

FOURTH REPORT

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2014-2015)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

REVIEW OF PENDING ASSURANCES PERTAINING TO THE
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 16 December, 2014)



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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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 Narayanbhai 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 — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri U.B.S. Negi — *Director*
3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan — *Additional Director*
4. Shri Kulvinder Singh — *Committee Officer*

*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 Fourth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2014-2015) at their sitting held on 08 October, 2014 *inter-alia* took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs regarding pending assurances up to 11th Lok Sabha pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

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

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 representative of Ministry/Departments of Government of India, in a phased manner and reviewed the pending assurances. The Committee on Government Assurances took a step further in this direction 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 Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and examined the following 02 pending assurances pertaining to the Ministry at their sitting held on 08 October, 2014.

Sl. No.	USQ No. & Date	Subject
1.	USQ No. 3393 dated 30.07.1992	Funds to Voluntary Organisations (Appendix-I)
2.	USQ No. 3142 dated 12.08.1997	Kasturba Gandhi Education Plan (Appendix-II)

II. Scrutiny of Pending Assurances

A. Funds to Voluntary Organisations

5. In response to USQ No. 3393 dated 30.07.1992 regarding Funds to Voluntary Organisations, it was stated that cases of misutilisation of funds have been received against 6 voluntary organisations and steps for taking panel action against these organizations is in progress. (Appendix-I)

6. In their status note, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs informed the Committee as under:—

"The matter relates to the years 1991-1992 and 1992-1993 prior to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs came into existence. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment transferred this assurance to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs without any records. Since the information required in the assurance is not with the Ministry, the information has been sought from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment several times for fulfillment of the long pending assurance. But no response is yet to be received.

The six organisations namely (i) Rashtriya Shoshit Parishad, New Delhi, (ii) Vinayak Education Society, New Delhi, (iii) H.P. State Council for Child Welfare (iv) All India Association for Social Welfare of the Downtrodden, Delhi (v) Regional Integrated Rural Development Authority, Imphal and (vi) Abhinav Theatre & Research Institute, Lucknow have been permanently debarred from getting support from Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Ministry is of considered view that this amounts to adequate penal action.

Based on these lines, an implementation report has been put up for approval of Hon'ble MOS (TA) please."

7. During the course of evidence of the Ministry, when the Committee enquired about the status of the assurance given in response to USQ No. 3393 dated 30.07.1997, the Secretary of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs responded as under:

"Steps are being taken in this regard....."

Observations/Recommendations

8. The Committee are constrained to note that the assurance given in reply to USQ No. 3393 dated 30 July, 1992 regarding Funds to Voluntary Organisations is still pending for implementation even after a lapse of more than twenty two years. This inordinate delay clearly indicate the scant attention being given by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the matter of implementation of assurances given by the Minister on the floor of the House, which is deplorable. This shows casual approach of the Ministry on the issue or lack of initiative on their part which is deplorable. This also shows that there is no mechanism in the Ministry for timely implementation of the assurances. Nevertheless, the Committee have now been informed that the six Organisations namely (i) Rashtriya Shoshit Parishad, New Delhi, (ii) Vinayak Education Society, New Delhi, (iii) H.P. State Council for Child Welfare (iv) All India

Association for Social Welfare of the Downtrodden, Delhi (v) Regional Integrated Institute, Lucknow have been permanently debarred from getting support from Ministry of Tribal Affairs and an implementation report to this effect has also been put up for approval of Hon'ble Minister.

9. 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 of Tribal would be vigilant and prompt in future in the implementation of pending assurances without waiting for the intervention of this Committee.

B. Kasturba Gandhi Education Scheme

10. In response to USQ No. 3142 dated 12.08.1997, it was stated that a sum of Rs.250 crore have been earmarked in the Budget for Kasturba Gandhi Swantantra Vidyalaya and the details of the Scheme are under finalization. (Appendix II)

11. In their status note, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs stated as under:—

"Information pertaining to the Assurance has been collected from Ministry of Human Resource Development's website and a reply has been drafted and submitted for the approval of Hon'ble MOS (Tribal Affairs)."

12. During the Course of evidence, the Secretary of Ministry of Tribal Affairs stated as under:—

"Kasturba Gandhi Scheme, which belongs to HRD Ministry, I do not know why this has been given to us. We would have given answer earlier, did not give. But we have given reply to all. This has reached in the Secretariat. We have asked some factual information which we have given."

13. When the Committee enquired why this mistake had occurred and why it had happened, the representative of the Ministry responded as under:—

"At that time, SC, ST and OBC were all at one place in the Ministry of Welfare of the Government of India. It might be possible, initiative might have been taken to follow up the Subject."

