

**COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(1985-86)**

(EIGHTH LOK SABHA)

FOURTH REPORT

Presented on 5-4 APR 1986



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

January 28, 1986/Magha 8, 1907 (Saka)

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LOK SABHA

C O R R I G E N D A

Fourth Report of the Committee on
Government Assurances (Eighth Lok Sabha)

Page No.	Correction
3	Line 25: <u>for</u> 'Afer' <u>read</u> 'After'
6	Above the 1st line <u>insert</u> (iv)
8	Lines 18 & 19: <u>for</u> '7th August, 1984' <u>read</u> '6 August, 1984'
14	Line 13: <u>for</u> 'No. 10243' <u>read</u> 'No. 10242'
14	Line 35: <u>for</u> '9' <u>read</u> '8.2'
15	Line 14: <u>for</u> '10' <u>read</u> '9'
	Line 18: <u>for</u> '11' <u>read</u> '10'
19	Lines 7 & 8: <u>for</u> 'No. of assurances (Table col. implemented dropped' No.3) <u>read</u> 'No. of assurances implemented/dropped'.

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE* ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

(1985-86)

CHAIRMAN

Shri B. K. Gadhvi

MEMBERS

2. Shri T. Bala Goud ..
3. Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo
4. Shri Jagannath Prasad
5. Shri Virdhi Chander Jain
6. Shri Rahim Khan
7. Shri Channaiah Odeyar
8. Shri S. S. Ramasamy Padayachi
9. Shri Keshorao Pardhi
10. Shri Ram Pujan Patel
11. Shri K. Pradhani
12. Shri Ram Bahadur Singh
13. Shri Sode Ramaiah
- **14. Shri Jitendra Prasada
- **15. Shri K. N. Pradhan

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri C. K. Jain—*Chief Examiner of Questions.*
2. Shri D. M. Chanan—*Senior Examiner of Questions.*

*The Committee was nominated by the Speaker w.e.f. 20 May, 1985 vide para 400 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 21-5-1985.

**Nominated by the Speaker w.e.f. 23 September, 1985 vide para 632 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 23-9-1985 vide Sarvaswari Mariand Singh and Bhagwat Jha Azad resigned.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances as authorised by the Committee do present on their behalf this Fourth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (1985-86) was constituted on 20 May, 1985.

3. The Committee at their sitting held on 28 August, 1985 considered the requests from Government for dropping of five assurances.

4. At their sitting held on 28 January, 1986, the Committee considered and adopted this Fourth Report.

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

6. Conclusions/observations of the Committee are contained in the succeeding chapters and in the Minutes appended to this Report.

B. K. GADHVI,

Chairman,

Committee on Government Assurances.

NEW DELHI;

January 28, 1986

Magha 8, 1907 (Saka)

REPORT

I

REVIEW OF PENDING ASSURANCES OF SEVENTH AND EIGHTH LOK SABHA

During the Seventh Lok Sabha, 7,231 assurances were culled out from Lok Sabha Debates (Parts I and II) to be implemented by the Government. Out of these 7,175 have since been implemented, leaving a balance of 56 assurances to be implemented.

2. During the First, Second, Third and Fourth Sessions of Eighth Lok Sabha in all 19, 426, 331 and 351 assurances respectively, were culled out. Out of these 13, 340, 185 and 1 assurances have since been implemented, thus leaving a balance of 6, 86, 146 and 350 assurances respectively, to be implemented.

3. The above figures take into account the latest statements of implemented assurances laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism on 19 December, 1985.

II

REQUESTS FROM GOVERNMENT FOR DROPPING OF ASSURANCES

(i)

4. On 26 March, 1985, the following Unstarred Question (No. 1110) given notice of by Shri Satyagopal, M.P., was addressed to the Minister of Communications:—

“(a) whether the Postal Department of his Ministry has planned to construct a 24-storeyed building in Calcutta's BBD area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?”

5. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications gave the following reply:—

“(a) A proposal to construct a multi-storeyed building in Calcutta's BBD area is under consideration;

(b) the details of the proposal are being worked out.”

