digital security. There is no system which is 101 per cent foolproof. But India is a software rich country.

Our professionals have gone even outside the country and made a name for themselves in America and Europe. So, whatever lacuna is there in the digital cyber security will be filled by Indians within India. The Information Technology Ministry is quite aware of the concerns that have been expressed by the hon. Member. I can only assure him that they are looking into it and all the loopholes that are there in the cyber security at present and which are likely to occur in future will be addressed by the Information Technology Ministry itself. Some measures have already been taken, like encryption of cards and Aadhar-enabled payment system which has retina and thumb impression with which you can withdraw money. Security features have already been incorporated in all these four verticals but still if there are some verticals which have not been able to perform as per expectations, those loopholes have to be plugged and the Information Technology Ministry is in the process of doing so.

श्री दुष्यंत चौटाला : अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूंगा, क्योंकि आज तीन दिन हो गए हैं, इस सदन के अंदर हम डिजिटल इज़ेशन की चर्चा कर रहे हैं। राष्ट्रपति के अभिभाषण से लेकर कल जब हमने डीमॉनिटाइज़ेशन के ऊपर बिल पारित किया, हर जगह डिजिटल ट्रान्सैक्शंस की बात हुई थी। इस देश ने देखा कि दिवाली से पहले लगभग 20 लाख से ऊपर डेबिट कार्ड हैक हुए थे। जब हम ऑनलाइन ट्रान्सैक्शंस की बात करते हैं, डिजिटल सिक्योरिटी एक बहुत बड़ा कंसर्न है। मंत्री जी बता रहे

थे कि ऑप्टिक फाइबर देश के कोने-कोने तक बिछाई गई है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूंगा कि जो ऑप्टिक फाइबर बिछाई गई है, कब तक सरकार उनको पूरी तरह ऑनलाइन कर के उन पर डिवाइसिस लगा कर लोगों को पॉइंट ज़ीरो तक सुविधा देने का काम करेगी और क्या कदम डिजिटल सिक्योरिटी के लिए, खास तौर से ऑन लाइन ट्रांस्ज़ैक्शंस के लिए उठाएगी, क्योंकि हम बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर ट्रांस्ज़ैक्शंस को ऑनलाइन कर रहे हैं। उसके लिए सरकार क्या कोई स्पेशल थेफ्ट प्रोटेक्शन नैटवर्क तैयार करेगी, जिसके माध्यम से जो कमेरा आदमी है, उसका पैसा ऑनलाइन ट्रांस्ज़ैक्शन के तहत सुरक्षित रहे? क्योंकि आर्थिक सर्वे की रिपोर्ट बताती है कि there has been a failure rate of 56 per cent in digital transaction and most of the Banks are not ready to accept it. क्या भारत सरकार आने वाले समय में डिजिटल ट्रांस्ज़ैक्शंस की प्रोटेक्शन के लिए कोई नया सिस्टम तैयार करने जा रही है?

राव इंद्रजीत सिंह : महोदया, मैं पहले ही इस विषय पर ज़वाब दे चुका हूँ कि आईटी मंत्रालय ने खास तौर पर इसके अंदर जो विशेषज्ञ हैं, उनके माध्यम से सभी लूपहोल्स को प्लग करने का प्रयास आज के दिन जारी किया हुआ है। जहां-जहां पर कोई खामियां नज़र आती हैं, उनको पूरा करने का पूरे तौर पर प्रयास किया जाएगा। प्राइवेट एंटरप्राइज़िस से भी सलाह ली जाती है और हमारे सरकारी सैक्टर में भी जो काम कर रहे हैं, उनसे भी सलाह ली जाती है, क्योंकि हिंदुस्तान एक सॉफ्टवेयर इनेबल्ड देश है, मैं समझता हूँ कि जो खामियां, माननीय सदस्य ने दर्शायी हैं, आने वाले समय के अंदर उनको पूरा कर दिया जाएगा।

HON. SPEAKER: Shri T. Radhakrishnan. Not present

Shri S.R. Vijayakumar. Not present

Now, the hon. Minister.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES BRANCH

MEMORANDUM No. 20

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Starred Question No. 384 dated 19 July, 2019 (Supplementary by Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia, MP) regarding "Status of Sericulture".

On 19 July, 2019, Shri Naranbhai Kachhadiya and Shri Parbatbhai Savabhai Patel, M.Ps., addressed a Starred Question No. 384 to the Minister of Textiles. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is given in the Annexure.

