

COMMITTEE
ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2016-2017)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)
FIFTY- FIRST REPORT

REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF
ASSURANCES
(NOT ACCEDED TO)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 11/04/2017



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

April, 2017/ Chaitra, 1939 (Saka)

CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|-------|
| Composition of the Committee (2016-2017) | (iii) |
| Composition of the Committee (2015-2016) | (iv) |
| Introduction | (v) |
| Report | 1-3 |
| Appendices-I to XIX | |

Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)

| | | |
|-------|--|-------|
| I. | USQ No. 3419 dated 25.04.2012 regarding 'Nuclear Waste' | 4-6 |
| II. | *USQ No. 2795 dated 10.12.2014 regarding 'Review of Performance of Schemes' | 7-8 |
| III. | USQ No. 4023 dated 17.12.2014 regarding 'Desalination Plants' | 9-11 |
| IV. | USQ No. 3794 dated 13.12.2001 regarding 'Cruelty against Animals' | 12-14 |
| V. | SQ No. 243 dated 11.08.2010 (Supplementary by Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, M.P) regarding 'Cruelty against Animals' | 15-18 |
| VI. | SQ No. 243 dated 11.08.2010 (Supplementary by Smt. Maneka Gandhi, M.P) regarding 'Cruelty against Animals' | 19-22 |
| VII. | SQ No. 243 dated 11.08.2010 (Supplementary by Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar, M.P) regarding 'Cruelty against Animals' | 23-26 |
| VIII. | USQ No. 5147 dated 27.08.2010 regarding 'Surrogacy' | 27-28 |
| IX. | USQ No. 2462 dated 25.07.2014 regarding 'Plasma Fractionation Centres' | 29-30 |
| X. | USQ No. 3042 dated 29.08.2013 regarding 'Restriction of Time for Advertisements on Television Channels' | 31-33 |
| XI. | USQ No. 4277 dated 20.02.2014 regarding 'Amendment in Tariff Policy' | 34-36 |

| | | |
|--------|---|-------|
| XII. | USQ No. 2254 dated 03.08.2015 regarding 'Projects Under Cost Sharing Basis' | 37-42 |
| XIII. | SQ No. 54 dated 23.07.2015 regarding 'Bharat Mala Project' | 43-44 |
| XIV. | USQ No. 500 dated 23.07.2015 regarding 'Bypass on NHs' | 45-47 |
| XV. | USQ No. 2030 dated 23.07.2014 regarding 'Pricing of Satellite Transponders' | 48-50 |
| XVI | @USQ No. 3854 dated 04.09.2012 regarding 'Mithi River Development Project' | 51-53 |
| XVII. | USQ No. 643 dated 07.08.2013 regarding 'Regulatory Framework for Non-Corporate Business Entities' | 54-56 |
| XVIII. | Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 09 August, 2016. | 57-66 |
| XIX. | Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 06 April, 2017. | 67-68 |

*** Implementation Report laid on the Table of the House on 10/08/2016**

@ Implementation Report laid on the Table of the House on 07/12/2016

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2016 - 2017)

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. @ Vacant
4. Shri Anto Antony
5. Shri Tariq Anwar
6. Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
7. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadiya
8. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
9. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
10. Shri A.T. Nana Patil
11. Shri C.R. Patil
12. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
13. Shri Taslimuddin
14. Shri K.C. Venugopal
15. Shri S.R. Vijay Kumar

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri R.S. Kambo | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri P.C. Tripathy | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri S. L. Singh | - | Deputy Secretary |

* The Committee has been re-constituted w.e.f. 01 September, 2016 vide Para No. 4075 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 05 September, 2016

@ Shri E. Ahamed passed away on 01 February 2017

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

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" - Chairperson

MEMBERS

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

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. Shri R.S. Kambo | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. Shri J.M. Baisakh | - | Director |
| 3. Shri S.L. Singh | - | Deputy Secretary |

* The Committee has been 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 (2016-2017), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Fifty-First Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2015-2016) at their sitting held on 09 August, 2016 considered Memoranda Nos. 152 to 171 containing requests received from the various Ministries/Departments for dropping of pending Assurances and decided to pursue 17 Assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 06 April, 2017, the Committee (2016-2017) considered and adopted their Fifty- First Report.

