

70

**COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2017-2018)**

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

SEVENTIETH REPORT

REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF
ASSURANCES
(NOT ACCEDED TO)

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 04 January, 2018)



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

January, 2018/Pausa, 1939 (Saka)

SEVENTIETH REPORT
COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2017-2018)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF
ASSURANCES
(NOT ACCEDED TO)

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 04 January, 2018)



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

January, 2018/Pausa, 1939 (Saka)

CGA No. 320

Price: ₹ 115.00

© 2018 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rule 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Fifteenth Edition) and printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi-110 002.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2016-2017)	(iii)
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2017-2018)	(v)
INTRODUCTION	(vii)
Report	1

APPENDIX I

APPENDICES II TO XX

Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)

I. Statement Showing Summary of Request	4
II. USQ No. 3411 dated 23.12.2008 regarding ‘Wheat Import Scam’	7
III. USQ No. 2269 dated 10.03.2016 regarding ‘Road Transport and Safety Bill’	10
IV. USQ No. 2199 dated 10.03.2016 regarding ‘Linking of Backward Areas to NHs’	12
V. USQ No. 250 dated 23.11.2011 regarding ‘Civil Nuclear Cooperation’	14
VI. USQ No. 2675 dated 13.03.2013 regarding ‘Protest Against Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant’	16
VII. USQ No. 2121 dated 06.05.2016 regarding ‘National Institute of Medicinal Plants and National Institute of Geriatrics’	18
VIII. USQ No. 3612 dated 19.03.2013 regarding ‘Committee on Content of National Channels’	20
IX. USQ No. 2556 dated 10.05.2016 regarding ‘Scheme for Infrastructure Development’	23
®X. USQ No. 516 dated 26.11.2014 regarding ‘Tiger Protection Force’	26
XI. USQ No. 5608 dated 28.04.2015 regarding ‘Irregularities in Implementation of Sports Schemes’	28
XII. USQ No. 1316 dated 18.07.2014 regarding ‘Defence Deals’ ...	32

®Implementation Reports laid on 22.12.2017

(ii)

	PAGE
XIII. SQ No. 194 dated 03.08.2015 regarding 'Status of Railway University'	36
XIV. USQ No. 1982 dated 09.03.2015 regarding 'Railway Ticketing'	38
*XV. SQ No. 449 dated 08.05.2012 regarding 'Press Council of India'	41
*XVI. USQ No. 719 dated 27.11.2012 regarding 'Power to PCI'	51
*XVII. USQ No. 1143 dated 20.03.2012 regarding 'Paid News'	
*. (i) USQ No. 7518 dated 22.05.2012 regarding 'Paid News'	
*. (ii) SQ No. 69 dated 27.11.2012 regarding 'Paid News'	
*. (iii) USQ No. 1792 dated 04.12.2012 regarding 'Paid News on TV Channels'	55
XVIII. USQ No. 1534 dated 03.05.2016 regarding 'Rural godowns'	69
XIX. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 15 May, 2017	74
XX. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 02 January, 2018	83

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 U.B.S. Negi | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri P.C. Tripathy | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 3. Shri S.L. Singh | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

* 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*
(2017-2018)

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank” — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri Tariq Anwar
5. Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
6. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadiya
7. Shri P.K. Kunhalikutty
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 K.C. Venugopal
14. Shri S.R. Vijaya Kumar
15. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Shri U.B.S. Negi | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri P.C. Tripathy | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 3. Shri S.L. Singh | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

* The Committee has been re-constituted *w.e.f.* 01 September, 2017 *vide* Para No. 5800 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated 18 September, 2017.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances (2017-18), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Seventieth Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2016-17) at their sitting held on 15 May, 2017 considered Memoranda Nos. 117 to 136 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 02 January, 2018 the Committee (2017-18) considered and adopted their Seventieth Report.

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

NEW DELHI;
02 January, 2018
12 Pausa, 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, it is 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 (2016-2017) considered Twenty Memoranda (Appendix-I) containing requests received from various Ministries/ Departments for dropping of Assurances at their sitting held on 15 May, 2017.

3. After having considered the requests of the Ministries/Departments, the Committee are not convinced with the reasons furnished for dropping the following 17 Assurances:—

Sl.No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
1.	USQ No. 3411 dated 23.12.2008	Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)	Wheat Import Scam (Appendix-II)
2.	USQ No. 2269 dated 10.03.2016	Road Transport and Highways	Road Transport and Safety Bill (Appendix-III)
3.	USQ No. 2199 dated 10.03.2016	Road Transport and Highways	Linking of Backward Areas to NHs (Appendix-IV)
4.	USQ No. 250 dated 23.11.2011	Department of Atomic Energy	Civil Nuclear Cooperation (Appendix-V)
5.	USQ No. 2675 dated 13.03.2013	Department of Atomic Energy	Protest Jaithapur Nuclear Power Plant (Appendix-VI)
6.	USQ No. 2121 dated 6-5-2016	Ayush	National Institute of Medicinal Plants and National Institute of Geriatrics (Appendix-VII)
7.	USQ No. 3612 dated 19.03.2013	Information and Broadcasting	Committee on Content of National Channels (Appendix-VIII)
8.	USQ NO. 2556 dated 10-5-2016	Home Affairs	Scheme for Infrastructure Development (Appendix-IX)

Sl.No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
@9.	USQ No. 516 dated 26.11.2014	Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Tiger Protection Force (Appendix-X)
10.	USQ No. 5608 dated 28.04.2015	Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports)	Irregularities in Implementation of Sports schemes (Appendix-XI)
11.	USQ No. 1316 dated 18.07.2014	Defence (Department of Defence)	Defence Deals (Appendix-XII)
12.	SQ No. 194 dated 03.08.2015	Railways	Status of Railway University (Appendix-XIII)
13.	USQ No. 1982 dated 09.03.2015	Railways	Railway Ticketing (Appendix-XIV)
14.	*SQ No. 449 dated 08.05.2012	Information and Broadcasting	Press Council of India (Appendix-XV)
15.	*USQ No. 719 dated 27.11.2012	Information and Broadcasting	Power to PCI (Appendix-XVI)
16.	*USQ No. 1143 dated 20.03.2012	Information and Broadcasting	Paid News
	*USQ No. 7518 dated 22-5-2012		Paid News
	*SQ No. 69 dated 27.11.2012		Paid News
	*USQ No. 1792 dated 04.12.2012		Paid News on TV Channels (Appendix-XVII)
17.	USQ No. 1534 dated 03.05.2016	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmer Welfare)	Rural Godowns (Appendix-XVIII)

@Implementation Reports laid on 22.12.2017.

* Implementation Reports laid on 08.08.2017.

4. The details of the Assurances arising out of the replies and the reason(s) advanced by the Ministries/Departments for dropping of the above mentioned 17 Assurances are given in Appendices-II to XVIII.

5. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee dated 15 May, 2017 are given

in Appendix-XIX.

6. The Committee desire that the Government should take note of the Observations of the Committee, as contained in Annexure-II to Appendix-XIX and take appropriate action, for the implementation of the Assurances expeditiously.

NEW DELHI;
02 January, 2018
12 Pausa, 1939 (*Saka*)

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

APPENDIX I

STATEMENT SHOWING SUMMARY OF REQUESTS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS MINISTRIES/DEPARTMENTS REGARDING DROPPING OF ASSURANCES

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question/Discussion/References	Ministry	Department	Brief Subject
1.	117	USQ No. 3411 dated 23.12.2008	Commerce and Industry	Department of Commerce	Wheat Import Scam
2.	118	USQ No. 5162 dated 24.04.2015	Commerce and Industry	Department of Commerce	National Offset Policy
3.	119	USQ No. 2346 dated 09.05.2016	Commerce and Industry	Department of Commerce	FTA between India and Australia
4.	120	USQ No. 2269 dated 10.03.2016	Road Transport and Highways		Road Transport and Safety Bill
5.	121	USQ No. 2199 dated 10.03.2016	Road Transport and Highways		Linking of Backward Areas to NHs
6.	122	USQ No. 250 dated 23.11.2011	Department of Atomic Energy		Civil Nuclear Cooperation
7.	123	USQ No. 2675 dated 13.03.2013	Department of Atomic Energy		Protest Against Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant

8.	124	USQ No. 2121 dated 6-5-2016	Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	National Institute of Medicinal Plants and National Institute of Geriatrics
9.	125	USQ No. 3612 dated 19.03.2013	Information and Broadcasting	Committee on Content of National Channels
10.	126	USQ No. 2556 dated 10.05.2016	Home Affairs	Scheme for Infrastructure Development
11.	127	USQ No. 516 dated 26.11.2014	Environment, Forests and Climate Change	Tiger Protection Force
12.	128	USQ No. 1393 dated 05.03.2010	Finance	Implementation of Investment Commission Recommendations
13.	129	USQ No. 5608 dated 28.04.2015	Youth Affairs and Sports	Irregularities in Implementation of Sports Schemes

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question/Discussion/References	Ministry	Department	Brief Subject
14.	130	USQ No. 1316 dated 18.07.2014	Defence	Department of Defence	Defence Deals
15.	131	SQ No. 194 dated 03.08.2015	Railways		Status of Railway University
16.	132	USQ No. 1982 dated 09.03.2015	Railways		Railway Ticketing
17.	133	SQ No. 449 dated 08.05.2012	Information and Broadcasting		Press Council of India
18.	134	USQ No 719 dated 27.11.2012	Information and Broadcasting		Power to PCI
19.	135	USQ No. 1143 dated 20.03.2012	Information and Broadcasting		Paid News
		USQ No. 7518 dated 22.5.2012			Paid News
		SQ No. 69 dated 27.11.2012			Paid News
		USQ No. 1792 dated 04.12.2012			Paid News on TV Channels
20.	136	USQ No. 1534 dated 03.05.2016	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare	Rural Godowns

APPENDIX II

MEMORANDUM NO. 117

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3411 dated 23.12.2008 regarding "Wheat Import Scam".

On 23 December, 2008, Shri Santosh Gangwar, MP address an Unstarred Question No. 3411 to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce). The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) *vide* their O.M.No. 20/37/08-FT(ST) dated 8 July, 2009 had requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That as the CBI investigation in the case is still on and is also beyond the purview of Department of Commerce, no time limit can be predicted/anticipated for fulfillment of the Assurance. Hence the Committee on Government Assurances is requested to kindly consider deletion of this assurance against the name of this Department and to convey the necessary approval for the same."

4. The above request for dropping the Assurance was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 29 October, 2009 and it was decided not to drop the Assurance. The Committee accordingly presented its Fourth Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 16 December, 2009 and recommended that as CBI is still investigating the case, the Assurance may be pursued further.

5. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) *vide* O.M. No. 20/06/2008-FT(ST) dated 8 March, 2011 had again requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the Committee on Government Assurances, Rajya Sabha was requested by Department of Commerce to drop the Assurance given in reply to USQ No. 102 dated 27.2.2008 regarding import of pulses by STC on the ground that the matter is under investigation by CBI, hence beyond the purview of Department of Commerce and no timeline can be predicted for fulfillment of the Assurance. Committee on Government Assurances, Rajya Sabha has kindly acceded to the request of Department of Commerce and dropped the Assurance."

6. The above request of the Ministry was again considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 21 July, 2011 and the Committee once again decided not to

drop the above mentioned Assurance. The Committee, accordingly, presented its 17th Report (15th Lok Sabha) to the House on 30 August, 2011 in which the Committee desired that pending finalization on the CBI enquiry Report, a status report be filed by the Ministry after every six months till the Assurance is implemented in letter and spirit.

