

32

**COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2015-2016)**

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

THIRTY SECOND REPORT

**REVIEW OF PENDING ASSURANCES
PERTAINING TO THE MINISTRY
OF SPACE**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 10 May, 2016



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

May, 2016/ Vaisakha, 1938 (Saka)

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2015-2016)	(iii)
INTRODUCTION	(v)
REPORT	
I. Introductory	1
II. Review of Pending Assurances pertaining to the Department of Space...	3
III. Implementation Reports	11
APPENDICES	
I. USQ No. 3329 dated 16.03.2011 regarding ‘Commercial Space Launch Agreement’	12
II. USQ No. 2030 dated 23.07.2014 regarding ‘Pricing of Satellite Transponders’	13
III. USQ No. 4003 dated 06.08.2014 regarding ‘Satellite Launch Pads’	15
IV. USQ No. 6617 dated 06.05.2015 regarding ‘Space Activities’	18
V. Extracts from Manual of Practice and Procedure in the Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, New Delhi	19
ANNEXURES	
I. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 13 October, 2015	24
II. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 05 May, 2016	29

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2015-2016)

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank” — *Chairperson*

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3. Shri E. Ahamed
4. Shri Anto Antony
5. Shri Tariq Anwar
6. Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
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14. Shri K.C. Venugopal
15. Shri S.R. Vijay Kumar

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
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| 2. Shri S.C. Chaudhary | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan | — | <i>Additional Director</i> |
| 4. Shri S.L. Singh | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

* The Committee has been re-constituted w.e.f. 01 September, 2015 vide Para No. 2348 of Lok Sabha Bulletin—Part II dated 31 August, 2015.

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 Thirty- second Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2015-2016) at their sitting held on 13 October, 2015 took oral evidence of the representative of the Department of Space regarding pending Assurances upto 4th Session of the 16th Lok Sabha.

3. At their sitting held on 05 May, 2016 the Committee (2015-2016) considered and adopted their Thirty-second 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;
09 May, 2016

19, Vaisakha, 1938 (*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 the extent to which such Assurances, promises, undertakings have been implemented. Once an Assurance has been given on the floor of the House, the same is required to be implemented within a period of three months. The Ministries/Departments of Government of India are under obligation to seek extension of time required beyond the prescribed period for fulfilment of the Assurance. Where a Ministry/Department are unable to implement an Assurance, that Ministry/Department are bound to request the Committee for dropping it. The Committee consider such requests and approve dropping, in case, they are convinced that grounds cited are justified. The Committee also examine whether the implementation of Assurances has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose and the extent to which the Assurances have been implemented.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2009-10) 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, examine the reasons for pendency and analyze operation of the system prescribed in the Ministries/Departments for dealing with Assurances. The Committee also decided to consider 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 Ministries/Departments of Government of India, in a phased manner and review the pending Assurances. The Committee 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 *ibid* decision, the Committee on Government Assurances (2015-16) invited representatives of the Department of Space and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to render clarifications with respect to delay in implementation of the Assurances given during the period from 7th Session of 15th Lok Sabha to 4th Session of 16th Lok Sabha. The Committee examined the following 04 Assurances at their sitting held on 13th October, 2015:—

Sl.No.	USQ No. dated	Subject
1.	USQ No.3329 dated 16.03.2011	Commercial Space Launch Agreement (Appendix - I)
2.	USQ No.2030 dated 23.07.2014	Pricing of Satellite Transponders (Appendix - II)

Sl.No.	USQ No. dated	Subject
3.	USQ No.4003 dated 06.08.2014	Satellite Launch Pads (Appendix - III)
4.	USQ No.6617 dated 06.05.2015	Space Activities (Appendix - IV)

5. The Extracts from Manual of Practice and Procedure in the Government of India, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs laying guidelines on the definition of an Assurance, the time limit for its fulfilment, dropping/deletion and extension, the procedure for fulfilment etc., besides maintenance of Register of Assurances and periodical reviews to minimize delays in implementation of the Assurances are reproduced at Appendix-V.

6. During oral evidence, the Committee pointed out the delay in fulfilling the Assurances and desired to know whether there is a system of reviewing the Assurances at any level especially at the level of the Minister and whether the Ministry has been able to comply with the instructions of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in this regard. In his disposition, the Secretary, Department of Space stated, as under:—

"Sir, as you have pointed out, we have one case which is very long pending but other than this, in most of the other cases, we are definitely trying to see that once it comes to us as an Assurance requirement from the Secretariat, we take it up and try to complete it. But there will be few cases where because of the definition of Assurance it may not be possible to complete in three months. For that what we are supposed to do is we have to come back and request for change of time line. The other point whether regular interaction is happening with the Ministry, at the point of time, I can only tell that for the future we will definitely make sure that we will conduct interaction with the Ministry at a regular interval and make sure that the Assurances shown up against our Department, we will take and complete."

7. Subsequently, the Assurance mentioned at Sl. No. 4 has since been implemented on 09.12.2015.

Observations/Recommendations

8. The Committee note that out of the 04 Assurances taken up by them, the Assurance mentioned at Sl. No. 4 has since been implemented while the Assurance mentioned at Sl. No. 1, is pending for more than 5 years and the remaining two Assurances mentioned at Sl. Nos. 2 and 3 are pending for 1 year and 8 months. The inordinate delay in fulfilment of the Assurances clearly indicates lackadaisical attitude of the Department in undertaking proper follow up action and absence of regular review meetings once an Assurance has been made. The scrutiny of the pending Assurances also reveals that the existing mechanism put in place by the Department for review of the implementation of

Assurances especially those involving other Ministries/Departments is far from effective. The laxity and negligence on the part of the Departments is so obvious that they miserably failed to interact or conduct review meetings with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to review and facilitate implementation of the Assurances as conceded by the Secretary, Space during evidence. Since the utility and relevance of an Assurance are lost due to inordinate delay in its fulfilment, the Committee recommend that the existing mechanism/system in the Department should be overhauled and streamlined with mandatory regular reviews so as to avoid undue delay in fulfilment of Assurances particularly the pending Assurances and a particular officer should be made responsible for ensuring compliance with Parliamentary procedures and the instructions of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in this regard. The Committee also desire that the Department should adopt a pro-active approach and enhance the level of coordination with other Ministries/Departments concerned including the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for early/timely implementation of all the pending and future Assurances.