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

NEW DELHI;
07 April, 2017

17 Chaitra, 1939 (Saka)

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK"
CHAIRPERSON

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

REPORT

While replying to Questions in the House or during discussions on Bills, Resolutions, Motions, etc., Ministers sometimes give Assurances, undertakings or promises either to consider a matter, take action or furnish information to the House at some later date. An Assurance is required to be implemented by the Ministry concerned within a period of three months. In case, the Ministry finds it difficult in implementing the Assurances on one ground or the other, they are required to request the Committee on Government Assurances to drop the Assurances and such requests are considered by the Committee on merits and decisions taken to drop an Assurance or otherwise.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2015-2016) considered the following requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of Assurances at their sitting held on 09 August, 2016:-

| S. No. | SQ/USQ No. & Date | Ministry | Subject |
|--------|---|--|--|
| 1. | USQ No. 3419 dated 25.04.2012 | Atomic Energy | Nuclear Waste (Appendix-I) |
| 2. | *USQ No. 2795 dated 10.12.2014 | Development of North Eastern Region | Review of Performance of Schemes (Appendix-II) |
| 3. | USQ No. 4023 dated 17.12.2014 | Earth Sciences | Desalination Plants (Appendix-III) |
| 4. | USQ No. 3794 dated 13.12.2001 | Environment, Forest and Climate Change | Cruelty against Animals (Appendix-IV) |
| 5. | SQ No. 243 (Supp. by Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, M.P.) dated 11.08.2010 | Environment, Forest and Climate Change | Cruelty to Animals (Appendix-V) |

| | | | |
|------|---|--|---|
| 6. | SQ No. 243 (Supp. by Smt. Maneka Gandhi, M.P.) dated 11.08.2010 | Environment, Forest and Climate Change | Cruelty to Animals (Appendix-VI) |
| 7. | SQ No. 243 (Supp. by Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar, M.P.) dated 11.08.2010 | Environment, Forest and Climate Change | Cruelty to Animals (Appendix-VII) |
| 8. | USQ No. 5147 dated 27.08.2010 | Health and Family Welfare(Department of Health Research) | Surrogacy (Appendix-VIII) |
| 9. | USQ No. 2462 dated 25.07.2014 | Health and Family Welfare(Department of AIDS Control) | Plasma Fractionation Centres (Appendix-IX) |
| 10. | USQ No. 3042 dated 29.08.2013 | Information and Broadcasting | Restriction of Time for Advertisements on Television Channels (Appendix-X) |
| 11. | USQ No. 4277 dated 20.02.2014 | Power | Amendment in Tariff Policy (Appendix-XI) |
| 12. | USQ No. 2254 dated 03.08.2015 | Railways | Projects Under Cost Sharing Basis (Appendix-XII) |
| 13. | SQ No. 54 dated 23.07.2015 | Road Transport and Highways | Bharat Mala Project (Appendix-XIII) |
| 14. | USQ No. 500 dated 23.07.2015 | Road Transport and Highways | By Pass on NHs (Appendix-XIV) |
| 15. | USQ No. 2030 dated 23.07.2014 | Space (Department of Space) | Pricing of Satellite Transponders (Appendix-XV) |
| 16.@ | USQ No. 3854 dated 04.09.2012 | Urban Development | Mithi River Development Project (Appendix-XVI) |

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 17. | USQ No. 643 dated 07.08.2013 | Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports) | Regulatory Framework for Non-Corporate Business Entities (Appendix-XVII) |
|-----|---------------------------------|---|---|

*** Implementation Report laid on the Table of the House on 04/05/2016**

@ Implementation Report laid on the Table of the House on 07/12/2016

3. The details of the Assurances arising out of the replies and the reason(s) advanced by the Ministries/Departments for dropping of the Assurances are given in Appendices -I to XVII.

4. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee dated 09 August, 2016 are given in Appendix-XVIII.

5. After having considered the requests of the Ministries/Departments, the Committee are not convinced with the reasons furnished for dropping the Assurances. The Committee desire that the Government should take note of the Observations of the Committee, as contained in Annexure-II to Appendix- XVIII and take appropriate action, for the implementation of the Assurances expeditiously.

NEW DELHI:

07 April, 2017

17 Chaitra, 1939 (Saka)

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK"

CHAIRPERSON

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2015-16)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)
THIRTEENTH SITTING
(09.08.2016)

The Committee sat from 1500 Hrs. to 1645 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 Tariq Anwar
5. Prof. Sugata Bose
6. Shri Naran Bhai 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

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri R. S. Kambo | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri J.M. Baisakh | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri S.L. Singh | - | Deputy Secretary |

| | | | |
|------|-------|--------|--------|
| XXXX | XXXXX | XXXXXX | XXXXXX |
| XXXX | XXXXX | XXXXXX | XXXXXX |

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 took up 20 Memoranda (Memorandum Nos. 152 to 171) containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of pending Assurances. After considering a few Memoranda, the Committee authorized the Hon'ble Chairperson to decide the dropping or otherwise of the Assurances contained in the remaining Memoranda. Thereafter, the Hon'ble Chairperson decided to drop 03 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-I* and to pursue the remaining 17 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-II, for implementation by the Ministry/Department concerned.

XXXX

XXXXX

XXXXXX

XXXXXX

The Committee then adjourned.

* Not enclosed

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2015-2016)

Statement Showing Assurances not dropped by the Committee on Government Assurances at their sitting held on 09.08.2016

| Sl. No. | Memo No. | Question | Ministry/ Department | Subject | Remarks |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 152 | USQ No. 3419 dated 25.04.2012 | Atomic Energy | Nuclear Waste | The Ministry have requested for dropping the Assurance on the ground that the possibility of fulfilling the Assurance does not exist in the near future. The Committee find that suspension of exploratory mining operation is an interim measure and the proposal for construction of the Underground Research Laboratory has not been withdrawn. The Committee understands that such matters take time but the Ministry need to take action with specific timeline to pursue the matter with the concerned authorities and the Assurance implemented at the earliest. |
| 2. | 154 | USQ No. 2795 dated 10.12.2014 | Development of North Eastern Region | Review of Performance of Schemes | The Ministry have requested for dropping the Assurance on the ground that the two schemes namely 'Organic Farming' and 'North Eastern Road |

| | | | | | |
|----|-----|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---|
| | | | | | <p>Corporation' are still to take off and hence the question of reviewing their performance does not arise at this stage. The Committee undertook a study visit to the North/Eastern Region on the subject in June 2015 and after receiving relevant inputs/information about the two schemes, the Committee had directed the Ministry to pursue the matter vigorously with all concerned and implement the Assurance at the earliest. The Committee reiterate their directive for implementing the Assurance since review of performance of schemes is imperative for their successful implementation.</p> |
| 3. | 155 | USQ No. 4023 dated 17.12.2014 | Earth Sciences | Desalination Plants | <p>The Ministry have requested for dropping the Assurance on the ground that the reply by the Minister conveyed the factual position and there was no promise made that constitutes the Assurance. The Ministry cannot question the wisdom of the Committee to treat which statement as Assurance or otherwise. The Committee feel that once on Assurance has been given, it is incumbent upon the Ministry to fulfill it. Moreover the Committee reviewed the Assurance during their study visit to Lakshadweep in October 2016 and urged upon the Ministry to make earnest efforts to implement it since providing safe and clean drinking water is the foremost duty of the Government. The Committee again urged upon the Ministry to expedite implementation of the Assurance.</p> |