7. However, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) *vide* O.M. No. 20/37/2008-FT(ST) dated 27 March, have once again requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"Since the matter is still under investigation of CBI and is beyond the purview of Department of Commerce, no time line can be predicted for fulfillment of the Assurance. Lok Sabha Secretariat is requested that while allowing further extension of time upto 30.09.2017, the matter regarding dropping of the Assurance may also be placed before the Committee for its consideration."

8. In view of the above, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have once again requested to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may reconsider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated : 12.5.2017

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3411
ANSWERED ON 23.12. 2008

Wheat Import Scam

3411. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat import scam involving the officers of State Trading Corporation has come to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter is being investigated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action being taken against such persons?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) (b), (c) & (d) CBI on the basis of preliminary enquiry, registered a regular case on the allegations that certain officers of the Cabinet Secretariat, Department of Food, STC, FCI connived together and in pursuance of the same did various acts of commission/omission in procurement of 2 million MT of wheat from Australian Wheat Board during the year 1998. This Department had furnished the bio-data of Dr. S.M. Dewan, the CMD, STC, as sought by CBI in this regard. Later, in a note submitted to the Cabinet Secretary on the result of the investigations, CBI has stated that for want of conclusive evidence against the accused persons, a closure report was filed in the court of Special Judge, Delhi, on 3.1.2004 and the Court after due consideration accepted the same on 17.01.2004. In July 2008, CBI has requisitioned certain documents/filed from STC, returned by them, relating to the above case stating that further investigation in the matter has now commenced. Further status of the ongoing investigation has not been intimated to STC by CBI so far.

APPENDIX III

MEMORANDUM NO. 120

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2269 dated 10 March, 2016 regarding "Road Transport and Safety Bill".

On 10 March, 2016, Shrimati Kirron Kher, Shri B. Sriramulu and Dr. C. Gopalakrishnan, M.Ps. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2269 to the Minister of Road Transport and Highways. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways *vide* O.M. No. H-11016/15/2016/MVL dated 19 August, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the Road Transport and Safety Bill is still in consultation stage. Keeping in view the grim road safety scenario and the need to improve and ease of the Transport, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways constituted a Group of Transport of States Ministers (GoMs) to deliberate on the issues facing the transport sector in the country in February, 2016. The GoM was mandated to examine the best practices in the road transport sector with a view to improve safety and modality and to suggest actionable measures for implementation. The GoM had held three meetings in New Delhi, Bangalore and Dharamshala. The GoM after extensive deliberation recommended that necessary amendments may be carried out in the present Act and Rules keeping in view of grim road safety scenario in the country. Accordingly, it has been decided that the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoMs) may be considered and necessary amendment may be made in Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 through Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016. The Cabinet Note for the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016 has been approved by Cabinet in its meeting dated 3rd August, 2016. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha for consideration and passing on 09 August 2016. Most of the subjects of the Road Transport and Safety Bill have been covered in the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (RT&H), have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated: 12.5.2017

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2269

ANSWERED ON 10.03.2016

Road Transport and Safety Bill

2269. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER:
SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:
DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce the Road Transport and Safety Bill during the Budget Session of the Parliament.

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether some States including Karnataka expressed their concern against the proposed Road Transport and Safety Bill, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has taken steps to address the concern expressed by the States, if so, the reasons therefor along with the reaction thereto; and

(e) whether the legislative department has recommended removal of certain sections on safety from the draft Road Transport and Safety Bill?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) The draft Road Transport and Safety Bill, 2015 is still in consultation stage. The latest version of the draft Bill has been sent to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for their comments/suggestions. Comments/suggestions from some of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been received and are under examination. The Bill will be sent to the Cabinet Secretariat for introduction in the Parliament as soon as comments/suggestions from some more State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are received.

(e) No such recommendation has been received from the Legislative Department on draft Road Transport and Safety Bill, 2015.

APPENDIX IV

MEMORANDUM NO. 121

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2199 dated 10 March, 2016 regarding "Linking of Backward Areas to NHs".

On 10 March, 2016, Shrimati Veena Devi, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2199 to the Minister of Road Transport and Highways. The text of the question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways *vide* O.M. No. H-11016/23/2016-P&M (PL) dated 09 June, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the reply was furnished as per the requirement of the Question. This Ministry is seeking comments from various Ministries/Departments/State Governments on the said project. Thereafter, the proposal would be sent to Cabinet for approval. It is pre-mature to say anything about launching of the said project until the proposal is approved by the Cabinet. Further, on an earlier occasion the similar statement made in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2356 for 10.08.2015 raised by Shri Avinash Rai Khanna has been dropped on the same ground as intimated by Rajya Sabha Secretariat *vide* their letter No. Rs. 1/236/181/2015-Com. III dated 2nd December, 2015. Hence, on similar grounds, the answer given by this Ministry in the instant case may not be qualified for an Assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways (RT&H), have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated : 12.5.2017

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2199
ANSWERED ON 10.03.2016

Linking of Backward Areas to NHs

2199. SHRIMATI VEENADEVI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether linking the backward districts and areas by roads and national highways in the country is necessary for development of the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any action plan for giving priority to construction of road highways in the said areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the names of the districts along with their States identified in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (e) The Ministry has taken up detailed review of National Highways (NHs) network with a view to improve the road connectivity to coastal/border areas, backward areas, religious places, tourist places, construction/rehabilitation/widening of about 1,500 major bridges and 208 Railway Over Bridges (ROBs)/Railway Under Bridges (RUBs) on NHs, improvement of newly declared NHs providing connectivity to District Head Quarters, Connectivity Improvement Programme for Char-Dham (Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri & Gangotri in Uttarakhand) under proposed Bharatmala Pariyojana. However, the Bharatmala Pariyojana is yet to be formally launched.

APPENDIX V

MEMORANDUM NO. 122

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 250 dated 23.11.2011 regarding "Civil Nuclear Cooperation".

On 23 November, 2011 Shri Pradeep Majhi, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 250 to the Minister of Atomic Energy. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Department of Atomic Energy within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurances is yet to be implemented.

3. The Department of Atomic Energy *vide* O.M. No. 13/2(43)2011-Power dated 08 February, 2017 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the techno commercial discussions being held between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and French Public Utility EDF are still in progress. After the conclusion of the discussion, the project proposal will be submitted to the Government for administrative approval and financial sanction. The project would be put up for obtaining the administrative and financial approval of the Government only after the conclusion of these techno-commercial discussions. Incidentally, it is submitted that six Assurances pertaining to Jaitapur project are pending in Rajya Sabha. Considering the progress of negotiations and the delay in implementation of these Assurances, Committee on Government Assurances, Rajya Sabha has been requested, with the approval of MoS (PMO) to drop these Assurances. The decision is awaited. This issue involved in the present Assurance are of similar nature. This process of negotiations may take considerable time to reach a conclusion, after which NPCIL can finalise the project proposal. Further, obtaining approval for administrative approval and financial sanction for the Project from the Government (AFC/CCS) may take considerable time. Considering these aspects, it may not be possible to set any time-frame for fulfillment of the above Assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Department of Atomic Energy, with the approval of the Minister of State (PMO) have requested to drop the above assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated: 12.5.2017

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 250
ANSWERED ON 23.11.2011

Civil Nuclear Cooperation

250. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of the nuclear projects so far undertaken under the civil nuclear cooperation deal between India and France?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Presently Nuclear power Corporation of India (NPCIL) is considering the techno-economic details of the proposed nuclear power reactors to be set up at Jaitapur, Maharashtra in technical cooperation with France. The work on the project will be started after obtaining the administrative and financial approval of the Government.

APPENDIX VI

MEMORANDUM NO. 123

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2675 dated 13.03.2013 regarding "Protest against Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant."

On 13 March, 2013, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh *Alias* Lalan Singh, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2675 to the Prime Minister. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister of State (PMO) is as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Department of Atomic Energy within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Department of Atomic Energy *vide* O.M. No. 13/2/13/2013-Power dated 06.02.2017 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the techno-commercial discussions between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and the French Public Utility, EDF are still in progress, Incidentally, it is stated that six Assurances pertaining to Jaitapur project are pending in Rajya Sabha. Considering the progress of negotiations and the delay in implementation of these Assurances, Committee on Government Assurances, Rajya Sabha has been requested, with the approval of MoS (PMO), to drop these Assurances. The decision is awaited. The issues involved in the present Assurance are of similar nature. The progress of negotiations may take considerable time to reach a conclusion, after which NPCIL can finalize the project proposal. Further, obtaining approval, for administrative approval and financial sanction for the Project from the Government (AEC/CCS) may take considerable time. Considering these aspects, it may not be possible to set any time-frame for fulfillment of the above Assurances."

4. In view of the above, the Department of Atomic Energy, with the approval of the Minister of State (PMO) have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated: 12.5.2017

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2675
ANSWERED ON 13.03.2013

Protest Against Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant

2675. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS* LALAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether strong protest is being registered by local farmers and fishermen against setting up of Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant;
- (b) if so, whether they are still adamant on protest even after being given enhanced compensation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the above project is costlier than the thermal and hydel power projects of the country; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) There have been protests by a section of the local people against setting up of the Jaitapur nuclear power plant.

(b) & (c) The preparation for disbursement of the enhanced compensation to the land title holders has been started. However, certain groups ideologically opposed to nuclear power are continuing their opposition to the project.

(d) & (e) The cost of the Jaitapur Nuclear Power project will be arrived only after conclusion of the on-going techno-commercial discussions between the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited and the French side. The effort is to arrive at a viable tariff regime comparable to that of contemporary thermal and hydel power projects in the region.

APPENDIX VII

MEMORANDUM NO. 124

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2121 dated 06 May, 2016 regarding "National Institute of Medicinal Plants and National Institute of Geriatrics".

On 06 May, 2016 Shri Venkatesh Babu T.G., M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2121 to the Minister of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and was required to be implemented by the Minister of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy within three months from the date of the reply. The Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy *vide* O.M.F. No. H.11016/14/2016-NMPB-V dated 01.11.2016 has requested to drop the Assurance *inter alia* on the following grounds:—

"That the matter of setting up of National Institute of Medicinal Plants (NIMP) is under consideration of Ministry of AYUSH and the same was being pursued by this Ministry with the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir to set up NIMP in Bhaderwah area of Jammu and Kashmir. However, based on the report of Central Team's visit to the identified sites, the Bhaderwah area of Jammu and Kashmir has not been found suitable for setting up of NIMP. In the meantime, a Writ Petition on the matter has also been filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu and Kashmir at Jammu and the Hon'ble Court in an Interim Order had directed to maintain a status quo on the matter. The matter of setting up of NIMP is now sub-judiced and it may take time to dispose of the matter by Hon'ble Court."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State (IC) Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated: 12.5.2017

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY,
UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY
(AYUSH)

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2121
ANSWERED ON 06.05.2016

National Institute of Medicinal Plants and National Institute of Geriatrics

2121. SHRI VENKATESH BABU T.G.:

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to set up a National Institute of Medicinal Plants and National Institute of Geriatrics;

(b) if so, the estimated cost and the locations identified for setting up of the same; and

(c) the time by which these institutes are likely to be set up?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The proposal to set up a National Institute of Medicinal plants is under consideration of this Ministry. However, the details are still being worked out and no timeframe can be prescribed at this stage.

There is no proposal under consideration for establishment of the National Institute of Geriatrics under this Ministry.

APPENDIX VIII

MEMORANDUM NO. 125

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3612 dated 19.03.2013 regarding "Committee on Content of National Channels".

