

**COMMITTEE  
ON  
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES  
(2006-2007)**

**(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**SIXTEENTH REPORT**

**REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF ASSURANCES**

***Presented to Lok Sabha on***



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**March 2007/Phalguna 1928 (Saka)**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES\***  
**(2006-2007)**

**Shri Harin Pathak - CHAIRMAN**

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri Rashid J.M.Aaron
3. Shri Yogi Aditya Nath
4. Km. Mamata Banerjee
5. Shri Jigajinagi Ramesh Chandappa
6. Dr. K. Dhanaraju
7. Shri Biren Singh Engti
8. Shri Sunil Khan
9. Shri Vijoy Krishna
10. Shri Rasheed Masood
11. Shri A. Venkatesh Naik
12. Shri Nihal Chand
13. Smt. M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran
14. Shri Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh
15. Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                     |   |                  |
|----|---------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri S. Bal Shekar  | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. | Shri T.K. Mukherjee | - | Director         |
| 3. | Shri B.S. Dahiya    | - | Deputy Secretary |

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**\* The Committee was constituted on 07 August 2006 vide Para No.2829 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 28 August 2006.**

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2006-2007) was constituted on 7 August 2006.
3. The Committee at their sitting held on 30 October 2006 considered Memoranda Nos. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 containing requests received from the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India for dropping of pending assurances.
4. At their sitting held on 15 March 2007, the Committee considered and adopted their Sixteenth Report which had been drafted on the basis of the decisions taken by the Committee on the Memoranda cited in the previous para.
5. The Minutes of the aforesaid sittings of the Committee form part of this report. (Appendices).
6. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

NEW DELHI;

March 2007

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Phalguna 1928 (Saka)

**HARIN PATHAK**

CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

## **REPORT**

### **CHAPTER-I**

#### **REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF ASSURANCES (NOT ACCEPTED)**

##### **(I) CONSTRUCTION OF FOOT OVER BRIDGES IN KARNATAKA**

1.1 On 25 August 2005, Shri G.M. Siddeswara, M.P., addressed the following

Unstarred Question No.4523 to the Minister of Railways:-

- “(a) the present situation of foot over-bridges near the railway gates in Davangere Cotton Mills and at Harihar in Karnataka;**
- (b) the funds allocated/ released for this project during 2004-05 and 2005-06; and**
- (c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed ?”**

1.2 In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Shri R. Velu)

stated as follows:-

**“(a) & (b): There are two works of Road overbridges (ROB) (not Foot Over Bridges) sanctioned on cost sharing basis at Devangere- Harihar Road. These two works are:**

**i) ROB in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) No. 197 - General Arrangement Drawing has been approved. The finalization of agency for Railway portion is under process. Funds to the tune of Rs. 1 crore and Rs. 2 crore have been allotted in 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.**

**ii) ROB in lieu of LC No. 208 - General Arrangement Drawing has been revised by State Government in view of Local representation. The work shall be taken up after preparation of General Arrangement Drawing and Estimate. Funds to the tune of Rs. 1 crore per year in 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.**

**(c): Railway construct the bridge proper i.e. bridge across the track and approach work by State Government. All out efforts shall be made by Railway to complete their portion of work alongwith approaches done by State Government."**

1.3 The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Railways within three months of the date of reply i.e. by 24 November 2005. However, the assurance is yet to be fulfilled.

1.4 The Ministry of Railways vide O.M.No.2000/CE.I/PQR/2 dated 17 January 2006 with the approval of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways requested for dropping the assurance on the grounds that prima-facie the vocabulary used in reply does not constitute an assurance as the construction of Road over/under bridges passes through many phases viz. approval of General Arrangement Drawing, finalization of design & drawing, receipt of estimated cost of approaches from State Government concerned, approval of combined estimate by both Railways and State Government ascertaining longitudinal & latitudinal sections, soil investigation etc. All these activities have to be undertaken prior to physical execution of work and for these phases Agencies have also to be fixed. It is a long process. Secondly, the funds have to be provided in proportionate to the work to be carried out during the year, hence the phrase 'under process' is generally used in reply to such Question, which should not be taken as an assurance.

**1.5 The Committee note that a question was asked on 25 August 2005 regarding construction of Foot Over Bridges in Karnataka. The question sought information regarding the present situation of foot over-bridges near Devangere Cotton Mills and Harihar in Karnataka, funds allocated/ released for the said project during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 and the time by which the project would be completed. In reply it was inter-alia stated that all out efforts would be made by Railways to complete their portion of work alongwith the work of the State Government. This reply was treated as an assurance. The assurance remained unimplemented, however, the Ministry of Railways requested for deletion of the same on the ground that construction of ROB's etc. passes through many phases and all such activities are undertaken prior to physical execution of work and is a long process. Moreover, the funds are provided proportionate to the work to be carried out during the year. According to them the phrase "under process" is generally used in reply to such question which should not be taken as an assurance. This request was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 30 October 2006 and the Committee decided not to drop the assurance.**

**1.6 The Committee note that in reply to the question it was specifically mentioned that in respect of Road Over Bridges (ROB) in lieu of level crossing (LC) No. 197 drawings have been approved,**



