

**COMMITTEE
ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2009-2010)**

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

FIRST REPORT

REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF
ASSURANCES

Presented to Lok Sabha on 16 December, 2009



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
December, 2009/Agrahayana, 1931 (Saka)**

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2007-2008)

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

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- **The Committee was constituted on 07 August 2007 *vide* Para No.3783 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 06th August 2007.**

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2008-2009)

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

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- The Committee was constituted on 07 August 2008 *vide* Para No.5004 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 06th August 2008.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2009 - 2010)

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Anandrao Adsul
3. Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana
4. Shri Dara Singh Chauhan
5. Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar
6. Shri Mohan Jena
7. Shri Raghuvir Singh Meena
8. Shri Bishnu Pada Ray
9. Shri K.J.S.P. Reddy
10. Shri M. Raja Mohan Reddy
11. Rajkumari Ratna Singh
12. Shri Takam Sanjoy
13. Dr. M. Thambidurai
14. Shri Manohar Tirkey
15. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri P. Sreedharan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri R.S. Kambo | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri D.S. Malha | - | Additional Director |

* The Committee was constituted on 23 September, 2009 vide Para No. 580 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 23 September, 2009.

INTRODUCTION

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

2. The Committee (2007-2008) and (2008-2009) at their sittings held on 08 January, 11 June, 10 July, 24 September and 12 November 2008 considered Memorandum Nos. 22 to 31, 52 to 56, 57 to 66, 2 to 11 & 12 to 21 containing requests received from the Ministries/Departments for dropping of pending assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 10 December 2009, the Committee (2009-2010) considered and adopted their First Report.

4. The Minutes of the aforesaid sittings of the Committee form part of this report.

5. The Committee place on record their deep appreciation for the work done by the Committee on Government Assurances (2007-2008) and (2008-2009) on the subject.

NEW DELHI;

10 December, 2009

Agrahayana 19, 1931 (Saka)

MANEKA GANDHI
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

REPORT

While replying to Questions in the House or during discussions on Bills, Resolutions, Motions, etc., Ministers sometimes give assurances, undertakings or promises either to consider a matter, take action or furnish information to the House at some later date. An assurance is required to be implemented by the Ministry concerned within a period of three months. Where a Ministry are unable to implement the assurances within the prescribed period of three months, they are required to seek extension of time. In case, the Ministry find it difficult to implement the assurances on one ground or the other, they are required to approach the Committee on Government Assurances requesting to drop the assurances. Such requests are considered by the Committee on merits and decisions taken to drop an assurance or otherwise.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2007-08) and (2008-09) considered the following requests received from Ministries/Departments for dropping of assurances:-

| SQ/USQ No. & Date | Subject in Brief | Ministry |
|--|---|--|
| Starred Question No. 27 dated 16 July, 2002 | Communal Riots in the country. | Home Affairs |
| Unstarred Question No. 3586 dated 16 December, 2005 | Model Concession Pact. | Finance |
| Starred Question No. 305 dated 22 December, 2004 | Development of Inland Waterways. | Shipping, Road Transport and Highways |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Unstarred Question No. 1728 dated 8 March, 1999 | New Renewable Energy Policy. | Non Conventional Energy Sources |
| Unstarred Question No. 193 dated 1 December, 2004 | CBI Raids. | Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions |
| Unstarred Question No. 997 dated 23 November, 2007 | Supply of NAPHTHA. | Power |
| Unstarred Question No. 1061 dated 5 March, 2008 | Raising Higher Education Fees. | Planning |
| Unstarred Question No. 5432 dated 15 May, 2007 | Trade and Exhibition Centre. | Commerce and Industry |
| Unstarred Question No. 1881 dated 8 March, 2006 | Visa Free Entry. | External Affairs |
| Unstarred Question No. 2822 & 1913 dated 22 August 2006 & 13 March, 2007 | Technology Mission on Silk & wool and Technology Mission on Indian Silks respectively. | Textiles |
| Unstarred Question No. 3897 dated 21 April, 2008 | Opening of Handloom Centre. | Textiles |
| Unstarred Question No. 533 dated 03 May, 2000 | Competitive Exams in Indian Languages. | Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions |
| Unstarred Question No. 631 dated 27 July, 2005 | Debit Cards of Post offices. | Communications and Information Technology |
| Unstarred Question No. 3014 dated 13 December, 2005 | Trade Fair. | Commerce and Industry |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Unstarred Question No. 4289 dated 18 May, 2006 | Appointment of Armed Forces officers in Governmental and Non- Governmental Organisation. | Defence |
| Unstarred Question No. 3170 dated 14 December, 2006 | Appointments on Fake Documents. | Railways |
| Unstarred Question No.4434 dated 08 May, 2007 | Central University Status to Allahabad University. | Human Resource Development |
| Unstarred Question No. 1706 dated 11 March, 2008 | Measures to curb piracy. | Information and Broadcasting |

3. The details of the assurances arising out of the replies and the reason(s) advanced for dropping of assurances are given in Appendix-I.
4. After having considered the grounds cited by the Ministries/Departments, the Committee decided to drop the aforesaid assurances.
5. The Minutes of various sittings of the Committee, whereunder the decisions to drop the assurances are given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI;

MANEKA GANDHI
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

10 December, 2009

Agrahayana 19, 1931 (Saka)

[i] COMMUNAL RIOTS IN THE COUNTRY

On 16 July, 2002 Sarvashri A. Venkatesh Naik and G.M. Banatwalla, M.Ps., addressed the following Starred Question No. 27 to the Deputy Prime Minister:-

- “(a) whether there is any machinery in the Home Ministry to collect intelligence and to monitor situation in regard to communal violence;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of communal riots that occurred during April-June 2002, State-wise;
- (d) the number of civilians/security personnel killed/injured and property damaged therein, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Union Government have identified the organisations behind these riots;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) the assistance provided by the Central Government to various States to prevent such riots; and
- (h) the details of guidelines issued by the Centre to deal with these riots and to undertake relief and rehabilitation work?”

2. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri I.D. Swami) stated as follows:-

“(a) & (b): `Public Order` and `Police` are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. Therefore, prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes as well as maintenance of data in this regard are the primary concerns of the State Governments. At the Union level, the Ministry of Home Affairs keeps a watch over the communal situation in the country, on the basis of intelligence inputs received from various intelligence agencies.

(c) & (d): The communal riots in Gujarat which started following the Godhra train carnage on 27.2.2002 continued with some sporadic incidents of communal violence during the period in question i.e. April-June, 2002. During this period 216 civilians and 2

police/security personnel were killed, 790 civilians and 211 police/security personnel were injured and the value of the property lost was about Rs. 417.07 crores. Besides, as per available information, during April to June, 2002, one major communal riot occurred at Jamner town in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra in which seven persons lost their lives and 42 persons sustained injuries.

(e) & (f): The Government of Gujarat has constituted a Commission of Inquiry with Mr. Justice G.T. Nanavati, retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India as Chairman and Mr. Justice K.G. Shah, retired Judge of Gujarat High Court as Member. The Inquiry is in progress. The involvement of any organizations in the said Gujarat Communal riots will be known only after the Inquiry Report is available.

(g) & (h): To prevent communal riots in the country the Union Government assists the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in a variety of ways like sharing of intelligence, sending alert messages, sending Central Para-military Forces to the concerned State Governments on specific request including the Composite Rapid Action Force which has been created specially to deal with communal situations and providing assistance in the modernization of the State Police Forces. In addition, the Union Government sends advisories and guidelines in this regard from time to time. Detailed guidelines to promote communal harmony in the country have been issued to all the States/Union Territories which cover various aspects like gathering of intelligence, periodic review of the situation at District and State levels, peace committee mechanism, implementation of relevant Acts, handling of the media, role of Police and their training, management of essential services, setting up of Special Courts, compensation to riot-victims, etc. The National Foundation for Communal Harmony in the Ministry of Home Affairs also implements schemes for rehabilitation of child victims of communal riots. Promotional efforts include the annual Kabir Puraskar and Communal Harmony Awards for individuals and organizations as well as observance of the annual `Quami Ekta Week`.

The State Governments have been requested to specifically instruct the district law enforcing authorities that they would be personally responsible for the maintenance of communal harmony within their areas of jurisdiction and that complaints received from the members belonging to minority communities should be attended promptly and action taken against the culprits expeditiously."

3. The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs within three months from the date of the reply.

4. The Ministry of Home Affairs vide their O.M.No.13012/26/2002-US(DV)(NI.I) dated 17 July, 2007 with the approval of Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs requested the Committee to drop the assurance on the following ground:-

“that the inquiry into the Godhra train carnage related communal riots in Gujarat in 2002 is before the Commission of Inquiry set up under the Government of Gujarat, Legal Department’s Notification No. GK/07/2002/COI/102002/797/D dated 6 March, 2002 as amended from time to time. Thus, in this case the question attracts provision of Rule 41(2)(xxiii) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha which lays down that it shall not ordinarily ask about matters pending before any statutory tribunal or statutory authority performing any judicial or quasi-judicial functions or any commission or court of enquiry appointed to enquire into, or investigate, any matter but may refer to matters concerned with procedure or subject or stage of enquiry, if it is not likely to prejudice the consideration of the matter by the tribunal or commission or court of enquiry.”

[ii] MODEL CONCESSION PACT

On 16 December, 2005 Shri Balashowry Vallabbhaneni, MP, addressed the following Unstarred Question No.3586 to the Minister of Finance:-

- “(a) whether the Government proposes to prepare a model concession pact for core sectors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be finalised?”

2. In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri S.S. Palanimanickam) stated as follows:-

- “(a) Yes Sir.
- (b) Committee on Infrastructure has decided that Inter Ministerial Groups (IMGs) constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Road, Transport and Highways, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Secretary, Department of Shipping will evolve Model Concession Agreements (MCA) in respect of National Highways, Airport and Ports respectively.
- (c) The MCA for National Highways has been finalized and approved by the Committee on Infrastructure. The MCA for Airports and for Ports are being formulated by the respective IMGs.”

3. The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Finance within three months of the date of the reply.

4. The Ministry of Finance vide O.M. F.No. 4/1/2005-PPP dated 5 February, 2008 requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the Model Concession Agreements (MCA) were being framed by the different Ministries. The Ministry have also stated they were not in a position to fulfill the assurance unless these Ministries ultimately frame the MCA. As a result the assurance could linger on forever.”