In this regard, the representative of the Ministry further clarified as under:

"In 1999, our Ministry was established and this assurance belongs to 1997. Scheme which were implemented belong to HRD Ministry till the year 2004. It was written to the Ministry of HRD on behalf of our Ministry that since this question belongs to your Department, you should accept it but it was not accepted and as a result, this assurance is pending till date. When it was not accepted then we have to prepare answer to forward to the Secretariat."

Observations/Recommendations

14. The Committee note that in reply to USQ No. 3142 dated 12 August, 1997 regarding Kasturba Gandhi Education Scheme, an assurance was given that the

details of Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya Scheme are being finalized for which a sum of Rs.250 crore was earmarked in the Budget. During the course of oral evidence of the Ministry, the Committee were informed that the assurance pertains to the Ministry of Human Resource Development and its transfer is not being accepted by them. The Committee are extremely unhappy to note that implementation of the assurance is pending for the last seventeen years simply due to non acceptance of assurance by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Evidently, there is lack of co-ordination between the two Ministries of the Government of India which is a matter of concern. This also shows the lackadaisical approach of the Ministry in handling the assurance. Without going in to the question as to why the assurance was not accepted by the other Ministry, the Committee are of the view that assurance should have been given top priority and implemented without any delay by collecting requisite information from the Ministry of Human Resource Development which they have done now. Notwithstanding the position stated above, the Committee have now been informed that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has collected the requisite information from the Ministry of Human Resource Development's website and the reply has been drafted and submitted for the approval of Hon'ble Minister. The Committee hope that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs would coordinate with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and lay the implementation report of the assurance on the Table of the House during the current session of Parliament itself. The Committee also hope that remedial measures would also be taken by the Ministry for effective implementation of assurance in future without any delay.

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. 3393
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.7.1992

Funds to Voluntary Organisations

3393. SHRI KARIA MUNDA:
SHRI BIRSINGH MAHATO:
SHRI LALIT ORAON:
SHRI RAMTAHAL CHOUDHARY:
SHRI LAL BABU RAI:
SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the voluntary organisations getting financial assistance along with the amount received by each organisation during 1991-92, 1992-93, and proposed for State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether cases of misutilisation of funds by these organisations have come to the notice of the Government; and

(c) if so, the details with the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI):

(a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) Cases of misutilisation of funds have been received in respect of the following 6 organisations:

- (1) Rashtriya Shoshit Parishad, New Delhi.
- (2) Vinayak Education Society, New Delhi.
- (3) H.P. State Council for Child Welfare.
- (4) All India Association for Social Welfare of the Downtrodden, Delhi.
- (5) Regional Integrated Rural Development Authority, Imphal and
- (6) Abhinav Theatre & Research Institute, Lucknow.

While the Centre at Imphal has been closed, grants in respect of other organisations have been stopped. Steps for taking penal action against these organisations is in progress.

APPENDIX II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WELFARE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3142
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.08.1997

Kasturba Gandhi Education Scheme

3142. SHRI RAMTAHAL CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the Kasturba Gandhi Education Scheme and the progress made under the same, so far;
- (b) whether this scheme is likely to be implemented in all the districts of the country; and
- (c) if so, the funds earmarked for the purpose, State-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA):

- (a) to (c) A sum of Rs. 250 crore have been earmarked in the current year's Budget for Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya Scheme. The Details of the Scheme are under finalisation.

ANNEXURE I

MINUTES

SECOND SITTING

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES (2014-15) 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 — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri U.B.S. Negi — *Director*
3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan — *Additional Director*
4. Shri Kulvinder Singh — *Committee Officer*

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1. Shri Hrushikesh Panda — *Secretary*
2. Shri Ashok Pai — *Joint Secretary*

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

Shri Afzal Amanullah — *Secretary*

The Committee then adjourned.

Annexure IV

**Statement of Pending Assurances of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(upto 11th Lok Sabha)**

Sl.No.	SQ/USQ No. and date	Subject
1.	USQ No. 3393 dated 30.07.1992	Funds to Voluntary Organisations
2.	USQ No. 3142 dated 12.08.1997	Kasturba Gandhi Education Plan

ANNEXURE II

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. Vijayakumar

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri U.B.S. Negi — *Director*
2. Shri T.S. Rangarajan — *Additional Director*
3. Shri Kulvinder Singh — *Committee Officer*

1. 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.

The Committee then adjourned.

Annexure I

- | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | *** | *** | *** |
| 2. | *** | *** | *** |

4th report regarding review of assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

First two sentences of Para 9 on page 3 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."

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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.”