6. Reply to part (b) of the Question was treated as an assurance by the Committee which was to be fulfilled within three months of the reply i.e. by 25 June, 1985.

7. On 18 July, 1985, the Ministry of Communications approached the Committee on Government Assurances through Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to drop the assurance on the grounds indicated below:—

“The proposal regarding construction of a multi-storeyed building in Calcutta is still under consideration of this Department.

The reason for delay in arriving at a decision regarding this project is because the local residents of Calcutta have raised some objections against the demolition of some portion of old structure of Calcutta G.P.O. and requested for its preservation as an important historical building. Therefore, the project is now under reconsideration keeping in view the public opinion of civic groups of Calcutta. It may take a long time before any definite decision one way or other can be arrived at in this case.”

8. The Committee considered the request of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Posts) for dropping the assurance at their sitting held on 28 August, 1985.

9. After considering the pros and cons of the matter, the Committee are not inclined to agree to the request of the Ministry to drop the assurance and they feel that Government should expedite their decision and implement the assurance. Meanwhile the Ministry may seek extension of time as may be required to implement the assurance.

(ii)

10. On 23 April, 1985, the following Unstarred Question (No. 4027) was addressed by Shri Somjibhai Damor, M.P. to the Minister of Petroleum:—

“Will the Minister of Petroleum be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 10389 on 8th May, 1984 (Annexure-I) regarding demand for increase in commission paid to distributors of LPG cylinders and state:

(a) whether Government have received the Oil Cost Review Committee's report which was expected by the end of July, 1984;

(b) if so, the recommendations thereof;

- (c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations and are issuing directions accordingly; and
- (d) whether Government are considering future increase in the commission in view of the percentage price hike in commodities and rise in salaries to enable the distributors to meet the increased expenditure?"

11. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum gave the following reply:—

"The Oil Cost Review Committee has submitted its report to Government which is under examination."

12. Reply to the Question was treated as an assurance by the Committee which was to be implemented within three months of the reply i.e. by 22 July, 1985.

13. On 2 July, 1985, the Ministry of Petroleum approached the Committee on Government Assurances through the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to drop the assurance on the grounds mentioned below:—

"The Oil Cost Review Committee which was set up in order to review costs which form the basis of the current pricing arrangement for petroleum products, as also other related matters, and to make recommendation on the other specific terms has submitted its report to the Government. Presently, this Ministry is in the process of calling for the comments of the various Ministries/Departments connected with the subject matter in the report. After receipt of the comments etc. the proposal will be considered for submission to the Cabinet. Till such time as the report is considered by the Cabinet, the contents of the report will be treated as confidential.

From the above, it would be seen that this Department is already seized of the urgency of the finalisation of the report as early as possible, yet in view of the procedures involved it will take time and it will not be possible to fulfil the assurance within the stipulated period. Nothing definite can be said about the time it would take to finalise the report."

14. The Committee considered the request of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for dropping the assurance at their sitting held on 28 August, 1985.

15. In view of the categorical reply given by Government to the question and their keenness to finalise their views on the Report of the Oil Cost Review Committee, the Committee see no reason to drop the assurance and feel that the Ministry should step up their efforts in that direction so that the assurance is implemented at the earliest. If necessary, the Ministry may make a request to the Committee for extension of time as considered minimum to implement the assurance.

(iii)

16. On 26 April, 1985, the following Unstarred Question (No. 4599) given notice of by Shri V. S. Krishna Iyer, M.P. was addressed to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Coal:—

- “(a) whether Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadravathi, Karnataka was running under loss during 1984-85;
- (b) if so, the causes of the losses; and
- (c) whether there is any proposal for taking over of the above concern by the Steel Authority of India Limited?”

17. The Minister of State in the Department of Steel gave the following reply:—

- “(a) Yes, sir.
- (b) The major causes for the loss during 1984-85 were: recession in the Steel industry, high cost of imported raw materials, power cuts imposed by the Karnataka Electricity Board, increase in power tariff and increase in other variable costs.
- (c) A request has been made by the Government of Karnataka to the Government of India for take over of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited which is under consideration.”

