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**COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES  
(2014-2015)**

**SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**THIRD REPORT**

**REVIEW OF PENDING ASSURANCES  
PERTAINING TO THE MINISTRY OF  
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
EMPOWERMENT**

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 16 December, 2014*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

***December, 2014/Agrahayana, 1936 (Saka)***

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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

*December, 2014/Agrahayana, 1936 (Saka)*

**CGA No. 253**

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES\*  
(2014-2015)

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri E. Ahamed
4. Shri Anto Antony
5. Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
6. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadia
7. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
8. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
9. Shri A.T. Nana Patil
10. Shri C.R. Patil
11. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
12. Shri Tasleem Uddin
13. Shri K.C. Venugopal
14. Shri S.R. Vijayakumar
15. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

- |                         |   |                            |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Shri R.S. Kambo      | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i>     |
| 2. Shri U.B.S. Negi     | — | <i>Director</i>            |
| 3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan | — | <i>Additional Director</i> |
| 4. Shri Kulvinder Singh | — | <i>Committee Officer</i>   |

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\* The Committee was constituted w.e.f. 01 September, 2014 vide Para No. 633 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated 02 September, 2014.

## 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 Third Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2014-2015) at their sitting held on 08 October, 2014 took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment regarding pending assurances up to 12th Lok Sabha pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

3. At their sitting held on 11 December, 2014, the Committee (2014-2015) considered and adopted their Third Report.

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

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

NEW DELHI;  
11 December, 2014  

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20 Agrahayana, 1936 (*Saka*)

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL “NISHANK”  
*Chairperson,*  
*Committee on Government Assurances.*

## REPORT

### I. Introductory

The Committee on Government Assurances scrutinize the assurances, promises, undertakings etc. given by the Ministers from time to time on the floor of the House and report to the extent to which such assurances, promises, undertakings etc. have been implemented. Once an assurance has been given on the floor of the House, the same is required to be implemented within three months. The Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are under obligation to seek extension of time, if they are unable to fulfil the assurance within the prescribed periods of three months. Where a Ministry/Department are unable to implement an assurance, they are required to move the Committee to drop the same. The Committee consider such requests and agree to drop, if they are convinced with the grounds cited to be justified. The Committee also examine whether the implementation of assurances has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose and the Committee also look into the extent to which the assurances have been implemented.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2009-2010) took a policy decision to call the representatives of the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, in a phased manner, to review the pending assurances and also look at the reasons for pendency, the operation of the prescribed system in the Ministries/Departments for dealing with assurances. The Committee also decided to look at the quality of assurances implemented by the Government.

3. The Committee on Government Assurances (2014-2015) decided to follow the well established and time tested procedure of calling the representatives of the Ministry/Departments of Government of India, in a phased manner and reviewed the pending assurances. The Committee on Government Assurances took a step further and decided to call the representatives of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs also as all the assurances are implemented through them.

4. In pursuance of the decision referred to above, the Committee (2014-2015) called the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and examined the following 02 pending assurances pertaining to the Ministry at their sitting held on 08 October, 2014:—

Sl. No.	USQ No. & Dated	Subject
1.	USQ No. 3860 dated 18.03.1997	Old age and Orphanage Homes (Appendix-I)
2.	USQ No. 3144 dated 16.03.1999	Dowry System (Appendix-II)

5. At the outset, the Committee enquired about the Secretary of the Parliamentary Affairs who was called to attend the sitting of the Committee but did not come, the official deputed by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs responded as under:—

"Hon'ble Chairperson, we have never attended the Committee in the past as our work is to lay."

6. Since he is not authorized to attend the sitting of the Committee as per Direction 59 (1) by the Direction by the Speaker, the Committee directed him to inform the Secretary to attend the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Secretary of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs arrived and appeared before the Committee.

## **II. Scrutiny of Pending Assurances**

### **A. Old age and Orphanage Homes**

7. In response to USQ No. 3680 dated 18.3.1997 regarding Old age and Orphanage homes, an assurance was given that the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

8. During the course of evidence, the representative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment explained the position as under:—

"...There are two assurances in which have been delayed. We have given opportunity to explain for which we are grateful. There was delay for quite some time for which regret.

First is USQ No. 3680 dated 18 March, 1997 which is regarding Old Age Home and functioning of Orphanage. When this question was asked it was under this Ministry.