II. Review of Pending Assurances pertaining to the Department of Space

A. Commercial Space Launch Agreement

9. In reply to USQ No. 3329 dated 16.03.2011, regarding "Commercial Space Launch Agreement" (Appendix-I) it was *inter alia* stated that the 'Commercial Space Launch Agreement' with the United States was still under discussion.

10. In their communication dated 03.12.2014, the Department of Space apprised the Committee of the following position with regard to the fulfilment of the Assurance as under:—

"Government of the Republic of India and Government of the United States of America (USA) were working towards an arrangement to facilitate launch of US-licensed satellites from India meant for commercial and non-commercial purposes. The US-licensed satellites include US satellites and third country satellites containing US components. In respect of launch of US-licensed satellites meant for non-commercial purposes from India, US enabled granting of export license upon signing of Technology Safeguards Agreement (TSA) in July, 2009. To facilitate launch of US- licensed satellites meant for commercial purposes from India, discussions were initiated to conclude a Commercial Space Launch Agreement (CSLA). Even after several rounds of discussions, before the visit of US President to India in November, 2010, both sides have not converged on a mutually agreeable draft. The discussions focused mainly on definitions and clauses on 'subsidies', 'improper business practices', 'transparency', 'inducements' etc. In January, 2011, US proposed a pause in further discussion on the subject. Accordingly, this subject was not discussed in the third as well as fourth meetings of India-US Joint Working Group on civil space cooperation held in July, 2011 (Bangalore) and March, 2013 (Washington) respectively. The last meeting with US officials on CSLA was held in October, 2010 at Bangalore. Considering

that the discussion on the subject is on hold and also that there may not be any more discussions on CSLA in near future, the Assurance with respect to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3329 regarding 'Commercial Space Launch Agreement' may be treated as fulfilled."

11. During oral evidence, the Secretary, Department of Space further elaborated the position as under:—

"Here the basic idea was using our launch vehicles for launching satellites of America as well as satellites which carry American components. This activity started way back in 2009 itself. Today, the basic situation is there are two types of satellites; commercial satellites and non-commercial satellites. For the non-commercial satellites, as you are aware, last month we could launch four of the American satellites and we have also launched many satellites carrying American component. So, for the non-commercial satellite the process is complete. There is what is called the Technology Safeguards Agreements which was originally signed in 2009. A few months back, in 2014 we have renewed it. This takes care of the launches of satellites which are for non-commercial purposes. For commercial satellites, we have got into a scenario where the American side is saying to hold it on pause. They are not agreeing with providing the necessary export clearance for the commercial satellite. So, today, what we are suggesting, this particular discussion is on hold for the last three Indo-US Cooperation meeting. In view of that what we are suggesting is, we will treat it as fulfilled because for non-commercial we are able to operate and for commercial, unless we also improve our capability to launch many more satellites—our own capacity we are in the process of increasing—we will take it up subsequently and resume this. So, we would like to treat this as fulfilled because today we have already launched satellites of America and satellites which carry American components for non-commercial application."

12. The Committee enquired about the extent to which the country's potential in launching commercial Space satellites would be augmented in view of the improving Indo-US relations. The Secretary, Department of Space responded during evidence as under:—

"Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice a couple of things. One is, in the last launch we carried some of the small satellites of the USA. We are also working with them for a satellite called NASA—ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar Mission which is a huge satellite. This will be launched by us in 2020-21 time frame. This is again a non-commercial thing. It is a cooperative venture. But other than that, we have been doing around five launches per year. So, we are in the process of increasing it substantially. In the last three months, we have done one launch each month and similarly from December onwards, we will be doing one launch per month till March. That will give us another four. So, we are increasing the number of launches from this place. That will give us opportunity for not only supporting our own requirement of communication and remote sensing but also provide

opportunity for Antrix to do commercial launches. Today, Antrix has about 28 agreements for small satellites and one major satellite for which we have already committed. It will happen over the next few years' time. So our endeavour is to increase our potential for putting the number of launches per year. We are progressively increasing on that. So, at this point of time, with respect to the American satellite and the satellites carrying American components for non-commercial launches with the technology safeguards agreements, we have already reached a stage where we can do that without any hindrance. They are giving the export licence. Now for the commercial launch current discussion has come to a halt. Last three meetings of the Indo-US Civil Cooperation has not been taken up. So in view of this, we want this particular assurance to be treated as fulfilled. Once we build our new capability for providing additional opportunities for Antriksh, that time we will resume this and take it up. Like you said, our relationship with US is significantly improving and we expect in future we should not get into much coordination issue."