On 19 March, 2013 Shri Badri Ram Jakhar, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3612 to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting *vide* O.M. F. No. N-18011/23/2013-BC-I/BAP dated 22 June, 2015 has requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the aforesaid Assurance is related to the decision on the recommendations of Sam Pitroda Committee. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had requested Prasar Bharati to prepare an action plan for undertaking the studies/reviews/audits on certain issues recommended by the Sam Pitroda Committee and apprise the Ministry of the outcome of the reports. The desired action plan is still awaited from Prasar Bharati. Since, the conducting of reviews/studies/audits is a time-consuming activity; therefore no time limit can be given in this regard. Moreover, at present the action on the report of Sam Pitroda Committee, is not pending with the Ministry."

4. Subsequently, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting *vide* O.M. F.No. N-18011/23/2013-BC-I/BAP dated 06 July, 2016, have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the conduct of reviews/studies/audit is a time consuming activity, and no time limit can be given in this regard. The Ministry had also sought extension of time up to 19.06.2016 for fulfillment of the Assurance *vide* OM of even number dated 09.12.2015. Now, it has been noticed in the Ministry that since the Question was pertaining to constitution of a Committee/Body to conduct a study on the impact of programmes being telecast through the National Channels and since no such Committee had actually been constituted, the reply could have been limited to only the first sentence. A copy of reply to the question is enclosed. The second part of the reply is found to be superfluous as the Sam Pitroda Committee did not have the mandate to study the impact of programme being telecast on Doordarshan National Channels."

5. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated : 12.5.2017

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3612

ANSWERED ON 19.03.2013

Committee on Content of National Channels

3612. SHRIBADRI RAM JAKHAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted/proposes to constitute a Committee/Body to conduct a study on the impact of programmes being telecast through the national channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that no Committee has been constituted to study the impact of programmes being telecast on Doordarshan National Channels. However, a Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sam Pitroda for a review of the functioning of Prasar Bharati.

APPENDIX IX

MEMORANDUM NO. 126

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to unstarred Question No. 2556 dated 10.05.2016 regarding "Scheme for Infrastructure Development".

On 10 May, 2016, Shrimati Kamla Devi Paatle, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2556 to the Minister of Home Affairs. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs within three months from the date of reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Home Affairs *vide* O.M. File No. 13012/12/2016 LWI-I dated 07 December, 2016 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

“That out of 08 critical bridges, 02 bridges have been completed, construction of 04 bridges is in progress and process for awarding of 02 bridges is under finalization. Completion of all the bridges may take 2 to 3 years' time. Therefore, it will not be appropriate to keep the Assurance pending for such a long time.”

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State (Home Affairs), have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated : 12.5.2017

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2556
ANSWERED ON 10.05.2016

Scheme for Infrastructure Development

2556. SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PAATLE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes being implemented for development of infrastructure in naxal affected regions of the country including Chhattisgarh;
- (b) whether naxalites/maoists create hurdles/obstruction in implementation of these development schemes;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the action taken to ensure timely implementation of these schemes;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to include 3 to 4 per cent amount in the cost of such schemes as a security component and provide the same to the State Governments; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARATHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) The Government of India has been implementing various developmental schemes through its different Ministries/Departments for creating infrastructure in the LWE affected regions of the country including Chhattisgarh. Some of such schemes are Road Requirement Plan-I (RRP-I), Construction of fortified Police Stations, Mobile Towers and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) etc. Details of these schemes are given below:

(i) Road Requirement Plan-I (RRP-I): This scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for improving road connectivity in 34 most LWE affected districts. This scheme envisages 5,422 Km. road lengths. Up to 31.03.2016, total 3,972 Km. road lengths have been completed. Besides, 08 critical bridges are also being constructed of which 01 has been completed and 07 are in progress at various stages.

(ii) 01 ITI and 02 Skill Development Centres (SDCs) are being established in each of 34 LWE affected districts of 9 States under the Skill Development Scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

(iii) Construction of fortified Police Stations: This scheme envisages construction of 400 fortified Police Stations in 10 LWE affected States @ of Rs. 2.00 crore per police station with funding pattern 80 (Central share): 20 (State share) basis. Construction of 301 Police Stations have been completed till 19.04.2016.

(iv) Construction of Mobile Towers: The Department of Telecom has been implementing the scheme for construction of 2,199 mobile towers in 10 LWE affected States of which 1,748 mobile towers have been put on air up to 02.05.2016.

(b) to (e) The Left Wing Extremists often oppose any development activities in the areas of their influence and try to obstruct the implementation of the schemes. Consequently, some projects are delayed beyond their scheduled time. However, as and when such incidents come into the notice of the Government, adequate security is provided by deployment of Security Forces. Besides, the Government has provided various relaxations for taking up the works in LWE affected areas ensuring early and timely completion of the projects. These relaxations include accepting of tenders up to 10% higher of the updated cost, splitting the works in smaller parts, awarding of works on nomination basis, separate Schedule of Rates (SoR), extended completion period and general exemption upto 5 hectare forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

APPENDIX X

MEMORANDUM NO. 127

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 516 dated 26 November, 2014 regarding “Tiger Protection Force”.

On 26 November, 2014, Shri Dushyant Singh, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 516 to the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The text of the Question alongwith the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change *vide* O.M. No. 2-15/2014-NTCA dated 01 June, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

“That as per the information received from the State, the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is under process of approval and signature at the State Government level. The funding assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger with 60 per cent share is released by the Government of India after raising, arming and deploying of STPF since, the matter is being dealt by State *viz.* signing of MoU, recruitment and training including raising, arming and deploying of STPF in Sariska Tiger Reserve. As such no action is expected at the level of Government of India, till signed MoU is received. This is time taking process.”

4. In view of the above the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated: 12.5.2017

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 516

ANSWERED ON 26.11.2014

Tiger Protection Force

516. SHRIDUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received and proposals for setting up of Special Tiger Protection Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon, State-wise;

(c) whether a proposal has been sent to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising of a Special Tiger Protection Force in Sariska Tiger Reserve;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal; and

(e) the details of funds allocated for the same?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) & (b) The Special Tiger Protection Force is currently operational in States of Karnataka (Bandipur Tiger Reserve), Maharashtra (Tadoba-Andhari and Pench Tiger Reserves) and Odisha (Similipal Tiger Reserve), with 100% support under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger. In-principle approval of the Government of India has been accorded for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force in Melghat and Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserves of Maharashtra.

(c), (d) & (e) Funding support for Special Tiger Protection Force, *inter alia*, has been sought by the State for Sariska Tiger Reserve during the current financial year. The State has been advised for a detailed proposal *vis-a-vis* the guidelines issued in this regard.

APPENDIX XI

MEMORANDUM NO. 129

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 5608 dated 28 April, 2015 regarding "Irregularities in Implementation of Sports Schemes".

On 28 April, 2015, Shri Jagdambika Pal, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 5608 to the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports within three months from the date of the reply. The Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports *vide* O.M. No. 10-15/MYAS/RGKA/2015/5797 dated 16 September, 2015 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That as regards misappropriation/embezzlement of funds released to the State of Bihar under PYKKA, the allegations were got enquired into by deputing an Audit Team of the Ministry of Human Resource Development which conducted the audit of the accounts maintained by State Government from 24.11.2014 to 28.11.2014 and submitted its report *vide* letter dated 20.03.2015. A copy of the audit report has been forwarded by Secretary (Sports) to the Chief Secretary Bihar on 22.04.2015 highlighting the lacunae in implementation of the Scheme like (i) non-release of funds on time and its proper utilization, (ii) non-submission of Utilization Certificates till date, (iii) non-monitoring and supervision by the State Government, (iv) lack of administrative will. Keeping in view the lacunae in implementation of the Scheme and observations of the Audit team, the Chief Secretary, Bihar has been requested to take corrective action and arrange to refund the entire grant of Rs. 16,43,18,500/- along with interest in accordance with the provisions of General Financial Rules (GFRs) by means of a bank draft immediately.

The Ministry has since received a refund of Rs. 7,32,56,357/- towards unutilized grants released during 2008-09 and 2009-10 for development and maintenance of playfields under PYKKA Scheme. Another refund of Rs. 4,27,82,673/- has also been received towards unutilized grant released during 2010-11 for conduct of rural sports competitions under PYKKA Scheme.

As regards misappropriation/embezzlement of funds released to the State of Uttar Pradesh under PYKKA, it is submitted that the State Government has settled its accounts for all the grants released under PYKKA by submitting

the Utilization Certificates which have been accepted by the competent authority of the Department of Sports. With the settlement of the accounts by the State Government for all the grants released under PYKKA, the role of the Central Government comes to an end. Moreover, the accounts of the State Government are also subject to audit by the Accountant General (AG) and irregularities noticed, if any, are pointed out by the AG to the State Government for remedial action."

4. In view of the above the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State (I/C), in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated: 12.5.2017

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5608
ANSWERED ON 28.04.2015

Irregularities in Implementation of Sports Schemes

5608. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the cases of irregularities in the implementation of Centrally sponsored schemes for development and promotion of sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any initiative to address these irregularities;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the progress registered in this regard so far; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for effective/progressive implementation of these schemes?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) to (d) The Ministry has not received any complaints which would suggest an increase in the cases of irregularities in the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for development and promotion of sports in the country. However, two complaints received alleging financial irregularities in implementation of the scheme under Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been referred to the State Governments for investigation and report to the Ministry. No report has since been received from the States. The State Governments have been reminded on 16.02.2015.

(e) For effective implementation and monitoring of the Scheme, officials and Project Officers used to visit the States/UTs during the operation of the Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) Scheme, which has since been renamed as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) Scheme with effect from 01.04.2014. PYKKA observes were also deputed for this purpose. The findings and reports submitted

by the officials, Project Officers and PYKKA observers were forwarded to the State Governments/UTs for remedial action. Similarly, officials and Project Officers are being deputed for effective implementation/progressive implementation of RGKA.

APPENDIX XII

MEMORANDUM NO. 130

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1316 dated 18.07.2014, regarding "Defence Deals".

On 18 July, 2014 Shri Kaushalendra Kumar, M.P. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1316 to the Minister of Defence. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure-I.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Defence within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Defence *vide* O.M. No. 17/DO(Vig.)/2015 dated 24 October, 2016 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the hon'ble RM has observed that CBI taking up the cases for inquiry/ investigation cannot be an Assurance and is merely factual statement of facts. The latest status of these cases as provided by CBI *vide* their ID Note dated 19.10.2016 is enclosed as Annexure-II."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister for Defence, have requested to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated: 12.5.2017

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
(DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE)
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1316
ANSWERED ON 18.7.2014

Defence Deals

1316. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of violations of tender norms in defence deals with foreign companies reported during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the defence deals in which Central Vigilance Commission has recommended for vigilance inquiry during the said period for flouting the tender rules;
- (c) the details of cases of corruption registered in aforesaid deals during the said period;
- (d) the number of officials found guilty in such defence deals during the said period and action taken against them; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to check irregularities in defence deals?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) (a) to (e): Well defined procedures with adequate checks and balances are in vogue for capital and revenue procurements, under the Defence Procurement Procedure and the Defence Procurement Manual, respectively. The same are followed scrupulously.

As and when complaints alleging irregularities/violations of procurement procedures are received from any source the same are examined and after due scrutiny, appropriate action is taken. Wherever necessary, the case is referred to the appropriate agency for further investigation.

During the last three years and in the current year, there are nine cases relating to alleged irregularities in defence purchases, which the Central Vigilance Commission has referred for inquiry. During this period, the CBI has taken up inquiry/investigation in five cases. No official of the Ministry has been found guilty during the aforesaid period.