18. Reply to part (c) of the Question was treated as an assurance by the Committee which was to be fulfilled within three months of the reply i.e. by 25 July, 1985.

19. On 3 July, 1985, the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Coal requested the Committee on Government Assurances through the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to drop the assurance on the grounds indicated as under:—

“The request made by the Government of Karnataka to the Government of India for take over of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL) needs detailed examination

before Government of India decides about the take over or otherwise of VISL. It involved a policy decision to be taken by the Government of India which is likely to take quite a long time. It would be appreciated that whenever such important proposal is received, it has to be properly examined and decision taken in consultation with the different Ministries concerned with the matter. Government, therefore, had to say that the matter is under consideration.

Further this Department is of the view that going by the wording of part (c) of the question the answer given is complete. This part of the question sought information as to whether there was any proposal for taking over of VISL by SAIL. It did not seek information as to the action taken on such a proposal. Giving of further information in addition to that already given would be outside the scope of part (c) of the Question".

20. The Committee considered the request of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Coal for dropping of the assurance at their sitting held on 28 August, 1985.

21. The Committee are unable to accept the reasoning of the Ministry for dropping the assurance. They would like that instead of questioning the decision of the Committee to treat reply of the Minister as an assurance to the House the Ministry should put a constructive and meaningful interpretation to the reply of the Minister and make earnest efforts to expedite the decision to fulfil the assurance.

22. The Committee ^{conclude} ~~regret to observe~~ that whether or not a particular reply should constitute an assurance is a matter exclusively for the Committee to decide and the Ministry/Department concerned is not competent to question such decision. The Committee would urge upon the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism (Department of Parliamentary Affairs) which is concerned with the coordination of implementation of assurances to draw the attention of all the Ministries and Departments of Government of India to the said observation of the Committee for future guidance. In this connection, the Committee draw the attention to their earlier recommendation contained in para 13 of their Second Report presented to Lok Sabha on 29 August, 1985.

23. On 7 May, 1985, the following Starred Question (No. 739) given notice of by Shri Y. S. Mahajan and Smt. Manorma Singh, M.Ps. was addressed to the Minister of Energy:—

- “(a) whether Government have given approval for the setting up of Captive Power Plants with facilities for co-generation of steam at the Bharat Petroleum and the Hindustan Petroleum Refineries at Bombay and the Madras Refineries at Madras;
- (b) whether the economics of setting up Captive Power Plants and supply of electricity from the State Electricity resources have been gone into and if so, with what results; and
- (c) what will be the effect of Captive Power Plants on the overall functioning of these refineries in terms of capacity utilisation, cost of production and profitability?”

24. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Energy (Deptt. of Petroleum) gave the following reply:—

“(a) The proposal for addition of about 10 MW capacity with co-generation of steam at Madras Refineries Ltd., was approved by the Government in June, 1984. The proposals for setting up Captive Power Plants of 30 MW each with facilities for co-generation of steam at refineries of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. in Bombay are under consideration of the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir. Overall economics are in favour of Captive Power Plants.

(c) In a continuous process Industry like Refinery, Captive Power generation is required to improve production and productivity by avoiding interruptions in power supply which not only cause immediate production loss but also considerable damage to the equipment.”

25. Reply to part (a) of the Question was treated as an assurance by the Committee which was to be fulfilled within three months of the reply i.e. by 6 August, 1985.

26. On 12 July, 1985, the Ministry of Energy (Deptt. of Petroleum) approached the Committee on Government Assurances through the

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to drop the assurance on the grounds indicated as under:—

"The position with regard to setting up of captive power plant of 30 MW each with facilities for co-generation of steam at refineries of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. continues to be the same as intimated in reply to the Starred Question. Further this Ministry is fully seized of the urgency in finalising the proposals for setting up captive power plant. No definite date can be indicated at this stage, as to when the projects would be finalised. The project is normally expected to be mechanically complete within 30 months from the date of Government's approval. It would be relevant to mention that while taking the decision in this regard the Ministry is required to consult other Departments apart from obtaining the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, after making adequate provisions in the Plan."