I read this question then it will be easy to understand In part (a), it was asked— Number of old age homes and orphanages functioning in Uttar Pradesh. This after lot of follow up with Government of UP, this came to us for the first time on 27 November, 2008. We process it and on that basis, a implementation report was prepared and it was sent for approval of the Minister but by that time it was 22 July, 2009. Whatever information was given by UP Government, on that basis this implementation report was prepared, a copy of which was sent to the Secretariat and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. But a meeting was called by the Secretary of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on 3 June, 2010. He calls meeting from time to time on pending assurances. In that meeting it was explained to the representative of this Ministry that implementation report prepared is not complete and technically it was not correct. There is no deficiency in part (a) and Part (b) as the reply given in their repsect is complete. But in part (c) and Part (d), he told that when the question was raised that whether there was any proposal to set up old age homes and orphanages and if so, the details thereof. In response thereof, since a reply has been received from UP on 27.11.2008, it was told that they have a proposal in which there was a proposal to set up 17 old age homes, it was to be done in phased manner and the first phase which was 2008 and 2009, three will be set up. But

by the which the reply was prepared for implementation report, year has already elapsed and the Secretary told that since the year has ended, the response in that respect will not be complete. So it may be corrected. Secondly he told that besides old age homes, orphanages has also been asked. You have told about old age homes but nothing has been said about orphanages. On that basis we have been corresponding with UP Government but so far we have not received complete information. Later on some information was received but no information was received about orphanages. I humbly request if this Committee permit, we may prepare information report on the basis of information available with us and may bring it at the earliest. If you say that it would be sufficient, you may take the decision and if is not sufficient, we will try to take further information from the UP Government. But since years have passed, I will humbly request that you may consider and convey decision. We will take action accordingly. It is to be taken from UP we will have to sent some officer then only information will be received."

9. Subsequently, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment *vide* their O.M. No. 18-9/97-S.D. (pt.) dated 14.11.2014 have informed the Committee that the Implementation Report on the said assurance has been forwarded to the Ministry of Parliamentary affairs for further necessary action. (Annexure-III)

#### **Observations/Recommendations**

**10. The Committee are constrained to note that an assurance given in reply to USQ No. 3680 dated 18.03.1997 regarding Old age and Orphanage Homes is pending for implementation even after a lapse of more than seventeen years. It was simply an assurance to collect information from the State Government of UP and still the same is pending since 1997. This clearly explains the lack of seriousness and lackadaisical approach of the Ministry in dealing with the assurances which is highly deplorable. The explanation of the Ministry that the requisite information is not being given by the State Government of UP would not suffice as nothing prevented them to pursue the State Government of UP at the highest level to get the requisite information from them. The Committee are of the strong view that if the Government of India provides grant to the Social Justice Department of UP Government, then it was imperative for them to furnish the requisite information without any delay. Meanwhile, the Ministry has informed the Committee that Implementation Report of the assurance has been prepared and sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for further necessary action.**

**11. The Committee feel satisfied that at their intervention, the assurance given in the matter has been implemented by the Ministry and Implementation Report to this effect has been laid on the Table of the House by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on 10.12.2014. The Committee hope and trust that the Ministry would also be vigilant and prompt in future in the implementation of assurances without waiting for the intervention of this Committee.**

**(B) Dowry System**

12. In response to USQ No. 3144 dated 16.03.1999 regarding Dowry System an assurance was given that the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

13. During the course of evidence, the representative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment informed the Committee as under:—

"This question is of 16th March, 1999. When the question was asked, perhaps this matter belongs to our Ministry. But after some time, as you may be aware Ministry of Women and Child Development was created and this matter of Dowry System comes with in their jurisdiction. One attempt was made in the year 2007. We made a request to that Ministry that this assurance because this subject which comes with in your Ministry, may be taken. I feel that they have not accepted it and till then it is not accepted by that Ministry, this remains in the name of the Ministry which has been asked the question. This still continue to remain in the name of our Ministry. When there was correspondence with us and it was brought to their notice, then we have requested that you may accept it but so far no response has been received from them. I would like to say one thing that we have received a letter dated 15.09.2014 from the Lok Sabha Secretariat, unfortunately it is so old case, that I want to say honestly that we are not able to trace file in this regard. This letter reveals that on 25 February, this Ministry has sent some Implementation Report to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs but it was told to them that it is not the responsibility of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. This is the responsibility of our Ministry and only we have to follow. We have also come to know that there is a letter of 18 August in which Ministry of Women and Child Development have given information in January-February 2009. This is clear that information which we have received from that Ministry in January, on that basis one Implementation Report has been given and that is there. I humble request is that this Committee may consider that and if that is complete then the formalities can be completed by them as I feel that they might have given complete information on which basis they have prepared Implementation Report."

