

COMMITTEE

32

ON

**GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2020-2021)**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

THIRTY-SECOND REPORT

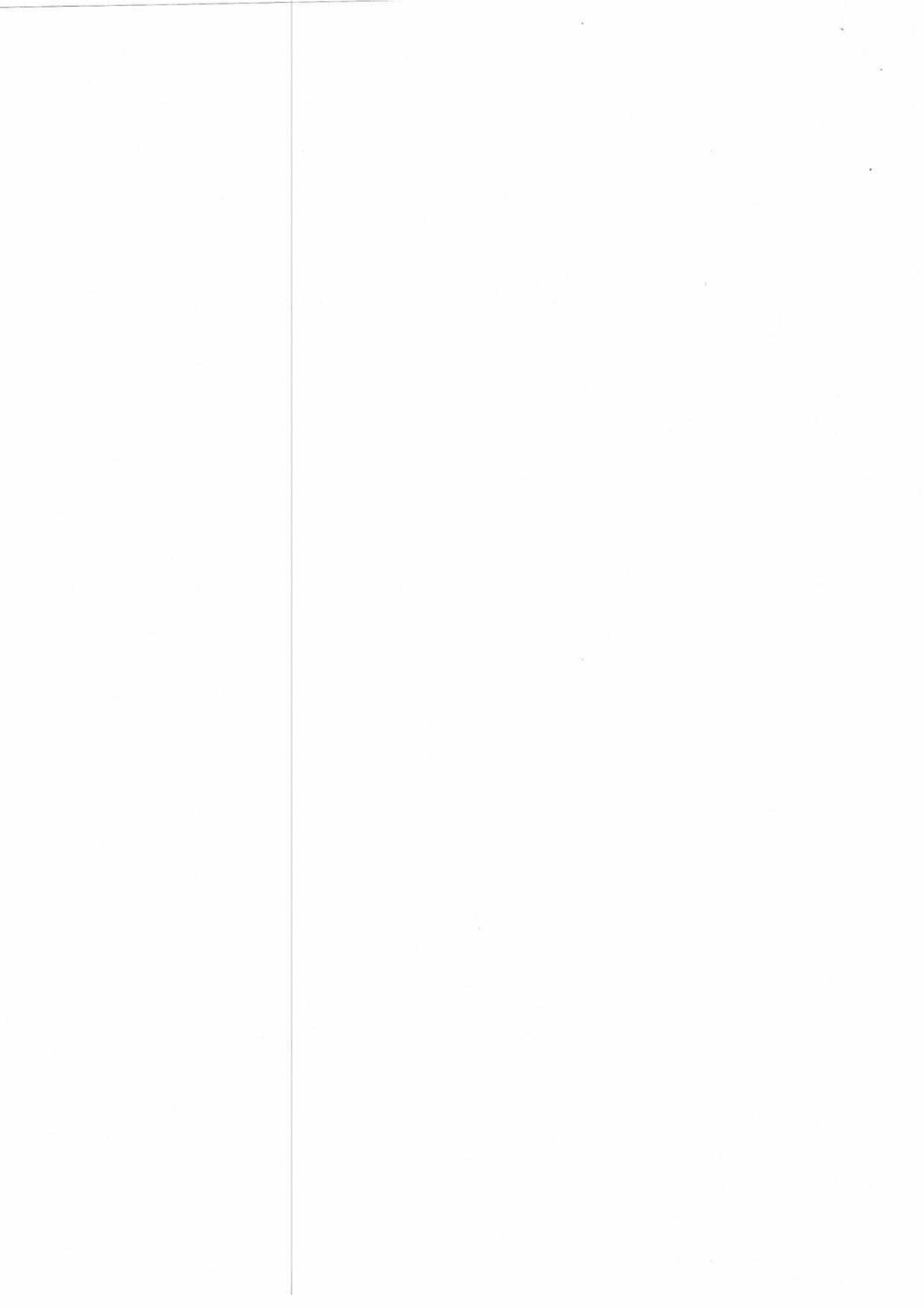
**REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF
ASSURANCES
(NOT ACCEDED TO)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on...17-03... 2021



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2021/Phalguna, 1942 (Saka)



CONTENTS

	Page
Composition of the Committee on Government Assurances (2020-2021)	(ii)
Introduction	(iii)
Report	1-2
Appendix-I Statement showing summary of requests received from various Ministries/Departments regarding dropping of Assurances and considered by the Committee on 11 August, 2020	3-4
Appendices-II to X	

Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)