ANNEXURE II

CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
POLICY DIVISION
27, NORTH BLOCK, NEW DELHI

Subject: Assurance given during the 2nd Session (2014) of the 16th Lok Sabha
USQ No. 1316 dated 18.07.2014, regarding "Defence Deals".

Ministry of Defence may please refer to their letter No. 17/DO (Vig.)/2015
dated 06.10.2016 on the subject cited above.

2. In this regard, the updated status of the cases is enclosed at Annexure 'A'
for taking necessary action at your end.

Sd/-

(S.S. Sandhu)

Asstt. Insp. Genl. of Police (P)

Shri H.M. Kundlia, Under Secretary, Room No. 341-A, B-Wing, Sena Bhawan, Ministry
of Defence, New Delhi

CBIID No. 25/BT-48/2014-PD/2891

EN:—As Above (01 page of Annexure-A)

Dated: 19.10.2016

ANNEXURE A

Sl. No.	Case No. & Date of Registration	Present Status
1.	RC AC1 2012 A 0004 dated 30.3.2012 Tatra Trucks Case	Closure Report filed in the Court on 25.8.2014.
2.	RC AC1 2012 A 0014 dated 19.10.2012	Chargesheet was filed in the Court on 15.7.2014.
3.	RC 217 2013 A 0003 dated 12.03.2013	Execution report from British Virgin Islands and part execution reports of LRs from Tunisia, UK, Switzerland and Italy have been received. Execution reports of LRs from UAE, Singapore, Mauritius are still awaited.
4.	RC 217 2014 A 0002 dated 03.01.2014	LRs were sent to Switzerland and to Italy on 23-12-2014 and 06-01-2015 respectively. Execution reports of LRs from Switzerland and Italy are still awaited.
5.	PE AC1 2014 A 0005 dated 21.3.2014	Under Enquiry.

APPENDIX XIII

MEMORANDUM NO. 131

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Starred Question No. 194 dated 03.08.2015, regarding "Status of Railway University".

On 03 August, 2015 Shri Mullappally Ramachandran and Shri Tariq Anwar, M.Ps. addressed a Starred Question No. 194 to the Minister of Railways. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Railways within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Railways *vide* O.M. No. 2015/E(Trg)/33/8 dated 23.12.2015 and 08.12.2016, have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the announcement for establishing a Railway University was made by the Hon'ble MR in his Budget Speech 2014-15. In his Budget speech in 2015-16 he had announced that Railways is in the process of setting up a full-fledged University. The Detailed Project Report of setting up of the Railway University by upgrading the National Academy of Indian Railways at Vadodara has been prepared by M/s. Educational Consultants India Limited [EdCIL (India) Ltd.], a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Human Resource Development on finalization of the Detailed Project Report (DPR), the Bill shall be introduced in the Parliament for setting up the Railway University and allocate funds for this purpose. The setting up of a Railway University involves several aspects *viz.* infrastructure, faculty, funds, requisite certifications and approvals, development and designing of the curriculum/content of courses proposed to be taught, etc. The above work would take sometime and it would take around 1 to 2 years before the Railway University becomes operational."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Railways, have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated: 12.5.2017

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 194
ANSWERED ON 03.08.2015

Status of Railway University

194. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to set up a Railway University in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the locations identified and the funds earmarked for the purpose, State/zone-wise;
- (c) whether the Railways have fixed any time-frame to set up the University and if so, the details thereof including its present status;
- (d) whether some foreign countries including China have offered assistance for setting up the University; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU)
(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Starred Question No. 194 by Shri Mullappally Ramachandran and Shri Tariq Anwar to be answered in Lok Sabha on 03.08.2015 regarding status of Railway University:

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. It has been decided to establish a Railway University in the country by upgrading the National Academy of Indian Railways at Vadodara, and by taking the existing Centralised Training Institutes, under its umbrella, subject to necessary approvals and certifications. No funds have been earmarked State/Zone-wise for this purpose.

(c) Setting up of the Railway University requires preparation of a Detailed Project Report, consultation with other Ministries including the Ministry of Human Resource Development, introduction of a bill in Parliament and allocation of the requisite funds for setting up of the University.

(d) & (e) Yes, Madam. China has evinced interest in setting up of the proposed Railway University. However, details have not been worked out.

APPENDIX XIV

MEMORANDUM NO. 132

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1982 dated 09.03.2015, regarding "Railway Ticketing".

On 09 March, 2015, Shri Suresh C. Angadi, Shri Anto Antony, Shri Devji M. Patel and Shri Dushyant Chautala, M.Ps. Addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1982 to the Minister of Railways. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Railways within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Railways *vide* O.M. No. 2014/TG-I/31/9 dated 28 April, 2016, have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the order passed by Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum-VI (District-New Delhi) advising to restrict the passengers to bring identity proof during the time of journey has been challenged in court and the matter is *sub judice*. Further, Ministry of Railways is of the opinion that carrying of proof of identity during journey helps in keeping a check on cases of travelling on transferred ticket touting activities and hence this condition should not be withdrawn. Since the matter is *sub judice*, no time-frame can be indicated to fulfil this Assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Railways, have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated: 12.5.2017

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1982
ANSWERED ON 09.03.2015

Railway Ticketing

1982. SHRI SURESH CHANABASAPPA ANGADI:
SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:
SHRI DEVJI MANSINGRAM PATEL:
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose for paperless ticketing and if so, the time by which it is likely to be come into effect;

(b) whether the Railways have any plan to make Aadhaar Number mandatory for availing Railway bookings/concessions;

(c) if so, whether the Consumer Redressal Forum has advised the Railways not to restrict the passengers to bring identity proof during the time of journey in trains in spite of that the Railways decided not to relax the norms of carrying identity proof;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the IRCTC is contemplating online booking of railway tickets for disabled and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) At present, the concept of paperless ticketing is already there in case of e-tickets. However, as announced in the Railway Budget 2015-16, the feasibility of paperless ticketing for Passenger Reservation System (PRS) tickets is being examined.

(b) No, Madam. There is no plan to make Aadhaar number mandatory for availing Railway bookings/concessions at present.

(c) & (d) The said judgement passed by the Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum-VI (District-New Delhi) is under examination.

(e) The scheme of concession based e-ticketing facility for Physically Challenged Persons by using Photo Identity Card issued by the Railways has been implemented w.e.f. 29-01-2015 over Northern Railway on pilot basis. Under this scheme, a Photo Identity Card is issued by the Railways to the Physically Challenged

Persons upon submission of relevant documents like Concession Certificate etc. subject to verification of the authenticity of the documents. The validity of the card is five years from the date of issue or till the last date up to which the concession certificate is valid, whichever is earlier. The passenger has to carry the Photo Identity Card issued by the Railways in original during the journey and shall be required to produce the same for verification during on-board/off-board checking.

APPENDIX XV

MEMORANDUM NO. 133

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Starred Question No. 449 dated 08.05.2012, regarding "Press Council of India".

On 08 May, 2012, Shri C. Rajendran and Shri Khagen Das, MPs, Addressed a Starred Question No. 449 to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting *vide* O.M. No. 15/13/2012-Press dated 20 August, 2015 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That as GoM on Paid News is no longer in existence and its recommendations could also not be finalized and further, no time limit has been defined to amend the Press Council Act, 1978 and also considerable time is obviously required for the said process, the Committee on Government Assurance may be requested that the above mentioned Assurance may kindly be dropped in view of the facts as annexed."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated: 12.5.2017

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 449
ANSWERED ON 08.05.2012

Press Council of India

449. SHRI C. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI KHAGENDAS:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the present composition and mandate of the Press Council of India (PCI);
- (b) whether the Chairman, PCI has sought wider powers and proposed inclusion of the electronic media under the jurisdiction of PCI;
- (c) if so, the present status of these proposals; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SMT. AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 449 for answer on 08.05.2012:

The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory autonomous body set up under the Press Council Act, 1978. As per Section 5 of the Act, the Council shall consist of a Chairman and twenty eight other members. Out of the twenty eight members of the Council, twenty members are nominated from the press. Besides, five members are nominated from amongst the members of the Parliament, out of which three are from the Lok Sabha, nominated by the Speaker and two from the Rajya Sabha, nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha. In addition, one member each is nominated from the University Grants Commission, Bar Council of India and Sahitya Akademi. The present composition of the Press Council of India is at Annexure-I.

The mandate of the Council is to preserve the freedom of the press and also to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. The objects and functions of the Council are laid down under Section 13 of the Press Council Act are annexed at Annexure-II. In furtherance of its objects the Press

Council of India has formulated Norms of Journalistic Conduct. The council, *suo moto* or on complaints, adjudicates upon the violations of the norms of journalistic conduct and may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist, as the case may be.

The Chairman, PCI has proposed to bring electronic media also under the jurisdiction of the PCI. Besides, he has also sought more powers for the Council such as power to impose fine, to stop release of Government advertisements to the offending newspaper and, to suspend/cancel registration of newspaper or accreditation of the editor or the journalist.

The proposal of the Chairman, PCI has been referred to the Group of Ministers on Paid News for consideration.

ANNEXURE I

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 15th June, 2011

S.O. 1401(E).—In pursuance of sub-section (5) of section 5 of the Press Council Act, 1978 (37 of 1978), read with rules 3 and 4 of the Press Council (Procedure for Nomination of Members) Rules, 1978, the Central Government hereby notifies the names of the following persons nominated as members to the Press Council of India for a period of three years from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, namely:—

Working Journalists-Editors [nominated under clause (a) of sub-section (3) of section 5]


- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>1. Shri K.S. Sachidananda Murthy,
Editor, Malayala Manorama
Malayala Manorama, 2/11, INS Buildings,
Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110 001.

Res: C-51, IFS Apartments, Mayur Vihar,
Phase-I, New Delhi-110 091.</p> <p>2. Shri Shravan Kumar Garg,
Editor, Dainik Bhaskar,
402, Rattan Jyoti Building,
Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110 008.

Res: B3/25, Safdarjung Enclave,
Ground Floor, New Delhi-110 029.</p> <p>3. Shri Jagjit Singh Dardi,
Editor, Charhdikala, 593,
SST Nagar, Patiala (Punjab)

Res: 844, SST Nagar, Patiala (Punjab).</p> <p>4. Shri Anil Jugalkishor Agrawal,
Editor, daily Amaravati Mandal,
Kharparde Bagicha, Amaravati,

Res: Macchhisath, Sath Khiradi, Near
Yukubkhaband, Amaravati-444601.</p> <p>5. Shri Bishambhar Newar,
Editor, Chhapte-Chhapte,
26-C Creek Row Kolkata-14.

Res: 5BD, Laxmi Towers,
541 Rabindra Sarani,
Kolkata- 700 003.</p> |  | <p>Editors of Indian languages
Newspapers.</p> |
|--|--|--|

Working Journalists-other than Editors [nominated under clause (a) of sub-section (3) of section 5]

6. Shri Rajeev Ranjan Nag
Media House, 275-276, Captain Gaur Marg,
Srinivas Puri, New Delhi-110 065.

Res:8-D, Skylark Apartments,
Gazipur, Delhi-110 096.
7. Shri Uppala Lakshman,
Off/Resi.: 1-1-651/A/4, Pent House,
Lalitha Krishana Apartments, Gandhi Nagar,
Street No. 2, Hyderabad-500 080
Andhra Pradesh. Working Journalists not
being editors of Indian
Languages Newspapers.
8. Shri Arvind S. Tengse
Res: 354, Buticas Navelim,
Salcete, Goa-403 707.
9. Shri Kosuri Amarnath,
News Services Syndicate,
3-5-874/4, First Floor,
Street No. 5, Hyderguda,
Hyderabad-500 029

Res: 6-3-14/101, Sai Residency,
Hastinapuri Colony, Sainikpuri,
Hyderabad-500 094.
10. Shri Kalyan Barooah
Assam Tribune
3/14, INS Buildings, Rafi Marg, New Delhi.