[iii] DEVELOPMENT OF INLAND WATERWAYS

On 22 December, 2004 Sarvashri Sanat Kumar Mandal and Prabodh Panda, MPs addressed the following Starred Question No.305 to the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways:-

- “(a) whether the Government has any proposal for the development of inland waterways in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard;
- (d) the total length of inland waterways in the country;
- (e) the length of inland waterways to be created during the Tenth Plan; and
- (f) the details of projects undertaken/ proposed to be undertaken for promoting inland waterways facilities in the country?”

2. In reply, the then Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways (Shri T.R. Baalu) stated as follows:-

“(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) Three waterways namely river Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad (States of UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal), river Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (Assam State) and West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam, along with Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals (Kerala State) have been declared as National Waterways. Accordingly, development works have been undertaken on these waterways. Besides, under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 15 proposals of six States have been approved during the fiscal year 2003-04. Details are at Annex-I.

(d) Total length of navigable inland waterways is estimated to be 14,500 kms.

(e) Declaration of three new waterways as National Waterways totaling to 1858 kms. is under consideration.

(f) Fairway development and conservancy works have been undertaken on the National Waterways for providing navigable depth on the various stretches.

Terminals:-

(i) National Waterway No.1:- Floating jetties have been provided at Haldia, Kolkata, Karagola, Bhagalpur, Munger, Patna, Varanasi, Chunar and Allahabad and fixed concrete jetties have been provided at Kolkata, Farakka and Pakur. Construction of permanent terminal at Patna is in progress and is likely to be made operational by March 2005.

(ii) National Waterway No.2:- Floating jetties have been provided at Dhubri, Jogighopa, and Pandu. Five pontoons have been constructed for providing floating jetties at different locations as per requirement. Construction of permanent terminal at Pandu is in progress and it is expected that the terminal would be operational by 2005 end.

(iii) National Waterway No.3:- Terminals at eleven locations are planned, of which construction in respect of terminals at Kottapuram, Aluva and Kayamkulam have been completed and work is in progress in respect of terminals at four other locations.

Navigational Aids:

National Waterway No.1:- Day navigational marks have been provided and night navigational facility has been provided between Tribeni and Farakka. Night Navigational facility on Farakka-Patna Stretch is planned to be provided by March 2005.

National Waterway No.2:- Day navigational marks have been provided and night navigational facility has been provided between Dhubri and Chandradingha. Night Navigational facility on Chandradingha-Guwahati Stretch is planned to be provided by March 2005.

National Waterway No.3:- Day navigational marks have been provided in Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals and also in Kochi-Allapuzha Stretch."

Annexe-1

Projects sanctioned under Centrally Sponsored Scheme during the financial year 2003-04

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| BE-2003-04 | Provision-Rs. 2.00 Crore |
| RE-2003-04 | Provision-Rs. 10.00 Crore |
| Actuals-2003-04 | Rs.9.8539 Crore |
| BE-2004-05 | Provision-Rs.20.00 Crore |

(Rupees in lakhs)

| S.No. | Name of the Scheme | State | Estimated Cost | Amount released during 2003-2004 |
|-------|---|-------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Construction of Gangway pontoon type floating jetties(53 nos.) and RCC slipway type jetty for LCT (4 nos.) in National Waterway No.1 between Tribeni and Farakka (F.No.-IW-14013/3/2003-IWT) | West Bengal | 2261.50 | 452.00 |
| 2. | Preparation of DPR on waterways development and future development of IWT sector in the State of Orissa. (F.No.-IW-14013/ 6/2003-IWT) | Orissa | 10.30 | 2.06 |
| 3. | Development of IWT Sector in the State of Orissa for upgradation of existing | Orissa | 204.40 | 40.80 |

| | | | | |
|-----|--|-------------|--------|-------|
| | facilities. (F. No.-14013/10/2004-IWT) | | | |
| 4. | Preparation of detailed project report for river front development at Patna aimed at IWT based tourism' (F.No.-IW-14013/10/2003-IWT) | Bihar | 25.00 | 5.00 |
| 5. | Collection of hydromorphological data and preparation of detailed project report for development of IWT facilities in river Gandak' (F.No.-IW-14013/11/2003-IWT) | Bihar | 30.00 | 5.00 |
| 6. | Collection of hydromorphological data and preparation of detailed project report for development of IWT facilities in river Kosi' (F.No.-IW-14013/12/2003-IWT) | Bihar | 30.00 | 6.00 |
| 7. | Collection of hydromorphological data and preparation of detailed project report for development of IWT facilities in river Sone' (F.No.-IW-14013/13/2003-IWT) | Bihar | 30.00 | 5.00 |
| 8. | Techno-economic feasibility study/ survey for development of IWT in Karnataka' (F.No.-IW-14013/12/2004-IWT) | Karnataka | 56.70 | 11.34 |
| 9. | Development of IWT in Godawari river near Vishnupuri, Maharashtra (F.No.IW/14013/9/2002-IWT) | Maharashtra | 272.21 | 48.99 |
| 10. | Development of IWT from South Mumbai to Mandwa (Amba river Dharmatar Creek) & vice versa in Maharashtra (F.No.IW-14013/1/2004-IWT) | Maharashtra | 410.95 | 82.00 |
| 11. | Development of IWT from South Mumbai to Karanja | Maharashtra | 481.54 | 96.00 |

| | | | | |
|-----|--|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| | (Amba river / Dharmatar Creek) and vice versa in Maharashtra. (F.No.IW-14013/2/2004-IWT) | | | |
| 12. | Development of IWT in Mhasla/Mandad river (Rajpuri Creek) at Rajpuri in Maharashtra. (F.No.IW-14013/3/2004-IWT) | Maharashtra | 469.45 | 93.00 |
| 13. | Development of Inland Waterways in Mhasla/Mandad river (Rajpuri Creek) near Janjira Fort in Maharashtra (F.No.IW-14013/7/2004-IWT) | Maharashtra | 124.60 | 16.20 |
| 14. | Terminal facility at north bank of river Brahmaputra (F.No. IW-14013/8/2004-IWT) | Assam | 260.40 | 52.00 |
| 15. | Terminal facility at south bank of river Brahmaputra(F.No. IW-14013/9/2004-IWT) | Assam | 351.68 | 70.00 |
| | | | 5018.73 | 985.39 |

3. During the course of supplementaries, Shri Khiren Rijiju, MP desired to know:-

“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, inland waterway transport system has been in operation mostly in plains because of feasibility. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any proposal to introduce this system in hilly areas also, whether it is feasible or whether a study is going to be conducted with special reference to North Eastern States. The hon. Minister has twice conducted meeting with MPs from North-Eastern States and they have also made a request to him in this regard. I want to know whether the Government has any such proposal. If not, I would like to request the hon. Minister to look into the matter”.

4. In reply, the Minister *inter-alia* stated as follows:-

“My friend has said something about hilly areas. He must have probably referred to the North-East only. Even yesterday, I took a three hour meeting along with my friends from the North-East and we have extensively discussed the matter. At the same time, if any specific project or if any particular waterway has to be taken up, my friend can pass it on to me. I will definitely consider and see that something is done”.

5. The above replies to the questions were treated as assurances and were required to be implemented by the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways within three months of the date of the reply

6. The Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways vide their OM No.H-11016/17/2004-IWT dated 12 November, 2007 requested for dropping the assurance on the following grounds:-

“(a) The National Waterway (Kakinada-Pondicherry Stretch of Canals and the Kaluvelly Tank, Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry Stretch of River Godavari and Wazirabad-Vijayawada stretch of River Krishna) Bill 2006;

(b) The National Waterway (Talchar-Dharma Stretch of Rivers, Geonkhali-Charbatia Stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-Dhamra Stretch of Matai River and Mahanadi Delta Rivers) Bill, 2006; and

(c) The National Waterway (Lakhipur-Bhhanga Stretch of Barak River Bill, 2007.

Bills mentioned at (a) and (b) above were introduced in the Lok Sabha on 8.12.2006. These were referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture by the Hon'ble Speaker for examination and Report. The Committee have now submitted its reports on both the Bills related to these waterways. The Reports of the Parliamentary Committee are being examined in this

Department and further action for getting them passed by the Parliament is being taken. Bill at (c) above, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 29.8.2007. It has been referred to the Department-related parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture for examination and report by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

Department of Shipping have received no request/proposal from Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal or Shri Probodh Panda or any other Member of Parliament for development of any specific waterway in the hilly areas/North Eastern States so far. Hence no action can be taken in this matter."

7. The Ministry, with the approval of Hon'ble Minister (SRT&H), requested that the above status may kindly be brought to the notice of the Committee on Government Assurances.

[iv] NEW RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY

On 8 March, 1999, Sarvashri D.S. Ahire and Madan Patil, M.Ps. addressed the following Unstarred Question No.1728, to the Minister of Non Conventional Energy Sources:-

“(a) whether the Government have approved the draft of the New Renewable Energy Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reason therefor; and

(d) the time by which the policy is likely to be approved and implemented?”

2. In reply to the above question, the then Minister of Power, Parliamentary Affairs and Non Conventional Energy Sources (Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam) stated as follows:-

“(a), (b), (c) & (d): The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is preparing a comprehensive Renewable Energy Policy. The main objectives of the Renewable Energy Policy include augmentation of grid electricity supply, energy for rural development, substitution of fossil fuels for decentralized applications and reduction in environmental pollution and degradation. The draft of the Renewable Energy Policy is being finalized in the Ministry, for submission to the Government for approval.”

3. The above reply was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy within three months of the date of reply

4. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy *vide* their O.M. No.4/23/2004-P&C dated 14 December, 2004 requested for dropping the said assurance.

5. This request of the Ministry was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 31 January, 2006 and decided not to drop the assurance. Accordingly, the Committee *vide* their Tenth Report of 14th Lok Sabha presented to the House on 11 May, 2006 *inter-alia* recommended that the utmost priority should be accorded to the matter and the policy should be finalized at the earliest. The Committee also desired to be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard.

6. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy *vide* their O.M. No.4/23/2004-P&C dated 2 January, 2008 again requested the Committee to reconsider their decision afresh and drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the draft Renewable Energy Policy Statement, which was considered by the Union Cabinet in July, 2000 was referred at the behest of the Cabinet to a Group of Ministers (GOM) headed by Shri M.M. Joshi, the then Minister of Human Resource

Development, Science & Technology and Ocean Development. The GOM stood dissolved with the formation of the new Government and the Cabinet Secretariat was informed accordingly. Under the Electricity Act, 2003 a National Electricity Policy, National Tariff Policy and National Rural Electrification Policy, which cover renewables as well, have been prepared and announced. An Expert Committee of the Planning Commission has also made recommendations on an Integrated Energy Policy for the country, covering all sources of energy including renewables. These recommendations, which cover the renewable energy sector, are considered presently adequate. The 11th Plan proposals for renewable energy have been formulated in consonance with the aforementioned recommendations and approved recently by the National Development Council. In this context the Ministry does not intend to have a separate policy for "Renewable Energy" for the present."

[v] CBI RAIDS

On 01 December, 2004 Sarvashri Vijoy Krishna, Ram Chandra Paswan, Kirti Vardhan Singh, Uday Singh and Ramakant Yadav, M.Ps. addressed the following Unstarred Question No.193 to the Prime Minister:-

- “(a) whether CBI has conducted raids in various parts of the country during September, 2004;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken against the persons found guilty during the said raids so far?”

2. In reply, the then 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) Yes, Sir.
- (b) CBI conducted raids at several places on 29.9.2004 as a part of Special Drive. 65 cases were registered in this drive which involved 88 Government Servants and 142 private persons/firms.
- (c) Investigations in all these cases are in progress and further action will be taken as per law on the basis of evidence collected during investigation.”

3. The above reply to the question 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.

4. The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions vide O.M.No.235/28/2004-AVD.II dated 14 August, 2006 requested for dropping the assurance inter-alia on the ground that the process of investigation is a legal matter and an ongoing process. The Committee considered this request of the Ministry and decided not to drop the assurance. Accordingly, in its 15th Report (14th Lok Sabha) presented to the House on 15 December, 2006, the Committee, considering the imperative need to check such alleged offences which formed the basis for conducting the raids and desired that the remaining 21 cases be pursued vigorously and taken to their logical conclusions.

5. The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions vide their O.M. of even number dated 3 March, 2008 again requested for dropping of assurance on the following grounds:-

“That in the raids conducted by CBI on 29 September, 2004 as part of a special drive, 65 cases had been registered and that investigations in all those cases were in progress. The present

progress of investigation of these 65 cases intimated by the CBI is as follows:-

| | |
|---|----------|
| (i) Chargesheets filed | 40 cases |
| (ii) RDA recommended | 9 cases |
| (iii) Cases closed | 3 cases |
| (iv) Reference made to concerned Competent authority seeking Sanction for prosecution | 6 cases |
| (v) Department advised to launch Progress under the relevant Act | 1 case |
| Total | 59 cases |
| (vi) Cases pending | 6 |
| Grand Total | 65 |

That
out of
the 65
cases

registered by the CBI during the special drive, they have already completed investigation in 59 cases *i.e.* nearly 91% cases. As per CBI only 6 cases (9% approx) are still under investigation. Investigation of cases is a long drawn process and has to be carried out by the CBI as per law.”

6. In view of the fact that in a majority of the cases, the CBI had already completed investigation, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State (PP), requested the Committee on Government Assurances to reconsider their request for dropping this assurance from the list of pending assurances.

[vi] SUPPLY OF NAPHTHA

On 23 November, 2007 Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam and Shrimati C.S. Sujatha, M.Ps., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.997 to the Minister of Power:-

- “(a) whether there is steep rise in the price of Naphtha resulting in short supply to power units particularly in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, whether the increase of Naphtha raised the cost of production of ower generation in Naphtha based units;
- (c) if so, details thereto;
- (d) whether the Government consider exemption of Naphtha from excise duty to tide over the present crisis faced by Naphtha based power units in the country; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect these power generating units?”

2. In reply, the Minister of Power (Shri Sushilkumar Shinde) stated as follows:-

“(a) to (c) : Steep rise in price of Naphtha, which is determined based on its international price, has resulted in increase in variable cost of generation of power using naphtha as fuel in the country, including Andhra Pradesh, resulting in decreased generation. Andhra Pradesh Power Coordination Committee (APPCC) has reported that Naphtha Price in November, 2007 is Rs.49,034.77 Per Metric Tonne (MT) with the cost of generation of Rs.8.947 per Kilo Watt Hour (kwh) as against a price of Rs.39,387.21 per MT with cost of generation of Rs.7.187/kwh in May 2007. Gas based power stations of total 1555.4 MW capacity located in Andhra Pradesh, have provision to use Naphtha as an alternate fuel when gas is in short supply. Although there is no shortage of Naphtha, its use as fuel is restricted due to steep rise in price.

When the domestic price of Naphtha increases steeply, power generating units based on Naphtha, have the option of switching over to Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) so as to minimize the fuel cost of such units.

(d) & (e) : NTPC has proposed complete waiver of Customs Duty/Excise Duty on Naphtha for consideration of the Government as part of the budget exercise of 2008-09 Union Budget, which is under examination in this Ministry.”

3. The reply to part (d) and (e) of the above question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Power within three months of the date of the reply.

4. The Ministry of Power vide their O.M. No.9/59/2006-TH-I dated 12 March, 2008 and 30 May, 2008 requested the Committee to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That in the pre-budget memorandum submitted to the Ministry of Finance for the year 2008-09, Ministry of Power had proposed complete waiver of Basic Custom Duty and CVD/Excise Duty on Naphtha to make it affordable fuel for power generation. However, the proposal for exemption of Naphtha from excise duty for Power Sector has not been announced by Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on 29 February, 2008.”

[vii] RAISING HIGHER EDUCATION FEES

On 5 March, 2008 Shri Hansraj G. Ahir, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 1061 to the Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning :-

"(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has recommended for raising the fees for higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment of the likely impact on the education sector/students;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the proposed action plan of the Government in the light of the recommendations made by the Commission?"

2. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning (Shri M.V. Rajasekharan) stated as follows:-

"(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The relevant extract from the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission is annexed which gives details thereof.

(c) to (e): the recommendation is under examination.

Annexure referred to in parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha USQ No. 1061 to be answered on 05.03.2008
Extracts from the recommendations of National Knowledge Commission: on Higher Education – Compilation of Recommendations on Education
Under Section 5: Rationalization of fees: On an average, fees constitute less than 10 per cent of total expenditure in our universities. And, in most universities, fees have remained unchanged for decades. In theory, universities have the freedom to decide on fees. In practice, however, universities have not exercised this freedom in part because of some genuine concerns about access but in larger part because of the rhetoric and populism in the political process. The problem has been compounded by the UGC method of providing grants-in-aid to bridge the difference between income and expenditure. Consequently, there is no incentive for universities or colleges to raise income through higher fees as that sum would be deducted from their UGC (or State government) grants. The low fees in public universities, without any means test, have meant unquantifiable benefits for unintended beneficiaries. But private players and foreign institutions have not been restrained in charging fees that the market can bear. The time has come to rethink, as we

have no choice but to rationalize fees. It is for universities to decide the level of fees but, as a norm, fees should meet at least 20 per cent of the total expenditure in universities. In addition, fees need to be adjusted every two years through price indexation. Such small, continuous, adjustments would be absorbed and accepted far more easily than large, discrete changes after a period of time. This rationalization of fees should be subject to two conditions: first, needy students should be provided with a fee waiver plus scholarships to meet their costs; second, universities should not be penalized by the UGC for the resources raised from higher fees through matching deductions from their grants-in-aid."

3. The reply to the above question was treated as an assurance. It was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Planning within three months of the date of reply.

4. The Ministry of Planning vide their O.M. No. H.11016/10/2007-Edn dated 30 April, 2008 requested for dropping the assurance on the following grounds:-

"the above question is regarding the Report/Recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission on higher education. The above recommendations have been forwarded to the concerned Ministries by the Planning Commission. The main concerned Ministry, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), has not given comments on the above report. The issue of raising fees in higher education institutions is policy matter needing wide consultations with all the stake holders. No time can be fixed for raising of fees/fulfilling the Assurance".

[viii] TRADE AND EXHIBITION CENTRE

On 15 May, 2007 Shri Jual Oram, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.5432 to the Minister of Commerce and Industry:-

- “(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a trade and exhibition centre in the Gulf region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made any provision for providing fund for this purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?”

2. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Jairam Ramesh) stated as follows:-

“(a) to (d): A plan to set up a Trade and Exhibition Centre in the Gulf region is under consideration of the Government.”

3. The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry within three months of the date of the reply

4. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry have also requested the Committee to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the proposal of Indian Business & Professional Council (IBPC), Sharjah for setting up of an India Trade & Exhibition Centre (ITEC) at Expo City, Sharjah, UAE was under consideration of the Department. Presently, this proposal has been shepherded by IBPC themselves. For background, IBPC is a professional UAE based business organization representing Indian interests therein. Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) have now decided that IBPC should take the lead role in realization of the said project. It is understood that the land for this project has also been provisionally allocated to the Council.

That in view of the position stated above, it is for IBPC to evaluate its business potential and take a considered view. It would, therefore not be feasible to fulfill the aforesaid assurance by the Government of India.”

[ix] VISA FREE ENTRY

On 08 March, 2006, Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar, and Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, MPs addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 1881 to the Prime Minister:-

- “(a) whether the Government has sent any proposals to Myanmar for visa free entry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether the persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes would be allowed to travel without passports;
- (d) whether it is also being proposed to increase the area of visa free entry;
- (e) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (f) the area in kilometers which is open for visa free entry at present?”

2. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (SHRI E. AHAMED) stated as follows:-

“(a) to (f) : The indigenous tribals inhabiting areas adjacent to the India-Myanmar land border have traditionally enjoyed visa free movement across the frontier. While India provides this upto 40 kms, in its territory, Myanmar has been allowing this only upto 16 kms. An MoU on the above issue is currently being discussed by the two countries.”

3. The above reply to 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 reply i.e. by 07 June, 2006 but the assurance is still pending.

4. The Ministry of Home Affairs vide their O.M. No. 5/2/2006-BM-II dated 14 July, 2008, have requested to drop the assurance on the following ground:-

“The proposed Draft MoU was sent to the Government of Myanmar by the Ministry of External Affairs in 1995. After a long gap, the response of the Government of Myanmar was received in this regard in 2007. They have suggested some changes in the MoU. The matter has been raised at various forums and delegation meetings with Myanmar. But no decision has been taken by Myanmar so far. In March, 2008, a Myanmar delegation visited New Delhi and detailed meeting was held with the Indian delegation under the Chairmanship of Union Home Secretary. The proposed MoU was also discussed in detail but no final views/comments were given by the Myanmar authorities. Therefore, it appears that the proposed MoU may not be concluded in the near future. No definite time frame can, therefore, be fixed for the finalisation and signing of the MoU.”