27. The Committee considered the request of the Ministry of Energy (Department of Petroleum), for dropping the assurance at their sitting held on 28 August, 1985.

28. Not being convinced with the reasons given by the Ministry for dropping the assurance, the Committee recommend that the assurance be implemented as early as possible and if need be, the Ministry may seek extension of time for this purpose.

(v)

29. On 7 May, 1984, Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria, M.P. addressed the following Unstarred Question (No. 10242) to the Minister of Rural Development:—

- “(a) the total number of women and children benefited under the Women and Children Development Programme in the rural areas in the country during the years 1982-83 and 1983-84;
- (b) the age group of women and children benefited under this programme;
- (c) the number of Scheduled Tribe Women and children among them; and
- (d) the total number of women and children in Madhya Pradesh benefited under this programme during the years 1982-83 and 1983-84 and the percentage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women and children, out of them, benefited by this programme?”

30. The Hindi version of the reply to parts (b) & (c) of the question original of which was also in Hindi was as follows:

“(ब) & (ग): आयुवार स्त्री तथा अनुसूचित जनजाति की महिलाओं की संख्या का स्त्री एकत्रित किया जा रहा है।”

31. The English version of the reply to parts (b) & (c) of the question was as follows:

“(b) & (c): The details of age-wise break up as well as the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Women benefited are not being collected.”

32. The discrepancy in the English and Hindi versions of the aforesaid reply is confined to the word ‘not’ used in English version and its not finding a place correspondingly in the Hindi version. The Hindi version of the reply, which is the authentic reply as the question was in Hindi, clearly indicated that the Minister gave an assurance that information sought in parts (b) & (c) of the question ‘is being collected’. Accordingly this was treated as an assurance. This assurance was required to be implemented within the normal prescribed period of three months of the reply i.e. by 7th August, 1964.

33. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism (Deptt. of Parliamentary Affairs), conveyed a request of the Ministry of Rural Development that the Committee on Government Assurances be requested to agree to drop the assurance on the plea:—

“that the Minister stated in parts (b) & (c) that details of age-wise break up as well as the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes women benefited are not being collected. Due to typographical mistake in Hindi version the word ‘not’ was omitted which changed the meaning of the sentence to the effect that the information is being collected”.

34. In reply to a query from the Committee as to whether the reply to the aforesaid question in Hindi version, if it was wrong, had been corrected as per procedure laid down in Direction 16A of the Directions by the Speaker, the Ministry of Rural Development intimated (Annexure-II) that the required correction had not been made. The Ministry reiterated that the mistake was merely typographical

35. The Committee considered the request of the Ministry of Rural Development for the dropping of the assurance at their sitting held on 28th August, 1985.

36. The Committee are surprised at the argument advanced by the Ministry of Rural Development in support of their request for the dropping of the assurance. The Committee are of the view that the original question being in Hindi, the Hindi version of the reply is considered as authentic. Further when in reply to a question the Minister concerned wants to say that the information required in the question is to be collected by the Government, the usual expression, whether in English or Hindi version, reads as, 'the information is being collected.' The Committee find it difficult to accept the reasoning of the Ministry that the word 'not' has been omitted in Hindi version of the reply through a typographical error as the reply with the addition of the word 'not' would appear to be unusual. In the circumstances, the Committee do not agree to the request of the Ministry of Rural Development for the dropping of the assurance and desire that it should be implemented without further loss of time. The Committee further urge that the Ministry should intimate them the steps taken so far to collect the requisite information and that the information thus collected towards the implementation of the assurance given in terms of Hindi version of the reply be laid on the Table of the House as the first instalment of implementation of the assurance.

III

POSITION OF PENDING ASSURANCES PERTAINING TO SEVENTH AND EIGHTH LOK SABHA

37. A statement showing the position of assurances pertaining to Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabha pending implementation by the Government as on 19 December, 1985 is given in the Appendices.

38. The Committee would like the Ministries/Departments concerned to make a critical analysis of these assurances so as to implement them without further loss of time.