| | | | | | |
|----|-----|---|--|----------------------------|--|
| 4. | 156 | USQ No. 3794 dated 13.12.2001 | Environment, Forest and Climate Change | Cruelty against Animals | The Committee feels that the Ministry cannot wash their hands off by merely stating that the agency concerned is unable to furnish the requisite authenticated data for fulfilling the Assurance. The contention of the Ministry is far from convincing and cannot be a valid ground for dropping the Assurance. Moreover, once an Assurance is given, it is incumbent upon the Ministry to fulfill it in coordination with all the agencies concerned. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Culture should pursue the matter vigorously with the agencies concerned and fulfill the Assurance at the earliest. |
| 5. | 157 | SQ No. 243 (Supplementary by Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, M.P.) dated 11.08.2010 | Environment, Forest and Climate Change | Cruelty to Animals | The Committee observes that while the matter is of utmost importance, the Ministry have been adopting lackadaisical attitude and no concrete steps have been taken so far in the matter. The Committee feel that merely requesting the State Government officials to take certain steps for preventing cruelty to animals will not bring the desired results and the Ministry ought to have taken the initiative in a far pragmatic manner. Thus, the reasons given by the Ministry for dropping the Assurance are not convincing. The Committee desire that the matter should be pursued vigorously and they be apprised of the initiations taken and the progress made in the matter. |

| | | | | | |
|----|-----|---|--|--------------------|--|
| 6. | 158 | SQ No. 243 (Supplementary by Smt. Maneka Gandhi, M.P.) dated 11.08.2010 | Environment, Forest and Climate Change | Cruelty to Animals | The Committee observe that while the matter is of utmost importance, the Ministry have been adopting lackadaisical attitude and no concrete steps have been taken so far in the matter. The Committee feel that merely requesting the State Government officials to take certain steps for preventing cruelty to animals will no bring the desired results and the Ministry ought to have taken the initiative in a far pragmatic manner. Thus, the reasons given by the Ministry for dropping the Assurance are not convincing. The Committee desire that the matter should be pursued vigorously and they be apprised of the initiations taken and the progress made in the matter. |
| 7. | 159 | SQ No. 243 (Supplementary by Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar, M.P.) dated 11.08.2010 | Environment, Forest and Climate Change | Cruelty to Animals | The Committee feel that merely requesting the State Government officials to take certain steps for preventing cruelty to animals will not bring the desired results and the Ministry ought to have taken the initiative in a far pragmatic manner. Thus, the reasons given by the Ministry for dropping the Assurance are not convincing. The Committee desire that the matter should be pursued vigorously and they be apprised of the initiations taken and the progress made in the matter. |
| 8. | 160 | USQ No. 5147 dated 27.08.2010 | Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health Research) | Surrogacy | The Committee feel that taking of a considerable amount of time for a legislation to see the light of the day cannot be a valid ground for dropping of an Assurance. The Committee understand that such |

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | | | | | matters take time but the Ministry need to take sustained action with alacrity within a specific timeline to pursue the matter with all concerned so as to implement the Assurance at the earliest. |
| 9. | 161 | USQ No. 2462 dated 25.07.2014 | Health and Family Welfare (Department of AIDS Control) | Plasma Fractionation Centres | The Committee feel that establishment of Plasma Fractionation Centres is an important project in the wake of shortage of blood in the Country. The Ministry cannot wash their hands of by stating that it is difficult to set a timeline for setting up the centers for plasma fractionation. Because of the imperative need for these Centres, the Committee desire that the matter should be pursued vigorously and the Assurance implemented at the earliest. |
| 10. | 162 | USQ No. 3042 dated 29.08.2013 | Information and Broadcasting | Restriction of Time for Advertisements on Television Channels | The Ministry have stated that the matter is sub-judice and pending before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. Citing the above reason, the Ministry have requested the Committee to drop the Assurance. The Committee feel that the matter is of crucial importance and needs to be pursued vigorously to bring to its logical conclusion. Moreover, an Assurance cannot be dropped merely on the ground that the matter is sub-judice. The Committee would like the Ministry to pursue the case vigorously and they be apprised of the initiatives taken and the progress made in the matter. |
| 11. | 163 | USQ No. 4277 dated 20.02.2014 | Power | Amendment in Tariff Policy | The Committee feel that the issue of amendment in the Tariff policy is of utmost importance and a matter of national significance. The matter was also discussed |