5. Accordingly, the Ministry of Home Affairs, with the approval of Minister of State (R) in the Ministry of Home Affairs, have, therefore, requested to drop the assurance.

[x] TECHNOLOGY MISSION ON SILK AND WOOL AND TECHNOLOGY MISSION ON INDIAN SILKS

On 22 August, 2006 Shri Rasheed Masood and Shrimati Jayaprada, MPs, addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 2882 to the Minister of Textiles:-

- “(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a Technology Mission for the development of Silk and Wool;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any policy has been formulated for labour reforms in the Textile Sector; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?”

2. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN) stated as follows:-

- “(a) & (b) : Ministry of Textiles, Government of India is contemplating to propose a ‘Technology Mission for Indian Silks’. The details are yet to be finalised.
- (c) & (d) : Textile Ministry has made certain suggestions for labour reforms in the Textile Sector, which inter-alia include:-
 - (a) Flexibility to textile exporting units in hiring labour, subject to assuring a minimum 100 days employment to cater to variations in demand.
 - (b) (i) Raising daily working hours from 9 hours a day to 12 hours a day and weekly working hours from 48 hours a week to 60 hours a week with flexible daily hourly requirements.
 - (ii) Treating export activity in the textile sector as a public utility service, for the purpose of industrial dispute.”

3. On 13 March, 2007, Dr. M. Jagannath, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 1913 to the Minister of Textiles:-

- “(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a “Technology Mission for Indian Silks” for promotion and development of sericulture industry in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked therefore; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be set up? ”

4. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN) stated as follows:-

“(a) to (c) : Member Secretary, Central Silk Board (CSB) had submitted a document called “Technology Mission for Indian Silks” which, on examination, was found unsatisfactory by the Government and the same has been returned to CSB for modifications in consultation with the State Governments and with the formal approval of the Board of CSB.”

5. The above replies were treated as assurances but the Ministry of Textiles requested for dropping of the assurance on the following grounds: -

“The Central Silk Board, Bangalore, submitted a proposal regarding setting up of ‘Technology Mission for Indian Silk’ during September, 2006 and the same was examined in the Ministry of Textiles. The document, being not found satisfactory, was returned to the Central Silk Board with a request to re-examine and to obtain comments of the State Governments. In the meantime, XI Plan document was drawn for Sericulture development in the country including both the Central Sector and the Centrally sponsored Schemes having majority of the components contemplated under the proposal of technology Mission for Indian Silks. The XI Plan schemes, after approval of the Government, are now being implemented through the Central Silk Board on a Project mode through a cluster based approach, wherein the bivoltine silk production is the main focus. Keeping in view of this fact, the comments of the Member Secretary, Central Silk Board were sought for setting up of ‘Technology Mission for Indian Silks’. The Member Secretary, CSB, in his reply has stated that while preparing the XI Plan document for development of sericulture, it was decided to incorporate the major technologies developed by the Research Institutes of CSB as a part of Catalytic Development Programmes (CDP) Scheme, which can be transferred to the field. These technologies especially related to mulberry varieties and silkworm races, are capable of enhancing quality and productivity of Indian Sericulture. Since the XI Plan document has been approved and the CDPs are being implemented by the Central Silk Board in association with all the States, it is now felt that the ‘Technology Mission for Indian Silks’ may not be required at this juncture. The Member Secretary, Central Silk Board, is also of the opinion that the Parliament assurance regarding TMIS may be dropped since the same has already been addressed in the XI Plan document.

Since all important components contemplated under the proposal of ‘Technology Mission for Indian Silks’ have already been incorporated in the XI Plan documents for development of sericulture as a part of Catalytic Development Programmes, which has been approved and being implemented by the central Silk Board with all the States, there is no need for ‘Technology Mission for Indian Silks’.”

[xi] OPENING OF HANDLOOM CENTRE

On 21 April, 2008, Shri Hari Kewal Prasad, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 3897 to the Minister of Textiles :-

“(a) the number of handloom centres functioning at present in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open more handloom centres in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise; and

(d) the amount allocated and released to said handloom centres during each year of the Tenth Plan Period, State-wise?”

2. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN) stated as follows:-

“(a): At present, 25 Handloom Weavers Service Centres are functioning in the country. Details of these Centres, State-wise, location-wise are as follows :

| Sl. No. | Name of the State | Location of the Centre (s) |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | Hyderabad & Vijayawada |
| 2. | Assam | Guwahati |
| 3. | Bihar | Bhagalpur |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | Raigarh |
| 5. | Delhi | Delhi |
| 6. | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 7. | Haryana | Panipat |
| 8. | Jammu & Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 9. | Karnataka | Bangalore |
| 10. | Kerala | Kannur |
| 11. | Madhya Pradesh | Indore |
| 12. | Maharashtra | Mumbai & Nagpur |
| 13. | Manipur | Imphal |
| 14. | Orissa | Bhubaneswar |
| 15. | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 16. | Tamil Nadu | Chennai, Kancheepuram & Salem |
| 17. | Tripura | Agartala |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | Meerut & Varanasi |
| 19. | Uttarakhand | Chamoli |
| 20. | West Bengal | Kolkata |

(b) & (c): At present, two proposals to open Weavers Service Centres at Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand are at various stages of examination. No proposal is under

consideration for opening of a Weavers Service Centre in Uttar Pradesh.

(d): On the basis of the viable proposals received from these Centres, funds are released. The details are given in the Annexure."

ANNEXURE

Statement showing the expenditure incurred during *the* X Plan of 5 Years in respect of all WSCs, State-wise from 2002-03 to 2006-07

(Rupees in lakh)

| s. No | Name of wsc | State | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | Total |
|-------|-----------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| 1. | Delhi | Delhi | 134.06 | 1133.46 | 143.64 | 137.25 | 117.82 | 671.23 |
| 2. | Varansi/Meerut | UP | 93.13 | 913.38 | 107.49 | 107.98 | 111.51 | 519.49 |
| 3. | Srinagar | J & K | 0.00 | 20.09 | 28.76 | 41.76 | 35.92 | 126.53 |
| 4. | Chamoli | Uttarakhand | 25.82 | 26.71 | 37.5a | 30.19 | 52.04 | 172.28 |
| 5. | Panipatt | Haryana | 47.16 | 49.14 | 43.76 | 48.20 | 50.56 | 240.82 |
| 6. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | 47.04 | 49.91 | 51.15 | 57.87 | 58.93 | 264.90 |
| 7. | Guwahati | Assam | 76.03 | 78.03 | 67.36 | 76.14 | 76.55 | 374.11 |
| 8. | Agartala | Tripura | 38.08 | 40.82 | 57.021 | 52.68 | 52.08 | 240.69 |
| 9. | Imphal | Manipur | 39.00 | 42.85 | 41.25 | 721.97 | 86.18 | 282.29 |
| 10. | Kolkata | West Bengal | 82.15 | 35.84 | 93.12 | 92.91 | 116.08 | 470.10 |
| 11. | Bhagalpur | Bihar | 40.10 | 42.92 | 46.84 | 49.28 | 54.59 | 233.73 |
| 12. | Bhubaneswar | Orissa | 45.80 | 47.55 | 66.76 | 71.04 | 66.99 | 298.14 |
| 13. | Chennai/kancheepuram/ Salem | Tamil Nadu | 153.48 | 159.58 | 159.02 | 175.91 | 169.48 | 817.47 |
| 14. | Bangalore | Karnataka | 49.90 | 50.29 | 51.82 | 62.50 | 61.58 | 276.09 |
| 15. | Kannur Kerala | | 52.19 | 55.11 | 43.85 | 54.60 | 68.44 | 274.19 |
| 16. | Vijayawada/Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh | 126.87 | 108.49 | 162.62 | 220.73 | 121.33 | 830.04 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 17. | Mum bai /Nagpur | Maharashtra | 134.01 | 139.79 | 132.98 | 141.28 | 165.58 | 713.64 |
| 18. | Ahwuedatoaid | Gujarat | 38.10 | 39.75 | 45.57 | 49.09 | 38.47 | 210.98 |
| 19. | Indore | Madhya Pradesh | 34.19 | 36.76 | 34.01 | 35.90 | 39.63 | 180.49 |
| 20. | Raigarh | Chhatisgrah | 29.60 | 31.60 | 29.69 | 32.36 | 37.56 | 161.31 |
| | | Total | 1286.71 | 1433.07 | 1446.28 | 1611.14 | 1581.32 | 7358.52 |

3. The above reply was treated as an assurance but the Ministry of Textiles requested for dropping of the assurance on the following grounds: -

“(i) A proposal was received in this office vide letter dated 23.9.2006 from Director, Handloom Sericulture & Handicraft Jharkhand, Ranchi for setting up of a Weavers’ Service Centre at Ranchi under Central sector. The “Setting up of WSC in Central Sector” was one of the component of “Design Development & Training Programme (DDTP)” being implemented during the 10th Plan.

(ii) In response, this office vide letter dated 26.10.2006 had requested the Director (Handloom, Sericulture and Handicraft), Government of Jharkhand to submit a feasibility report for setting up of WSC at Jharkhand (Ranchi).

(iii) The Director, Government of Jharkhand vide letter dated 20.8.07 informed that the State of Jharkhand has more than 20,000 active weavers and he further requested for establishment of WSC in Jharkhand.

(iv) In the mean time, a new Scheme namely “Diversified Handloom Development Scheme” (DSDS) was formulated on 23.7.07 for implementation during 11th Plan. Now, “Setting up of Weavers’ Service Centre” in Central Sector is one of the components of “Diversified Handloom Development Scheme” which provides Rs. 7.71 crore for setting up and running a WSC in Central Sector for 5 years.

(v) During the formulation of “Diversified Handloom Development Scheme”, the approval of the Finance Minister was received on 6.8.07 on the condition that “Independent Weavers Service Centres for the States of Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand, which have large concentration of weavers, may be considered in the 11th Plan period, subject to the availability of funds under the scheme”.

(vi) The Director (Handloom), Government of Jharkhand vide letter dated 28.9.07 & subsequent reminder dated 2.11.07 was requested to submit the proposal as per the guidelines of "DHDS" along with feasibility report.