Observations/Recommendations

13. The Committee are concerned to note that an Assurance given in reply to USQ No. 3329 dated 16.03.2011 regarding 'Commercial Space Launch Agreement' could not be completely fulfilled even after a lapse of more than 5 years. The Committee have been informed that the Agreement was for launching two types of satellites—commercial satellites and non-commercial satellites. For the non-commercial satellites, the process is complete with the launching of four American satellites in September, 2015 and many other third country satellites carrying American components. Further, the Technology Safeguard Agreement regarding launching of non-commercial satellites which was originally signed in 2009 was reviewed in 2014 and ISRO has already about 28 agreements for launching various types of non-commercial satellites including NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar Mission which is a huge satellite. As regards launching of commercial satellites, the Committee have been informed that the American side was not agreeing with providing the necessary export clearance for the commercial satellites and hence the particular discussion was on hold for the last 3 Indo-US Cooperation meetings. Assuring that they would take it up subsequently and resume discussion/negotiations in this regard, the Department has requested to drop this Assurance. The Committee feel that launching of commercial satellites of the US and third countries by ISRO would not only fulfil the Assurance completely but also give a great impetus to the growth of Space programme of the country since commercial satellite industry is more lucrative. Moreover, an emerging space organization like ISRO needs accomplishment of such a task to consolidate its position in the global space industry and market so as to achieve even greater heights in future. The Committee, therefore, are not inclined to accede to the request of the Department to drop this Assurance. Considering the fact that Indo-US relations have improved a lot in recent times, the Committee would urge the Department to renew its

efforts and strategies for negotiations with the US authorities for arriving at an agreement for launching the above mentioned commercial satellites by ISRO at the earliest. The Committee also recommend the Department to lay a Statement showing action taken by them so far in this regard on the Table of the House.

B. Pricing of Satellite Transponders

14. In reply to USQ No. 2030 dated 23.07.2014 regarding 'Pricing of Satellite Transponders' (Appendix-II) it was *inter-alia* stated that a multi-pricing policy for transponders was under the consideration of the Government.

15. In their Status Note, the Department of Space apprised the position with regard to fulfilment of the Assurance as under:—

"The issue of multi-pricing has been reassessed and a revised proposal for continuing the existing method of transponder pricing, which is based on type of services, band of operations, coverage area, and power level has been submitted for the approval of the Government. Hence, action for requesting Committee on Government Assurances, LSS to delete the above Assurance on Pricing of Satellite Transponders has been initiated."

16. During evidence, the Secretary, Department of Space deposed before the Committee stating the following status of fulfilment of the Assurance:—

"With respect to multi-pricing policy whether the pricing of the transponder will be different for different kinds of services. Recently, we had given the revised approach where basically the pricing of the transponder is being taken up. Now the Government has approved for inter-ministerial circulation. So, it is in the process of circulation, that is why, we are saying that this can be treated as fulfilled."

17. On being pointed out that the position would be better if the said inter-ministerial consensus/approval is sought and obtained in a time bound manner, the Secretary, Department of Space submitted during evidence as under:—

"Sir, right now we will ask for extension because we have taken it up to the Minister in charge for permitting us to do the circulation process. Already the papers are with the Government. Once they give the clearance, the circulation with inter-ministerial will take place. Then we will put it for the final Cabinet approval. So, we will ask for extension at this point of time."

Observations/Recommendations

18. The Committee are dismayed to find that an Assurance given in reply to USQ No. 2030 dated 23.07.2014 regarding 'Pricing of Satellite Transponders' is yet to be fulfilled even after a lapse of more 1 year and 8 months. The obvious reason for this delay is lack of foresight vision and promptitude in taking follow up action for finalizing the multi-pricing policy for transponders by the Department. This cannot be allowed to continue in a Department dealing with

highly sophisticated, sensitive and advanced space technologies. The Department needs to perform better with more responsibility. With the increasing application and use of satellite transponders nowadays, the country badly needs to have an effective and contemporary multi-pricing policy for transponders to further the interest of the Indian Space industry. The inability of the Department to finalise the same as yet is a major failure with adverse consequences. The Committee have been informed that the issue of multi-pricing policy has been reassessed and a revised proposal for continuing the existing method of transponder pricing, which is based on type of services, band of operations, coverage area and power level has been approved by the Government for inter-ministerial circulation before being put up for final Cabinet approval. The Assurance being an important matter involving other Ministries/Departments, the Committee impress upon the Department to be more proactive in their approach, enhance the level of coordination with all the Ministries/Departments concerned and pursue the matter vigorously in a time bound manner so that things do not get stuck up and there is no further inordinate delay in fulfilling the Assurance.

C. Satellite Launch Pads

19. In reply to USQ No. 4003 dated 06.08.2014 regarding 'Satellite Launch Pads', (Appendix-III) it was stated that the Government was considering setting up of a new satellite launching pad, referred as Third Launch pads, at Sriharikota.

20. In their communication dated 24.07.2015, the Department of Space explained the position with regard to fulfilment of the Assurance as under:—

"The Third Launch Pad is intended to support increased launch frequency, launching requirements of future advanced launch vehicles and also serve as a redundant launch pad for the GSLV MIII class of vehicles. Detailed studies on possible concepts/options and preliminary configuration have been carried out. The possible site for the Third Launch Pad has been indentified in Sriharikota taking into account, the safety distances and maximal utilization of existing launch pad facilities. Further work on design of the launch pad will be taken up at an appropriate time after finalizing the configuration of the advanced launch vehicle, readiness of the advanced launch vehicles, operationalisation of GSLV MIII, programmatic requirements and resource availability. Finalization of the configuration of advanced launch vehicles and their readiness, operationalisation of GSLV-Mk III are long drawn technological process and it is not feasible to associate a fixed timeline for the completion at this stage. Also, there are technological uncertainties involved in future programmatic requirements and resource availability at this stage. In view of the above, it is requested to kindly delete the Assurance."