2. During the discussion, Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia, M.P., raised the following Supplementary Question to the Minister of Textiles:-

"I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister that due to the lack of compatibility of the environment of our Gujarat, either silk is not being produced, or due to lack of knowledge of the business of sericulture among the farmers, it is not being produced. If it is so, is there any plan made by the government to promote sericulture business in Gujarat?"

3. In reply, the Hon'ble Minister of Textiles stated as follows:-

"At present, there is a defunct silk farm in Navsari, which Central Silk Board is trying to revive and is in talks with the Gujarat Government".

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

5. In this regard, the Ministry of Textiles *vide* O.M.No H-11016/07/2019-Silk dated 11 January, 2022 and 11th October, 2021 has stated as under:-

"As a part of CSB interventions for popularizing eri silkworm culture in Gujarat, a Scientist and technical personnel from REC-Fatehpur (U.P.) were deputed to Haripur village (Subarkantha Distt.) on 21st Sept., 2021. Proper hand holding is being provided to carry out the eri silkworm rearing with recommended package of practices and improved techniques in the village. A total of 625 dfis (25dfis/farmer) are provided to the castor farmers for eri cultivation currently, the castor farmers are conducting eri silkworm rearing under the supervision of CSB staff. Central Silk Board will continue to support introduction of eri culture in Gujarat by providing technical support to the castor farmers from supply of seed to sale of silk cocoons. Successful introduction & expansion of eri culture especially in castor growing areas (Banskantha and Sabarkantha Distt., Gujarat) may require the support from allied state government personnel. However, farmer's response and the eri culture expansion may necessitate the utilization of

the infrastructure already available with the erstwhile unit at Navsari (Gujarat) to facilitate continuous technical support for eri culture in Gujarat State."

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

The Committee may consider.

DATED: 18/11/2022
NEW DELHI

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *384
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2019

STATUS OF SERICULTURE

*384. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:
SHRI PARBATBHAI SAVABHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES वस्त्र मंत्री
be pleased to state:

- a) the status of sericulture in the country;
- b) the ranking of India in silk production in the world; and
- c) the manner in which the Government is encouraging production and export of more silk to benefit farmers engaged in sericulture?

उत्तर

ANSWER

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्रीमती स्मृति जूबिन इरानी)
MINISTER OF TEXTILES
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *384 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2019.

(a) & (b): India is the second largest producer of silk in the world. The total raw silk production in the country increased by 10.52% (35,261 Metric Tonne(MT)) during 2018-19 over the previous year 2017-18 (31,906 MT). Among the four varieties of silk produced in 2018-19, Mulberry accounts for 71.50% (25,213 MT), Tasar 8.44% (2,977 MT), Eri 19.40% (6,839 MT) and Muga 0.66% (232 MT) of the provisional total raw silk production of 35,261 MT. The variety-wise raw silk production in the county during last three years is given below:

(In Metric Tonne)

Particulars	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (Provisional)
Mulberry (Bivoltine)	5,266	5874	6911
Mulberry (Cross breed)	16,007	16192	18302
Tasar	3,268	2988	2977
Eri	5,637	6660	6839
Muga	170	192	232
Total	30,348	31906	35261

(c): Central Silk Board (CSB), a statutory body under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India is encouraging production and export of silk. To benefit farmers engaged in sericulture, CSB is implementing a restructured Central Sector Scheme "Silk Samagra", which mainly focuses on improving quality and productivity of domestic silk thereby reducing the country's dependence on imported silk. Under the scheme, assistance is extended to sericulture stakeholders for the beneficiary oriented components like, raising of Kissan Nursery, Plantation with improved Mulberry varieties, Irrigation, Chawki Rearing Centres with incubation facility, construction of rearing houses, rearing equipment, door to door service agents for disinfection and input supply, support for Improved reeling units like Automatic Reeling units, multi-end Reeling machines, Improved Twisting machines and support for post yarn facilities for quality Silk and fabric production.

Under North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS), 38 Sericulture projects are being implemented in all North East States in the identified potential districts under three broad categories viz., Integrated Sericulture Development Project (ISDP) and Intensive Bivoltine Sericulture Development Project (IBSDP) and Aspirational District. Objective of these projects is to establish sericulture as viable commercial activity in North East Region by creating necessary infrastructure and imparting skills to the locals for silkworm rearing and allied activities in the value chain.