**finalisation of agency for Railway portion was under process and funds to the tune of Rs 1 crore and Rs 2 crore have been allotted in 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. Similarly for ROB in lieu of LC No. 208 general arrangement drawings were revised and funds to the tune of Rs. 1 Crore per year in 2004-05 and 2005-06 were allotted. The Committee, do not agree with the contention of the Ministry that the expression used in reply does not constitute an assurance and therefore, desire that a status report of the two projects be furnished for their consideration at the earliest.**

## **(II) EXPANSION PLAN FOR MUMBAI SUBURBAN RAILWAYS**

1.7 On 24 November 2005 Shrimati Nivedita Mane and Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad, M.Ps., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.426 to the Minister of Railways:-

- “(a) whether the Mumbai Suburban Railways are planning of its second phase of expansion;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the areas to be covered under the second phase; and**
- (c) the estimated amount required for the purpose and the sources from which it will be met?”**

1.8 In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Shri R. Vellu) stated as follows:-

- “(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Mumbai Urban Transport Projects, Phase-II is under scrutinisation of this Ministry.”**

1.9 The above reply of the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Railways within three months of the date of reply *i.e.* by 23 February 2006. However, the assurance is yet to be fulfilled.

1.10 The Ministry of Railways vide O.M.No.2005/Proj./BB/20/20 dated 04 May 2006 requested for dropping the assurance on the grounds that the phrase “under scrutinisation of this Ministry” meant examination of the proposal by various Directorates of the Railway Board, obtaining approval of Planning Commission and also of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and this will

require tying up of funding such as from World Bank etc. Since the above mentioned issues still remained unresolved between the Ministry of Railways and the Government of Maharashtra and therefore, proposal of MUTP Phase-II has not reached to such a stage where it can said to be under consideration of this Ministry. The Ministry further stated that it cannot categorically be ensured that MUTP Phase II will definitely come through for implementation. It has also not been decided whether Ministry of Railways will like to enter into MUTP Phase II or not and the whole process is very lengthy and may take a long time.

**1.11 The Committee note that a question regarding 'Expansion Plan for Mumbai Suburban Railways' was asked on 24 November 2005. The question sought information regarding expansion plan of second phase of the Mumbai Suburban Railways and its details. In reply it was stated that Mumbai Urban Transport Projects (MUTP), Phase –II was under scrutiny of the Ministry. This reply was treated as an assurance. The assurance remained unimplemented. However, the Ministry of Railways requested for dropping the same *inter-alia* on the ground that the Phrase " under scrutinisation of the Ministry", meant examination of the proposal by various Directorates of the Railway Board, obtaining approval of Planning Commission and Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs besides funding from World Bank etc. and since the issues involved in the assurance have remained unresolved between the Ministry of Railways and the Government of Maharashtra as such the said proposal had not reached to such a stage where it can said to be under consideration of the Ministry. The Committee considered this request at their sitting held on 30 October 2006 and decided not to drop the assurance.**

**1.12 The Committee observe that in the reply it was specifically mentioned by the Ministry that the MUTP Phase-II were under its scrutiny. The Committee are not in agreement with the plea of the Ministry that the proposal has not reached to such a stage where it can**

**said to be under consideration of the Ministry and do not consider the grounds that the whole process is very lengthy and may take a long time as a valid reason for dropping the assurance. The Committee, therefore, desire that a status report regarding the MUTP Phase-II be furnished for their consideration at the earliest.**

### **(III) COMPUTERISATION OF POST OFFICES**

1.13 On 30 November 2005, Shri Ravi Prakash Verma, Dr. M. Jagannath, Shri Anirudh Prasad alias Sadhu Yadav and Kunwar Manvendra Singh, M.Ps., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.1236 to the Minister of Communications and Information Technology:-

- “(a) whether the Government plans to computerize all departmental post offices in the country;**
- (b) if so, the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;**
- (c) whether the required fund has been released for the purpose;**
- (d) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and**
- (e) the time by which the computerization is likely to be completed?”**

1.14 In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Dr. Shakeel Ahmad) stated as follows:-

- “(a) There are 26,165 Departmental Post Offices in the country. Currently, the Department is implementing a Plan Scheme to computerize 7700 large Departmental Post Offices in the Tenth Plan with an approved outlay of Rs. 836 crore. The Department has submitted a proposal to Planning Commission to computerize remaining 18,465 Departmental Post Offices.**
- (b) The Department has projected an estimated additional expenditure of Rs. 625 crore to computerize the remaining 18,465 Departmental Post Offices.**

- (c) Funds are released regularly through Annual Plan allocation to the Department for computerizing 7700 large Departmental Post Offices as approved for the Tenth Plan. Approval for computerizing the remaining 18,465 Departmental Post Offices is awaited and hence no fund has been released for the purpose.**
- (d) A project report on computerization of the remaining 18,465 Departmental Post Offices has been submitted to Planning Commission, which is under examination.**
- (e) Computerization of 7700 large Departmental Post Offices will be completed by March, 2007. Remaining 18,465 Departmental Post Offices can be taken up for computerization only after receipt of the approval of the proposal by the competent authority."**

1.15 The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology within three months of the date of the reply i.e. by 28 February 2006. However the assurance is yet to be fulfilled.