21. During Oral evidence, the Secretary, Department of Space further elaborated in this regard as under:—

"We have gone through the process of identifying a launch site in Sriharikota itself. Then, we have gone through our internal process. But at

this point of time, actually as I was telling, today in Sriharikota, we have two launch pads and we have got certain assembly area. Our launch frequency limitation is not coming from launch pad. It is coming from our ability to assemble them in assembly area. Towards this, we have already taken action. We have got a second vehicle assembly construction which has been approved. It is about Rs. 629 crore activity. Once this second vehicle assembly gets completed, our frequency of launching will be limited by the launch pad. So by that time we, we have to take action and come to the third launch pad."

22. He further added as under:—

"Right now, third launch pad is not priority for us, but we have gone through identifying the place required within Sriharikota taking into consideration the safety requirements and also the proximity to the other resources that are required for doing the launching. So, we are going step by step. At this point in time, we are increasing our ability to assemble the number of launch vehicles and increase the launch frequency. Once the second vehicle assembly vehicle facility comes into operation then we will be limited by the launch pad for increasing the number of launches. At that point in time, we will take it up for approval through the Government process. While we have completed our internal assessment and project generation we have not taken it up for approval because we are at this point in time limited by our launch assembly area where work is in progress. So, this also we would like to treat as fulfilled."

23. When asked whether any economic instability is involved in this decision, the Secretary, Department of Space replied during evidence as under:—

"Sir, what we are trying to say is that today the additional launch pad is required one is for the increase in the frequency and the other one is when you come up with higher capacity launch vehicle. Today we are building up 4 tonnes, in future when we want to go, for example, human space mission or 10 tonnes or 12 tonnes capacity of launch vehicles which can carry much heavier objects so that is where we would be requiring an additional launch pad. One is for increasing the number of launches per year and another is when you want to get a new capability of adding additional launch vehicle etc. So, what we have done at this point of time is that we have identified the site where we can do taking safety into account and also the resources for ensuring safe launch. But we have not started the process of taking the project approval from the Government because first like, as I was explaining to you, today we are limited in our launch frequency by some other aspect which is assembling the rockets, how many rockets I can assemble parallelly so that I can increase the number.

Today we are reaching 8 per year. We intend to increase to 10 immediately and go up to 16 and 17 per year so that all the requirements of the country and the commercial we can meet. So, what I was trying to explain is that today we have taken action for using two launch pads, maximally all. For that one action is going on, what we call a second vehicle assembly."

24. To a pointed query as to whether the Ministry has set any timeline by which the third launching pad will be ready and commissioned, the Secretary, Department of Space deposed as under:—

"Sir, right now we have done only our internal study. We have not taken up the project approval. We will bring the timeline at that time and right now we have not fixed any timeline. Our immediate objective is first to utilize these two launch pads effectively and for that we have taken action. The moment the other things become clear, for example, human space programme and other heavy lift launch vehicle things are also approved, then we will be needing the third launch pad and at that time we will bring the requirement of this project and take the approval."

25. The Committee further desired to know whether the proposal for construction of the third launch pad had been sent to the Ministry of Finance for approval. The Secretary, Department of Space responded during evidence as under:—

"Sir, no. We have identified the place where we can do but before taking up that project for realization, it is a few thousand crore activity, it is not a small activity and so what we are deciding at this point of time is right now the time is not ripe for this because in terms of need, we will need a third launch pad only when we have capability which is very different from what we have today to be launched, or we are limited by the number of launches we can do per year. Under these two conditions we will need a third launch pad. So, that is where originally when it was discussed that human space programme etc. were also being considered, that is where third launch pad discussion was coming up. But Human Space Programme approval itself is in its own timeline and it has not yet happened still. So because of that this has also got significantly postponed. So, at this point of time if you look at objectively, we have a capacity to launch about 8 launchers per year and we can increase to 12 to 14 by bringing in the second vehicle assembly for which we have taken action and gone ahead."

26. In this regard, he further explained as under:—

"As you are aware just now we have come to the conclusion that cryogenic engine we are totally able to do indigenously. So, we are building a capacity from 2 tonnes to 4 tonnes. Now, we are also

looking at for future up to 10 tonnes or 12 tonnes type of capacity. So, we are going in steps. At this point to time all that we are saying is that the third launch pad location and all the basic infrastructure needed in terms of design and planning we have addressed that but will bring the project when it is appropriate, when we are given the approval for other major developments of heavy launch vehicle as well as human space programme etc."

27. On being asked as to how much time will it take for construction of a launch pad, the Secretary, Department of Space submitted during evidence, as under:—

"Sir, for constructing one launch pad it could be about 5 to 6 years. That is the timeline required once the approval comes. From the time approval time to the actual implementation and make it happen will require about six years. Approval process involves judging and then taking that judgment whether the country needs to go for some of these or not."

Observations/Recommendations

28. The Committee are concerned to note that an Assurance given in reply to USQ No. 4003 dated 06.08.2014 regarding 'Satellite Launch Pad' still remains to be fulfilled even after a lapse of more than 1 year and 8 months. The Committee have been informed that the proposed satellite launch pad, referred as Third Launch Pad, at Sriharikota is intended to support increased launched frequency, launching requirements of future advanced launch vehicles and also to serve as a redundant launch pad for the GSLVM III class of vehicles. Detailed studies on possible concepts/options and preliminary configuration have been carried out.