Res: 92, Kala Vihar,
Mayur Vihar Phase-I (Extn.), Delhi.
11. Shri Sondeep Shankar,
(Off./Resi.):
I-3, Jangpura Extension,
New Delhi-110014. Working Journalists not
being editors of
Newspapers other than
Indian Languages
Newspapers
12. Shri Arun Kumar,
The Times of India, Times House,
Fraser Road, Patna-800 001.

Res: Abedin House (Top Floor),
Behind Radio Station, Bata Shop,
Fraser Road, Patna-800 001.

Persons who own or carry on the business of management of Newspapers [nominated under clause (b) of sub-section (3) of section 5]

13. Shri Vijay Kumar Chopra,
Punjab Kesari Building, Civil Lines,
Jalandhar-144001, Punjab.

Res: ER-129, Pucca Bagh,
Jalandhar, Punjab-144001.
14. Shri Sanjay Gupta,
Dainik Jagran, 501,
INS Buildings Rafi Marg,
New Delhi-110 001.

Res: C-26, Friends Colony (East),
New Delhi-110065. From big Newspapers
Category
15. Shri Gurinder Singh,
Indian Observer, F-26
Connaught Place,
New Delhi-110 001.

Res: D-253, Defence Colony,
New Delhi-110 024.
16. Shri Vijay Kumar Chopra,
Filmi Duniya, B-10, Shiv Apartments,
7, Raj Narain Marg, Civil Lines,
Delhi- 110 054.

Res: A-7, Sector 33, Noida- 201 301 (U.P.) From medium Newspapers
Category
17. Dr. Ramasubba Iyer Lakshmipathy,
"Health", Professional Publications (P) Ltd.
"Lakshmi" 21, Sathya Sai Nagar,
Madurai- 625 003.

Res: 27, "Shri Ram", Sathya Sai Nagar,
Madurai-625 003.

Persons who manage news agencies [nominated under clause (c) of sub-section (3) of section 5]

18. Shri Neeraj Bajpai,
United News of India, 9,
Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110 001.

Res: 9/60, Judges' Colony Vaishali,
Ghaziabad. From small Newspapers
Category

Persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of Education and Science, Law and Literature and Culture [nominated under clause (d) of sub-section (3) of section 5]

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 19. | Shri Rajeev Sabade,
Director, Centre for Media & Publications,
YASHADA, Rajbhavan Complex,
Baner Road, Pune-411 007. | Nominated by University
Grants Commission |
| 20. | Shri Milan Kumar Dey
Senior Advocate,
Chairman, Executive Committee,
Bar Council of India
Behind Apsara Hotel, Circular Road,
P.O. Lalpur, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand. | Nominated by Bar Council
of India |
| 21. | Shri A. Krishna Murthy,
Present Address:
208, Amarpali Apartments,
I.P. Extension, New Delhi-11 0092.

Permanent Address: S-4, A-Block,
Shanthiniketan Apartments,
Arakere, Bengaluru-560 076. | Nominated by Sahitya
Akademi |

Members of Parliament [nominated under clause (e) of sub-section (3) of section 5]

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 22. | Kum. Meenakshi Natarajan,
Present Address: 24, Akbar Road,
New Delhi.

Permanent Address: 23, MIG,
Indira Nagar, Ratlam,
Madhya Pradesh. | |
| 23. | Shri Harin Pathak,
Present Address: 4, South Avenue Lane,
New Delhi-110011.

Permanent Address: "Madhura",
Prankunj Society, Puspunj, Maninagar,
Ahmedabad, Gujarat-380 028. | Nominated by the Speaker
of the House of the People |
| 24. | Shri Sanjay Dina Patil,
Present Address: Maharashtra Sadan,
New Delhi.

Permanent Address: Sanjay Apartments,
Dina Patil Est., Station Road, Bhandup (W)
Mumbai-400 078. | |

25. Shri Rajeev Shukla,
Present Address: C-I/2,
Lodhi Garden, Amrita Sher Gil Marg,
New Delhi.

Permanent Address: 119/501,
Darshan Purwa, Kanpur,
Uttar Pradesh- 208012.

Nominated by the
Chairman of the Council
of States

26. Shri Prakash Javadekar
Present Address: 24, Mahadev Road,
New Delhi-110001.

Permanent Address: 11, Suvan Apartment,
Mayur Colony, Kothrud, Pune-411 038.

[F. No. 4/8/2010-Press]
KHURSHID AHMED GANAI, Jt. Secy.

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

13. Objects and functions of the Council.—(1) The objects of the Council shall be to preserve the freedom of the Press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India.

(2) The Council may, in furtherance of its objects, perform the following functions, namely:—

- (a) to help newspapers and news agencies to maintain their independence;
- (b) to build up a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists in accordance with high professional standards;
- (c) to ensure on the part of newspapers, news agencies and journalists, the maintenance of high standards of public taste and foster a due sense of both the rights and responsibilities of citizenship;
- (d) to encourage the growth of a sense of responsibility and public service among all those engaged in the profession of journalism;
- (e) to keep under review and development likely to restrict the supply and dissemination of news of public interest and importance;
- (f) to keep under review cases of assistance received by any newspapers or news agency in India from any foreign source including such cases as are referred to it by the Central Government or are brought to its notice by any individual, association of persons or any other organisation:

Provided that nothing in this clause shall preclude the Central Government from dealing with any case of assistance received by a newspaper or news agency in India from any foreign source in any other manner it thinks fit;

- (g) to undertake studies of foreign newspapers, including those brought out by any embassy or other representative in India of a foreign State, their circulation and impact.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this clause, the expression "foreign State" has the meaning assigned to it in section 87A of the code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908);

- (h) to promote a proper functional relationship among all classes of persons engaged in the production or publication of newspapers or in news agencies:

Provided that nothing in this clause shall be deemed to confer on the Council any functions in regard to disputes to which the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (14 of 1947), applies;

- (i) to concern itself with developments such as concentration of or other aspects of ownership of newspapers and news agencies which may affect the independence of the Press;
- (j) to undertake such studies as may be entrusted to the Council and to express its opinion in regard to any matter referred to it by the Central Government;
- (k) to do such other acts as may be incidental or conducive to the discharge of the above functions.

APPENDIX XVI

MEMORANDUM NO. 134

Subject : Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 719 dated 27.11.2012 regarding "Power to PCI"

On 27 November, 2012, Shri K. Sugumar, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 719 to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure I.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting *vide* OM No. 15/26/2012-Press dated 20 August, 2015 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That as no time limit has been defined to amend the Press Council Act, 1978 and the considerable time is obviously required for the said process, the Committee on Government Assurance is requested that the above mentioned Assurance may kindly be dropped in view of the facts as annexed."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, have requested to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated : 12.5.2017

Facts for dropping of the assurance

- ❖ The issue 'Amendment to the Press Council Act, 1978' was continuously being examined in the Ministry during the last sixteen years, however, no final decision has been arrived till date.
- ❖ At present, the matter was again under examination in the Ministry. Meanwhile, the Press Council of India (PCI) reconstituted for its XII term on 10th October, 2014 and a new Chairman took charge of the Council *w.e.f.* 25th November, 2014. It was decided to seek the views of new Chairman in the said matter.
- ❖ PCI was therefore, asked to furnish the same immediately. At this PCI has recently informed that the issue of amendment to the Press Council Act, 1978 would be thoroughly discussed in its Council's meeting scheduled to be held in August, 2015.
- ❖ The issue would further be examined in the Ministry after receiving the views of Chairman, Press Council of India which is expected to be received by end of August, 2015, if possible.
- ❖ As one of the provisions in the proposed amendments to the Press Council Act is to bring Electronic Media under the purview of PCI, a wide consultation would be required with the various stakeholders such as News Broadcasters Association (NBA), News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA), Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC), Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) and the representatives of several Media Houses etc..
- ❖ M/o I&B would be in a position to take any decision in this respect when consensus would be made amongst the stakeholders in the said matter.
- ❖ Further, draft Note for Cabinet and the draft Bill would be prepared in consultation with M/o Law & Justice and various concerned Ministries/ Departments and then, the Note along with the Bill duly approved by the Hon'ble Minister of Information & Broadcasting would be sent to the Cabinet for its approval. Thereafter, the same would be introduced in the Parliament and after the approval of Parliament, the Bill would emerge as Act and it would be published in the Gazette of India.
- ❖ However, it may not be anticipated that the above mentioned process would take how much time.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 719
ANSWERED ON 27.11.2012

Power to PCI

719. SHRI K. SUGUMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of alleged unethical practices resorted to by some sections of the media, both print and electronic;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Press Council of India (PCI) seeking amendments to the Press Council Act, 1978 for arming it with more powers and bringing the electronic and the social media under its jurisdiction;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether broadcasters, newspapers and other stakeholders have opposed the said proposal; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI):

(a) & (b) There have been reports of unethical practices being resorted to by the media. The Press Council of India, a statutory autonomous body set up for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers & news agencies in India, has formulated 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' which covers principles and ethics of journalism and should be adhered to by the media. Of late, there also have been a number of media reports that sections of the electronic and print media have received monetary considerations for publishing or broadcasting in favour of particular individuals or organizations or corporate entities for what is essentially "advertisement" disguised as "news". This has been commonly referred to as the "paid news". The PCI has taken cognizance of the issue of this unethical practice and has released a Report on Paid News. The recommendations made in the report are under consideration to suggest a comprehensive policy and institutional mechanism to address the phenomenon of paid news.

(c) & (d) Press Council of India, having observed that the powers provided under Press Council Act, 1978 are not adequate for effective implementation of its

directives, has proposed amendments in the Press Council Act, 1978. PCI has proposed to amend the Act to bring electronic media and social media under its jurisdiction. Further, some of the major amendments intend to arm the Council with more powers with PCI against those who violate journalistic ethics, such as withdrawal of Government advertisements, suspension of registration of newspapers and accreditation of the editor or journalist. The proposed amendments also envisage providing power to PCI to give directions in respect of conduct of any authority including the Government.

(e) & (f) The proposed amendments are at the stage of examination and if considered necessary, the draft amendment to the Press Council Act requires to be drafted carefully after wide consultations with the stakeholders and evolving consensus on the important issues relating to the media.

APPENDIX XVII

MEMORANDUM NO. 135

Subject : *Request for dropping of Assurances given in replies to:—*

- (i) Unstarred Question No. 1143 dated 20.03.2012 regarding "Paid News". (Annexure-I).
- (ii) Unstarred Question No. 7518 dated 22.05.2012 regarding "Paid News". (Annexure-II).
- (iii) Starred Question No. 69 dated 27.11.2012 regarding "Paid News". (Annexure-III).
- (iv) Unstarred Question No. 1792 dated 04.12.2012 regarding "Paid News on TV Channels". (Annexure-IV).

The above mentioned Questions were asked by various MPs to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. The contents of the Questions along with the replies of the Ministers are as given in Annexures (I to IV).