1.16 The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology vide O.M.No.45-51/2005-Tech dated 18 April 2006, with the approval of the Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, requested for dropping of the assurance on the grounds that for the Xth Plan, they have an approval for computerizing 7700 large Sub Post Offices. The Department had taken up a proposal with the Planning Commission for computerization of remaining 18465 Departmental Post Offices so as to cover computerization of all 26165 Departmental Post Offices. In response to their request, Planning Commission intimated that it would not be appropriate to take up the Second

Phase of computerization of remaining post offices before completing the initial phase (i.e. computerization of 7700 Post Offices) and properly evaluating the programme. The Ministry also stated that currently they were implementing the programme for computerization of 7700 post offices and an evaluation of this programme had been planned during the current year. The proposal for computerization of remaining post offices is at a very preliminary stage and has not yet been approved. It cannot be stated at this stage by when and in what form the proposal for computerization of remaining post offices will be approved. As per current instructions, after getting approval of the Planning Commission for taking up of the second phase, the Department will have to prepare an Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) proposal and after completion of several required formalities the proposal would finally need the approval of the Cabinet.

1.17 The Ministry further stated that since the proposal was not yet approved it would not be possible to fulfill any assurance regarding computerization of remaining 18,465 Departmental Post Offices.



**1.18 The Committee note that a question was asked on 30 November 2005 regarding 'Computerisation of Post Offices'. The question sought information regarding plan of the Government to computerise all departmental post offices in the country, estimated expenditure likely to be incurred, funds released, steps taken by the Government and the time by which the computerization would be completed. In reply, it was inter-alia stated that out of 26,165 Departmental Post Offices in the country, the Department was implementing a plan scheme to computerize 7700 large Departmental Post offices in the Tenth Plan with an approval of Rs. 836 crore and to computerize the remaining Post Offices a project report was submitted to Planning Commission, which was under examination. This reply was treated as an assurance and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (department of Posts) requested to drop the same on the ground that they had the approval for 7700 large Sub Post Offices, however for the computerization of the remaining 18465 post offices, the Planning Commission intimated that it would not be appropriate to take up the second phase of computerization of remaining Post Offices before the computerization of 7700 Post Offices and properly evaluating the programme. The Ministry further stated that proposal for computerisation of remaining Post Office was at a very preliminary stage and was yet to be approved. Moreover, even after approval of**

**the Planning Commission the Department will have to prepare an Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) proposal, completion of necessary formalities besides approval of the Cabinet. This request was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 30 October 2006 and decided not to drop the assurance.**

**1.19 The Committee note that the Department of Posts were implementing a plan scheme to computerise 7700 large departmental post offices in the tenth plan with an approved outlay of Rs. 836 crore and they also submitted a proposal to Planning Commission to computerise the remaining 18,465 departmental post offices. Considering the importance of computerization in the growth of communications in the country, particularly in rural areas, the Committee desire that the necessary formalities involved in the whole process be completed expeditiously and the fulfillment of the assurance be expedited. The Committee also desire that a status report regarding the present position of the computerisation of the Post Offices be furnished for their consideration.**

## CHAPTER-II

### **REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF ASSURANCES (ACCEPTED)**

#### **(I) INCHAMPALLI IRRIGATION PROJECT**

2.1 On 14 March 2005, Shri Hansraj G. Ahir, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.1565 to the Minister of Water Resources:-

- “(a) whether the Government has accorded approval to Inter- State Inchampalli Irrigation Project;**
- (b) if so, the details of expenditure distributed amongst the States;**
- (c) whether the project is being opposed by the local people of Maharashtra;**
- (d) if so, whether there is dispute amongst the States regarding the height of project;**
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (f) the details regarding the percentage of share of water and power fixed for participating States?”**

2.2 In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Water Resources (Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav) stated as follows:-

- “(a) No, Sir.**
- (b) Does not arise.**
- (c) The State Government of Maharashtra has reported that the project is being opposed by the local people.**

**(d) to (f) As per the inter-State agreement between Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh signed on 7.8.1978, Inchampalli project is to be taken up as a joint venture of the three States with full reservoir level (FRL) and maximum water level (MWL) as may be agreed by the three States. As no agreement on FRL and MWL has so far been reached, the percentage share of water power for the participating States has not been finalized. ”**

2.3 The reply to the above question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Water Resources within three months of the date of the reply *i.e.* 13 June 2005. However the assurance has not been fulfilled so far.

2.4 The Ministry of Water Resources vide D.O.No.24/19/2005-P.I dated 8 July 2005 have requested for dropping of the assurance on the grounds that the fulfillment of the assurance will depend upon the concurrence to be arrived by the 3 participating States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. In view of the intricacies involved in the issues to be settled among the States, it may not be possible to indicate a time frame for resolution of the issues. The reply provided to the Unstarred Question contained only factual information. A detailed note on this is enclosed (annexure 'A').

2.5 In view of the above, the Ministry have requested that the reply should not be treated as an assurance and may kindly be deleted from the list of assurances.

**Note on Inchampalli Project for not treating the reply as assurance to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1565 answered on 14.3.2005 regarding Inchampalli Irrigation Project**

**Inchampalli Project**

The project envisages construction of a dam on the Godavari river at Inchampalli about 13 kilometre downstream of the confluence of the Indravati river with the Godavari river. The water stored in the reservoir will be utilized for hydro power generation at dam site and for irrigation under the canals of both the banks. The water spread area of the reservoir is likely to submerge large areas in the States of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh (earlier Madhya Pradesh) depending upon the Full Reservoir Level.

