

101 COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2018-2019)

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

ONE HUNDRED-FIRST REPORT

REVIEW OF PENDING ASSURANCES PERTAINING
TO THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND
HIGHWAYS

Presented to Lok Sabha on 12.2.2019



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2019/Magha, 1940 (Saka)

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(2018-2019)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

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PERTAINING TO THE MINISTRY OF
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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
February, 2019/Magha, 1940 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2018-2019)

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank” — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri Tariq Anwar
5. Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer
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 K.C. Venugopal
14. Shri S.R. Vijaya kumar
15. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Shri N.C. Gupta | — | <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, 2018 vide Para No. 7305 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 10 September, 2018.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances (2018-2019), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this One hundred-first Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee at their sitting held on 17 December, 2018 took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways regarding some of the pending Assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 11 February, 2019, the Committee considered and adopted their One hundred-first Report.

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

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

NEW DELHI;
11 February, 2019

22 Magha, 1940 (*Saka*)

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

REPORT

I. Introductory

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

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2009-10) took a policy decision to call the representatives of the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, in a phased manner, to review the pending Assurances, examine the reasons for pendency and analyze operation of the system prescribed in the Ministries/Departments for dealing with Assurances. The Committee also decided to consider the quality of Assurances implemented by the Government.

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

4. In pursuance of the *ibid* decision, the Committee on Government Assurances (2018-2019) called the representatives of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and examined the following 02 pending Assurances (Appendices I & II) pertaining to the Ministry at their sitting held on 17.12.2018:

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
1.	USQ No. 904 dated 28.04.2016	Religious Places Connected with Highways (Appendix-I)
2.	USQ No. 727 dated 20.07.2017	NHs in the Country (Appendix-II)

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

6. During oral evidence, the Committee invited the attention of the representatives of the Ministry to the long pending list of 95 Assurances in their Ministry. The Committee showed concern over the considerable length of pending Assurances and informed the representatives that due to paucity of time the Committee have decided to examine only 2 Assurances in their present sitting and would like the Ministry to devise a mechanism to resolve the issue of pending Assurances in a time bound manner. The Committee then desired to know as to whether the Ministry have prepared any network wherein a review meeting is held in an interval of 15 or 20 days at the level of Joint Secretary or the Secretary or the Minister for appraisal of pending Assurances. The Secretary, Road Transport and Highways in his deposition before the Committee stated during evidence as under:—

"Sir, I review all the Assurances once in every 2 months at my level. Before this, we prepared a strategy together with our Joint Secretary, who has been transferred now, for reviewing Assurances. She even came here and followed it up also as to what action has been taken on the pending Assurances and requested for dropping of Assurances which have already been fulfilled. However, in regard to some of the Assurances we are still elusive as to whether these Assurances are ongoing in nature or can be implemented in a time-bound manner."

7. Subsequently, the Assurance mentioned at Sl. No. 1 has since been implemented and its Implementation Report laid on the Table of the House on 18.12.2018.

Observations/Recommendations

8. The Committee are concerned to note that as many as 95 Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways were pending for implementation as on 17.12.2018. Further, the Committee note that out of the 2 Assurances that have been taken up for oral evidence, the Assurance mentioned at Sl. No. 1 could be fulfilled after a lapse of more than two and a half years while the Assurance mentioned at Sl. No. 2 is still pending for implementation even after a lapse of more than one year. The scrutiny of pending Assurances reveals that the existing mechanism put in place by the Department for review of pending Assurances is far from effective. The Committee understand that implementation of the Assurances especially those involving other Ministries/Departments/Stakeholders/State Governments especially when it comes to creation and maintenance of infrastructure, which is a long drawn process, takes much time. However, proactive and sustained efforts need to be made to implement the Assurances which are solemn Parliamentary obligations. The Committee hope

and trust that the Ministry will make concerted efforts in this direction and scale up co-ordination with all concerned for expeditious implementation of the rest of the pending Assurances.

II. Review of Pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

9. In the succeeding paragraphs, the Committee deal with the remaining pending Assurance of the Ministry and critically examined by them.

A. NHs in the Country

10. In reply to USQ No. 727 dated 20.07.2017 regarding 'NHs in the country' (Appendix-II), it was stated that about 20557 km. of NHs are under DPR, preparation as on 30th June in 2017-18.