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | during the study visit of the Committee to Kochi in October, 2016 and the Ministry were urged upon to expedite implementation of the Assurance. The Committee understand that such matters take time but can be accomplished with sustained efforts. The Committee would like the Ministry to pursue the matter. Vigorously till its logical conclusion and they be apprised of the initiative taken and the progress made in the matter. |
| 12. | 165 | USQ No. 2254 dated 03.08.2015 | Railways | Projects Under Cost Sharing Basis | The Committee feel that High Speed Rail Corridor projects are of crucial importance for the country as they aim to establish high speed rail network. The Committee understand that such projects take time to get implemented but are not impossible. The Committee desire that the Minister should diligently pursue the matter till its logical conclusion. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives taken and the progress made in the matter. |
| 13. | 166 | SQ No. 54 dated 23.07.2015 | Road Transport and Highways | Bharat Mala Project | The Ministry have requested for dropping the Assurance on the grounds that the proposal is yet to be approved by the Cabinet and it would be premature to say anything about its launch. The Committee feel that the Bharat Mala Project is of utmost importance and a matter of national significance as the project envisages construction of road along the country's strategic borders, coastal areas, ports, religious and tourist places. The Committee acknowledge that launching of such projects take time but the Ministry |

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | need to take sustained action with specific timeline to pursue the matter vigorously with the concerned authorities and implement the Assurance at the earliest. |
| 14. | 167 | USQ No. 500 dated 23.07.2015 | Road Transport and Highways | By Pass on NHs | The Ministry have requested for dropping the Assurance on the grounds that complete information was given and fixed timelines for completion of these stages cannot be given since development of bypasses is an ongoing process. The Committee feel that the Assurance was about a specific project and the Ministry need to take action with specific timeline to pursue the matter urgently and implement the Assurance at the earliest. |
| 15. | 168 | USQ No. 2030 dated 23.07.2014 | Space | Pricing of Satellite Transponders | The Committee feel that the Ministry cannot wash their hands of by saying that the issue is under submission for approval of the Government. Satellite Technology can be a solution to most of the complicated access problems and more rationale and better pricing of Satellite Transponders plays a key role in the growth of Satellite technology/industry. Moreover, in view of the fact that the Assurance was reviewed during the Committee's Study visit to Bangalore in October, 2016, the Committee desire that the Ministry need to step up their efforts to finalize a clear time line and pursue the matter so as to implement it expeditiously. |
| 16. | 170 | USQ 3854 dated 04.09.2012 | Urban Development | Mithi River Development Project | The Committee were informed that the project is a long going process and a similar Assurance was |

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | dropped earlier by the Committee. However, the Committee feel that every time the long duration of a process/project can't be a justifiable ground for dropping an Assurance. Instead of making a dropping request in such cases, the Ministry should put in their best efforts to vigorously pursue the matter and take the matter to its logical conclusion. |
| 17. | 171 | USQ No. 643 dated 07.08.2013 | Youth Affairs and Sports | Regulatory Framework for Non-Corporate Business Entities | The request for dropping of this Assurance was not acceded to by the Committee at their sitting held on 22 December, 2014 and the Committee vide their Tenth Report (16 th Lok Sabha) desired that the Ministry should take appropriate action for the implementation of the Assurance expeditiously. The Ministry have again requested for dropping the Assurance on the ground that the Bill on which the Assurance was made does not exist as on date and a new Bill has now been prepared replacing the earlier Bill. The Committee feel that the title of the Bill does' not make any differences and merely providing information that the new Bill is being prepared cannot be construed as fulfillment of the Assurance. The Committee understand that such matters take time but the Ministry need to take sustained action with specific timeline to pursue the matter and implement the Assurance at the earliest. |