**Inter-State agreement**

As per the Inter-State agreement of 7 August, 1978 incorporated in the decision of the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal, the 3 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh (now Chhattisgarh) were supposed to form a Joint Control Board for investigation, planning, implementation and operation of this project. As per this agreement, Andhra Pradesh can utilize 85 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of water directly from this project. Also, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are free to lift 3 TMC, 4 TMC and 5 TMC of water respectively from the reservoir for use in their own territory without bearing any cost of storage. The 5 TMC water for Andhra Pradesh is included in its total utilization of 85 TMC.

**Project proposal**

The Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted in October, 1988 a Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the proposed project with Full Reservoir Level(FRL) at

112.77 metre for techno-economic appraisal of the Central Water Commission (CWC). But, no action was taken by CWC on this DPR as it was not prepared jointly by the 3 States as envisaged in the inter-state agreement. The Government of Maharashtra had reservation on formation of the Joint Control Board to work out the project details and opined that in view of the likely submergence by the project, it would not be acceptable to the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

### **High Level Committee**

On the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to resolve the inter-state issues involved, a high level Committee was constituted in July, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Member (WP&P), CWC with members from the participating States. The committee submitted its report in June, 2001 and recommended that

- (i) Inchampalli site is the most suitable one for the project location
- (ii) The State Governments may be requested to communicate their decision on FRL +95 m
- (iii) The Ministry of Water Resources may consider for constitution of Joint Control Board for Inchampalli project.

However, the Government of Chhattisgarh was not favouring the project in view of the large submergence. Hence, it was suggested in the report that there is a need to pursue the matter at appropriate high level by convening an inter-state meeting at the level of Chief Ministers with a view to arrive at a consensus/agreement among the States.

## **Status of the project**

Irrigation being a State subject, the irrigation projects are investigated, planned, formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. In the case of inter-State projects, it is necessary that a consensus among the party States is required with reference to the project details in particular on the FRL and Maximum Water Level (MWL). The submergence caused by the reservoir in the respective States depends on the FRL and MWL of the project. In the case of Inchampalli project, there is no agreement among the States, so far, on fixing the FRL and MWL. Unless an agreement is reached on fixing the FRL and MWL, the likely benefits for irrigation and hydro-power generation for the participating States cannot be decided. In view of the intricacies involved in finalization of these parameters, it is difficult to indicate a time frame for resolution of the issues.

**2.6 The Committee note that a question was asked on 14 March 2005 regarding 'Inchampalli Irrigation Project'. The question inter-alia sought information regarding approval of the Government to Inter-State Inchampalli Irrigation Project, distribution of expenditure amongst the States, its opposition by the people, dispute as well as the share of water and power amongst the States. In reply it was inter-alia stated that the Government had not accorded its approval to the said project and the project is to be taken up as a joint venture of the three States and their share of water and power was yet to be finalised. This reply was treated as an assurance. The assurance remained unimplemented, a request was made by the Ministry of Water Resources to drop the same on the ground that the fulfillment of assurance depends upon the concurrence to be arrived by the three States namely Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhatisgarh and irrigation being a State subject, the irrigation projects are investigated, planned, formulated, executed and funded by the State Government themselves. This request was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 30 October 2006 and having been satisfied by the reasons furnished by the Ministry, decided to drop the assurance.**



## **(II) DEMONSTRATION OF SAGAR NIDHI**

2.7 On 05 August 2005, S/Shri Sugrib Singh, Kishanbhai V. Patil, M.Ps., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.2072 to the Minister of Ocean Development:-

- “(a) Whether the Government proposes to construct a new multi-purpose technology demonstration vessel `Sagar Nidhi`;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the salient features of the Sagar Nidhi including the cost of the project; and**
- (d) the time by which the construction of vessel is likely to be completed?”**

2.8 In reply, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Department of Ocean Development (Shri Kapil Sibal) stated as follows:-

- “(a) Yes, Sir.**
- (b) Government proposes to acquire a multipurpose vessel `Sagar Nidhi` for technology services and demonstration. The vessel would be useful for the programmes pertaining to ocean science and technology such as deep seabed mining, ocean energy, gas hydrates, and submersibles.**
- (c)&(d) The vessel is expected to have facilities for deep seabed coring, systems for launching Autonomous Underwater Vehicle(AUV)/Remotely Operated Vehicles(ROV), and submersibles, dynamic**

**positioning system, low free board and low windage area, salvage and tow capability to assist in emergency situations, large deck space, containerized equipment handling for the science programmes, modular labs for science vans and containers. The present estimated cost of the new vessel is Rs. 231 crores. The vessel is likely to be delivered in June 2007."**

2.9 The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Ocean Development within three months of the date of the reply *i.e.* by 04 November 2005. However, the assurance is yet to be fulfilled.

2.10 The Department of Ocean Development vide O.M.No.DOD/43-Parl/94/2005 dated 19 January 2006, with the approval of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Ocean Development, have requested for dropping of the assurance on the grounds that in reply to part (d) of USQ No.2072 regarding "Demonstration of Sagar Nidhi", it was clearly mentioned that the vessel is likely to be delivered in June, 2007.