11. In their Status Note furnished in December 2018, the Ministry apprised the Committee of the further development in the implementation of the Assurances as under:—

"The information sought from various project implementing agencies to fulfil the Assurance is still awaited despite this Ministry's regular follow up. Therefore, at this stage, this Ministry may not be in a position to fulfil the above Assurance."

12. During oral evidence, the Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways elucidated the issue as under:—

"Sir, out of DPR of 20,000 kms of National Highways, the DPR of 8000 kms has been completed and the DPR of remaining 12,000 kms is under preparation and, in the meantime, DPR of new projects of 25,000 kms is going on. It is a rollover, as projects whose DPR got completed, have been awarded and now DPR of new projects will be under process. They will get awarded by *inter-se* priority and the next project will come under process. Therefore, it is difficult to complete the Assurance in a time bound manner as it is a roll over kind of a thing."

13. On being enquired as to whether DPR preparation is done road-wise, the Secretary, Road Transport and Highways submitted as under:—

"Sir, I want to apprise you about Bharatmala for a minute. I want to bring to your notice that when we went before the Cabinet with Bharatmala Phase-I, each and every road was named. After that, I conducted a meeting with Secretaries of 12 States and PWD, B&R and their Chiefs. We considered as to how we can optimise the process for example if there are 7 or 8 roads in a State under Bharatmala, we ask them if they have any other important road than the roads identified under Bharatmala and whether they would like that to be taken up so that we can substitute it after re-determining the priority."

14. He further added as under:—

"Sir, at some places, economic corridors are established as in Delhi and Mumbai. The older NH-8 project which is at present running has 40 thousand, 60 thousand

and uptill 80 thousand of traffic. It has been found that we cannot expand the existing NH-8 as the land cost would be a lot. Hence, we decided to make a new alignment from KMP to Vadodara to Meerut, Alwar and Kota, a new alignment has been created under which existing route length has been minimized by 121 km. In the same way we have identified 14 such corridors where atleast 15 to 20 percent of existing length is shortened. The most efficient cost of land is received in green field. Here, there is no difficulty of utility shifting, no difficulty of forest land and when we open new area after acquiring new land, with an estimation of next 40 years, then it is more fruitful."

15. To a pointed query as to whether the Bharatmala Project is not counted in National Highways and whether its DPR is included in National Highways, the Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways deposed before the Committee as under:—

"Yes Sir as both would be completed at the same time. The programme is till 2022 and DPR and awarding is to be done till 2020. Hence, we have kept it on priority list on that basis. All the roads under Bhartmala have been identified after origin, destination and traffic density study."

16. The Committee directed the Ministry to furnish a Part Implementation Report since it is an ongoing process. The Secretary, Road Transport and Highways stated as under:—

"Sir, my humble request is to drop this Assurance since it is ongoing in nature."

Observations/Recommendations

17. The Committee note that the Assurance given in reply to USQ No. 727 dated 20.07.2017 regarding 'NHs in the country' still remains to be fulfilled even after a lapse of more than one year. The Committee have been informed that the DPR of 8,000 kilometres out of 20,000 kilometres of National Highways has been completed and the DPR of remaining 12,000 kilometres is under preparation and in the meantime DPR of projects of 25,000 kilometres is going on. Citing that the Assurance pertains to a matter which is ongoing in nature wherein a definite timeframe cannot be given, the Ministry requested the Committee that the Assurance may be dropped. Since the National Highways are the primary infrastructure of the country and considered to be the arteries of its socio-economic growth, the Committee feel that the Government needs to accord priority not only on construction of these Highways but also on expansion of their network and coverage. The fulfilment of the Assurance assumes critical importance in this regard and the Committee would like the Ministry and National Highways Authority of India to make concerted efforts in the matter. The Committee, therefore, direct the Ministry to furnish a Part Implementation Report on the Assurance detailing the steps taken by them so far to fulfill the Assurance in the first instance so as to enable them to consider the request of the Ministry for dropping the Assurance and take an informed decision.

III. Implementation Reports

18. As per the Statements of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Implementation Report in respect of the Assurance given in reply to USQ No. 904 dated 28.04.2016 regarding 'Religious Places Connected with Highways' has since been laid on the Table of the House on 18.12.2018.