B. K. GADHVI,

NEW DELHI;

Chairman,
Committee on Government Assurances.

January 28, 1986.

Magha 8, 1907 (Saka).

MINUTES
FIFTH SITTING

*Minutes of the Committee on Government Assurances (1985-86)
held on 28th August, 1985 in Committee Room No. 50, First
Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.*

The Committee met on Wednesday, 28th August, 1985 from 15.00 hours to 15.30 hours.

PRESENT

Shri B. K. Gadgvi—*Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri T. Bala Goud
3. Shri Jagannath Prasad
4. Shri Virdhi Chander Jain
5. Shri Channaiah Odeyar
6. Shri Keshorao Pardhi
7. Shri Ram Pujan Patel
8. Shri K. Pradhani
9. Shri Ram Bahadur Singh

SECRETARIAT

Shri C. K. Jain—*Chief Examiner of Questions*

Shri M. G. Agrawal—*Senior Examiner of Questions*

2. * * * *

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration Memoranda Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. Observations/Recommendations of the Committee on the said Memoranda were as under:—

Memorandum No. 11—Request from Government for dropping of an assurance given in reply to USQ. No. 1110 on 26-3-1985 regarding construction of 24-storeyed building in Calcutta for Postal Department.

4. The Committee took note of the following request of the Ministry of Communications received through the Ministry of

Parliamentary Affairs in a note dated 18 July, 1985 from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs:—

“The proposal regarding construction of a multi-storeyed building in Calcutta is still under consideration of this Department.

The reason for delay in arriving at a decision regarding this project is because the local residents of Calcutta have raised some objections against the demolition of some portion of old structure of Calcutta G.P.O. and requested for its preservation as an important historical building. Therefore, the project is now under reconsideration keeping in view the public opinion of civic groups of Calcutta. It may take a long time before any definite decision one way or other can be arrived at in this case.”

4.1 The Committee did not agree to the dropping of the assurance as the Government would have to take a decision on the proposal for the construction of a multi-storeyed building in Calcutta for the Department of Posts, after duly taking into account the objections raised by the local residents. The Committee felt that Government should expedite their decision and if necessary they might seek extension of time to implement the assurance.

Memorandum No. 12—Request from Government for dropping of an assurance given in reply to USQ No. 4027 on 23-4-1985 regarding increase in commission to LPG Distributors.

5. The Committee noted the request of the Ministry of Petroleum for the dropping of the assurance received through the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on the ground mentioned in the following note dated 2 July, 1985:—

“The Oil Cost Review Committee which was set up in order to review costs which form the basis of the current pricing arrangement for petroleum products, as also other related matters, and to make recommendation on the other specific terms has submitted its report to the Government. Presently, this Ministry is in the process of calling for the comments of the various Ministries/Departments connected with the subject matter in the report. After receipt of the comments etc. the proposal will be considered for submission to the Cabinet. Till such time as the report is considered by the Cabinet, the contents of the report will be treated as confidential.

From the above, it would be seen that this Department is already seized of the urgency of the finalisation of the report as early as possible, yet in view of the procedures involved it will take time and it will not be possible to fulfil the assurance within the stipulated period. Nothing definite can be said about the time it would take to finalise the report."

5.1 The Committee were of the view that the Minister of Energy in part (d) of his reply to question under reference was categorical that the report of the Oil Cost Review Committee would be available by the end of July, 1984. The Committee were also of the view that the said reply meant that the Report of the Committee would be available to the House by said date. From the aforesaid note of the Ministry also it appeared that Government themselves are keen to finalise their views on the Report and the action to be taken thereon as early as possible and the only difficulty being experienced by them is that they would not be able to fulfil the assurance within the prescribed period of three months. That being the position, the Committee felt that the Government should step up their efforts to finalise the Report and the action thereon at the earliest and they might make a request to the Committee for extension of the time which should be minimum to implement the assurance. Accordingly, the Committee decided not to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 13—Request from Government for dropping of an assurance given in reply to USQ No. 4599 on 26-4-1985 regarding taking over of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadravathi, Karnataka.