**2.11 The Committee note that a question was asked on 05 August 2005 regarding 'Demonstration of Sagar Nidhi. The question sought information regarding proposal of the Government to construct a new multi-purpose technology demonstration vessel 'Sagar Nidhi', its salient features and the time by which the construction of vessel would be completed. In reply, it was inter-alia stated that the Government proposed to acquire the said vessel for technology services and demonstration and the vessel is likely to delivered in June 2007. This reply was treated as an assurance and the Ministry of Ocean Development requested the Committee to drop the same on the ground that it was clearly mentioned in the reply that the vessel in likely to be delivered in June 2007. The Committee considered this request at their sitting held on 30 October 2006 and having been convinced with the reasons addressed by the Ministry decided to drop the assurance.**

### **(III) HYDRO POWER PROJECTS**

2.12 On 02 December 2005, Shri Jual Oram, MP addressed the following USQ No. 1575 to the Minister of Power:-

- “(a) whether National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC) has prepared its investment plan till 2012;**
- (b) if so, the target set for Hydro power generation at the end of 2012;**
- (c) the details of Hydro power projects proposed to be started and the existing projects proposed to be expanded till the end of that year; and**
- (d) the total amount of investment envisaged in those projects?”**

2.13 In reply, the then Minister of Power (Shri P.M. Sayeed) stated as follows:-

- “(a) Yes, Sir.**
- (b): As per the capacity addition programme of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC), a capacity of 2480 MW is proposed to be added during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan (2002-07) and a capacity of 7707 MW is proposed to be added during 11<sup>th</sup> Plan (2007-2012).**
- (c) & (d): Details of the power projects commissioned/taken up/proposed to be taken up by NHPC during the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Plans are given in the Annexure. An investment of about Rs.60,000 crores is envisaged for these projects.”**

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## ANNEXURE

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) & (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1575 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 02.12.2005.**

### **X Plan Projects (2002-2007)**

| Sl. No.                | Name of the Project                            | Installed capacity (MW) | State            | Date of Govt. Sanction | Anticipated date of Commissioning         | Status             |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1.                     | Chamera-II                                     | 300                     | Himachal Pradesh | 1.6.99                 | Commissioned in 2004                      |                    |
| 2.                     | Dhauliganga-I                                  | 280                     | Uttaranchal      | 8.4.91                 | Commissioned in 2005                      |                    |
| 3.                     | Dulhasti                                       | 390                     | Jammu & Kashmir  | 12.7.89                | Expected to be commissioned by mid 2006   | Under construction |
| 4.                     | Teesta-V                                       | 510                     | Sikkim           | 11.2.00                | Expected to be commissioned by March 2007 | Under construction |
| 5.                     | Indira Sagar (Joint Venture with Govt. of M.P) | 1000                    | Madhya Pradesh   | 28.3.02                | Commissioned in 2004-05                   |                    |
| <b>Total of X Plan</b> |  | <b>2480</b>             |                  |                        |   |                    |

### **XI Plan Capacity Addition**

| Sl. No.                 | Name of the Project | Installed capacity (MW) | State             | Date of Govt. Sanction | Anticipated/scheduled date of Commissioning | Status |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---|--------|
| <b>ONGOING PROJECTS</b> |                     |                         |                   |                        |   |        |
| 1.                      | Parbati-II          | 800                     | Himachal Pradesh  | 11.9.02                | Sept.09                                     | Under  |
| 2.                      | Sewa-II             | 120                     | Jammu & Kashmir   | 9.9.03                 | Sept.07                                     |        |
| 3.                      | Teesta Low Dam-III  | 132                     | West Bengal       | 30.10.03               | March 08                                    |        |
| 4.                      | Subansiri Lower     | 2000                    | Arunachal Pradesh | 9.9.03                 | Sept.10                                     |        |
| 5.                      | Uri-II              | 240                     | Jammu & Kashmir   | 1.9.05                 | Nov.09                                      |        |

|                                |   |      |                   |                  |         |  |
|--------------------------------|---|------|-------------------|------------------|---------|--|
| 6.                             | Chamera-III   | 231  | Himachal Pradesh  | 1.9.05           | Aug.10  | Construction   |
| 7.                             | Teesta Low Dam-IV                                     | 160  | West Bengal       | 30.9.05          | Sept.09 |  |
| 8                              | Parbati-III   | 520  | Himachal Pradesh  | 9.11.05          | Nov.10  |  |
| 9                              | Omkareshwar (Joint Venture project with Govt. of M.P) | 520  | Madhya Pradesh    | Ongoing project. | Feb.08  |  |
| OTHER PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE |   |      |                   |                  |         |  |
| 1                              | Nimoo Bazgo   | 45   | Jammu & Kashmir   | 2005-06          | 2009-10 | Awaiting investment approval   |
| 2.                             | Chutak  | 44   | Jammu & Kashmir   | 2005-06          | 2010-11 |  |
| 3.                             | Siyom*  | 1000 | Arunachal Pradesh | 2006-07          | 2011-12 | Detailed Project Report (DPR) under examination in Central Electricity Authority |
| 4.                             | Lakhwar Vyasi*  | 420  | Uttaranchal       | 2006-07          | 2010-11 | DPR under preparation.   |
| 5.                             | Teesta-IV   | 495  | Sikkim            | 2007-08          | 2011-12 |  |
| 6.                             | Kotli Bhel-IA   | 240  | Uttaranchal       | 2007-08          |         |  |
| 7.                             | Kotli BhelIB  | 280  | Uttaranchal       |                  |         |  |
| 8.                             | Kotli Bhel-II   | 440  | Uttaranchal       |                  |         |  |
| 9.                             | Bav-II  | 20   | Maharashtra       | 2006-07          | 2010-11 |  |
| Total of XI Plan               |   | 7707 |                   |                  |         |  |

*\*Siyom HEP (1000 MW) and Lakhwar Vyasi HEP (420 MW) are likely to slip from 11<sup>th</sup> Plan due to problems in clearances.*

In addition to the above, the following projects of NHPC are expected to receive investment approval of the Government of India with likely commissioning in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan.