NEW DELHI;
11 February, 2019
22 Magha, 1940 (Saka)

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

APPENDIX I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 904
ANSWERED ON 28.04.2016

Religious Places connected with Highways

904. SHRIC.R. CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) the number of religious (pilgrimage) places connected with main roads during last two years by National Highways Authority of India in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the details of financial assistance provided to Rajasthan State;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to connect all religious/tourist places with roads during current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said plan is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not; the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has not been mandated with connecting religious (pilgrimage) places with main roads. However, the National Highways network entrusted to the NHAI are being developed and maintained depending upon the traffic requirement etc.

(c) to (e) The Ministry has taken up detailed review of National Highways (NHs) network with a view to improve the road connectivity *inter alia* to religious places in consultations with State Governments. However, this project/scheme is yet to be approved.

APPENDIX II

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 727
ANSWERED ON 20.07. 2017**

NHs in the Country

727. SHRIVIRENDER KASHYAP:

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

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned National Highways (NHs) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly in Himachal Pradesh (HP); and

(c) whether the State Governments have prepared DPRs for these roads, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) The State/UT-wise details of National Highways (NHs) in the country including Himachal Pradesh is at Annexure-I. About 20557 km. of NHs are under DPR preparation as on 30th June in 2017-18.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 727 ANSWERED ON 20.07.2017 ASKED BY
SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP REGARDING NHS IN THE COUNTRY.

STATE/UT-wise details of NHs

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Total Length (in km)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6,286
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2,537
3.	Assam	3,845
4.	Bihar	4,839
5.	Chandigarh	15
6.	Chhattisgarh	3,232
7.	Delhi	79
8.	Goa	262
9.	Gujarat	5,017
10.	Haryana	2,641
11.	Himachal Pradesh	2,642
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	2,601
13.	Jharkhand	2,661
14.	Karnataka	6,791
15.	Kerala	1,782
16.	Madhya Pradesh	7,854
17.	Maharashtra	15,436
18.	Manipur	1,746
19.	Meghalaya	1,204
20.	Mizoram	1,422
21.	Nagaland	1,547
22.	Odisha	4,838
23.	Puducherry	64
24.	Punjab	2,769
25.	Rajasthan	7,906
26.	Sikkim	463
27.	Tamil Nadu	5,381

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Total Length in (km)
28.	Telangana	3,786
29.	Tripura	854
30.	Uttar Pradesh	8,711
31.	Uttarakhand	2,842
32.	West Bengal	2,998
33.	A & N Islands	331
34.	Dadra & Nagar	31
35.	Daman & Diu	22
	Total	115,435

APPENDIX III

(Vide para 5 of the Report)

Extracts from Manual of Practice & Procedure in the Government of India,
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, New Delhi

Definition	<p>8.1 During the course of reply given to a question or a discussion, if a Minister gives an undertaking which involves further action on the part of the Government in reporting back to the House, it is called an 'assurance'. Standard list of such expressions which normally constitute Assurances and as approved by the Committees on Government Assurances of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, is given at Annex 3. As Assurances are required to be implemented within a specified time limit, care should be taken by all concerned while drafting replies to the questions to restrict the use of these expressions only to those occasions when it is clearly intended to give an assurance in these terms.</p> <p>8.2 When an assurance is given by a Minister or when the Presiding Officer directs the Government to furnish information to the House, it is extracted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from the relevant proceedings and communicated to the department concerned normally within 10 working days of the date on which it is given.</p>
Deletion from the list of Assurances	<p>8.3.1 If the administrative department has any objection to treating such a statement as an assurance or finds that it would not be in the public interest to fulfil it, it may write to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat direct with a copy to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs within a week of the receipt of such communication for getting it deleted from the list of Assurances. Such action will require prior approval of the Minister.</p> <p>8.3.2 Departments should make request for dropping of Assurances immediately on receipt of statement of Assurances from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and only in rare cases where they are fully convinced that the Assurances could not be implemented under any circumstances and there is no option left with them but to make a request for dropping. Such requests should have</p>