Steps taken to promote silk production and exports of silk:

- i. Production of Bivoltine Silk: Bivoltine silk is the high quality mulberry silk produced in India as an import substitute silk. Research and Development has been focused to evolve productive bivoltine hybrids and package of practices for production of high quality bivoltine silk in the country.
- ii. Strengthening the Research and Development system to improve the levels of cocoon production and productivity to develop improved mulberry/ host plant varieties, silkworm hybrids and technology packages.
- iii. Cold Storage facilities and Bivoltine grainages have been strengthened to produce, store and supply quality Bivoltine silkworm seed.
- iv. For production of 3A-4A grade raw Silk from the bivoltine cocoons, Automatic Reeling Machines (ARM)/Units have been established in the country.
- v. Central Silk Board and State Governments mobilize additional funds for sericulture development through convergence by availing the schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc., being implemented by various other Ministries of Government of India to create required infrastructure at stakeholder's level.
- vi. To make the domestic silk weaving market segment stronger and also Indian silk export sector highly competitive, basic customs duty of 10% and 20% is levied on raw silk and silk fabric import respectively.
- vii. Thrust provided on product development & diversification with focus on silk blends and popularizing Vanya silk products in the export business.
- viii. Steps have been taken to promote and establish "Indian Silk" as a brand in the global market through generic promotion & to promote Indian Silk with the "Silk Mark Tag" to create a Brand image of Indian Silk.

(Q. 384)

श्री नारणभाई काछड़िया: अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे इस विषय पर अपना पक्ष रखने का मौका दिया है, मैं इसके लिए आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ। हमारा देश आज वस्त्र उद्योग के क्षेत्र में वस्त्रों का निर्यात विदेशों में कर रहा है। लेकिन हमारे गुजरात राज्य का सूरत शहर जो देश का एक केन्द्र माना जाता है, जहां पर वस्त्र से संबंधित हजारों छोटे-छोटे उद्योग स्थापित हैं। वहां वस्त्र निर्माण के लिए लेटेस्ट तकनीकी का इस्तेमाल करके कम से कम लागत में अच्छे गुणवत्ता वाले कपड़ों का निर्माण होता है।

अध्यक्ष जी, आज हमारा राजस्व टेक्सटाइल क्षेत्र में इतना आगे निकल चुका है, फिर भी रेशम का उत्पादन गुजरात में नहीं हो रहा है। देश के कुल 26 राज्यों में रेशम का उत्पादन हो रहा है। लेकिन हमारे गुजरात में इसका उत्पादन बिल्कुल शून्य है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि हमारे गुजरात के वातावरण की अनुकूलता न होने के कारण या तो रेशम का उत्पादन नहीं हो रहा है, या किसानों में रेशम कीट पालन के व्यवसाय की जानकारी का अभाव होने के कारण इसका उत्पादन नहीं हो पा रहा है। यदि ऐसा है, तो क्या सरकार द्वारा रेशम कीट पालन व्यवसाय को गुजरात में बढ़ावा देने हेतु कोई योजना बनाई गई है? अगर बनाई गई है, तो माननीय मंत्री जी बताने की कृपा करें।

श्रीमती स्मृति जूबिन ईरानी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सांसद को अवगत कराना चाहती हूँ कि भारत सरकार सेन्ट्रल सिल्क बोर्ड के माध्यम से 2017 से लेकर 2020 तक के कार्यकाल में एक विशेष सिल्क के प्रोडक्शन को बढ़ाने के लिए 'सिल्क समग्र' नाम की लगभग 2,160 करोड़ राशि की एक नई स्कीम लेकर आई है, जिसमें प्री कोकून और पोस्ट कोकून सिल्क के उत्पादन के संदर्भ में हम लोग विशेष प्रयास कर रहे हैं।

महोदय, माननीय सांसद जानना चाहते हैं कि क्या प्रदेश सरकार के साथ मिलकर समन्वय के साथ विशेषकर हम किसानों के लिए कोई कार्य कर सकते हैं या नहीं कर सकते हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम

से उन्हें अवगत कराना चाहती हूँ कि राष्ट्रीय कृषि विकास योजना एवं मनरेगा के अंतर्गत कन्वर्जन्स प्रोग्राम्स के माध्यम से वर्ष 2018-19 के लिए हमने राज्यों को लगभग 600 करोड़ रुपये के प्रोजेक्ट्स सैंक्शन कर दिए हैं, जिसमें से हमने 400 करोड़ रुपये देश भर के जिन-जिन राज्यों ने हमसे विशेष रूप से कृषि की दृष्टि से सिल्क प्रोडक्शन में मदद मांगी है, हमने उनको 400 करोड़ रुपये तक की मदद पहुंचाई है।

अभी वर्तमान में नवसारी में एक डिफेंक्ट सिल्क फार्म है, जिसे रिवाइव करने का प्रयास सेन्ट्रल सिल्क बोर्ड कर रही है और उसकी बातचीत गुजरात सरकार से चल रही है।

श्री नारणभाई काछड़िया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ। मेरा माननीय मंत्री जी से दूसरा सवाल यह है कि रेशम उद्योग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 'सिल्क समग्र' योजना चलाई जा रही है। इस योजना के अंतर्गत देश में रेशम कीट पालन व्यवसाय के प्रचार-प्रसार के लिए पिछले दो वर्षों में कौन-कौन से कार्य किए गए हैं तथा इस योजना के क्रियान्वयन के लिए सरकार ने पिछले दो सालों में कितनी धनराशि खर्च की है?

श्रीमती स्मृति जूबिन ईरानी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सिल्क समग्र का विशेष संदर्भ रोजगार को और बढ़ाना है। मैं आपके माध्यम से आदरणीय सांसद को अवगत कराना चाहती हूँ कि अगर आप मात्र रोजगार देखेंगे, तो वर्ष 2013-14 में हमारे देश के लगभग 78.5 लाख नागरिक सिल्क सेक्टर में कार्यरत थे। सिल्क समग्र का लक्ष्य यह है कि हम एक करोड़ लोगों को वर्ष 2020 तक नौकरी देंगे। मुझे आपके माध्यम से सदन को यह बताने में हर्ष हो रहा है कि रोजगार के कल तक के आंकड़े 91 लाख तक पहुंच चुके हैं। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र भाई मोदी जी के आदेशानुसार जो एक करोड़ रोजगार देने का लक्ष्य है, हम उसे निश्चित रूप से पा पाएंगे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, सदन में हमारे कई ऐसे मंबर होंगे, देश भर के करीबन 26 राज्यों में सिल्क के उत्पादन में अलग-अलग गतिविधियाँ चलती हैं। मैं इतना ही बताना चाहूँगी कि वर्ष 2013-14 में मल्बरी में दो लाख हेक्टेयर एरिया था। अगर आज आप देखेंगे, तो 21 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। रॉ सिल्क प्रोडक्शन में 33 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। इपोर्ट सब्स्ट्रैट्यूशन ताकि भारत स्वनिर्भर हो सके, उसमें 170 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। वन्य सिल्क प्रोडक्शन में 43 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। मैं इतना बता देना चाहती हूँ कि वर्तमान में किसान नर्सरीज़ 111 हैं, इरिगेशन और अदर वाटर कन्जर्वेशन टेक्नीक के प्रोजेक्ट्स 3,038 हैं।

हमारे कृषकों के लिए जो सेपरेट रियरिंग हाउसेस 38.19 हैं, रियरिंग अप्लायंसेस 3640 से ज़्यादा हैं, प्रोडक्शन यूनिट जहाँ पर बायलॉजिकल इनपुट्स 32 हैं, चॉकी रियरिंग सेंटर्स इत्यादि की हमारे पास सारी जानकारी है, जो मैं आदरणीय सांसद को बता सकती हूँ।

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री परबतभाई पटेल । डिटेल्स में जानकारी देनी हो तो कई बार व्यक्तिगत भी भिजवा दें ताकि हम अधिकतर क्वेश्चन सदन में ले सकें।

श्री परबतभाई सवाभाई पटेल : आदरणीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे यशस्वी प्रधान मंत्री जी के कुशल नेतृत्व में विभिन्न मंत्रालयों द्वारा छोटे-छोटे उद्योगों को बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है। इसी प्रकार वस्त्र उद्योग के क्षेत्र में देश में रेशम कीट पालन को बढ़ावा देना एक प्रशंसनीय कदम है, जिसके तहत देश के ग्रामीण इलाकों में कृषि के साथ-साथ किसान भाइयों के लिए आमदनी का एक और नया ज़रिया बन गया है। इस व्यवसाय को बढ़ावा देने और वस्त्र उद्योग के क्षेत्र में सिल्क उत्पादन के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में सक्षम बन रहे हैं। महोदय, इससे हमें किसान भाइयों की आय को बढ़ाने में भी काफी मदद मिल रही है, इसके लिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहूँगा। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या सरकार रेशम कीट पालन व्यवसाय को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एवं किसानों को लेटेस्ट तकनीकी