- (i) Pakal Dul (1000 MW), Jammu & Kashmir
- (ii) Bursar (1020 MW), Jammu & Kashmir
- (iii) Kishanganga (330 MW), Jammu & Kashmir
- (iv) Dibang (3000 MW), Arunachal Pradesh

(v) Siang lower (1600 MW), Arunachal Pradesh

2.14 The above reply of the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Power within three months of the date of reply i.e. by 01 March 2006 but the Ministry could not fulfil the assurance.

2.15 The Ministry of Power vide their O.M. No. 4/24/2005-DO (NHPC) dated 16 March 2006 have requested for dropping the assurance on the grounds that the present Assurance can only be fulfilled once 10<sup>th</sup> Plan is over in March, 2007 and after the targets for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan (2007-2012) are finalized. It will take considerable time in finalization of capacity addition targets for 11<sup>th</sup> Plan which are to be finalized in consultation with Planning Commission.

2.16 The Ministry of Power have also stated that a similar Question was replied in Rajya Sabha on 17.8.2005 which was treated as an Assurance. However, Rajya Sabha Secretariat had decided not to treat the replies to the Question as Assurance.

2.17 The Ministry of Power have not requested for extension of time to fulfil the assurance beyond 01 March 2006.

2.18 Accordingly, The Ministry of Power, with the approval of Minister of Power, have requested that the assurance may kindly be dropped as it is similar to the assurance that has been dropped by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

**2.19 The Committee note that a question was asked on 02 December 2005 regarding Hydro Power Projects. The question inter-alia sought information regarding investment plan of Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC) till 2012, the target set for hydro power generation at the end of 2012 etc. In reply it was inter-alia stated that the NHPC has prepared its investment plan till 2012 and it is proposed to add a capacity of 2480 MW during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan (2002-07) and a capacity of 7707 MW during 11<sup>th</sup> Plan (2007-2012). This reply was treated as an assurance. The assurance remained unimplemented. However, the Ministry of Power requested to drop the same on the ground that the assurance can only be fulfilled once the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan is over in March 2007 and after the targets for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan are finalized. The Committee considered this request at their sitting held on 30 October 2006 and having been convinced by the reasons advanced by the Ministry acceded to the request of the Ministry to drop the assurance.**



#### **(IV) RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT**

2.20 On 23 November 2005 S/Shri C.K. Chandrappan and Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, M.Ps., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.89 to the Prime Minister:-

- “(a) whether the Government is aware of the difficulties being faced by the people seeking information under Right to Information Act;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and**
- (c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make the process hassle free?”**

2.21 In reply, the Minister of state in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Suresh Pachouri) stated as follows:-

- “(a) to (c): The Right to Information Act, 2005 has become fully operational from 12th October, 2005. Government has taken a number of steps to ensure its smooth implementation. These include creating general public awareness about the Act, sensitization of government officials, establishing a reasonable infrastructure for operationalization of the Act, designating Public Information Officers, Assistant Public Information Officers and conducting training programmes for officials and other stake holders. The Central Information Commission has been constituted to receive and inquire into complaints and to hear appeals in respect of any matter relating to citizens’ right to access information under the Act. The Commission shall also monitor and**

**prepare an annual report for the Central Government on the implementation of the provisions of the Act which shall be laid before each House of Parliament.”**

2.22 The above reply was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions within three months of the date of the reply *i.e.* by 22 February 2006. However the assurance is yet to be fulfilled.

2.23 The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions vide O.M.No.2/1/2005-IR dated 25 April 2006, with the approval of the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, have requested for dropping of the assurance on the grounds that the Section 25(1) of the RTI Act stipulates that the Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be, shall, as soon as practicable after the end of each year, prepare a report on the implementation of the provisions of this Act during that year and forward a copy thereof to the appropriate Government. Further Section 25(4) states that the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, as soon as practicable after the end of each year, cause a copy of the report of the Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission, as the case may be, referred to in sub-section (1) to be laid before each House of Parliament or, as the case may be, before each House of the State Legislature, where there are two Houses, and where there is one House of the State Legislature before that House. So far, no report has

been prepared by the Central Information Commission as it was constituted only recently. The Commission would be required to prepare the Report after the end of each year. Therefore, on receipt of the report each year, Government would lay it and action would be continued year after year.

2.24 In view of the above, the Ministry have requested that the reply should not be treated as an assurance and should be deleted from the list of assurances as no action is pending with Government at present.