II. USQ No. 4072 dated 04.01.2019 regarding 'Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis'	5-7
III. USQ No. 1218 dated 11.02.2019 regarding 'Funds Sanctioned for Cultural Development in Jharkhand'	8-9
IV. USQ No. 14 dated 21.06.2019 regarding 'Hospital/PHC at Lakshadweep'	10-12
V. USQ No. 4684 dated 22.07.2019 regarding 'Taxpayers'	13-15
VI. USQ No. 5139 dated 24.07.2019 regarding 'Illegal Migration'	16-17
VII. USQ No. 645 dated 26.11.2012 regarding 'Coast Guard Airport'	18-20
VIII. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2019-2020) held on 11 August, 2020	21-25
IX. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2020-2021) held on 22 December 2020	26-27
X. Composition of the Committee on Government Assurances (2019-2020)	28

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2020 - 2021)**

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay
3. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
4. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
5. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel
6. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
7. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
8. Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete
9. Shri Santosh Pandey
10. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras
11. Shri M.K. Raghavan
12. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu
13. Dr. Bharatiben Dhirubhai Shyal
14. Shri Indra Hang Subba
15. Smt. Supriya Sule

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Pawan Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Lovekesh Kumar Sharma - Director
3. Shri S. L. Singh - Deputy Secretary

* The Committee has been constituted w.e.f. 09 October, 2020 *vide* Para No. 1773 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 16 October, 2020

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances (2020-2021), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty – Second Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2019-2020) at their sitting held on 11 August, 2020 *inter-alia* considered Memorandum Nos. 251 to 267 containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 18 pending Assurances and decided to pursue 06 Assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 22 December, 2020, the Committee on Government Assurances (2020-2021) considered and adopted this Report.

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

NEW DELHI;

12 March, 2021

21 Phalgun, 1942 (Saka)

**RAJENDRA AGRAWAL,
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 to implement the Assurance on one ground or the other, it is required to request the Committee on Government Assurances to drop the Assurance 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 (2019-2020) considered Seventeen Memoranda (Appendix-I) containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of 18 pending Assurances at their sitting held on 11 August, 2020.

3. After having considered the requests of the Ministries/Departments, the Committee were not convinced with the reasons furnished for dropping of the following 06 Assurances:-

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
1.	USQ No. 4072 dated 04.01.2019	Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare)	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (Appendix – II)
2.	USQ No. 1218 dated 11.02.2019	Culture	Funds Sanctioned for Cultural Development in Jharkhand (Appendix – III)
3.	USQ No. 14 dated 21.06.2019	Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare)	Hospital/PHC at Lakshadweep (Appendix – IV)
4.	USQ No. 4684 dated 22.07.2019	Finance (Department of Revenue)	Taxpayers (Appendix – V)

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject
5.	USQ No. 5139 dated 24.07.2019	External Affairs	Illegal Migration (Appendix – VI)
6.	USQ No. 645 dated 26.11.2012	Defence (Department of Defence)	Coast Guard Airport (Appendix – VII)

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 06 Assurances are given in Appendices -II to VII.

5. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee dated 11 August, 2020, whereunder the requests for dropping of the Assurances were considered, are given in Appendix-VIII.

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

NEW DELHI;

12 March, 2021

21 Phalgun, 1942 (Saka)

**RAJENDRA AGRAWAL,
CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES**

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2019-2020)
Statement showing summary of requests received from various Ministries/Departments regarding dropping of Assurances and considered by the Committee on 11 August, 2020

SI No.	Memo No.	Question/Discussion References	Ministry/Deptt.	Department	Brief Subject
1	251	USQ No. 1331 dated 18.12.2018	Social Justice and Empowerment	Department of Social Justice and Empowerment	Sub-Categorisation of SCs
2	252	USQ No. 1189 dated 18.12.2018	Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	Department of Fisheries	National Policy on Marine Fisheries
3	253	USQ No. 4072 dated 04.01.2019	Health and Family Welfare	Department of Health and Family Welfare	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
4	254	USQ No. 921 dated 08.02.2019	Finance	Department of Financial Services	Restructuring of Loan for MSMEs
5	255	USQ No. 1218 dated 11.02.2019	Culture	—	Funds Sanctioned for Cultural Development in Jharkhand
6	256	USQ No. 14 dated 21.06.2019	Health and Family Welfare	Department of Health and Family Welfare	Hospital/PHC at Lakshadweep
7	257	USQ No. 989 dated 27.06.2019	Civil Aviation	—	Investigation in Procurement of Airbus
8	258	SQ No. 119 dated 28.06.2019	Environment, Forest and Climate Change	—	Amendments in Forest Act, 1927
9	259	USQ No. 1894 dated 03.07.2019	Defence	Department of Defence Production	Aerospace University
10	260	USQ No. 2649 dated 09.07.2019	Food Processing Industries	—	World Food India

SI No.	Memo No.	Question/Discussion References	Ministry/Deptt.	Department	Brief Subject
11	261	USQ No. 3076 dated 11.07.2019	Civil Aviation	—	Setting Up of New Airports
12	262	(i) SQ No. 347 dated 17.07.2019 (ii) USQ No. 3952 dated 17.07.2019	Commerce and Industry	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade	(i) National Retail Policy (ii) National Retail Trading and E-Commerce System
13	263	USQ No. 4536 dated 19.07.2019	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Department of Agricultural Research & Education	Honey Research Centre
14	264	USQ No. 4379 dated 19.07.2019	Environment, Forest and Climate Change	—	Environment Clearance to Industrial Units
15	265	USQ No. 4684 dated 22.07.2019	Finance	Department of Revenue	Taxpayers
16	266	USQ No. 5139 dated 24.07.2019	External Affairs	—	Illegal Migration
17	267	USQ No. 645 dated 26.11.2012	Defence	Department of Defence	Coast Guard Airport

Appendix-II

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
MEMORANDUM No. 253

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4072 dated 04.01.2019 regarding "Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis".