14. The Ministry of Women and Child Development *vide* their O.M. No. 6-49/2007-WW dated 18.8.2009 (Annexure-III) had informed this Committee that they have already forwarded the requisite information *vide* their O.M. dated 27.01.2009 and requested the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to take further necessary action to implement the assurance.

**Observations/Recommendations**

**15. The Committee are distressed to note that the assurance given in reply to USQ No. 3144 dated 16.3.1999 regarding Dowry System is pending for the last more than fifteen years. During the course of evidence, the Committee were apprised that initially the assurance pertained to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment but after creation of new Ministry of Women and Child Development, the subject matter of the**

assurance fell within the jurisdiction of that Ministry but they refused to accept the transfer of assurance to them. According to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the communication received from the Lok Sabha Secretariat reveals that they might have sent Implementation Report to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for laying on the Table of the House but unfortunately the file in that regard is not traceable. The communication received by the Secretariat from the Ministry of Women and Child Development also reveals that they have forwarded the requisite information in January, 2009 to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for fulfilling the assurance. Notwithstanding the position as explained by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the fact remains that the implementation of the assurance is still pending. The Committee are of the view that the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, being the nodal Ministry, should have taken proactive action in resolving the issue. Nevertheless, they should now urge the Ministry of Women and Child Development to give in writing as to whether or not they intend to accept the transfer of assurance from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and in case they do not accept the transfer of assurance then it is obligatory on the part of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to collect the requisite information from them and implement the assurance without further loss of time. The Committee also feel that since the assurance was originally in the name of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, it was imperative for them to have closely monitored the implementation of the pending assurance under reference. The fact that the pending assurance continues to remain pending for more than 17 years clearly shows that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment do not have any mechanism in place for regular monitoring of the implementation of pending assurances pertaining to their Ministry. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a mechanism may be put in place for regular and effective implementation of the pending assurances. Further, the loss of file on an important issue like the one in the instant case is very disturbing and steps should be taken to ensure that such unfortunate events do not recur in future. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as well as by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for expeditious implementation of the pending assurances. The Committee also desire that the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs should take review of the pending assurances with the concerned Ministry/Department at the level of Secretary periodically, so as to ensure proactive action and liquidation of such assurances expeditiously.

NEW DELHI;  
 11 December, 2014  
 20 Agrahayana, 1936 (Saka)

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK"  
 Chairperson,  
 Committee on Government Assurances.

## **APPENDIX I**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WELFARE  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3680  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.1997

### **Old Age and Orphanage Homes**

3680. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of old age homes and orphanages functioning in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the number of elder citizens and orphan children kept there;
- (c) whether the Government propose to set up more old age homes and orphanages in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

### **ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA):  
(a) to (d) the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

## **APPENDIX II**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3144  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.3.1999

### **Dowry System**

3144. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Meet on women's empowerment opens" appeared in The Hindu dated March 2, 1999;
- (b) if so, the Central Social Welfare Board is including "Dowry" system by way of advocating to give computer as dowry;
- (c) if so, the whether it is not against the Anti Dowry policy of the Government;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether computer as dowry is the main policy for women's Empowerment;
- (f) if so, the reasons for such campaign; and
- (g) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

### **ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*ANNEXURE I*

NO. 18-9/97-AG-I  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

New Delhi - 1,  
The 22nd July, 2009

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject:** Assurance given in Lok Sabha in reply to USQ No. 3680 dated 18.3.1997 asked by Shri Rajendra Agnihotri, MP regarding Old Age and Orphanage Homes.

The undersigned is directed to refer to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs' O.M. No. USQ 3680/18/3/97-CGA dated 18.7.2007 and 23.4.2009 on the above subject and to forward herewith 20 copies (English & Hindi) of the Implementation Report on the above assurance to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, for taking further necessary action in the matter.

2. This has the approval of Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment.

Sd/-  
(J.K. SAHU)  
Under Secretary to the Government of India  
Tel. 23388837

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs  
68, Parliament House,  
New Delhi.

Copy to:

1. Lok Sabha Sectt. (Committee on Government Assurance), Parliament Annexe, New Delhi.
2. Parliament Section, Ministry of SJ&E for information.