2. The replies to the Questions were treated as Assurances by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurances are yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting *vide* O.M. No. 15/6/2012-Press dated 11.06.2015, O.M. No. 15/19/2012-Press dated 11.06.2015, O.M. No. 15/25/2012-Press dated 15.06.2015 and O.M. No. 101/44/2012-BC-II-Press dated 15.06.2015 have requested to drop the Assurance given in replies on the following grounds:—

"That the issue of Paid News was deliberated upon by the GoM under the Chairmanship of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, then Union Finance Minister in its two meetings held on 07th September, 2011 and 16th May, 2012. However, the recommendations of the GoM could not be finalized. Later on, upon elevation of the former Finance Minister as Hon'ble President of India, Prime Minister's Office *vide* its letter dated 26th August, 2013 conveyed the decision that it is not necessary to constitute GoM on Paid News. As GoM on Paid News is no longer in existence and its recommendations could also not be finalized, the Committee on Government Assurances may kindly be requested that the above mentioned Assurance may kindly be dropped."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, have requested to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated : 12.5.2017

ANNEXURE I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1143
ANSWERED ON 20.03.2012

Paid News

1143. SHRI RAMSINHBHAI PATALBHAI RATHWA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Editors Guild and the Press Council of India (PCI) have expressed their concern over the issue of paid news in the media sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry on the aforesaid allegation;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether a Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to examine the recommendations made in the report of PCI on this issue, has submitted its report to the Government; and
- (f) if so, the terms and references thereof and the time by which GoM is likely to submit its report?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Editors Guild of India (EGI) in its press note dated 22.12.2009 has condemned the unethical practice of Paid News and called upon all editors of the country to desist from publishing any form of advertisements which masquerade as news. The Press Council of India (PCI) has also taken cognizance of the serious issue of paid news and expressed concern over the instances of paid news in the media.

The PCI, an autonomous body set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers in India, has deliberated upon the issue and released a 'Report on Paid News'. The PCI has made following recommendations in the Report.

- (1) Representation of the People Act, 1951 be amended to make incidence of paid news a punishable electoral malpractice.
- (2) The Press Council of India must be fully empowered to adjudicate the complaints of 'paid news' and give final judgement in the matter.
- (3) Press Council Act be amended to make its recommendations binding and electronic media be brought under its purview, and

- (4) Press Council of India should be reconstituted to include representatives from electronic and other media.

(e) & (f) The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) on Paid News. The terms of reference of the GoM are as follows: to examine the 'Report on Paid News' prepared by the Press Council of India, and to give views on a comprehensive policy and institutional mechanism to address the phenomenon of Paid News.

The GoM has not yet submitted its recommendations and no time-frame has been fixed for the GoM for submission of its report to the Government.

ANNEXURE II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 7518
ANSWERED ON : 22.05.2012

Paid News

7518. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN (LALAN) SINGH:
SHRI MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI BHARAT RAM MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Election Commissioner has expressed concern over the issue of paid news during the recently held Assembly elections and forwarded several cases of spending crores of rupees on paid news to the Press Council of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware of a number of cases of paid news reported during the Municipal Corporation of Delhi Election held in the recent past;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/efforts being made by the Government to stop this menace including election reforms?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) & (b) The Election Commission of India has expressed its concern over the issue of paid news during the recently held general elections to the Legislative Assemblies of five States as also in some previous elections. However, the Chief Election Commissioner has not forwarded any case of paid news during the recently held assembly elections to the Press Council of India so far.

(c) & (d) No case of Paid News in election of Municipal Corporation of Delhi has been brought to the notice of Government by any election body including Chief Electoral Officer, Government of Delhi and ECI.

(e) The Election Commission has taken cognizance of the phenomenon of Paid news and initiated measures to check incidents of election time paid news. The Commission has issued instructions to Chief Electoral Officers of all the States for constituting the District level and State level Media Certification and Monitoring Committees (MCMCs) for scrutiny of paid news. These Committees have been instructed to do vigorous scrutiny of electronic media, print media and other modes

of mass communication in order to locate political advertisement in the garb of news coverage appearing during the election period. In addition, the Commission has also constituted a Committee at its own level to examine references from State level MCMCs and to support policy formulation for issues related to Paid News and those related to usage of electronic and print media for campaigning by parties and candidates.

The PCI has cautioned the media to refrain from publishing news masquerading as advertisements and *vice-versa*. The Council has also adjudicated on complaints of Paid News and a case where the Council held respondent newspapers guilty of ethical violations, was also sent to the Election Commission for necessary action. The Election Commission, on the basis of adjudication by PCI disqualified the elected representative.

The PCI has also examined the issues related to paid news and released its Report on Paid News making recommendations including amendment of Representation of People Act, 1951. However, since the recommendations made in the PCI's Report on Paid News have wider ramifications, it was decided to set up a Group of Ministers to examine the matter. A GoM, has accordingly been constituted to examine the Press Council of India's 'Report on Paid News' and to give views for a comprehensive policy and institutional mechanism to address the phenomenon of Paid News.

ANNEXURE III

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 69
ANSWERED ON 27.11.2012

Paid News

69. SHRI SANJAY JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether instances of paid news in the media are on the rise in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated or intends to formulate any guidelines on publication of paid news;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the views expressed by the Press Council of India, the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the Editors Guild of India regarding the publication of paid news in the media?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement Referred to in Reply to Parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 69 Regarding Paid News for Answer on 27.11.2012:

There have been media reports that sections of the electronic and print media have received monetary considerations for publishing or broadcasting in favour of particular individuals or organizations or corporate entities for what is essentially "advertisement" disguised as "news". This has been commonly referred to as 'paid news'. While this is not a new phenomenon, it is being widely discussed and debated across the country.

The Press Council of India (PCI), an autonomous body to maintain and improve the standards of press, received 17 complaints of paid news in the year 2009-10, 2 complaints in the year 2010-11 and 11 complaints in the year 2011-12 whereas it has received 9 complaints till date in the current year. The details of the Complaints are annexed at Annexure-I. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has also taken note of this unethical practice during the election time and of late, has initiated several measures to check the menace. The ECI received 155 cases of paid news during the State Assembly elections in the year 2011 and 750 cases in 2012. The number of cases, State-wise is annexed at Annexure-II.

Taking cognizance of the wide ramifications of the issue and expressing concern over the instances of paid news in the media, the PCI has deliberated upon the issue and released its 'Report on Paid News' on 30th July, 2010. The PCI, in the Report has recommended amendment in the Representation of the people Act to make incidence of paid news a punishable electoral malpractice and also amendment in the Press Council Act for more powers to PCI. The Report has also suggested various other measures to curb the menace of paid news, which includes setting up of a Special Cell in Election Commission for action against complaints of paid news, self-regulation by media, education of voters and awareness generation amongst the stakeholders to enable them to differentiate between paid news items from genuine news.

The recommendations made by PCI in its Report were submitted to the Group of Minister (GoM) on Paid News for examination and for suggesting a comprehensive institutional mechanism to check the menace of paid news. The issues were deliberated upon by GoM, however the recommendations of the GoM could not be finalized.

However, the Election Commission has initiated measures to check incidents of election time paid news. The Commission has issued instructions to Chief Electoral Officers of all the States for constituting the District level and State level Media Certification and Monitoring Committees (MCMCs) for scrutiny of paid news. These Committees have been instructed to do vigorous scrutiny of electronic media, print media and other modes of mass communication in order to locate political advertisement in the garb of news coverage appearing during the election period. In addition, the Commission has also constituted a Committee at the Commission level to examine references from State level MCMCs and to support policy formulation on issues related to Paid News and those related to usage of electronic and print media for campaigning by parties and candidates.

The Editors Guild of India has condemned the unethical practice of paid news and called upon all editors of the country to desist from publishing any form of advertisements which masquerade as news. The Guild has also advised the news organizations to clearly distinguish between news and advertisements, with full and proper disclosure norms so that no reader and viewer is tricked by any subterfuge of advertisements published and broadcasting in the same format, language and style of news. The Chief Election Commissioner also had strongly condemned the publication of paid news on various occasions as it adversely affects the level playing field during elections, circumvents the election expenditure laws and causes undue influence on voters.

**Complaints received by the Press Council of India on Paid News
during 2009-10**

Sl.No.	Complainant	Respondent	Subject	Action Taken/ Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Kunwar Manvendra Singh, Member, (Lok Sabha), Aavgarh House, Dampiar Nagar, Mathura (U.P.)	The Editor, Dainik Jagran, Mathura (U.P.)	Publication of favourable news item in favour of his rival candidate.	Closed on 26.4.2010 for non-pursuance
2.	Shri Rakesh Srivastava "Nayayik" M.M.22, Vikas Pradhikaran Colony, Shivpur, Varanasi-221 003-(U.P.)	The Editor, Hindustan	Publication of news in favour of BSP candidate during the election by taking money from him.	Closed on 31.8.2010 for non-pursuance
3.	Shri Rampravesh Sharma @ Shankar, J.D.U. Candidate, 36, Jahanabad Lok Sabha, Bihar	The Editor, Hindustan, Patna	Publication of news in favour of contesting candidate by taking money.	Closed on 3.6.2010 for non-pursuance
4.	Shri Lawan Thakur, Chairman, RTI Bureau, 88/6, Samkheter, Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)	The Editor, The Tribune, Chandigarh,	Publication of news in favour of candidate by taking money.	Closed on 26.4.2010 for non-pursuance
5.	Shri Ram Iqbal, Singh, Ex-MLA, BJP, 70, Ghosi Lok Sabha Constituency, Mau (U.P.)	The Editor, Dainik Jagran	Publication of news in favour of a candidate by taking money.	Closed on 23.4.2010 for non-pursuance
6.	Shri Randeep Thakur, 4, LIG Barra-2, Kanpur (U.P.)	The Editor, Dainik Jagran	Publication of news/ advertisements in favour of a candidate by selling news column.	Closed on 24.8.2010 for non-pursuance
7-8.	Shri Lion S. Gopalan, 43, Periyar Nagar, Sengunthapuram Post, Karur-639 002 (Tamil Nadu)	The Editors, 1) Dinamalar 2) The Hindu	Regarding violation of guidelines of press by highlighting the caste profile of the candidates as well as constituencies.	Closed on 23.4.2010 for non-pursuance

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Shri Ramadhar Verma, Purani Basti, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)	The Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Raipur	Publication of misleading advertisement in favour of a party during the election.	Closed on 1.1.2010 for non-pursuance/lack of address
10-12.	Shri P.P. Kapoor, Haryana State Convenor, Indian Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU), G.T. Road, Samalakha-132 101-03, Panipat (Haryana)	The Editors, 1. Dainik Bhaskar 2. Dainik Jagran 3. Punjab Kesari	Regarding publication of misleading news/article/advts. during Haryana Vidhan Sabha election	The matter has been heard by the Inquiry Committee of the Council. Its recommendations are yet to be finalized.
13-16.	Shri K. Ramasubramanian, State Secretary, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), 83-3B, Arjun Nivas Apartment, 4th Street, Tatabad, Coimbatore-641 012 (TN)	The Editors, 1. Dinakaran 2. Tamil Murasu 3. Daily Thanthi 4. Maalai Malar	Publishing election/campaign related news according to whims and fancies.	The matter has been adjudicated by the Council on Jan., 3-4, 2011 at Kochi.
17.	Shri S.S. Arya, State General Secretary, Indian Justice Party, Haryana, Ambala	Editor, Punjab Kesari	Regarding misleading the people.	The matter has been heard by the Inquiry Committee of the Council. Its recommendations are yet to be finalized.

Complaints received by the Press Council of India on Paid News during 2010-11

1.	Shri Rakesh Kumar Sharma, H.No. 143, Sector-13 Kurukshetra, Haryana	Editor, Dainik Jagran	Regarding manipulation and fraud with their shareholders and also publish news editorial/advertisements by taking money from the candidates during Lok Sabha and legislative assembly elections.	Closed on 6.9.2010 Outside charter.
2.	Shri Jai Singh Village & PS-Gajrola, Gajrola, Pilibhit (UP)	Amar Ujala	Regarding publication of false and defamatory news item with the motive to blackmail him during district Panchayati Election.	Closed on 23.01.2012 for non-pursuance.