(vii) The Director (Handloom), Government of Himachal Pradesh, vide letter dated 28.9.07 & subsequent reminder dated 2.11.07 was requested to submit the proposal as per the guidelines of DHDS Scheme along with feasibility report.

(viii) The State Governments of Jharkhand & Himachal Pradesh have not responded with a proposal in this regard till date. Hence, it is not feasible to fulfill this assurance."

[xii] COMPETITIVE EXAMS IN INDIAN LANGUAGE

On 03 May, 2000 Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary, M.P., addressed the following Starred Question No.533 to the Prime Minister:-

“(a) whether the Government have given the option that in all the competitive exams conducted by the UPSC and SSC for the recruitment in various services answers can be given in any Indian language;

(b) if so, the list of all such services;

(c) whether the resolution passed by the Parliament on January 18, 1968 for this purpose has been implemented;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to allow all the languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution as medium for all the competitive examinations conducted by UPSC and SSC; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?”

2. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Department of Personnel and Training and Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Smt. Vasundhara Raje) stated as follows:-

“(a) to (e): No, Sir. In pursuance of the resolution passed by the Parliament in January, 1968 the option to write answers in any of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India has been extended only in the Civil Services (Main) Examination conducted by UPSC. The question of extension of this facility to other examinations conducted by UPSC is under the consideration of the Government on the basis of recommendations made by Dr. Satish Chandra Committee.

(f) & (g): In view of the importance and sensitivity of the matter and divergent views on the subject, Government's endeavour is to seek a consensus and evolve a nationally acceptable policy after holding wider consultation with the State Governments and other concerned, efforts for which are on.”

3. The above reply was treated as an assurance but the Ministry of Textiles requested for dropping of the assurance inter-alia on the following grounds: -

“That the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 533 relates to the policy of conducting competitive examinations in any of the languages included in the Eighth Schedules of the Constitution of “Design Development & Training Programme (DDTP)” being implemented during the 10th Plan.”

[xiii] DEBIT CARDS OF POST OFFICES

On 27 July, 2005, Shri Kishanbhai V. Patel, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 631 to the Minister of Communications and Information Technology:-

“(a) Whether Post offices across the country will have their own debit cards; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?”

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

“(a & b): Department of Posts intends to introduce anytime anywhere banking for the Post Office Savings Bank account holders in which debit cards may be issued to the customers to do the transactions. However, it is in a conceptual stage and details have not been worked out.”

3. The above reply was treated as an assurance however the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology requested for dropping the assurance on the following grounds: -

“As on date, the position regarding providing Debit Cards to Post Office Savings Bank customers is concerned, this issue is directly linked with the future plan of the Department for going in for Anytime-Anywhere-Anybranch Banking facility which is based on savings bank central server based computerization and a national networking.....a consultant was appointed by the Department According to the Consultant the first phase of implementation of the project, covering 4000 Post offices, would take about 5 years’ time from the start date.....”

[xiv] TRADE FAIR

On 13 December, 2005 S/Shri Ramdas Athawale and E.G. Sugavanam, MPs addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 3014 to the Minister of Commerce and Industry:-

- “(a) the number of visitors visited the India International Trade Fair (IITF), Delhi during the year 2005;
- (b) the number of countries, organisations participated in the fair;
- (c) the details of arrangements made for smooth conduct of the Fair;
- (d) the amount spent by I.T.P.O. in organising each trade- fairs during 2004-05 and 2005-06;
- (e) the income earned by I.T.P.O. on each trade fair during the said period;
- (f) whether there is any proposal to shift the venue of IITF from Pragati Maidan to a new place;
- (g) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (h) whether any discussion was held with various concerned Departments in this regard;
- (i) if so, the details thereof;
- (j) whether there is also proposal to modernize the Pragati Maidan; and
- (k) if so, the details thereof?”

2. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan) stated as follows:-

- “(a) Thirty lakhs (approx.).
- (b) 257 companies from 33 countries including 13 country level participation besides 7243 Indian companies.
- (c) All necessary arrangements like security, transport, easy availability of tickets, booking of stalls, etc were made.

(d)&(e) (Rupees in Lakhs)

| | <u>Expenditure</u> | <u>Income</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 2004-05 | 508.19 | 2640.07 |
| 2005-06 (Budgetted) | 725.50 | 2737.00 |

(f) to (i) No, Sir. Does not arise.

(j) & (k) Yes Sir. The feasibility of upgrading and increasing the infrastructure facilities including additional space, convention centre, traffic and parking, etc. is being examined."

3. The above reply was treated as an assurance however the Ministry of Commerce and Industry requested for dropping the assurance inter-alia on the following grounds:-

"That an Optimum Development Plan (ODP) of Pragati Maidan has been considered and approved and also the matter is being pursued with the concerned Departments and agencies for their approval which is likely to take considerable time.....The Indian Trade Promotion organization has made a lot of efforts to get ODP approved by various Government agencies"

[xv] APPOINTMENT OF ARMED FORCES OFFICERS IN GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

On 18 May, 2006 Sarvashri Eknath M. Gaikwad, Kirti Vardhan Singh and Shrimati Nivedita Mane, M.Ps., addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 4289 to the Minister of Defence:-

"(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has approached the various Governmental and non-Governmental organizations for appointment of senior and middle level officers of armed forces in their organizations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the response of the Government and non-Governmental Organizations thereto?"

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

"(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): A Committee set up by the Government to address the twin problems of high age profile and cadre stagnation of the officers in the three Services had inter-alia, recommended deputation of officers to Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations. These recommendations encompass a wide spectrum of service related issues which involve consultation with such organizations. In this connection consultations have been initiated with various Ministries/Departments and other Organisations."

3. The above reply was treated as an assurance however the Ministry of Defence requested for dropping the assurance on the following grounds:-

"That the.....Committee appointed.. made a number of recommendations..... The Ministry have consulted DOP&T, ASSOCHAM/CII.....while DOP&T have conveyed that there are no vacancies or quota for Army officers,Department of Defence Production with whom further consultations were made, have conveyed that equal opportunities exist for service officers who want to join Public Sector Enterprises under Department of Defence production subject to fulfillment of requisite guidelines."

[xvi] APPOINTMENT ON FAKE GROUNDS

On 14 December, 2006, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 3170 to the Minister of Railways:-

"(a) whether the cases of transfers and appointments on fake documents have come to the notice of Railways;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during last one year;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the officials/persons found involved therein?"

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

"(a) to (e) : Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha."

3. The above reply was treated as an assurance however in partial implementation of the assurance the Ministry of Parliamentary affairs laid Statement No. II/52 on 08 May 2007 vide which the Ministry of Railways furnished the following details to the House: -

"(a) to (e) : 85 such cases (transfers 7 and appointments 78) came to the notice of the Railways during the last one year. The following is the position of these cases :-

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| - Removed from service | - | 9 |
| - Dismissed from service | - | 5 |
| - Compulsorily retired from service | - | 1 |
| - Penalty of withholding of one set of Privilege Pass imposed | - | 1 |
| - Cases closed after inquiry | - | 10 |
| - Cases in which charges not proved and closure under examination | - | 2 |
| - Suspended and process of disciplinary action on | - | 2 |
| - Disciplinary action initiated | - | 8 |
| - Departmental action/inquiry on | - | 20 |
| - Cases under investigation/verification | - | 12 |
| - Cases under Police investigation | - | 15 |

3 Railway employees who are allegedly involved in entertaining fake documents are under suspension. While the role of two of them is still under investigation one has been issued chargesheet for imposition of major penalty.”

4. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs later also forwarded a request of the Ministry of Railways for treating the above Statement as full implementation of the assurance on the following grounds:-

“That the very nature of inquiry/investigation/verification or disciplinary action is such that it will take a very long time to reach any finality.”

[xvii] CENTRAL UNIVERSITY STATUS TO ALLAHABAD UNIVERSITY

On 08 May, 2007, Shri Mohan Singh , MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 4434 to the Minister of Human Resource Development:-

“(a) whether the Government has taken over the Allahabad University and accorded it the status of Central University;

(b) if so, the names of the colleges of this university which have been taken over by the Government;

(c) whether Allahabad Medical College is also included in the list of colleges;

(d) if so, the time by which this Medical College has been declared as part of Central University;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal for developing and expanding this medical college; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?”

2. In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) stated as follows:-

“(a): The University of Allahabad has been declared an institution of national importance, and established as a body corporate by the University of Allahabad Act, 2005 enacted by Parliament.

(b): According to the provisions of Statute 31(1) of the Statutes of the University, eleven colleges shall be the Constituent Colleges of the University. A list of these colleges is annexed.

(c): The Motilal Nehru Medical College and Swamp Rani Nehru Hospital, Allahabad shall be a University College under Statute 30(4) of the Statutes of the University.

(d): The University of Allahabad Act, 2005 has already come into force on the 14th July, 2005.

(e) and (f): According to the information furnished by the University of Allahabad, it is in the process of preparing a Master Plan for development and expansion of the aforesaid University College.

[ANNEXURE](#)

List referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4434 asked by Shri Mohan Singh for answer on 8th May, 2007 regarding 'Central University' Status to Allahabad University*.

List of Constituent Colleges of the University of Allahabad

1. Allahabad Degree College, Allahabad
2. Arya Kanya Degree College, Allahabad
3. Chaudhary Mahadeo Prasad Degree College, Allahabad
4. Ewing Christian College., Allahabad
5. Is war Saran Degree College, Allahabad
6. Hamidia Girls Degree College, Allahabad
7. Jagat Taran Girls Degree College, Allahabad
- 8., K, P. Training College, Allahabad
9. Rajarshi Tandon Girls Degree College, Allahabad
- IO.Sanwal Dass Sadan Lai E3ianna Girls Degree College, Allahabad
- 11.Shyama Prasad Mukherji Government Degree College, Allahabad."

3. The above reply was treated as an assurance however the Ministry of Human Resource Development requested for dropping the assurance inter-alia on the following grounds: -

"That Statute 30(4) of the Statues of the university of Allahabad has been repealed by the president in her capacity as the visitor of the University.....Hence the question of preparing any development the said College by the University of Allahabad does not arise. since plan of

[xviii] MEASURES TO CURB PIRACY

On 11 March, 2008 Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy Kharventhan, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.1706 to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting:-

- “(a) whether the entertainment sector has been suffering losses due to piracy;
- (b) if so, the total amount of losses suffered during each of the last three years till date;
- (c) whether any study group has been set up on this issue;
- (d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the said group; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government on these recommendations?”