Sd/-  
(J.K. SAHU)  
Under Secretary to the Government of India

## Session, 1997 of Eleventh Lok Sabha

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Date of fulfilment : 18.06.2009

Q. No. Date & Name of MP(L.S)	Subject	Promise made	How fulfilled	Reasons for delay
USQ No. 3680 dated 18.03.1997 by Shri Rajendra Agnihotri	OLD AGE/AND ORPHANAGE HOMES	(a) the number of old age homes and orphanages functioning in Uttar Pradesh; (b) the number of elder citizens and orphan children kept there; (c) whether the Government propose to set up more old age homes and orphanages in Uttar Pradesh; and (d) if so, the details thereof?	(a) and (b): There are 90 Orphanages Homes accommodating 3208 orphan children and 41 Old Age Homes accommodating 1025 senior citizens in the State of Uttar Pradesh.  (c) and (d): Yes Sir. The State Government proposes to open old age homes for women with a capacity of 100 inmates in 17 blocks of the State through the Uttar Pradesh Women Development Corporation in a phased manner. The first phase would commence in the financial year 2008-09 which would cover Allahabad, Varanasi and Kanpur.	Information on orphanages had to be collected from other agencies i.e., Ministry of Women and Child Development and State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

ANNEXURE II

MINUTES

SECOND SITTING

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
ASSURANCES (2014-2015) HELD ON 08.10.2014 IN COMMITTEE  
ROOM 'G-074', PARLIAMENT LIBRARY BUILDING, NEW DELHI.

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1740 hours on Wednesday, 08 October, 2014.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri E. Ahamed
4. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadia
5. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
6. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
7. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh

SECRETARIAT

- |                         |   |                            |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Shri R.S. Kambo      | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i>     |
| 2. Shri U.B.S. Negi     | — | <i>Director</i>            |
| 3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan | — | <i>Additional Director</i> |
| 4. Shri Kulvinder Singh | — | <i>Committee Officer</i>   |

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

1. Shri Anoop Kumar Srivastava, Additional Secretary
2. Ms. Ghazala Meenai, Joint Secretary

**Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs**

Shri Afzal Amanullah, Secretary

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2. The Committee then took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment regarding pending assurances upto 12th Lok Sabha.

3. The Committee noted that assurance given in reply to USQ 3680 dated 18.03.1997 was about 17 years old (Annexure—A). The Committee were informed that the assurance was pending due to non-receipt of information regarding number of old age homes and orphanages functioning in Uttar Pradesh, from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Committee, therefore, directed that the matter to be taken up with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and the assurance be implemented at the earliest. As regards to assurance given in reply to USQ No. 3144 dated 16.03.1999 regarding Dowry System (Annexure-A) the Committee were informed that the assurance pertains to the Ministry of Women and Child Development but that Ministry has refused to accept the transfer of assurance. The Committee, therefore, directed that the matter be taken up at highest level and resolved at the earliest.

4. The representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment then withdrew.

5. *****	*****	*****	*****
6. *****	*****	*****	*****

*The Committee then adjourned.*

*ANNEXURE A*

**Statement of Pending Assurances of the Ministry of  
Social Justice and Empowerment  
(up to 12th Lok Sabha)**

S.No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
1.	USQ No. 3680 dated 18.03.1997	Old Homes for Orphanages
2.	USQ No. 3144 dated 16.03.1999	Dowry System

**MINUTES**

**FIFTH SITTING**

**MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
ASSURANCES (2014-2015) HELD ON 11 DECEMBER, 2014 IN COMMITTEE  
ROOM 'E', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI.**

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1600 hours on Thursday, 11 December, 2014.

**PRESENT**

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" — *Chairperson*

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadia
3. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
4. Shri A.T. Nana Patil
5. Shri C.R. Patil
6. Shri S.R. Vijaya Kumar

**SECRETARIAT**

- |                         |   |                            |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Shri U.B.S. Negi     | — | <i>Director</i>            |
| 2. Shri T.S. Rangarajan | — | <i>Additional Director</i> |
| 3. Shri Kulvinder Singh | — | <i>Committee Officer</i>   |

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda.

2. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the following four draft reports with amendments as given in the Annexure-I:—

- (i) Requests for dropping of assurances (acceded to).
- (ii) Requests for dropping of assurances (Not acceded to).
- (iii) Review of pending assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- (iv) Review of pending assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

3. The Committee then considered 10 Memoranda (Memo Nos. 42 to 51) containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of the pending assurances. After in-depth deliberation of the reasons adduced by the Ministries, the Committee decided to drop 02 assurances as per details given in Annexure-II and to pursue the remaining 08 assurances as per details given in Annexure-III, for implementation by the Ministry/Department concerned.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

## ANNEXURE I

1. \*\*\*

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## 2. 3rd report regarding review of assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

First two sentences of Para 11 on page 5 may be substituted by the following:—

"The Committee feel satisfied that at their intervention, the assurance given in the matter has been implemented by the Ministry and Implementation Report to this effect has been laid on the Table of the House by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on 10.12.2014."

3. \*\*\*

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