The possible site for the Third Launch Pad has been identified in Sriharikota itself taking into account the safety requirements and proximity to the other resources that are required for launching satellites . However, the Committee find that the setting up of the third launch pad has not been given priority by the Department on the grounds that the country's satellite launch frequency is limited and the said limitation is not coming from launch pad but from our ability to assemble rockets. The Committee perceive that this situation is going to change in future as revealed by the Department themselves that they are increasing their ability to assemble the number of launch vehicles and are also trying to increase the launch frequency. The Department even informed that they have got a second vehicle assembly construction approved at a cost of Rs. 629 crore and once this activity is completed, their frequency of launching will be limited by the launch pad thereby necessitating the construction of the third launch pad. Furthermore, the Committee have been informed that the Department is going to come up with higher capacity launch vehicles i.e. from existing 4 tonne vehicles to 10-12 tonne heavy lift vehicles and even vehicles for human space missions which would require an additional launch pad. Besides, the Department intends to increase the number of rockets assembled per year

from 8 to 10 and subsequently to 16-17, so that all the requirements of the country and commercial operations can be met. This will eventually need the third launch pad which will take about 5-6 years to construct after obtaining due approval. Under these circumstances, it is not appropriate for the Department neither to have taken up the project for approval nor to have fixed any timeline for the same. Even the proposal for the project which will worth a few thousand crores of Rupees has not yet been furnished to the Ministry of Finance. The Committee desire that the Department should, at least, have taken advance action to fix a time frame for setting up the third launch pad in sync with the ongoing developments in the domestic and global space scenario and the country's ambitious space programme so that the requisite infrastructure is put in place in time and ISRO is not constrained when the situation demands most. The Committee also recommend the Department to furnish a Part Implementation Report in the matter as the Assurance would be treated as fulfilled only when the third launch pad is established.

III. Implementation Report

29. As per the Statement of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Implementation Report in respect of the Assurance given in reply to USQ No.6617 dated 06.05.2015 has since been laid on the Table of the House on 09.12.2015.

NEW DELHI;
09 May, 2016
 19 Vaisakha, 1938 (Saka)

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

APPENDIX I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3329

TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.3.2011

Commercial Space Launch Agreement

3329. SHRI S. SEMMALAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US plan to sign the Commercial Space Launch Agreement that will enable Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to launch bigger commercial satellites made in US for carrying US components; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) & (b) As part of the Civil Space Cooperation being pursued under Next Steps to strategic Partnership (NSSP), India and USA are *inter-alia*, working towards an arrangement to facilitate launch of US satellites and third country satellites, which contain US components.

A Technology Safeguard Agreement (TSA), signed on July 20, 2009, currently enables India to launch US satellites and third country satellites, containing US components, intended for civil or non-commercial use. The "Commercial Space Launch Agreement (CSLA)" is still under discussion.

APPENDIX II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2030

TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.7.2014

Pricing of Satellite Transponders

2030. SHRI P.C. MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO has given any proposal for allocation and pricing of satellite transponders for public and non-Government users and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of INSAT/GSAT satellites available at present and the number of Government and non-Government users;

(c) whether ISRO shall be permitted to multi-pricing policy for its transponders depending upon their status and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether several DTH users are using foreign satellites at present and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the step taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve their issues and bring them back into the ISRO fold?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes Madam. Based on the review and approval of INSAT co-ordination Committee (ICC) and Space Commission, a revised policy guideline for allocation and pricing of transponders has been evolved and is being processed for Government approval. It envisages a rational classification structure for users such as Strategic, Government including Societal, not-for-profit PSUs and Commercial to form a basis for allocation and pricing of transponders.

(b) At present, there are 12 INSAT/GSAT satellites in orbit, out of which 10 are communication satellites and 2 are meteorological satellites. In INSAT/GSAT satellite system there are 41 Government users and 59 non-Government users are utilizing the capacity in C band, Extended C Band and Ku band to the extent of 152 transponders (36 MHz equivalent each).

(c) At present, a uniform pricing policy is implemented for all categories of users. However, a multi-pricing policy for transponders is under the consideration of the Government as INSAT systems transponders are utilized for non-profit purposes *viz.* Governmental, societal, strategic as well as for commercial purposes.

(d) Yes, Madam. Five Indian DTH operators namely, DISH TV, Bharati Telemedia, SUN DIRECT, Reliance BIG TV, Videocon d2h are utilizing a total of 58.89 transponders (36 MHz equivalent each) capacity sourced from four foreign satellites.

(e) The steps taken by ISRO to augment the INSAT system capacity to meet the transponder demand including DTH services are—(i) Building standardized 3 ton capacity communication satellites on priority; (ii) development of high-throughput/high power 6 ton class communication satellites; (iii) development of advanced Ku band communication satellite with multi-beam technology; and (iv) coordination of additional orbital slots and frequency.

APPENDIX III
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4003
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6.8.2014

Satellite Launch Pads

4003. SHRI B.V. NAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the satellite launch pads in the country;
- (b) the details of countries that have used these launch pads during the last three years and the revenue earned as a result thereof, year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to set up new satellite launch pads and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the budgetary allocation made to the Department of Space and the amount spent for Research and Design (R&D) along with the achievements made during the above period?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) India has two operational satellite launch pads located at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

(b) The launch pads at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota are used exclusively for launch vehicles developed by ISRO. However, India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), has launched 10 satellites of eight foreign countries (Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Japan, Luxembourg, Singapore, United Kingdom) during the last three years. These satellites belonging to foreign countries are launched by ISRO, on a commercial basis, under a contract between foreign countries and Antrix Corporation Ltd., a commercial arm of ISRO.

The revenue earned by Antrix Corporation Ltd. through launch of these satellites during the last three financial years, year-wise is as follows:—

Financial Year	Revenue Earned
2011-12	USD 1,000,000 Euro 540,000
2012-13	Euro 21,095,000
2013-14	—

(c) Yes Madam. The Government is considering setting up a new satellite launching pad, referred as Third Launch Pad, at Sriharikota. The Third Launch Pad is intended to support increased launch frequency, provide active redundancy to existing launch pads and to support launching requirements of advanced launch vehicles. The possible sites for the Third Launch Pad has been identified in Sriharikota taking into account the safety distances and maximal utilization of existing launch pad facilities.