Complaints received by the Press Council of India on Paid News during 2011-12

1.	Shri Nama Nagswara Rao, M.P. (Lok Sabha) Telugu Desam Parliamentary Party, 5, Parliament House, New Delhi	Saakshi	Publication of falsehood and malicious campaign.	The matter is under process.
----	--	---------	--	------------------------------

1	2	3	4	5
2.	District Election Officer-cum-District Magistrate, Muzaffarpur (Bihar) through Election Commission of India	Hindustan	Publication of Paid News.	The matter has been heard by the Inquiry Committee of the Council. Its recommendations are yet to be finalized.
3.	District Election Officer-cum-District Magistrate, Muzaffarpur (Bihar) through Election Commission of India	Dainik Jagran	Publication of Paid News.	The matter has been heard by the Inquiry Committee of the Council. Its recommendations are yet to be finalized.
4.	District Election Officer-cum-District Magistrate, Muzaffarpur (Bihar) through Election Commission of India	Prabhat Khabar	Publication of Paid News.	The matter has been heard by the Inquiry Committee of the Council. Its recommendations are yet to be finalized.
5.	District Election Officer-cum-District Magistrate, Muzaffarpur (Bihar) through Election Commission of India	Rashtrya Sahara	Publication of Paid News.	The matter has been heard by the Inquiry Committee of the Council. Its recommendations are yet to be finalized.
6.	District Election Officer-cum-District Magistrate, Muzaffarpur (Bihar) through Election Commission of India	Hindustan Times (English)	Publication of Paid News.	The matter has been heard by the Inquiry Committee of the Council. Its recommendations are yet to be finalized.
7.	District Election Officer-cum-District Magistrate, Muzaffarpur (Bihar) through Election Commission of India	Poorvanchal Ki Raah (Election Special)	Publication of Paid News.	The matter has been heard by the Inquiry Committee of the Council. Its recommendations are yet to be finalized.
8.	District Election Officer-cum-District Magistrate, Muzaffarpur (Bihar) through Election Commission of India	Dainik Aaj	Publication of Paid News.	The matter has been heard by the Inquiry Committee of the Council. Its recommendations are yet to be finalized.

1	2	3	4	5
9.	District Election Officer-cum-District Magistrate, Muzaffarpur (Bihar) through Election Commission of India	Dainik Udyog Vyapar Times	Publication of Paid News.	The matter has been heard by the Inquiry Committee of the Council. Its recommendations are yet to be finalized.
10.	Shri N. Konda, Indian National Congress Worker, S/o Shri N. Varadarajula Reddy, Proddatur, Dadapa District (Andhra Pradesh)	Saakshi	Publication of a series of false News item about his father during election.	The matter has been heard by the Inquiry Committee of the Council. Its recommendations are yet to be finalized
11.	Ms. Mayabhushan Nagvenkar, 1392, Doxoxvir, Anjuna, Bordrez, Goa - 403 509 And General Secretary, Goa Union of Journalists, Shramshakti Bhavan 6th Floor, Panaji	The Herald, English Daily, Panaji, Goa	Regarding publication of paid news.	Closed on 29.10.2012 being Sub-judice.

Complaints received by the Press Council of India on Paid News during 2012-13

1.	Shri Brajmani Singh, Ex-State Spokesman, All India Hindu Maha Sabah, Gorakhpur	Dainik Jagran	Publication of Paid News during elections.	Closed on 29.10.2012 being time barred.
2-3.	Shri Parvinder Singh Tyagi, New Delhi	1. Dainik Jagran 2. Punjab Kesari	Paid News.	Under consideration.
4-7.	Shri Prem Prakash Thapliyal, Central Member Central Member, Uttarakhand Parivartan Party, Dehradun	1. Amar Ujala, 2. Dainik Jagran, 3. Hindustan, 4. Sandhya Prabhat.	Paid news during elections.	Under consideration.
8-9.	Shri Clifton De'souza, Zaino, Velim, Selcete, Goa - 403 723	1. The Navhind Times 2. O Heraldo.	Paid News published.	Under consideration.

ANNEXURE IV

ANNEXURE AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 69 FOR REPLY ON 27.11.2012
REGARDING PAID NEWS

Details of Paid News Cases during General Election in 2011

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Paid News Cases Reported
1.	Kerala	67
2.	Puducherry	4
3.	Assam	46
4.	West Bengal	16
5.	Tamil Nadu	22

Details of Paid News Cases during General Election in 2012

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Paid News Cases Reported
1.	Uttar Pradesh	97
2.	Uttarakhand	60
3.	Punjab	523
4.	Goa	70
5.	Manipur	Nil

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1792
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2012

Paid News on TV Channels

1792. SHRI SOMENDRA NATH MITRA:
SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of incidents of paid news in various television channels have been increasing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, channel-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaints from any quarters in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government against such TV channels and to restrain paid news in the electronic media?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) to (d) There have been media reports that sections of the electronic and print media have received monetary considerations for publishing or broadcasting in favour of particular individuals or organisations or corporate entities for what is essentially "advertisement" disguised as "news". This has been commonly referred to as "paid news". While this is not a new phenomenon, it is being widely discussed and debated across the country.

(e) Taking cognizance of the wide ramifications of the issue and expressing concern over the instances of paid news in electronic and print media, the PCI has deliberated upon the issue and released its 'Report on Paid News' on 30th July 2010. The PCI, in the Report has recommended amendment in the Representation of the People Act to make incidence of paid news a punishable electoral malpractice and also amendment in the Press Council Act for more powers to PCI. The Report has also suggested various other measures to curb the menace of paid news, which includes setting up of a Special Cell in Election Commission for action against complaints of paid news, self-regulation by media, education of voters and awareness generation amongst the stakeholders to enable them to differentiate between paid news items from genuine news.

The recommendations made by PCI in its report were submitted to the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Paid News for examination and for suggesting a comprehensive institutional mechanism to check the menace of paid news. The issues were deliberated upon by the GoM, however, the recommendations of the GoM could not be finalized.

APPENDIX XVIII

MEMORANDUM NO. 136

Subject : Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1534 dated 03.05.2016, regarding "Rural Godowns".

On 03 May, 2016, Shri Sanjay Dhotre, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur and Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, M.Ps. addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1534 to the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare). The text of the Question alongwith the reply of the Minister is as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the Question was treated as an Assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare) *vide* O.M. No. H-11011/7/2016-M.II dated 02 February, 2017 have requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:—

"That the case is still continuing in the "Special Court of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the time frame for a final verdict cannot be ascertained. Hence, it is requested that this reply may kindly not be considered as an Assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State (Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) have requested to drop the above Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

Dated : 12.5.2017

ANNEXURE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION
AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1534
ANSWERED ON 3.5.2016

Rural Godowns

1534. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented schemes/programmes for construction/renovation of godowns/warehouses in rural areas of various States to enhance the storage capacity of agricultural produce in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of godowns/warehouses constructed/renovated under the said schemes/programmes during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) the details of the storage capacity of agriculture produce enhanced during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(d) the details of the funds allocated/released/utilised under these schemes/programmes during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(e) whether cases of irregularities/corruption/diversion of funds in implementation of the said schemes/programmes have come to the notice of the Government during the said period; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (d) In order to enhance the storage capacity for agricultural produce in the country the Government promotes construction/renovation of godowns/warehouses in rural areas under the storage component (erstwhile Grameen Bhandaran Yojana) of Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM). The scheme is credit linked, capital investment linked and with provision for back ended subsidy @ 25% and 33.33% to eligible promoters of general and special categories respectively. Currently the scheme has been temporarily stopped *w.e.f.* 05.08.2014 for general category promoters due to exhaustion of funds. However, the scheme continues to be open for Schedule Caste

(SC)/Schedule Tribe (ST) promoters and for all promoters in North-Eastern Region. As the scheme is demand driven, hence, subsidy for construction and renovation of godowns is not allocated State-wise. While so far no releases have been made in the current year (2016-17), the details of the funds released by the Government to promoters for construction/renovation of godowns/warehouses in rural areas in various States/Union Territories under the scheme during the last three years are annexed.

(e) & (f) No, Madam. However, one case of corruption was registered in 2006 against Shri D.P. Ukey, Marketing Officer (Retired), Regional Office, Directorate of Marketing & Inspection, Mumbai, for accepting bribe. Sanction of the competent authority for prosecution was issued to Central Bureau of Investigation on 18.09.2009 and Regular Disciplinary Action for imposition of major penalty under Central Civil Service (Conduct) Rules is under process. The case is still continuing in the Special Court of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

ANNEXURE

State/UT-wise Physical and Financial Progress of Sub Scheme of Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure (Storage Infrastructure)
During last three years (2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16)

Sl. No.	State	2013-14				2014-15				2015-16			
		No. of projects constructed	No. of projects renovated	Storage Capacity sanctioned in MT	Subsidy released (Rs. in Lakh)	No. of projects constructed	No. of projects renovated	Storage Capacity sanctioned in MT	Subsidy released (Rs. in Lakh)	No. of projects constructed	No. of projects renovated	Storage Capacity sanctioned in MT	Subsidy released (Rs. in Lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh (AP)	398	0	1258346	6313.17	82	0	992285	6014.07	101	0	503815.09	5257.85
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0000
3.	Assam	20	0	187970	(401.41)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(0.02)	454.62
4.	Bihar	75	0	120410	266.01	14	0	21571	438.71	0	0	0.39	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	65	0	285614	1174.55	6	0	16341	179.16	46	0	262312.50	0.00
6.	Goa	(2)	0	9	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	700	1	297191	672.93	615	0	362318	2015.78	1438	0	823718.27	4704.00
8.	Haryana	168	33	1555631	4752.91	24	0	543253	4707.75	52	0	832635.96	6550.02
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16	0	14789	78.55	7	0	2451	9.56	0	0	(0.39)	0.0012
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	0	5000	0.75	0	0	0	37.59	3	0	20000.00	144.90
11.	Jharkhand	7	0	45171	103.34	2	0	13153	83.55	5	0	49245.00	117.53

12. Karnataka	363	0	472452	1739.68	170	0	368289	1629.59	204	0	268906.82	2133.61	
13. Kerala	46	0	10239	26.27	0	0	18189	1.92	(2)	0	(335.44)	40.87	
14. Madhya Pradesh	407	0	2713639	4655.70	156	0	823392	7383.75	309	0	1593986.54	8496.61	
15. Maharashtra	278	(8)	752713	1396.72	116	0	409315	2567.98	150	0	452201.37	2735.00	
16. Meghalaya	0	0	430	73.35	0	0	0	0	0	0	(0.24)	0.00	
17. Mizoram	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	(454)	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	
18. Nagaland	0	0	0	3.52	(1)	0	564	1.6	0	0	(0.43)	0.00	
19. Orissa	24	0	78145	259.28	3	0	3206	112.69	0	0	0.24	305.81	
20. Punjab	45	0	535845	8003.74	33	0	85290	707.32	28	0	306636.10	1818.70	
21. Rajasthan	68	0	509989	619.41	118	0	545743	1112.32	62	0	521796.11	2391.95	
22. Tamil Nadu	31	0	191917	556.77	3	0	12016	586.4	30	0	113404.82	683.27	
23. Uttar pradesh	142	0	861485	1935.43	17	0	205053	5584.4	29	0	260411.68	2234.89	
24. Uttarakhand	36	0	179494	840.55	1	0	1461	5.12	7	0	(34091.96)	394.27	
25. West Bengal	67	0	194033	713.42	13	0	42225	275.15	0	0	(0.49)	201.85	
26. Tripura	1	0	6344	36.46	2	0	18416	119.1	0	0	0.00	116.85	
27. Telangana			Not Applicable				Telangana figures included in Andhra Pradesh			93	0	521739.67	3621.71
28. UTs	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0		0	0	0.00	0.00	
Total	2956	26	10276856	33821.11	1381	0	4484077	33573.51	2555	0	6496381.59	42404.38	

Figures indicated in brackets are of those projects which were de-sanctioned/of capacity reduced/of subsidy recalled.