2. In reply, the then Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs (Shri P.R. Dasmunsi) stated as follows:-

“(a) & (b): Yes Sir. The entertainment sector has been suffering losses due to piracy. However, the entertainment sector in India is largely in private hands. This Ministry does not maintain data regarding the amount of losses.

(c) & (d): A Core Group had been set up in 2006, comprising representatives from the film industry under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Shabana Azmi to look into the issue of piracy. The recommendations of the Core Group regarding piracy are as follows:

i) Constitution of an Inter-Ministerial Group (Min. of I&B, Information Technology, Human Resource Development, Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Telecommunications and Home Affairs) for recommendations to Cabinet on policy and legal matters concerning anti-piracy measures.

ii) Min. of HRD have assigned collective administration of copyrights of film and TV serials to Society for Copyright Regulations of Indian Producers of Film & Television (SCRIPT) which is practically non-functional, therefore, industry was unable to get the benefit of public performance of cinematograph films.

iii) Designated special courts to be set up for dealing with criminal cases related to piracy of films. Courts may be designated to deal exclusively with film piracy matters under the Criminal Procedure Code.

iv) Economic Offence Cell (special police cell) be set up in every city to deal with piracy.

v) Legislation may be effected to enable implementation of the Optical Disc Law (in accordance with the model legislation recommended by the International Intellectual Property Alliance). It is also recommended that the actual user condition for import of Optical Disc Production Equipment be made stringent. A restriction on imports of Optical Disk Equipment by producers owning less than a minimum number title of films may be included in the Import Export Policy as an anti-piracy measure.

vi) Certificate be made valid for all formats in perpetuity, as against the current practice for theatrical release/video etc. for a period of 10 years. Display of certificate number and category on any electronic format and device should be treated as valid proof of Certification. A colour code be adopted instead of printing Certificate on home videos as reduction of an A4 size certificate to fit the CD inlay card is creating its own anti-piracy problems.

vii) The Government may consider exclusive tax benefits for creation of Digital Cinema Infrastructure, with a view to enabling reduction of piracy, like an Income tax holiday under Section 80 IB of the Income Tax Act, 100% depreciation benefits on equipment and exemption from Customs Duty on import of equipment pertaining to Digital Cinema theatres (Digital Projector and Digital Movie Compressor). It is also recommended that exemption from payment of service tax may be given to digital cinema operators and distributors to persuade an impetus to this sector. The Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs may also recommend exemption from Lease Tax on rent of digital equipment (which is being levied presently) to State Governments.

(e) Steps taken on the recommendations of the Core Groups are as follows:

i) Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion has formed an Inter-Ministerial Committee regarding issues pertaining to Intellectual Property Rights and Piracy. Similarly, Ministry of HRD also regularly holds meetings with different Ministries and stakeholders in matters of copy right.

ii) The recommendations relating to the administration of copyright of films and television serials by a society called "Society for Copyright Regulations of Indian Producers of Film & Television" (SCRIPT) have been referred to Ministry of Human Resource Development for further necessary action.

iii) The recommendations regarding designated special courts and setting up of economic offence cell are being taken up with the State Government in the meeting of sub-group constituted as per the recommendation of SIMCON.

iv) This Ministry is examining an Optical Disc Law draft prepared by FICCI.

v) This Ministry is currently considering modification/ amendment of Cinematograph Act 1952.

vi) The Finance Act 2007 had given the status of 'Project' to digital cinema with customs duty at 7.5% (proposed custom duty at 5% in Finance Bill 2008) and exempted the transmission of digital content of the cinematograph film from payment of Service Tax."

3. The above reply was treated as an assurance however the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting requested for dropping the assurance inter-alia on the following grounds: -

"That the overhauling of Cinematograph Act, 1952 requires intense consultation with all the stakeholders and it is an ongoing process. It would take considerable time to arrive at the final version of the modified Cinematograph Act. '

MINUTES

FOURTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2007-2008) held on 08 January, 2008 in Committee Room 'E' Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1130 hours to 1230 hours on Tuesday, 08 January, 2008.

PRESENT

CHAIRMAN

Shri Harin Pathak

Members

2. Dr. K. Dhanaraju
3. Shri A. Venkatesh Naik
4. Shri Nihal Chand
5. Shri Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh

Secretariat

1. Shri Hardev Singh - Director
2. Shri B.S. Dahiya - Deputy Secretary

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and wished them a very happy and prosperous new year 2008. Thereafter, they were apprised briefly about the agenda for the sitting. The Committee then took up the following ten Memoranda pertaining to requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of assurances:-

Memorandum No. 22

Request for dropping of assurances given in replies to (i) USQ No. 856 dated 27.07.2000 regarding 'Diesel Scam'; (ii) USQ No. 876 dated 23.11.2000 regarding 'Diesel Scam'; and (iii) USQ No. 6566 dated 09.05.2002 regarding 'Racket of HSD Unearthed by CBI'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Committee had turned down the requests of the Ministry for dropping the assurances twice earlier. As investigations in remaining 57 conspiracies out of 110 cases are still in progress by the CBI, the Committee desired that the investigations be brought to their logical conclusion and accordingly decided not to drop the assurances.

Memorandum No. 23 Request for dropping of assurance given on 16 July, 2002 in reply to SQ No. 27 regarding 'Communal riots in the country'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and having been satisfied with the submissions made by the Ministry decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 24 Request for dropping of assurance given on 03 May, 2005 in reply to USQ No. 5704 regarding 'Inclusion of Castes in ST list of Chhattisgarh'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and desired to have a status report on the proposals received from State Government of Chhattisgarh for inclusion of 13 communities in SC/ST list. The Committee also showed their displeasure over the contention of the Ministry "that the answer given by the Ministry does not constitute an assurance" and observe that it is not for the Ministry to question the jurisdiction of the Committee. The Committee, therefore, decided not to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 25 Request for dropping of assurances given in replies to (i) Starred Question No. 222 dated 06.03.2003 regarding 'More Powers to Press Council of India' and (ii) Starred Question No. 214 dated 07.08.2006 regarding 'Obscenity and Vulgarity in Newspapers'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the proposal regarding grant of more powers to Press Council of India by way of making certain amendments to the Press Council Act, 1978 has been under consideration of the Ministry for several years and it is still not certain how much more time it would take to finalize the issue as no final view has emerged amongst the various stakeholders. The Committee was not convinced with the given reasons and desired that the issue be finalized early and the Government should come out with the necessary amendment in the Press Council Act, 1978 to provide more penal powers to the Press Council of India.

Memorandum No. 26 Request for dropping of the assurances given in replies to (i) Unstarred Question No. 3418 dated 24 March, 2005 regarding 'Allocation of Kerosene'; (ii) Unstarred Question No. 7030 dated 12 May, 2005 regarding 'Shortage of Kerosene'; (iii) Unstarred Question No. 434 dated 24 November, 2005 regarding 'Rationalization of Kerosene'; (iv) Unstarred Question No. 534 dated 23 February, 2006 regarding 'Demand of Kerosene in States'; (v) Unstarred Question No. 485 dated 27 July, 2006

regarding 'Sale of Kerosene to BPL Families'; (vi) Unstarred Question No. 514 dated 27 July, 2006 regarding 'Smart Cards to Cooking Gas/Kerosene Consumers'; (vii) Unstarred Question No. 311 dated 17 August, 2006 regarding 'Shortage of Kerosene'; and (viii) Unstarred Question No. 2286 dated 7 December, 2006 regarding 'Availability of Kerosene'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that despite the steps taken by the Ministry it could not finalise the proposal of rationalizing the allocation of kerosene under Public Distribution Scheme (PDS). The Committee did not agree to drop these assurances and desired that the Ministry should finalise the norms for allocation of kerosene under PDS and open market at the earliest.

Memorandum No. 27*

Request for dropping the assurances given in replies to: (i) Unstarred Question No. 6249 dated 6 May, 2005 regarding Legislation on Insurance Sector; (ii) Unstarred Question No. 1624 dated 2 December, 2005 regarding Narasimhan Committee on Insurance; (iii) Unstarred Question No. 2286 dated 10 March, 2006 regarding Amendment to Insurance Law; (vi) Unstarred Question No. 553 dated 24 November, 2006 regarding Banking Reforms; (v) Unstarred Question No. 1513 dated 1 December, 2006 regarding Government Guarantee on LIC Policies; (vi) Unstarred Question No. 2576 dated 8 December, 2006 regarding FDI in Insurance Sector; (vii) Unstarred Question No. 669 dated 02 March, 2007 regarding FDI in Insurance Sector; and (viii) Unstarred Question No. 3697 dated 27 April, 2007 regarding FDI in Insurance Sector.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the requests of the Ministry for dropping the assurances has already been considered by the Committee and turned down twice. The Committee also noted that legislation on Insurance sector is a very important issue and desired to have a status report on the present position of the amendment to 'Insurance Laws'. The Committee therefore decided not to drop the assurances.

Memorandum No.28

Request for dropping the assurances given in replies to (i) Unstarred Question No. 3669 dated 15.04.1999 regarding 'Operation Leech conducted in Andaman & Nicobar Islands', (ii) Unstarred Question No. 856 dated 28.07.2005 regarding 'Enquiry into alleged Pay-Offs', and (iii) Unstarred Question No. 4595 dated 25.08.2005 regarding 'Supply of Surveillance/Counter Surveillance Equipments'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the request of the Ministry for dropping the assurance was considered by the Committee earlier and the Committee had desired that a detailed status report with full facts of the case may be furnished for their consideration, but the same has not been furnished so far for their consideration. The Committee, therefore, desired that the said status report be furnished in the first instance and accordingly decided not to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No.29 Request for dropping of assurance given on 4 December, 2003 in reply to USQ No. 397 regarding 'Illegal Occupation of Waiting Rooms'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that DGPs and GMs of concerned Railways had been requested by the Ministry to take necessary action and ensure that the Waiting Hall/Retiring Room of Indian Railways occupied by the Government Railway Police personnel are vacated. The Committee, therefore, desired the Ministry to furnish a status report regarding the Waiting/Retiring rooms that were occupied by them and got vacated later on. The Committee therefore did not agree to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No.30 Request for dropping of assurance given on 15 December, 2004 in reply to USQ No. 2325 regarding 'Hota Committee Recommendations'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Government proposes to set up an Administrative Reforms Commission to go into the entire gamut of reforms in Civil Services. The Committee, therefore, decided not to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No.31* Request for dropping of assurance given on 23 December, 2004 in reply to USQ No. 3812 regarding 'Opening of New Rail Museum in Maharashtra'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that a proposal for setting up of a regional rail museum at Pune is under consideration. The Committee, therefore, desired to have a status report on the same before taking a decision on the request of the Ministry of Railways for dropping the assurance. The Committee also decided that in the meantime, the Ministry should seek an extension.