18.07.2019

प्रशिक्षण हेतु दूसरे देशों से तकनीकी सहायता ले रही है या लेने पर विचार कर रही है? यदि हाँ, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

श्रीमती स्मृति जूबिन ईरानी : महोदय, सांसद ने विशेष किसानों के संदर्भ में अपने उद्गार व्यक्त किए हैं मैं उनको बताना चाहूँगी कि प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी का सिल्क समग्र के अंतर्गत विशेष महिला किसानों पर भी ध्यान देने का एक आग्रह रहा है। उन्हें यह जानते हुए खुशी होगी कि 680 इनफोर्मल प्रोड्यूसर ग्रुप के माध्यम से 33000 से ज़्यादा किसान मोबिलाइज़ हुए हैं। हमने विशेष उन किसानों और महिला किसानों को 23 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में विशेष रूप से सहयोग दिया है, जो लेफ्ट विंग एक्स्ट्रीमिस्ट इलाकों से प्रभावित हैं, झारखंड, ओडिशा, पश्चिम बंगाल, छत्तीसगढ़, महाराष्ट्र, आंध्र प्रदेश और बिहार जैसे राज्यों में विशेष महिला किसान सशक्तीकरण परियोजना के अंतर्गत हम लोग सिल्क का काम बढ़ा रहे हैं। जहाँ तक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय टेक्नोलॉजी ट्रांसफर के संदर्भ में आदरणीय सांसद ने एक प्रश्न पूछा, चाइना, उज़्बेकिस्तान के साथ-साथ सेंट्रल सिक्क बोर्ड, भारत सरकार के टेक्सटाइल मंत्रालय के समन्वय से टेक्नोलॉजी अपग्रेडेशन और किसानों के संदर्भ में हम लोग विशेष किसान मेला लगा कर, किसानों के लिए वर्कशॉप लगाकर टेक्नोलॉजी ट्रांसफर का भी काम करते हैं।

DR. G. RANJITH REDDY: Sericulture is very important as it covers small and marginal farmers. In Telangana, we have two Technical Service Centres, one at Vikarabad and one at Chevella which is my parliamentary constituency. In my State, there are Government seed farms also in Qutubullapur, Moinabad, Peddemul and Maheshwaram which fall under my parliamentary constituency.

Apart from this, the Chairman of the Silk Board has said that Telangana is the best suitable State for silk farming. You also know that the State of

Telangana gives a lot of incentives for agriculture. Through you, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether she can propose to come up with a unit of Central Silk Board in Ranga Reddy District of Telangana.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: The Central Silk Board is a single unitary Board which services the entire country. If there is any proposal made from the State of Telangana, specially for helping farmers with regard to silk production, we will be more than happy to extend our services to them. I would like to tell the hon. Member through you that the Central Silk Board works with various States to do workshops. I will be more than happy to facilitate the State of Telangana in this regard.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : क्वेश्चन नंबर 385, श्री थोल तिरुमावलवना

माननीय सदस्य, एक बार फिर व्यवस्था समझ लीजिए। इसमें कोई बात नहीं है, सब नए हैं। जब मैं माननीय सदस्यों का क्वेश्चन नम्बर पुकारूँ तो आप सभी माननीय सदस्य पहले क्वेश्चन नम्बर बोलें। फिर माननीय मंत्री जी उत्तर सभा पटल पर रखेंगे। फिर आप प्रश्न पूछिए। सदन की व्यवस्था इस तरह से है।

माननीय सदस्य बहुत ही गंभीर और पकड़ वाले हैं। माननीय सदस्य पूछिए।

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 |

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At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened to (i) 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.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2022-2023)

Statement Showing Assurances not dropped by the Committee on Government Assurances (2022-2023) at their sitting held on 23.11.2022