APPENDIX XIX
MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2016-2017)
(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)
EIGHTH SITTING
(15.05.2017)

The Committee sat from 1500 Hrs. to 1730 Hrs. in Committee Room “G-074”,
Parliament Library Building, New Delhi

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank” — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Anto Antony
3. Shri Tariq Anwar
4. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
5. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
6. Shri C.R. Patil
7. Shri Taslimuddin
8. Shri K.C. Venugopal

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Shri U.B.S. Negi | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri P.C. Tripathy | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 3. Shri S.L. Singh | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

2. 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. 117 to 136) 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.

The Committee then adjourned

*** Not enclosed

ANNEXURE II

Statement Showing Assurances not dropped by the Committee on Government Assurances at their sitting held on 15.05.2017

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question	Ministry/ Department	Subject	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	117	USQ No. 3411 dated 23.12.2008	Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce)	Wheat Import Scam	The Committee regret to note that the case is still under investigation of CBI even after a lapse of nine years. However, an Assurance cannot be dropped merely on the ground that the matter is under CBI investigation and no time line can be predicted for fulfilment of the Assurance. The Committee desire that the Ministry should impress upon the CBI to expedite the case so that the case is brought to its logical conclusion and there is no further delay in fulfilling the Assurance.
2.	120	USQ No. 2269 dated 10.03.2016	Road Transport and Highways	Road Transport and Safety Bill	The Committee regret to note that Road Transport and Safety Bill is still in consultation stage. The Ministry has informed that it has been decided that necessary amendments may be made in Motor Vehicles Act 1988 through Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016. The Ministry has contended that since most of the subjects of Road Transport and Safety Bill have covered in the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016, the Assurance should be dropped. However, the Committee feel that since the Assurance specifically pertains to the Road Transport and Safety Bill, the Ministry needs to apprise them

1	2	3	4	5	6
					about the fate of this Bill as to whether it will be dropped or introduced separately. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should pursue the matter till its logical end.
3.	121	USQ No. 2199 dated 10.03.2016	Road Transport and Highways	Linking of Backward Areas to NHs	The Ministry has requested for dropping of the Assurance on the ground that it's premature to say anything about launching of the Bharat Mala Pariyojana until the proposal is approved by the Cabinet. The Committee outrightly reject the contention of the Ministry and feel that once an Assurance has been given, it should be pursued till its implementation. Considering the importance of the Bharat Mala Pariyojana in the socio-economic and geo-political development of the country, the Committee desire to know the progress made so far in the project and the steps taken by the Government for its expeditious launch. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should apprise them of the progress of the project.
4.	122	USQ No. 250 dated 23.11.2011	Department of Atomic Energy	Civil Nuclear Cooperation	The Committee are not convinced with the request of the Ministry for dropping of the Assurance on the ground that the process of negotiation/techno commercial discussions may take considerable time to reach a conclusion and it may not be possible to set any time frame for fulfilment of the Assurance. The Committee understand that such matters take much time but at the same time Assurances cannot be dropped on the ground as adduced by the Ministry in the instant case.

					The Committee desire that the Ministry should pursue the matter vigorously and fulfil the Assurance at the earliest.
5.	123	USQ No. 2675 dated 13.03.2013	Department of Atomic Energy	Protest Against Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant	According to the Ministry the process of negotiation/techno commercial discussions may take considerable time to reach a conclusion and it may not be possible to set any time frame for fulfilment of the Assurance. It has therefore requested to drop the Assurance. The Committee understand that such matters take much time and therefore such Assurances cannot be dropped on the ground as adduced by the Ministry. The Committee desire that the Ministry should pursue the matter vigorously and fulfil the Assurance at the earliest.
6.	124	USQ No. 2121 dated 06.05.2016	AYUSH	National Institute of Medicinal Plants and National Institute of Geriatrics	An Assurance cannot be dropped on the ground that matter is <i>subjudice</i> . The Committee feel that the matter of setting up of National Institute of Medicinal Plants is of crucial importance and needs to be pursued vigorously to bring to its logical conclusion. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the final outcome of the matter along with the directives of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir in this regard. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the initiatives taken and the progress made in the matter.
7.	125	USQ No. 3612 dated 19.03.2013	Information and Broadcasting	Committee on Content of National Channels	The Committee feel that once an Assurance has been given on the floor of the House it is incumbent upon the Ministry to fulfil it. In the instant case, the Ministry was required to undertake a review of the functioning of Prasar Bharati. The Committee desire that the Ministry should pursue this matter

1	2	3	4	5	6
					vigorously and expedite the fulfilment of the Assurance. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the initiatives taken and the progress made in the matter.
8.	126	USQ No. 2556 dated 10.05.2016	Home Affairs	Scheme for Infrastructure Development	According to the Ministry of completion of bridges may take 2-3 years time and it will not be appropriate to keep the Assurance pending for such a long time and has therefore requested the Committee to drop the Assurance. The Committee are of the firm view that an Assurance cannot be dropped merely on the ground that its implementation would take about 2-3 years. The Committee feel that the matter of construction of bridges in Naxal affected areas is of crucial importance considering the scant infrastructure in LWE affected districts and needs to be pursued vigorously to bring to its logical conclusion. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives taken and the progress made in the matter.
9.	127	USQ No. 516 dated 26.11.2014	Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Tiger Protection Force	According to the Ministry no action is pending at the level of Government of India since the draft MoU is under process of approval and signature at the State Governments level which is a time consuming process. The Committee are unhappy with the lackadaisical approach of the Ministry and the pace of progress of the project. The Committee would, therefore, like the Ministry to co-ordinate with the State Governments concerned to expedite the process of approval and signature

					within a fixed timeframe and implement the Assurance without further delay.
10.	129	USQ No. 5608 dated 28.04.2015	Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports)	Irregularities in Implementation of Sports Schemes	The Ministry has requested for dropping of the Assurance on the ground that the State of UP has settled all its accounts for all the grants released under PYKKA by submitting the utilization certificate. However, the Committee note that the State Government of Bihar has not yet settled its accounts for all the grants received under PYKKA. The Committee would like the Ministry to pursue the matter with the State Government of Bihar to settle the accounts for grants received under PYKKA and implement the Assurance without further delay.
11.	130	USQ No. 1316 dated 18.07.2014	Defence (Department of Defence)	Defence Deals	The Ministry has contended that cases undertaken by CBI for inquiry/investigation cannot be an Assurance and is merely statement of facts. However, the Committee feel that the Ministry cannot question the wisdom of the Committee to treat which statement as Assurance or otherwise. The Committee desire that the Ministry should vigorously pursue the matter with the CBI to expedite the investigation in order to fulfil the Assurance without delay. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the initiatives taken and the progress made in the matter.
12.	131	SQ No. 194 dated 03.08.2015	Railways	Status of Railway University	An Assurance cannot be dropped merely on the ground that its implementation will take time and therefore, once an Assurance is given, it is incumbent upon the Ministry to fulfil it. The Committee feel that the matter should be pursued vigorously till its logical end. The Committee would like to be

1	2	3	4	5	6
					apprised of the initiatives taken and the progress made in the matter.
13.	132	USQ No. 1982 dated 09.03.2015	Railways	Railway Ticketing	According to the Ministry the matter is <i>sub judice</i> and no time frame can be given to fulfil the Assurance and therefore, has requested to drop the Assurance. The Committee understand that such matters take much time but at the same time Committee feel the need to ensure accountability in the matter. The Committee desire that the Ministry should vigorously pursue the matter. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the initiatives taken by the Ministry as well as the progress made in the matter.
*14.	133	SQ No. 449 dated 08.05.2012	Information and Broadcasting	Press Council of India	According to the Ministry GoM on Paid News is no longer of India in existence and its recommendations could not be finalised and also no time limit has been defined to amend the Press Council Act, 1978. Hence, the Ministry has requested for dropping of the Assurance. The Committee feel that an Assurance cannot be dropped merely on the ground that no time limit can be defined for fulfilment of the Assurance. Further, the Committee are concerned to note that this important issue has been kept pending by the Ministry for so long. The Committee desire that the Ministry should submit a part Implementation Report mentioning the prevailing circumstances and the progress made in the matter.

15.	134*	USQ No. 719 dated 27.11.2012	Information and Broadcasting	Power to PCI	According to the Ministry no time limit has been defined to amend the Press Council Act, 1978 and considerable time is required for the said process. The Ministry has however requested the Committee to drop the Assurance. The Committee understand that such matters take time but the Ministry needs to take some concrete action to finalize a clear time line for amending the Press Council Act, 1978. The Committee urge upon the Ministry to take initiative in the matter with alacrity and specific timeline and implement the Assurance at the earliest.
16.	135*	USQ No. 1143 dated 20.03.2012	Information and Broadcasting	Paid News	According to the Ministry GoM on Paid News is no longer in existence and its recommendations could not be finalised. The Ministry has, therefore, requested that the Assurance on the issue may be dropped. However, the Committee are concerned to note that the subject of paid news, despite being an serious issue, has been kept pending by the Ministry since 2002. The Committee desire that the Ministry should submit an Implementation Report mentioning the prevailing circumstances and the progress made in the matter, so that issue may be considered.
		USQ No. 7518 dated 22.05.2012		Paid News	
		SQ No. 69 dated 27.11.2012		Paid News	
		USQ NO. 1792 dated 04.12.2012		Paid News on TV Channels	

*Implementation Reports laid on 08/08/2017.

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	136	USQ No. 1534 dated 03.05.2016	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)	Rural Godowns	According to the Ministry the Assurance essentially pertains to investigations by CBI and the time frame for final verdict cannot be ascertained. The Ministry, has, therefore, request that Assurance be dropped. The Committee understand that such matters take much time but at the same time the Committee feel the need to ensure accountability in the matter. Moreover, Assurances cannot be dropped just because CBI investigation into the matter would take a considerable time. The Committee desire that the Ministry should vigorously pursue the matter with the CBI for expediting its investigation. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the initiatives taken by the Ministry and the CBI as well as the progress made in the matter.

*Implementation Report laid on 22/12/2017

APPENDIX XX

MINUTES

THIRD SITTING

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES (2017-2018) HELD ON 02ND JANUARY, 2018,
IN CHAIRPERSON'S CHAMBER ROOM NO. '133',
PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1545 hours on Tuesday, 02nd January, 2018.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank” — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri Naran Bhai Kachhadia
5. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
6. Shri C.R. Patil
7. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Shri U.B.S. Negi | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri P.C. Tripathy | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 3. Shri S.L. Singh | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

2. 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 Six Draft Reports without any amendment:—

- (i) Draft 67th Report regarding Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development)
- (ii) Draft 68th Report regarding Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Heavy Industry)

- (iii) Draft 69th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)
- (iv) Draft 70th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Not acceded to)
- (v) Draft 71st Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)
- (vi) Draft 72nd Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Not acceded to)

3. The Committee also authorised the Chairperson to present the Reports during the current session of the Lok Sabha.

The Committee then adjourned.

"All Parliamentary Publications including DRSC Reports are available on sale at the Sales Counter, Reception, Parliament House (Tel. Nos. 23034726, 23034495, 23034496), Agents appointed by Lok Sabha Secretariat and Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi (Tel. Nos. 24367260, 24365610) and their outlets. The said information is available on website 'www.parliamentofindia.nic.in'.

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."