(d) The budgetary allocation made to Department of Space during the last three years are:—

(Rs. in crore)

Financial Year	Amount Allocated		Actuals
	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	
2011-12	6626.04	4432.30	3790.78
2012-13	6715.04	4880.03	4856.28
2013-14	6792.04	5172.04	5168.95

The details of amount spent for R&D, under the plan budget of Department of Space, which includes Development of Earth Observation Satellites, INSAT/GSAT system, Development of Launch Vehicles, Space Applications and Space Science & Planetary exploration during the last three years are:—

(Rs. in crore)

Financial Year	Amount Allocated Plan		Amount Spent
	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Total
2011-12	5700.04	3432.03	2791.61
2012-13	5615.04	3800.03	3783.23
2013-14	5615.04	4000.04	3997.93

Major achievements of Department of Space, during the last three years (2011-14) include:—

- i. Launch of India's first interplanetary mission to Mars, Mars Orbiter Mission.
- ii. Augmentation of Earth Observation capability with launch of indigenous Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT-1) having day & night capability under all weather conditions; Indo-French Joint Missions viz. Satellite for ARGOS and ALtika (SARAL) for oceanographic studies

and Megha-Tropiques for tropical weather/climate studies; Resourcesat-2 for natural resources surveys; Advanced Weather satellite, INSAT-3D and science satellite YOUTHSAT.

- iii. Indigenous development and flight testing of cryogenic engine and stage on board GSLV-D5.
- iv. Operational flights of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C16 to C22 & PSLV-C25).
- v. Development and qualification of large solid state booster (S200) and higher thrust liquid stage (L110) stages for the next generation launch vehicle GSLV-Mk III.
- vi. Augmentation of INSAT/GSAT system with Five communication satellites namely, GSAT-7, GSAT-8, GSAT-10, GSAT-12 and GSAT-14 adding 89 transponders in Ku, C, Extended C, S and UHF bands to the transponder capacity.
- vii. Establishment of GPS Aided Geo-Augmented Navigation for safety of life applications for civil aviation sector.
- viii. Launch of first Indian Regional Navigation Satellite, IRNSS-1A.

APPENDIX IV

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6617

TO BE ANSWERED ON 6.5.2015

Space Activities

6617. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes a legislation for regulating the space activities for commercial and private purposes and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to introduce new schemes for recovery of waste in the outer space and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is working with other countries for the development of space technology and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to demand an international treaty regarding space law and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes Madam, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has initiated a process of formulating a National Space Act for India for regulating space activities in India, facilitate enhanced levels of private sector participation and offering more commercial opportunities. Towards this, a two day national workshop was held at ISRO Headquarters, Bangalore during Jan. 16-17, 2015 with the participation of experts across the country. A draft version has been prepared, which is under consultation with experts.

(b) ISRO is presently implementing the space debris mitigation guidelines endorsed by the United Nations in design and operation of all its space systems. ISRO is also actively participating with various international fora for conducting relative analysis of new techniques for debris removal.

(c) India has currently signed co-operation agreements with 35 countries for peaceful uses of outer space.

(d) No Madam. ISRO is not proposing to demand an international treaty regarding space law. Five international treaties on outer space activities formulated under the aegis of United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space are already in place. India is a Member State in four major treaties.

APPENDIX V

(Vide Para 5 of the Report)

EXTRACTS FROM MANUAL OF PRACTICE & PROCEDURE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, NEW DELHI.

Definition

8.1 During the course of reply given to a question or a discussion, if a Minister gives an undertaking which involves further action on the part of the Government in reporting back to the House, it is called an 'assurance', Standard list of such expressions which normally constitute assurances and as approved by the Committees on Government Assurances of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, is given at *Annex 3*. As assurances are required to be implemented within a specified time limit, care should be taken by all concerned while drafting replies to the questions to restrict the use of these expressions only to those occasions when it is clearly intended to give an assurance in these terms.

8.2 When an assurance is given by a Minister or when the Presiding Officer directs the Government to furnish information to the House, it is extracted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from the relevant proceedings and communicated to the department concerned normally within 10 working days of the date on which it is given.

Deletion from the list of assurances

8.3.1 If the Administrative department has any objection to treating such a statement as an assurance or finds that it would not be in the public interest to fulfil it, it may write to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat direct with a copy to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs within a week of the receipt of such communication for getting it deleted from the list of assurances. Such action will require prior approval of the Minister.

8.3.2 Departments should make request for dropping of assurances immediately on receipt of Statement of assurances from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and only in rare cases where they are fully convinced that the assurances could not be implemented under any circumstances and

	<p>there is no option left with them but to make a request for dropping. Such requests should have the approval of their Minister and this fact should be indicated in their communication containing the request. If such a request is made towards the end of the stipulated period of three months, then it should invariably be accompanied with a request for extension of time. The department should continue to seek extension of time till a decision of the Committee on Government Assurances is received by them. Copy of the above communications should be simultaneously endorsed to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.</p>
Time limit for fulfilling an assurance	<p>8.4.1. An assurance given in either House is required to be fulfilled within a period of three months from the date of the assurance. This time limit has to be strictly observed.</p>
Extension of time for fulfilling an assurance	<p>8.4.2 If the department finds that it is not possible to fulfil the assurance within the stipulated period of three months or within the period of extension already granted, it may seek further extension of time direct from the respective Committee on Government Assurances under intimation to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as soon as the need for such extension becomes apparent, indicating the reasons for delay and the probable additional time required. Such a Communication should be issued with the approval of the Minister.</p>
Registers of assurances	<p>8.5.1 The Particulars of every assurance will be entered by the Parliament Unit of the Department concerned in a register as at <i>Annex 4</i> after which the assurance will be passed on to the concerned section.</p> <p>8.5.2 Even ahead of the receipt of communication from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the section concerned should take prompt action to fulfil such assurances and keep a watch thereon in a register as at <i>Annex 5</i>.</p> <p>8.5.3 The Registers referred to in paras 8.5.1 and 8.5.2 will be maintained separately for the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha assurances, entries therein being made session-wise.</p>