S.No.	Memo No.	SQ/USQ No. and date	Ministry/ Department	Subject	Remarks
1.	3	USQ No. 3690 dated 08.12.2016	Ports, Shipping and Waterways	Container Business	The Committee note that the Assurance consists of 2 parts viz. Development of Vizhinjam Port and New Major Port at Enayam in Tamil Nadu. Citing that about 18 working months are further required to complete the pending works of Vizhinjam Port and an alternate site for Enayam has been identified, the Ministry has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance. The contention of the Ministry is untenable since there has already been an inordinate delay of more than 6 years in completion of the work at Vizhinjam Port. Further, though an alternate site at V.O. Chidambaranar Port has been identified as regards Enayam, no details of its development or setting up has been provided by the Ministry. The Committee feel that development and setting up of both these ports is imperative for increasing India's share in global container business since infrastructure projects are a prerequisite for increasing the capacity of ports and to bring them to international standards. Moreover, once an Assurance is given it is the responsibility of the Ministry to bring it to its logical end. The Committee understands that such matters take time but the Ministry needs to devise ways and means to take appropriate action in the

					<p>matter with alacrity for its proper and expeditious completion. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry must pursue the matter vigorously to bring it to its logical end as soon as possible and fulfil the Assurance.</p>
2.	4	USQ No. 2893 dated 05.08.2021	Ports, Shipping and Waterways	National Port Grid	<p>The Ministry has informed that after deliberations on the matter of repealing the very old Indian Ports Act with contemporaneous, modern and dynamic legislation, the Ministry is going to repeal the Indian Ports Act, 1908 and working on a new Indian Ports Act – 2022. Thus, the Committee find that the Ministry has taken a decision in the matter and the Assurance has been fulfilled. The Committee desire that requisite Implementation Report be laid on the Table of the House.</p>
3.	8	USQ No. 1106 dated 18.09.2020	Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary	<p>The Ministry has requested to drop the Assurance on the ground that the Draft Notification of Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary has been expired on 31.07.2022 and therefore no further action arise on the said notification. This is untenable as the Ministry itself should have taken the initiative to tackle the grievances of inhabitants living in the surrounding areas of Malabar sanctuary and issued a new notification after considering and studying all the complaints/remark on the earlier Notification. However, the Ministry is silent on the issue of final notification. The Committee desire that the Ministry pursue the matter earnestly to ensure peace and harmony for human settlements and safety of wild animals around the Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary and fulfil the Assurance at the earliest.</p>

4.	10	USQ No. 3482 dated 15.07.2019	Finance (Department of Financial Services)	IMA Jewellery Case	The Committee note that the matter pertaining to the Assurance has been handed over to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO). SFIO has informed that other law enforcement agencies are being actively pursued for obtaining documents/digital records and further necessary investigative process is continuing. The Ministry has requested for dropping of the Assurance citing that further analysis/examination will be done on receipt of the said documents by SFIO from other law enforcement agencies. The Committee are of the view that an Assurance cannot be dropped merely on the grounds that the matter is being investigated by various law enforcement agencies and the time taken for its completion is not certain. Moreover, the matter is sensitive and as such the Assurance cannot be dropped before the matter is brought to its logical conclusion. The Ministry is required to furnish the details of the case, outcome of the SFIO investigation and action taken thereon along with the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such cases. The Committee, therefore, desire that the matter may be pursued vigorously till its logical conclusion.
5.	18	SQ No. 81 dated 08.02.2017 (Supplementary by Shri Ninong Ering,	Communications (Department of Telecommunications)	Digital Transactions	The Committee cannot accede to the request of the Ministry for dropping of the Assurance made on the ground that as the scope of the Bharat Net project has been extended to all the inhabited villages, it will take more time for the completion of the project. The Committee feel that the contention of

		M.P)			<p>the Ministry is untenable since an Assurance cannot be dropped merely on the ground that its implementation may take more time. Since Phase-II of the Government's ambitious Bharat Net project is lagging way behind the schedule, the Committee are of the view that the matter is of national concern and crucial for ensuring accountability and good governance and as such should be brought to its logical conclusion. The Committee desire that the Ministry must pursue the matter vigorously and expedite the fulfilment of the Assurance.</p>
6.	20	SQ No. 384 dated 19.07.2019 (Supplementary by Shri Naranbhai Kachhadiya, M.P.)	Textiles	Status of Sericulture	<p>The Committee feel that in sum and substance the Assurance has been fulfilled. The Committee desire that the requisite Implementation Report be laid on the Table of the House detailing the steps taken for supporting/promoting the Eri culture business in Gujarat particularly Navsari.</p>

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.