The Committee then adjourned.

*Implemented.

MINUTES NINTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2007-2008) held on 11 June, 2008 in Committee Room 'B' Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1100 hours to 1200 hours on Wednesday, 11 June, 2008.

PRESENT

Chairman

Shri Harin Pathak

Members

2. Shri Jigajinagi Ramesh Chandappa
3. Dr. K. Dhanaraju
4. Shri Biren Singh Engti
5. Shri Sunil Khan
6. Shri Vijoy Krishna
7. Shri A. Venkatesh Naik
8. Shri Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh
9. Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli

Secretariat

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri P. Sreedharan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Rajeev Sharma | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri B.S. Dahiya | - | Deputy Secretary |

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and apprised them briefly about the agenda for the sitting. Thereafter, the Committee considered the Draft Twenty Third Report regarding requests for dropping of assurances and after discussion adopted the same without any amendment. The Committee authorized the Chairman to present the Report to the House during ensuing Session of Parliament. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following five Memoranda placed before them for consideration of the requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of assurances: -

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <u>Memorandum No. 52</u> | Request for dropping of assurance given on 16 December, 2005 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3586 regarding 'Model Concession Pact'. |
|--------------------------|---|

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Model Concession Agreements (MCA) are being framed by the different Ministries and the Ministry of Finance is not in a position to fulfill the assurance unless these Ministries ultimately frame the MCA. Accordingly, the Committee decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 53 Request for dropping of assurance given on 11 May, 2007 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 5095 regarding 'Retirement Age of Judges'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Ministry have requested the Committee, not to treat the reply as an assurance. The Committee expressed the view that it was the prerogative of the Committee to treat a particular reply as an assurance and it was not for the Ministry to question the decision of the Committee. The Committee, therefore, decided not to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 54* Request for dropping of assurance given on 30 November, 2007 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2085 regarding 'Service Request before the Sixth Central Pay Commission'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and expressed their concern over the contention of the Ministry that its reply cannot be termed as assurance. The Committee emphasized that it was not for the Ministry to question the decision of the Committee to treat a particular reply as an assurance. The Committee was not satisfied with the reasons adduced by the Ministry and decided not to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 55 Request for dropping of assurance given on 05 December, 2007 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2761 regarding 'Recommendations of NKC on Survey Outcomes'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that 'the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) have been forwarded to the Ministries concerned by the PMO and the Planning Commission and the Ministries have framed schemes which are in various stages of appraisal by the Planning Commission and the Department of Expenditure'. The Committee also noted that some recommendations of NKC are still under examination, while action have been completed in case of others. The Committee, therefore, desired that a status report on the subject might first be furnished for their consideration. The Committee further noted that the Ministry has not sought any extension of time to implement the assurance. The Committee, therefore, decided to re-consider the request after receipt of the status report and the request for extension of time and accordingly, decided not to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 56

Request for dropping of assurance given on 26 April, 2005 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4626 regarding 'Vocational Education'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Sudeep Banerjee, then Additional Secretary, was to submit its report by 15 March, 2005, however, the same was not submitted as the Chairman of the Committee retired. The Banerjee Committee had also not sought extension of time for submission of its report and its term was not extended beyond 15 March, 2005 and as such the Banerjee Committee became non-functional. The Committee was not at all satisfied with the reasons advanced by the Ministry and desired to know the present status of the assurance. They accordingly decided not to drop the assurance.

The Committee then adjourned.

*Implemented

MINUTES

TENTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2007-2008) held on 10 July, 2008 in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1130 hours to 1230 hours on Thursday 10 July, 2008.

PRESENT

Chairman

Shri Harin Pathak

Members

2. Shri Sunil Khan
3. Shri Vijoy Krishna
4. Shri Rasheed Masood
5. Shri Nihal Chand
6. Shri Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh

Secretariat

1. Shri P. Sreedharan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Dal Singh Malha - Deputy Secretary
3. 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. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following ten Memoranda containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping the pending assurances:-

Memorandum No. 57 Request for dropping of assurance given on 22 December, 2004 in reply to SQ No.305 regarding 'Development of Inland Waterways'.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that the Department of Shipping had not received any proposal from Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal or Shri Probodh Panda or any other Member of Parliament for development of any specific waterway in the hilly/ areas/North Eastern States so far. The Committee, accordingly, decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 58 Request for dropping of assurance given on 08 March, 1999 in reply to USQ No.1728 regarding 'New Renewable Energy Policy'.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that under the Electricity Act, 2003, a National Electricity Policy, National Tariff Policy and National Rural Electrification Policy, which covered renewables as well, was prepared and announced. It was also noted that an Expert Committee of the Planning Commission have also made recommendations on an Integrated Energy Policy for the country and these recommendations, which cover the renewable energy sector, were considered presently adequate and as such the Ministry did not intend to have a separate policy for 'Renewable Energy' for the present. Accordingly, the Committee decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 59 Request for dropping of assurance given on 01 December, 2004 in reply to USQ No.193 regarding 'CBI Raids'.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that out of the 65 cases registered by the CBI during the special drive, they had already completed investigation in 59 cases *i.e.* nearly 91% cases. As per CBI only 6 cases (9% approx) were still under investigation. As major portion of work had been completed, the Committee decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 60 Request for dropping of assurance given on 02 March 2007 in reply to USQ No.610 regarding 'National Energy Funds'.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that the Ministry of Power had stated that Planning Commission intimated that the recommendations of Integrated Energy Policy including that of 'Setting up of National Energy Fund to provide financial assistance for Research and Development in Energy Sector', were being processed by Energy Coordination Committee headed by the Prime Minister and implementation of the Integrated Energy Policy recommendation might not have any definite time frame of implementation and should therefore not be treated as an assurance given to the Parliament. However the Committee expressed their displeasure over the request of the Ministry to drop the assurance on the ground that the reply should not be treated as assurance. The Committee were of the view that it was not for the Ministry to question the decision of the Committee to treat a particular reply as an assurance. The Committee also decided that the Ministry of Power should pursue the matter with Planning Commission. Accordingly, the Committee did not agree to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 61 Request for dropping of assurance given on 03 May, 2000 in reply to USQ No.5739 regarding 'Abolition of Torture'.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that India signed the UN Convention Against Torture and other cruel, inhuman degrading treatment or punishment on October 14, 1997. However, the ratification of this convention remained under examination. The Committee, therefore, desired that the matter should be brought to its logical conclusion and accordingly decided not to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 62 Request for dropping of assurance given on 23 November, 2007 in reply to USQ No.997 regarding 'Supply of NAPHTHA'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Ministry of Power had proposed complete waiver of Basic Custom Duty and CVD/Excise Duty on NAPHTHA to make it affordable fuel for power generation. However, the proposal for exemption of NAPHTHA from excise duty for Power Sector had not been announced by Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on 29 February, 2008. Accordingly, the Committee decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 63 Request for dropping of assurance given on 05 March, 2008 in reply to USQ No.1061 regarding 'Raising Higher Education Fees'.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission on higher education was forwarded to the concerned Ministries by the Planning Commission. Since the matter requires wider consultations with all the stake holders and no time can be fixed for the same, the Committee decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 64 Request for dropping of assurance given on 15 May, 2007 in reply to USQ No.5432 regarding 'Trade and Exhibition Centre'.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) decided that Indian Business & Professional Council (IBPC) a professional UAE based business organization representing the Indian interests should take the lead role in setting up of an India Trade & Exhibition Centre (ITEC) at Expo City, Sharjah, UAE. Since the IBPC had to evaluate its business potential before taking a view on its proposal, the Committee decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 65 Request for dropping of assurance given on 05 December, 2007 in reply to USQ No.2822 regarding 'Setting up of Vehicles Inspection Centre'.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that in reply to USQ No.2822 dated 05 December 2007, it was stated that the proposal was at nascent stage. However, even after lapse of about six months, the Ministry, while requesting for dropping the assurance, have once again intimated that the proposal was at nascent stage. The Committee were not satisfied with the reasoning advanced by the Ministry and decided not to drop the assurance. The Committee also noted that the Ministry had not sought necessary extension of time beyond June 2008.

Memorandum No. 66 Request for dropping of assurance given on 21 August, 2007 in reply to USQ No.1265 regarding 'Registration of FIRs'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the recommendations made by the Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) cover wide spectrum of issues and it also required consultation with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Committee, therefore, decided to obtain information as to how many State Governments had been consulted so far, chronological details of the steps taken by the Government so far and also the future course of action chalked out by the Government to implement the recommendations of Administrative Reforms Commission. The Committee also decided to obtain a detailed note on the aforesaid aspects in the first instance before taking a final decision on the request received from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES
SECOND SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2008-2009) held on 24 September 2008 in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1130 hours to 1230 hours on Wednesday 24 September 2008.

PRESENT

Chairman

Shri Harin Pathak

Members

2. Shri Biren Singh Engti
3. Shri Sunil Khan
4. Shri Vijoy Krishna
5. Shri Rasheed Masood
6. Shri Nihal Chand
7. Smt. M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran
8. Shri Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh
9. Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli

Secretariat

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri P. Sreedharan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Rajeev Sharma | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Dal Singh Malha | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and apprised them briefly about the agenda of the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter the Committee took up for consideration the draft Twenty Fifth and Twenty Sixth Reports regarding requests for dropping of assurances and after discussion adopted both the Reports without any amendment. The Committee also authorised the Chairman to finalise both the Reports and present the same to the House in the ensuing Part-II Session of the Lok Sabha. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following ten Memoranda containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping the pending assurances:-

Memorandum No. 2*: Request of the Ministry of Home Affairs for dropping of assurance given on 15 May, 2007 in reply to Unstarred Question No.5393 regarding 'Private Detective Agencies'.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that the Private Detective Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 2007 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 13 August, 2007 and the same stands referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report. In view of it, the Committee decided not to pursue the assurance.