**2.25 A question was asked on 23 November 2005 regarding Right to Information Act (RTI). The question sought information regarding the difficulties being faced by the people seeking information under RTI Act and the steps taken by the Government in this regard. In reply it was inter-alia stated that the RTI Act became fully operational from 12 October 2005 and the Government took several steps to ensure the smooth implementation of the Act besides constitution of Central Information Commission, which will monitor and prepare an annual report on the implementation of the Act and lay the same before each House of Parliament. This reply was construed as an assurance and the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions requested for the deletion of the same inter-alia on the ground that so far no report has been prepared by the Central Information Commission as it was constituted only recently and the Commission would be required to prepare the Report after the end of each year. The Committee considered this request at their sitting held on 30 October 2006 and after taking note of the submissions made by the Ministry decided to drop the assurance.**

## **(V) SETTING UP OF AERO SPACE COMMAND**

2.26 On 08 December 2005 S/Shri Brajesh Pathak and Rasheed Masood, M.Ps., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.2461 to the Minister of Defence:-

- “(a) Whether the Government has taken any decision regarding setting up of Aero Space Command;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?”**

2.27 In reply, the Minister of Defence (Shri Pranab Mukherjee) stated as follows:-

- “(a) to (c): There is no decision of the Government to set up Aerospace Command, as yet.”**

2.28 The above reply of the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Defence within three months of the date of the reply by i.e. 07 March 2006. The assurance is yet to be implemented.

2.29 The Ministry of Defence vide O.M.No.13(2)/2006(US(L)/D(Air.III) dated 13 March 2006 requested for dropping the assurance on the grounds that the issue relating to setting up of Aerospace Command is a very sensitive matter, involving national security and international repercussions. The Ministry has further stated that they had requested both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats to kindly disallow the question vide O.M. No.111/PQ/US(L)/D(Air.III) dated 28 February 2005 and No.18/PQ/US(L)/D(Air.III) dated 11 August 2005

respectively. The Ministry has also stated that the widespread reactions to the recently concluded Civil Nuclear Agreement with the United States of America have substantiated the sensitiveness of the case and the necessity to handle all the issues involved with utmost care so that the on-going negotiations go on smoothly.

2.30 In view of the above, the Ministry requested with the approval of the Raksha Mantri that the reply may not be treated as a Parliamentary Assurance and may kindly be deleted from the list of Parliament Assurances.

2.31 The Ministry of Defence have not requested for any extension of time to fulfill the assurance beyond 07 March 2006.

**2.32 A question was asked on 08 December 2005 regarding setting up of Aero Space Command. The question sought information regarding decision of the Government on setting up of Aero Space Command, details, reasons for delay; and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken on the matter. In reply it was stated that there was no decision of the Government to set up Aerospace Command, as yet. This reply was treated as an assurance and the Ministry of Defence requested for deletion of the same inter-alia on the ground that setting up of Aerospace Command is a very sensitive matter. The Committee considered this request of the Committee at their sitting held on 30 October 2006 and having been satisfied with the reasons forwarded by the Ministry decided to drop the assurance.**

## **(VI) OUTSOURCING VISA APPLICATIONS**

2.33 On 22 February 2006, S/Shri Pankaj Chowdhary and Kailash Meghwal, M.Ps., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.454 to the Minister of External Affairs:-

- “(a) Whether the Government proposes to assign the work pertaining to visa applications to private companies;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and**
- (c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?”**

2.34 In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri E. Ahamed) stated as follows:-

- “(a), (b) & (c) The Government is considering a proposal to have a pilot outsourcing project for visa applications in London and it will be replicated elsewhere only subject to success of this proposal in London. A final decision will be taken after weighing all the pros and cons of the proposal.”**

2.35 The above reply of the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of External Affairs within three months of the date of the reply i.e. by 21 May 2006. However, the assurance is yet to be implemented.

2.36 The Ministry of External Affairs vide their D.O. letter No.VIII/125/2/06 dated 19 May 2006 have requested for dropping the assurance on the grounds



that the process for pilot outsourcing project for visa services in London has already been set in motion and the implementation of the project is currently at an advanced stage.

2.37 In view of the above, the Ministry have requested that the assurance may please be treated as fulfilled.

**2.38 A question regarding Outsourcing Visa Applications was asked on 22 February 2006 and sought information regarding proposal of the Government to assign the work pertaining to visa application to private companies, details, reasons; and the time by which a final decision would be taken. In reply it was inter-alia stated that the Government are considering a proposal to have a pilot outsourcing project for visa applications in London, it will be replicated elsewhere subject to success of it and a final decision would be taken after weighing all the pros and cons of the proposal. This reply was treated as an assurance, however the Ministry of External Affairs requested to drop it on the ground that the process for pilot outsourcing project for visa services in London has already been set in motion and the implementation of the project was at an advanced stage. The Committee considered this request at their sitting held on 30 October 2006 and having been satisfied with the reasons furnished by the Ministry, decided to drop the assurance.**

NEW DELHI;

March 2007

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Phalguna 1928(Saka)

**HARIN PATHAK**  
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

# **MINUTES**

## **THIRD SITTING**

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2006-2007) held on 30 October 2006 in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1100 hours to 1200 hours on Monday, 30 October 2006.