Role of Section Officer and Branch Officer	<p>8.6.1 The Section Officer incharge of the concerned section will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) scrutinise the registers once a week; (b) ensure that necessary follow-up action is taken without any delay whatsoever; (c) submit the registers to the branch officer every fortnight if the House concerned is in session and once a month otherwise, drawing his special attention to assurances which are not likely to be implemented within the period of three months; and (d) review of pending assurances should be undertaken periodically at the highest level in order to minimise the delay in implementing the assurances.
Procedure for fulfilment of an assurance	<p>8.6.2. The branch officer will like-wise keep his higher officer and Minister informed of the progress made in the implementation of assurances, drawing their special attention to the causes of delay.</p> <p>8.7.1 Every effort should be made to fulfil the assurance within the prescribed period. In case only part of the information is available and collection of the remaining information would involve considerable time, an implementation report containing the available information should be supplied to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in part scrutinize of the assurance, within the prescribed time limit. However, efforts should continue to be made for expeditious collection of the remaining information for complete implementation of the assurance at the earliest.</p> <p>8.7.2. Information to be supplied in partial or complete fulfilment of an assurance should be approved by the Minister concerned and 15 copies thereof (bilingual) in the prescribed proforma as at <i>Annex 6</i>, together with its enclosures, along with one copy each in Hindi and English duly authenticated by the officer forwarding the implementation report, should be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. If, however, the information being furnished is in response to an assurance given in reply to a question etc., asked for by more than one member, an additional copy</p>

	<p>of the completed proforma (both in Hindi and English) should be furnished in respect of each additional member. A copy of this communication should be endorsed to the Parliament Unit for completing column 7 of its register.</p> <p>8.7.3. The implementation reports should be sent to the Ministry of the Parliamentary Affairs and not to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat. No advance copies of the implementation reports are to be endorsed to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat either.</p>
Laying of the implementation report on the Table of the House	<p>8.8. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, after a scrutiny of the implementation report, will arrange to lay it on the Table of the House concerned. A copy of the statement, as laid on the Table, will be forwarded by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to the member as well as the department concerned. The Parliament Unit of the department concerned and the concerned section will, on the basis of this statement, make a suitable entry in their registers.</p>
Obligation to lay a paper on the Table of the House <i>vis-a-vis</i> assurance on the same subject	<p>8.9. Where there is an obligation to lay any paper (rule/order/notification, etc.) on the Table of the House and for which an assurance has also been given, it will be laid on the Table, in the first instance, in fulfilment of the obligation, independent of the assurance given. After this is done, a report in formal implementation of the assurance indicating the date on which the paper was laid on the Table will be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in the prescribed proforma (<i>Annex 6</i>) in the manner already described in para 8.7.2.</p>
Committees on Government Assurances LSR 323, 324 RSR 211-A	<p>8.10. Each House of Parliament has a Committee on Government assurances nominated by the Speaker/Chairman. It scrutinized the implementation reports and the time taken in the scrutinized of Government assurances and focuses attention on the delays and other significant aspects, if any, pertaining to them. Instructions issued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from time to time are to be followed strictly.</p>
Reports of the Committees on Government Assurances	<p>8.11. The department will, in consultation with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, scrutinize the reports of these two committees for remedial action wherever called for.</p>

Effect on assurances on dissolution of the Lok Sabha	8.12. On dissolution of the Lok Sabha, all assurances, promises or undertakings pending implementation are scrutinized by the new Committee on Government assurances for selection of the Lok Sabha of such of them as are of considerable public importance. The Committee then submits a report to the Lok Sabha with a specific recommendation regarding the assurances to be dropped or retained for implementation by the Government.
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ANNEXURE I

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2015-16)
(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)
SECOND SITTING
(13.10.2015)

The Committee sat from 1100 Hrs. to 1400 Hrs.in Committee Room "139",
Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri E. Ahamed
4. Shri Naran Bhai Kachhadia
5. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
6. Shri A.T. Nana Patil
7. Shri C.R. Patil
8. Shri Taslimuddin
9. Shri S.R. Vijay Kumar

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Shri R.S. Kambo | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri S.C. Chaudhary | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan | — | <i>Additional Director</i> |

WITNESSES

Department of Space

1. Shri A.S. Kiran Kumar, Secretary
2. Shri A. Vijay Anand, Additional Secretary
3. Shri S. Kumaraswamy, Joint Secretary

4. Shri Y.V.N. Krishna Murthy, Scientific Secretary, ISRO
5. Shri H.N. Madhusudhan, Associate Scientific Secretary, ISRO
6. Shri Shanthanu Bhatawdekar, Associate Scientific Secretary, ISRO
7. Shri S.K. Kanungo, Director, LVPO, ISRO HQ
8. Shri K. Sethuraman, Director, SCNP, ISRO HQ
9. Dr. Gowri Sankar, Deputy Director, International Cooperation, ISRO HQ

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

1. Shri Satya Prakash, Joint Secretary
2. Shri A.B. Acharya, Under Secretary

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them of the day's agenda. The Committee then took oral evidence of the representatives of the Department of Space regarding pending Assurances from 7th session of 15th Lok Sabha to 4th session of 16th Lok Sabha. The Committee reviewed all the 04 Assurances of Department of Space as mentioned below:—