6. The Committee noted that the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Coal had requested through the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the dropping of the above assurance for the reasons set forth in a note dated 3 July, 1985 from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs relevant extracts therefrom are reproduced below:—

"The request made by the Government of Karnataka to the Government of India for take over of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL) needs detailed examination before Government of India decides about the take over or otherwise of VISL. It involved a policy decision to be taken by the Government of India which is likely to take quite a long time. It would be appreciated that whenever such important proposal is received, it has to be properly examined and decision taken in consultation with the

different Ministries concerned with the matter. Government, therefore, had to say that the matter is under consideration.

Further this Department is of the view that going by the wording of part (c) of the question the answer given is complete. This part of the question sought information as to whether there was any proposal for taking over of VISL by SAIL. It did not seek information as to the action taken on such a proposal. Giving of further information in addition to that already given would be outside the scope of part (c) of the question."

6.1 The Committee decided not to drop the assurance and observed that the Ministry should expedite to the implementation of the assurance by taking suitable steps in right earnest.

6.2 The Committee further observed that whether or not a particular reply of the Minister should constitute an assurance was a matter exclusively for the Committee to decide and the Ministry or the Department concerned is not competent to question the decision of the Committee. The Committee would like the Ministry to note this observation for future guidance.

Memorandum No. 14—Request from the Government for dropping of an assurance given in reply to Starred Question No. 739 on 7-5-1985 regarding setting up of Captive Power Plants for Petroleum Refineries.

7. The Committee considered the following request of the Ministry of Petroleum for the dropping of the aforesaid assurance received through a note dated 12 July, 1985 from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs:—

"The position with regard to setting up of captive power plant of 30 MW each with facilities for co-generation of steam at refineries of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. continues to be the same as intimated in reply to the Starred Question. Further, this Ministry is fully seized of the urgency in finalising the proposals for setting up captive power plant. No definite date can be indicated at this stage, as to when the projects would be finalised. The project is normally expected to mechanically complete within 30 months from the date of Government's approval. It would be relevant

to mention that while taking the decision in this regard the Ministry is required to consult other Departments apart from obtaining the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, after making adequate provisions in the Plan."

7.1 The Committee were not convinced with the reasons given by the Ministry of Petroleum for the dropping of the assurance. The Committee felt that the assurance should be implemented as early as possible and if need be the Ministry could seek extension of time for this purpose.

Memorandum No. 15—Request from the Government for deletion of an assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 10243 on 7-5-1985 regarding

- women and children development programme in rural areas.

8. The Committee then considered the request of the Ministry of Rural Development for the dropping of the said assurance. The request was conveyed through the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in their U.O. note No. P. XIV/RD(21)USQ, 10242-LS/84 dated 25 July, 1984 which stated *inter alia* "that the Minister stated in parts (b) and (c) that details of age-wise break up as well as the number of SC and ST women benefited are not being collected. Due to typographical mistake in Hindi version the word 'not' was omitted which changed the meaning of the sentence to the effect that the information is being collected."

8.1 In reply to a query from the Lok Sabha Secretariat as to whether the reply to the aforesaid question in Hindi version, if it was wrong, had been corrected as per procedure laid down in Direction 16(A) of the Directions by the Speaker, the Ministry of Rural Development *vide* their O.M. No. H-11016/3/84-IRD-IV dated 27 August, 1984 intimated that the required correction had not been made and the Ministry reiterated that the mistake was merely typographical.

9. The Committee were surprised over the argument advanced by the Ministry of Rural Development in support of their request for the dropping of the assurance. The Committee noted that the original question was in Hindi version and hence the Hindi version of the reply was taken as authentic. The Committee also noted that when in reply to a question the Minister concerned wanted to say that the information required in the question was to be collected by the Government, the usual expression, whether in English or Hindi

version, would read with such as, 'the information is being collected'. The Committee found it difficult to accept the reasoning of the Ministry that the word 'not' had been used in English version of the reply through a typographical error as the reply with the addition of the word 'not' would appear to be unusual. In the circumstances the Committee did not agree to the request of the Ministry of Rural Development for the dropping of the assurance and desired that it should be implemented without further loss of time. The Committee further observed that the Ministry should intimate to the Committee the steps taken so far to collect the requisite information and the information thus collected towards the implementation of the assurance given in terms of Hindi version of the reply.