### **PRESENT**

#### **CHAIRMAN**

Shri Harin Pathak

#### **Members**

2. Shri J.M Aaroon Rashid
3. Dr. K. Dhanaraju
4. Shri Biren Singh Engti
5. Shri Sunil Khan
6. Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli

#### **Secretariat**

- |    |                     |   |                 |
|----|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Shri P. Sreedharan  | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri T.K. Mukherjee | - | Director        |
| 3. | Shri B.S. Dahiya    | - | Under Secretary |

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and apprised them briefly about the agenda for the sitting. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following Memoranda on the requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of the assurances:-

**Memorandum No.22      Request for dropping of assurance given on 14 March 2005 in reply to USQ No. 1565 regarding 'Inchampalli Irrigation Project'.**

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the fulfillment of the assurance depends upon the concurrence to be arrived by the three States namely Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhatisgarh. Moreover irrigation being a State subject, the irrigation projects are investigated, planned, formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments themselves. The Committee therefore, decided to drop the assurance.

**Memorandum No.23      Request for dropping of assurance given on 05 August 2005 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2072 regarding 'Demonstration of Sagar Nidhi'.**

While considering the above Memorandum, the Committee took note of the points made by the Ministry of Science and Technology, particularly that the implementation of the assurance in the instant case would become due in September 2007 and therefore, decided to drop the assurance.

**Memorandum No.24      Request for dropping of assurance given on 18 August 2005 during Special Mention regarding 'The Enemy Within' published in Bhubaneswar edition of the Indian Express dated 02 August 2005.**

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that the Ministry of Defence has already given a reply to the Special Mention raised by the Member. The Committee, therefore, decided to drop the assurance.

**Memorandum No.25      Request for dropping of assurances given on 25 August 2005 in reply to USQ No. 4523 regarding 'Construction of Foot Over bridges in Karnataka'.**

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that in reply to Parliament question it was specifically mentioned that in respect of Road over bridges (ROB) in lieu of level crossing (LC) No. 197 drawings have been approved, finalisation of agency for Railway portion was under process and funds to the tune of Rs 1 crore and Rs 2 crore have been allotted in 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. Similarly for ROB in lieu of LC No. 208 general arrangement drawings were revised and funds to the tune of Rs. 1 crore per year in 2004-05 and 2005-06 were allotted. The Committee, therefore, desired that a status report of the two projects be furnished for their consideration and decided not to drop the assurance.

**Memorandum No.26      Request for dropping of assurance given on 02 December 2005 in reply to USQ No. 1575 regarding 'Hydro Power Projects'.**

The Committee considered the above memorandum and having been convinced by the reasons advanced by the Ministry of Power acceded to the request of the Ministry to drop the assurance

**Memorandum No.27      Request for dropping of assurance given on 24 November 2005 in reply to USQ No. 426 regarding 'Expansion plan for Mumbai Suburban Railways.**

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Mumbai urban transport projects, Phase-II were under consideration of the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, desired that a status report regarding the projects be furnished for their consideration and decided not to drop the assurance.

**Memorandum No.28      Request for dropping of assurance given on 23 November 2005 in reply to USQ No. 89 regarding ' Right to Information Act'.**

The Committee considered the above memorandum and after taking note of the submissions made by the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions, decided to drop the assurance.

**Memorandum No.29      Request for dropping of assurance given on 30 November 2005 in reply to USQ No. 1236 regarding 'Computerisation of Post Offices'.**

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Department of Posts was implementing a plan scheme to computerize 7700 large departmental post offices in the tenth plan with an approved outlay of Rs. 836 crore and the department also submitted a proposal to Planning Commission to computerize the remaining 18,465 departmental post offices. The Committee therefore, desired that a status report regarding the present position of the

computerization of the post offices be submitted for their consideration and accordingly decided not to drop the assurance.

**Memorandum No.30      Request for dropping of assurance given on 08 December 2005 in reply to USQ No. 2461 regarding 'Setting up of Aero space command'.**

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the issue relating to setting up of Aerospace Command is a very sensitive matter and accordingly decided to drop the assurance.

**Memorandum No.31      Request for dropping of assurance given on 22 February 2006 in reply to USQ No. 454 regarding 'Outsourcing visa applications'.**

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the process for pilot outsourcing project for visa services in London has already been set in motion and the implementation of the project is currently at an advanced stage and accordingly decided to drop the assurance

***The Committee then adjourned.***

**MINUTES**  
FIFTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2006-2007) held on 15 March 2007 in Chairman's Chamber Room No.133, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1630 hours on Thursday 15 March 2007.

**PRESENT**

**Chairman**

Shri Harin Pathak

**Members**

2. Shri J.M. Aaroon Rashid
3. Dr. K. Dhanaraju
4. Shri Sunil Khan
5. Shri A. Vankatesh Naik
6. Smt. M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran
7. Shri Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh
8. Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli

**Secretariat**

- |    |                     |   |                     |
|----|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri S. Bal Shekar  | - | Joint Secretary     |
| 2. | Shri T.K. Mukherjee | - | Director            |
| 3. | Shri B.S. Dahiya    | - | Deputy Secretary    |
| 4. | Shri V.P. Goel      | - | Deputy Secretary-II |

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and apprised them briefly about the agenda of the sitting of the Committee. First of all, the



Committee took up for consideration the draft Sixteenth and Seventeenth Reports regarding requests for dropping of assurances. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted both the draft Reports without any amendment. The Committee authorized the Chairman to finalise the draft report and present in the current session itself.

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following Memoranda regarding the requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping the assurances:-

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***The Committee then adjourned.***