Memorandum No. 3: Request of the Ministry of Earth Science for dropping of assurance given on 24 August, 2007 in reply to supplementary by Shri Raghunath Jha to Starred Question No.186 regarding 'Prediction of Rainfall'.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that the year 2013 has been referred to in reply as the target year by which the project of installing instrument within boundry of the country would be completed. The Committee however, decided to know the precise action taken by the Ministry in this regard till date and also desired that the latest status of the assurance should be obtained from the Ministry. The Committee, accordingly decided to pursue the matter.

Memorandum No. 4: Request of the Ministry of Labour & Employment for dropping of assurance given on 12 December, 2005 reply to Unstarred Questions No.2786 regarding 'Amendment in E.P.F. and M.P. Act, 1952'.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that the Ministry stated that they were unable to fix a time frame to fulfill the assurances as the comprehensive amendment proposal of Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions of the Act were an ongoing process. The Committee, not being convinced with the reasons advanced by the Ministry, decided to pursue the assurance. The Committee also observed that the Ministry did not seek necessary extension of time and desired that the Ministry should seek the same. The Committee, however desired that the Ministry should furnish a status report to the Committee for their consideration along with the request for granting them minimum extension of time.

Memorandum No. 5: Request of the Ministry of External Affairs for dropping of assurance given on 8 March, 2006 in reply to Unstarred Question No.1881 regarding 'VISA Free Entry'.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that no final views/ comments had been given by the Myanmar authorities on the proposed MOU on the subject. The Committee also noted that no definite time frame could be fixed for finalisation of the proposal and the Committee, having been convinced with the reasons advanced by the Ministry, decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 6: Request of the Ministry of Textiles for dropping of assurance given on 8 May, 2007 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4410 regarding 'Modernisation of NTC Mills'.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that the modernization of 13 mills was to be completed by 31 March, 2008 but it could not be completed within the stated period. The Committee desired that the Ministry should be asked to furnish the reasons for not completing the project within the proposed time period. The Committee having not been convinced with the reasons forwarded by the Ministry, decided not to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 7: Request of the Ministry of Home Affairs for dropping the assurance given on 13 March, 2007 in reply to supplementary by Dr. Laxmi Narayan Pandey to Starred Question No.201 regarding 'Meeting with States on Police Reforms'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Minister had assured that the draft on 'Police Reforms', as far as Union Territories were concerned, would definitely be presented in the 'next Session' but the same had not been finalized till date. The Committee also deprecated the reasons advanced by the Ministry for dropping the assurance and decided to pursue the assurance separately.

Memorandum No. 8: Request of the Ministry of Home Affairs for dropping of assurances given on (i) 02 May, 2000 in reply to Unstarred Question No.5544 regarding 'Changing the name of West Bengal'; (ii) 20 February, 2001 in reply to Unstarred Question No.32 regarding 'Renaming of West Bengal'; (iii) 27 November, 2001 in reply to Unstarred Question No.1524 regarding 'Renaming of West Bengal as Bangla'; and (iv) 05 March, 2002 in reply to Unstarred Question No.716 regarding 'Renaming of West Bengal'.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that the proposal for changing the name of the State of 'West Bengal' as 'Bangla' has been considered by the Ministry of Home Affairs in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Government consider it not advisable to pursue the matter being a sensitive issue. The Committee desired that the Ministry of Home Affairs should take up the matter with the State Government of West Bengal and take an appropriate decision in the matter. The Committee, therefore, decided not to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 9: Request of the Ministry of Textiles for dropping of assurances given on (i) 22 August, 2006 in reply to Unstarred Question No.2822 regarding 'Technology Mission on Silk and Wool'; and (ii) 13 March, 2007 in reply to Unstarred Question No.1913 regarding 'Technology Mission on Indian Silks.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and noted that 'Technology Mission for Indian Silks' had already been incorporated in the XI Plan documents for development of sericulture as a part of Catalytic Development Programmes which was being followed by the implementing agencies in the States/Union Territories. Since no action was pending on the part of the Ministry, the Committee decided to drop the assurances.

Memorandum No. 10: Request of the Ministry of Textiles for dropping of assurance given on 21 April, 2008 in reply to Unstarred Question No.3897 regarding 'Opening of Handloom Centre'.

The Committee considered the above Memorandum and after being convinced with the reasons furnished by the Ministry, 'that the State Governments of Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh had not responded with a proposal till date for opening of Weavers Service Centres in their States', decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 11: Request of the Ministry of Power for dropping of assurance given on 14 March, 2008 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2275 regarding 'Pancheshwar Power Project'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project had not been finalized due to some outstanding issues between India and Nepal. The Committee also noted that settling of such an issue required bilateral engagement with Nepal. The Committee desired to know the status report on bilateral talks on the subject and outcome thereof before taking a final decision on the request of the Ministry. Accordingly, the Committee decided not to drop the assurance.

The Committee then adjourned.

*Implemented.

MINUTES

THIRD SITTING

Minutes of the third sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2008-2009) held on 12 November, 2008 in Committee Room '139', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1130 hours to 1230 hours on Wednesday, 12 November, 2008.

PRESENT

CHAIRMAN

Shri Harin Pathak

Members

2. Shri J.M. Aron Rashid
3. Shri Sunil Khan
4. Shri Vijoy Krishna
2. Shri A. Venkatesh Naik
6. Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli

Secretariat

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|----|--------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri P. Sreedharan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Rajeev Sharma | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri D.S. Malha | - | Deputy 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 ten Memoranda placed before them for consideration of the requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of assurances: -

Memorandum No. 12: Request for dropping of assurances given on 21 April, 1992 in reply to Starred Question No. 677 regarding 'Report of Chandulal Chandrakar Committee' and on 22 December, 1992 in reply to Unstarred Question NO. 4717 regarding 'Report of Chandulal Chandrakar Committee'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and observed that the failure of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to trace the report of the Chandulal Chandrakar Committee was a serious matter and therefore, decided to call the representatives of the Ministry for seeking clarifications in this regard. They also decided not to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 13: Request for dropping of assurance given on 8 August, 1995 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1358 regarding 'Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum. Taking note of the fact that neither the file relating to CAG's Report nor exact contents of the Action Taken Note (ATN) were available with the Ministry, the Committee decided not to drop the assurance. They also decided to call the representatives of the Ministry for hearing their views in this regard.

Memorandum No. 14: Request for dropping of assurance given on 3 May, 2000 in reply to Starred Question No. 533 regarding 'Competitive Exams in Indian Languages'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Committee had, at their sitting held on 12 October, 2007, decided to drop 21 similar assurances as not even five percent of the candidates opt for languages included in the Eighth Schedule other than Hindi as the medium for Civil Services (Main) Examination conducted by the UPSC. The Committee accordingly decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 15: Request for dropping of assurance given on 27 July, 2005 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 631 regarding 'Debit Cards of Post Offices'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that a definite time frame could not be laid down for issue of Debit Cards to post office customers and accordingly decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 16: Request for dropping of assurance given on 13 December, 2005 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3014 regarding 'Trade Fair'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that various statutory approvals regarding Optimum Development Plan (ODP) including development norms in Pragati Maidan were still under consideration of various authorities and there was no likelihood of ODP taking shape in near future. Accordingly, the Committee decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 17: Request for dropping of assurance given on 18 May, 2006 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4289 regarding 'Appointment of Armed Forces Officers in Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisation'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the Ministry of Defence have consulted the Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T), ASSOCHAM/CII and the Department of Defence Production to explore possibilities of additional deputation vacancies in various Organisations. Taking into consideration the reply of the DOP&T that there were no vacancies or quota for Army officers and also that of Department of Defence Production that equal opportunities existed for service officers willing to join the PSEs under the Department, the Committee decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 18: Request for dropping of assurance given on 14 December, 2006 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3170 regarding 'Appointments on Fake Documents'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that three Railway employees who were allegedly involved in entertaining fake documents had been placed under suspension. While the role of two of them was still under investigation one had been issued charge sheet for imposition of major penalty. Accordingly, the Committee decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 19: Request for dropping of assurance given on 8 May, 2007 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4434 regarding 'Central University Status to Allahabad University'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that Statute 30(4) of the Statutes of the University of Allahabad had since been repealed by the President in her capacity as the Visitor of the University. With the repeal of this Statute, the Motilal Nehru Medical College and Swarup Rani Nehru Hospital, Allahabad ceased to be a University College of the University of Allahabad. The Committee, therefore, decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 20*: Request for dropping of assurance given on 27 February, 2008 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 312 regarding 'Recognition of Foreign Medical Degrees'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the matter was again taken up by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with the Medical Council of India for furnishing requisite information with reference to parts (c) & (d) of the question and the Council had informed that the details relating to reasons and basis for discontinuance of recognition of some degrees after 1975 were not available with them. Accordingly, the Committee decided to drop the assurance.

Memorandum No. 21: Request for dropping of assurance given on 11 March, 2008 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1706 regarding 'Measures to Curb Piracy'.

The Committee considered the above memorandum and noted that the steps taken on the recommendations of the core Group to contain piracy, as indicated in the reply, are an ongoing process for containment of piracy. Accordingly, the Committee decided to drop the assurance.

The Committee then adjourned.

*Implemented

MINUTES

SEVENTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2009-2010) held on 10 December, 2009 in Committee Room '139', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1600 hours on Thursday 10 December, 2009.

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi

Members

2. Shri Anandrao Adsul
3. Shri Mohan Jena
4. Shri Manohar Tirkey
5. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav

Secretariat

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|----|--------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri P. Sreedharan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri R.S. Kambo | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri D.S. Malha | - | Additional Director |

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

1. Ms. Sujatha Rao, Secretary (H&FW)
2. Shri Vineet Choudhary, Joint Secretary
3. Shri Amarjeet Singh, ED
4. Smt. Shakuntala D. Gamlin, Joint Secretary
5. Shri Debasish Panda, Joint Secretary
6. Shri Amit Mohan Prasad, Joint Secretary

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted Draft First, Second, Third and Fourth Reports regarding requests for dropping of assurances. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalise the Reports and present them to the House.

2. Thereafter, the representatives of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health) were then called in and the Committee resumed the oral evidence in connection with the pending assurances.

3. The Committee sought clarifications on certain assurances which were replied to by the representatives of the Ministry.

4. The verbatim proceedings have been kept on record.

5. The Committee decided to review the remaining pending assurances on a later date.

The Committee then adjourned.