10. The Committee decided to undertake an on-the-spot study tour of Madras, Madurai, Bangalore, Mysore and Bombay towards the end of September and beginning of October, 1965 for about ten days.

11. *The Committee then adjourned.*

MINUTES
TENTH SITTING

Minutes of the Tenth Sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances 1985-86 held on 28 January, 1986 in Room No. 53, First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

The Committee met on Tuesday, 28 January, 1986, from 10.00 hours to 10.30 hours.

PRESENT

Shri B. K. Gadhai—*Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri T. Bala Goud
3. Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo
4. Shri Jagannath Prasad
5. Shri Virdhi Chander Jain
6. Shri Channaiah Odeyar
7. Shri Keshorao Pardhi
8. Shri Ram Pujan Patel
9. Shri K. Pradhani
10. Shri Ram Bahadur Singh
11. Shri Jitendra Prasada

SECRETARIAT

Shri C. K. Jain—*Chief Examiner of Questions*

Shri D. M. Chanan—*Senior Examiner of Questions*

2. The Committee considered their draft Fourth Report and adopted the same with the following modifications:—

Page 8, para 22 *add* at the end, 'In this connection, the Committee draw the attention to their earlier recommendation contained in para 13 of their Second Report presented to Lok Sabha on 29 August, 1985.

3. The Committee authorised the Chairman to present the Report during the ensuing Session of Lok Sabha.

The Committee then adjourned.

ANNEXURE-I*(vide para 10 of the Report)***Demand for increase in commission paid to Distributors for
L.P.G. Cylinder****10389. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR:****Will the Minister of Energy be pleased to state:**

- (a) the commission being paid for L.P.G. Cylinder to distributors who run the distributorship of Indian Oil Corporation/Hindustan Petroleum/Indo-Burmah Petroleum/Bharat Petroleum, and when this commission to distributors was fixed;
- (b) whether the distributors have demanded more commission per L.P.G. Cylinder, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether Government are contemplating to increase the commission on L.P.G. Cylinders distributor to the consumers in view of the heavy investments and other infrastructures made by the distributors; and
- (d) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR):

(a) Rupees 3.62 per cylinder: This was fixed effective from 1-3-1981.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The demand is for a commission of Rs. 5.50 per cylinder. This is one of the items before the Cost Review Committee.

(d) The report of the Committee will be available by the end of July, 1984.

ANNEXURE-II*(vide para 34 of the Report)***No. H-11016/3/84-IRD-IV****GOVERNMENT OF INDIA****MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT****Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi****Dated the 27th August, 1984.**

SUBJECT:—Dropping of an assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 10242 dated 7-5-1984 regarding Women and Children Development Programme in Rural Areas.

The undersigned is directed to refer to Lok Sabha Secretariat (Question Branch) U.O. No. 10242/7-5-1984-Q (CGA) dated 8-8-1984

on the subject mentioned above and to say that no action was taken to correct the answer as per procedure laid down in Direction 16A of the Directions by the Speaker under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House as only the answer to part (b) of the Hindi version differed from the English version. The typographical error only changed the meaning of the sentence in the Hindi version, the request was accordingly made to the Department of Parliamentary Affairs to move the Committee on Government Assurances for deletion of assurance in question.

2. It is again requested that in view of the typographical error and both Hindi and English version of the answer form reply to a question, the assurance may be treated as dropped under intimation to the Ministry.

Sd/-

(VIBHA PURI)

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Lok Sabha Secretariat,

(Question Branch),

(Shri A. N. Bhatla, Chief Examiner of Questions),
Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

APPENDICES

(vide para No. 37 of the Report)

(i) Statement showing the position of the assurances of Seventh Lok Sabha pending implementation as on 19 December, 1985.