	<p>the approval of their Minister and this fact should be indicated in their communication containing the request. If such a request is made towards the end of the stipulated period of three months, then it should invariably be accompanied with a request for extension of time. The department should continue to seek extension of time till a decision of the Committee on Government Assurances is received by them. Copy of the above communications should be simultaneously endorsed to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.</p>
Time limit for fulfilling and assurance	<p>8.4.1 An assurance given in either House is required to be fulfilled within a period of three months from the date of the assurance. This time limit has to be strictly observed.</p>
Extension of time for fulfilling an assurance	<p>8.4.2 If the department finds that it is not possible to fulfil the assurance within the stipulated period of three months or within the period of extension already granted, it may seek further extension of time direct from the respective Committee on Government Assurances under intimation to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as soon as the need for such extension becomes apparent, indicating the reasons for delay and the probable additional time required. Such a communication should be issued with the approval of the Minister.</p>
Registers of Assurances	<p>8.5.1 The particulars of every assurance will be entered by the Parliament Unit of the department concerned in a register as at Annexure 4 after which the assurance will be passed on to the concerned section.</p> <p>8.5.2 Even ahead of the receipt of communication from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the section concerned should take prompt action to fulfil such Assurances and keep a watch thereon in a register as at Annexure 5.</p> <p>8.5.3 The registers referred to in paras 8.5.1 and 8.5.2 will be maintained separately for the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha Assurances, entries therein being made session- wise.</p>
Role of Section Officer and Branch Officer	<p>8.6.1 The Section Officer incharge of the concerned section will:</p> <p>(a) scrutinise the registers once a week;</p> <p>(b) ensure that necessary follow-up action is taken without any delay whatsoever;</p> <p>(c) submit the registers to the branch officer every fortnight</p>

Procedure
for
fulfilment of
an
assurance

if the House concerned is in session and once a month otherwise, drawing his special attention to Assurances which are not likely to be implemented within the period of three months; and

(d) review of pending Assurances should be undertaken periodically at the highest level in order to minimise the delay in implementing the Assurances.

8.6.2 The branch officer will likewise keep his higher officer and Minister informed of the progress made in the implementation of Assurances, drawing their special attention to the causes of delay.

8.7.1 Every effort should be made to fulfil the assurance within the prescribed period. In case only part of the information is available and collection of the remaining information would involve considerable time, an implementation report containing the available information should be supplied to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in part scrutinize of the assurance, within the prescribed time limit. However, efforts should continue to be made for expeditious collection of the remaining information for complete implementation of the assurance at the earliest.

8.7.2 Information to be supplied in partial or complete fulfilment of an assurance should be approved by the Minister concerned and 15 copies thereof (bilingual) in the prescribed proforma as at *Annexure 6*, together with its enclosures, along with one copy each in Hindi and English duly authenticated by the officer forwarding the implementation report, should be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. If, however, the information being furnished is in response to an assurance given in reply to a question etc., asked for by more than one member, an additional copy of the completed proforma (both in Hindi and English) should be furnished in respect of each additional member. A copy of this communication should be endorsed to the Parliament Unit for completing column 7 of its register.

8.7.3 The implementation reports should be sent to the Ministry of the Parliamentary Affairs and not to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat. No advance copies of the implementation reports are to be endorsed to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat either.

Laying of the implementation report on the Table of the House	8.8 The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, after a scrutiny of the implementation report, will arrange to lay it on the Table of the House concerned. A copy of the statement, as laid on the Table, will be forwarded by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to the member as well as the department concerned. The Parliament Unit of the department concerned and the concerned section will, on the basis of this statement, make a suitable entry in their registers.
Obligation to lay a paper on the Table of the House <i>vis-à-vis</i> assurance on the same subject	8.9 Where there is an obligation to lay any paper (rule/ order/notification, etc.) on the Table of the House and for which an assurance has also been given, it will be laid on the Table, in the first instance, in fulfilment of the obligation, independent of the assurance given. After this is done, a report in formal implementation of the assurance indicating the date on which the paper was laid on the Table will be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in the prescribed proforma (<i>Annexure 6</i>) in the manner already described in para 8.7.2.
Committees on Government Assurances LSR 323,324 RSR 211-A	8.10 Each House of Parliament has a Committee on Government Assurances nominated by the Speaker/ Chairman. It scrutinized the implementation reports and the time taken in the scrutinized of Government Assurances and focuses attention on the delays and other significant aspects, if any, pertaining to them. Instructions issued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from time to time are to be followed strictly.
Reports of the Committees on Government Assurances	8.11 The department will, in consultation with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, scrutinize the reports of these two committees for remedial action wherever called for.
Effect on Assurances on dissolution of the Lok Sabha	8.12 On dissolution of the Lok Sabha, all Assurances, promises or undertakings pending implementation are scrutinized by the new Committee on Government Assurances for selection of such of them as are of considerable public importance. The Committee then submits a report to the Lok Sabha with a specific recommendation regarding the Assurances to be dropped or retained for implementation by the Government.