Commercial Space Launch Agreement

- (i) **USQ No. 3329 dated 16.03.2011 regarding commercial Space Launch Agreement' (Sl. No. 1).**

The Committee were informed that the basic idea of Commercial Space Launch Agreement was using the country's launch vehicles for launching satellites of America as well as satellites which carry American components. Started way back in 2009 itself, this Agreement was for launching two types of satellites-commercial satellites and non-commercial satellites. For the non-commercial satellites, the process was over with the launching of four American satellites and many other satellites carrying American component. The Committee were further informed that the Technology Safeguards Agreement regarding launching of non-commercial satellites which was originally signed in 2009 was reviewed in 2014. As regards commercial satellites, the Committee were informed that the American side were not agreeing with providing the necessary export clearance and hence the particular discussion was on hold for the last three Indo-US Cooperation meetings. However, the Committee were assured that the Ministry would take it up subsequently and resume discussion/negotiation. Accordingly, the Ministry requested the Committee to drop this Assurance. The Committee did not acceded to the request of the Ministry to drop the Assurance. However, they directed the representatives of the Ministry to lay a statement showing action taken by them so far in the House through the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

Pricing of Satellite Transponders

(ii) USQ No. 2030 dated 23.07.2014 regarding 'Pricing of Satellite Transponders' (Sl. No. 2).

The Committee were informed that issue of multi-pricing policy has been reassessed. The Ministry had recently given the revised approach where basically the pricing of the transponder was being taken up. Subsequently, the Government had approved the inter-ministerial circulation and it is in the process of circulation that the Assurance could be fulfilled. Citing that they had taken it up with the Minister in charge for permitting to do the circulation process and the papers were already with the Government, the Ministry informed that once the clearance was obtained the inter-ministerial circulation would take place and the same would be put up for the final cabinet approval. Hence, the Ministry sought extension of time for fulfilling the Assurance to which the Committee agreed to.

Satellite Launch Pads

(iii) USQ No. 4003 dated 06.08.2014 regarding 'Satellite Launch Pads' (Sl.No. 3).

The Committee were informed that basically, there was a third launch pad discussion that was going on. The Minister had gone through the process of identifying a launch site in Sriharikota itself. But there are already two launch pads in Sriharikota and the Ministry had got certain assembly area. The Committee were further informed that the country's launch frequency being limited and not coming from launch pad, the third launch pad was not priority for the Ministry but they had gone through identifying the place required within Sriharikota taking into consideration the safety requirements and also the proximity to the other resources that are required for launching. The representatives of the Ministry submitted that they were increasing their ability to assemble the number of launch vehicles and increase the frequency. Elaborating the steps taken to set up the third launch pad which would be necessitated when the construction of the second assembly vehicle got completed, the representatives of the Ministry submitted that the internal assessment had been conducted and they would take up the matter for approval through the Government process at that point of time. Informing that the setting up of the launch pad would take about 6 years, the Ministry requested the Committee to treat this Assurance as fulfilled.

The Committee while observing that the Assurance would be treated as fulfilled once the launch pad was established, directed the representatives of the Ministry to furnish a partial implementation report in the matter.

Space Activities

(iv) USQ No. 6617 dated 06.05.2015 regarding 'Space Activities' (S.No. 4).

The Committee were informed that the Ministry were trying to bring in a mechanism within the ambit of the Space law for supporting and enabling more additional commercial activity apart from identifying the mechanisms of space activities to be done by the Government agency and the private agency. The

matter had gone through a consultation process of experts and a draft emerging therefrom had been submitted to the Government for approval and necessary clearance for circulation for inter-Ministerial consultation. Then it would go as a Cabinet Note. Claiming that they had completed the activity which was mentioned in this particular Assurance, the Ministry requested the Committee to treat this Assurance as fulfilled. The Committee desired that an implementation report in the matter may be laid on the floor of the House.

2. The evidence was completed.

(The witnesses withdrew)

3. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

ANNEXURE A

Statement of Pending Assurances of the Department of Space (From 7th Session of 15th Lok Sabha to 4th Session of 16th Lok Sabha)

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
1.	USQ No. 3329 dated 16.03.2011	Commercial Space Launch Agreement
2.	USQ No. 2030 dated 23.07.2014	Pricing of Statellite Transponders
3.	USQ No. 4003 dated 06.08.2014	Sattellite Launch Pads
4.	USQ No. 6617 dated 06.05.2015	Space Activities

ANNEXURE II

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2015-2016)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

ELEVENTH SITTING
(05.05.2016)

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1630 hours in Committee Room "D", Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
4. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
5. Shri C.R. Patil

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Shri R.S. Kambo | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri S.C. Chaudhary | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan | — | <i>Additional Director</i> |
| 4. Shri S.L. Singh | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the following five draft Reports:—

- (i) Thirty-First Report regarding "Review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways".
- (ii) Thirty-Second Report Regarding "Review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Department of Space".

- (iii) Thirty-Third Report Regarding "Review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation".
- (iv) Thirty-Fourth Report Regarding "Request for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)".
- (v) Thirty-Fifth Report Regarding "Request for Dropping of Assurances (Not acceded to)".

The Committee then adjourned.

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The Souvenir items with logo of Parliament are also available at Sales Counter, Reception, Parliament House, New Delhi. The Souvenir items with Parliament Museum logo are available for sale at Souvenir Shop (Tel. No. 23035323), Parliament Museum, Parliament Library Building, New Delhi. List of these items are available on the website mentioned above."