Session	No. of assurances culled out	No. of assurances implemented/ dropped	No. of assurances outstanding
First Session, 1980	26	26	..
Second Session, 1980	196	196	..
Third Session, 1980	548	547	1
Fourth Session, 1980	333	333	..
Fifth Session, 1981	793	793	..
Sixth Session, 1981	373	372	1
Seventh Session, 1981	418	418	..
Eighth Session, 1982	798	797	1
Ninth Session, 1982	429	427	2
Tenth Session, 1982	315	315	..
Eleventh Session, 1983	861	856	5
Twelfth Session, 1983	433	433	..
Thirteenth Session, 1983	424	424	2
Fourteenth Session, 1984	956	928	28
Fifteenth Session, 1984	328	312	16
Total Assurances outstanding			56

(ii) Statement showing the position of assurances of Eighth Lok Sabha pending implementation as on 19 December, 1985.

Session	No. of assurances culled out	No. of assurances implemented/ dropped	No. of assurances outstanding
First Session, 1985	19	13	6
Second Session, 1985	426	340	86
Third Session, 1985	331	185	146
Fourth Session, 1985	351	1	350
			<u>588</u>

(iii) Ministry-wise details of outstanding assurances of Seventh Lok Sabha

Ministry/Department	SESSION OF SEVENTH LOK SABHA															TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Agriculture								1			2
Atomic Energy		
Commerce		1	1
Communications	1		..	1
Defence				1	2				3
Electronics
Energy
Environment and Forests
External Affairs	3	2	5	..
Finance					1	..	1		1		..	3
Food and Civil Supplies
Health and Family Welfare		1	..	2		..	3
Home Affairs	3	1	4	
Human Resource Development			1	1
Industry	1	..	4		..	3
Information and Broadcasting	1	2	3	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Labour	1	1	2
Law and Justice	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	6	2	10
Ocean Development
Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism
Personnel and Trainings, Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Pension
Petroleum and Natural Gas	1	.	1
Planning	1	.	1
Prime Minister
Programme Implementation
Science and Technology
Space
Steel and Mines
Textiles	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	3
Transport	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	3
Urban Development	0	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	3	6
Water Resources Welfare	1	1	2
	.	.	1	.	—	1	—	1	2	.	5	.	2	28	16	56

(iv) Ministry-wise details of outstanding Assurances of Eighth Lok Sabha.

Ministry/Department	1st Session	2nd Session	3rd Session	4th Session	Total
Agriculture . . . . .	..	..	3	22	25
Atomic Energy		..	..	2	2
Commerce . . . . .	..	2	3	10	15
Communications . . . . .	..	2	2	17	21
Defence		1	2	6	9
Electronics . . . . .	..		1	2	3
Energy		7	9	24	40
Environment and Forests		3	4	12	19
External Affairs			1	3	4
Finance . . . . .	..	4	21	44	69
Food and Civil Supplies . . . . .	..	3	5	12	20
Health and Family Welfare . . . . .	..	6	3	3	12
Home Affairs . . . . .	..	3	11	17	31
Human Resource Development . . . . .	..	8	9	13	30
Industry	2	6	16	40	64
Information & Broadcasting . . . . .	..	5	4	10	19
Labour	1	4	11	10	26
Law and Justice	3	8	1	4	16
Ocean Development . . . . .		..	..	..	—
Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism . . . . .	..	1	1	3	5
Personnel and Training, Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Pension . . . . .	..	..	3		3
Petroleum and Natural Gas	..	3	3	6	12
Planning . . . . .	..	..	..	6	6
Prime Minister . . . . .	..	..	..		—
Programme Implementation . . . . .	..	..	..	..	—

Ministry/Department	1st Session	2nd Session	3rd Session	4th Session	Total
Science and Technology . . .	..	..	1	..	1
Space . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..
Steel and Mines . . . .	..	6	4	11	21
Textiles . . . . .	..	1	1	2	4
Transport . . . . .	..	6	9	51	66
Urban Development	5	11	14	30
Water Resources	1	2	3
Welfare	—	2	6	4	12
Total	6	86	146	350	588

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