ANNEXURE I

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

(2018-2019)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

SECOND SITTING

(17.12.2018)

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1800 hours in Committee Room "C", Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

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

SECRETARIAT

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

WITNESSES

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Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Shri Yudhvir Singh Malik | — | Secretary, Road Transport and Highways |
| 2. Shri Sudip Chowdhary | — | Chief Engineer (Planning and Monitoring) |
| 3. Shri A.P. Pathak | — | Chief Engineer, (Monitoring) |
| 4. Shri B.N. Singh | — | Director General Road Development & Special Secretary, (Monitoring) |

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

Shri P.K. Halder	—	Under Secretary
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At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda.

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8. Thereafter, the representatives of the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways were ushered in. Welcoming them to the sitting of the Committee, the Chairperson drew attention of the witnesses to the Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Hon'ble Speaker regarding confidentiality of the proceedings till the relevant Report of the Committee is presented to the House. The Committee then desired to know as to whether the Ministry have prepared any network wherein a review, meeting is held in an interval of 15 or 20 days at the level of the Joint Secretary or the Secretary or the Minister for appraisal of pending Assurances. The Secretary, Road Transport and Highways informed the Committee that he himself reviews the pending Assurances every 2 months. He further informed that they had prepared a complete strategy for the appraisal of the pending Assurances. The Committee then reviewed 02 pending Assurances (Annexure-VI) of the Ministry as mentioned below:—

I. USQ No. 904 dated 28.04.2016 regarding 'Religious Places connected with Highways' (Sl. No. 1)

The representatives apprised the Committee that there is no definition or criteria fixed for identification of a religious place. Discussions have been going on in the

matter and the Cabinet Secretary has also recognized the need for enforcement of criteria for declaration of a National Highway. However, a decision is yet to come in this regard. With regard to improvement in road connectivity, the Ministry have notified 1 lakh 31 thousand kilometres of National Highways at present as compared to 91 thousand kilometres of National Highways in 2014. Informing the Committee that they have been trying to achieve a lot more, the representatives requested for dropping the Assurance as it is an open-ended and ongoing activity. The Committee lauded the efforts made by the Ministry and directed them to furnish a Part Implementation Report giving State-wise details of NHs constructed by them.

II. USQ No. 727 dated 20.07.2017 regarding 'NHs in the country' (Sl.No. 2)

The representatives informed the Committee that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of 8,000 Kms out of 20,000 kms of National Highways has been completed and the DPR of remaining 12,000 kms is under preparation and in the meantime DPR of projects of 25,000 Kilometres is going on. The representatives requested the Committee that since it is an ongoing process wherein a definite timeframe cannot be given, the Assurance may be dropped. The Committee directed the representatives to furnish a Part Implementation Report to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and assured them that their request would be considered.

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

The Committee then adjourned.

Annexure-VI

STATEMENT OF PENDING ASSURANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
1.	USQ 904 dated 28.04.2016	Religious Places Connected with Highways
2.	USQ 727 dated 20.07.2017	NHs in the Country

ANNEXURE II

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

(2018-2019)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

FOURTH SITTING

(11.02.2019)

The Committee sat from 1030 hours to 1050 hours in Chairperson's Chamber, Room 133, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri E.T. Mohammad Basheer
5. Shri Naran Bhai Kachhadia
6. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel

SECRETARIAT

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

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the following Eleven (11) draft Reports without any amendments:

- (i) Draft Ninety-first Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of AYUSH.
- (ii) Draft Ninety-second Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Tourism.

- (iii) Draft Ninety-third Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Steel.
- (iv) Draft Ninety-fourth Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education).
- (v) Draft Ninety-fifth Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs.
- (vi) Draft Ninety-sixth Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles.
- (vii) Draft Ninety-seventh Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Heavy Industry).
- (viii) Draft Ninety-eighth Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare).
- (ix) Draft Ninety-ninth Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Acceded to).
- (x) Draft One Hundredth Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to).
- (xi) Draft One Hundred - first Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

2. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to present the Reports during the current session of the Lok Sabha.

The Committee then adjourned.

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