On 04 January, 2019, Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy, M.P., addressed a Unstarred Question No. 4072 to the Minister of Health and Family Welfare. 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 Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health & Family Welfare) within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.
3. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare *vide* O.M. No.T.11020/28/2018-NACO (R&D) dated 05 July, 2019 have stated as under:

"The Expert Group on Pre Exposure Prophylaxis constituted at NACO has since held its meeting on January 17, 2019 at Chennai and deliberations continued on January 25, 2019 in Delhi. The Expert Group has submitted its recommendations. It has recommended:

- a. Development of National Policy on Pre Exposure Prophylaxis
- b. Development of Technical Guidelines on Pre Exposure Prophylaxis

Action has started on the above."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, have requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

Dated:- 05/08/2020

New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4072
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04TH JANUARY, 2019

PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

4072. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any study to understand the extent to which the use of Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medicine could be used to reduce the number of HIV/AIDS patients in India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to subsidize and popularize PrEP medicine in India, if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government plans to introduce PrEP as part of its preventive strategy in combating HIV/AIDS and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether it is true that Postexposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is not readily available for common patients who have been exposed to HIV/AIDS and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the number of hospitals where PrEP is readily available State/UT-wise and steps taken to increase its availability and knowledge; and
- (f) whether the Government plans to introduce PrEP in retail pharmacies without necessitating prescription, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

- (a): No.
- (b) & (c): An Expert group has been constituted under the National AIDS Control Organisation to assess and consider all aspects of inclusion of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis under National AIDS Control Programme.
- (d): As per current guidelines, Post exposure Prophylaxis is available for healthcare workers with occupational exposure to HIV/AIDS and to victims of sexual assault. Extant guidelines do not permit for provision of Post exposure Prophylaxis for people with exposure to HIV/AIDS other than above criteria.
- (e): The total number of hospitals where Post exposure Prophylaxis is readily available is 1646. The State/UT-wise list is at Annexure. The Programme ensures regular supplies of Post exposure Prophylaxis drugs to all states and includes session on it during trainings of Health workers.
- (f): No, the drugs used for Post exposure Prophylaxis are schedule "H" drugs and are not recommended to be provided without prescription of registered medical practitioners.

Annexure

S.N.	State/ UT	Hospital in States/UT with PEP availability
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3
2	Andhra Pradesh	154
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5
4	Assam	18
5	Bihar	31
6	Chandigarh	7
7	Chhattisgarh	13
8	Delhi	11
9	Goa	6
10	Gujarat	95
11	Haryana	15
12	Himachal Pradesh	11
13	Jammu & Kashmir	6
14	Jharkhand	14
15	Karnataka	260
16	Kerala	23
17	Madhya Pradesh	50
18	Maharashtra	264
19	Manipur	24
20	Meghalaya	5
21	Mizoram	11
22	Mumbai	17
23	Nagaland	14
24	Odisha	34
25	Puducherry	2
26	Punjab	15
27	Rajasthan	63
28	Sikkim	2
29	Tamil Nadu	225
30	Telangana	86
31	Tripura	6
32	Uttar Pradesh	66
33	Uttarakhand	18
34	West Bengal	72
	India	1646

Appendix-III

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
MEMORANDUM NO. 255

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1218 dated 11.02.2019 regarding "Funds Sanctioned for Cultural Development in Jharkhand".

On 11th February 2019, Shri Vijay Kumar Hansdak, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1218 to the Minister of Culture. 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 Culture within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be Implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Culture vide O.M. No. 12-3/2019-P. Arts-II dated 2nd August 2019 have stated as under:-

"The proposal of State Government of Jharkhand has been approved with a total cost of Rs. 19,72,16,835/- out of which Rs. 11,83,30,101/- will be the Central Share subject to the condition that project authority may carry out the certain modifications in the existing proposal"

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

The Committee may consider.

NEW DELHI:

DATED: 05/08/2020

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1218
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.2.2019

Annexure

FUNDS SANCTIONED FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN JHARKHAND

† 1218. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Jharkhand for cultural development during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the proposals which have been approved;
- (c) the details of the proposals which are yet to be approved and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the funds sanctioned/allocated for cultural development in Jharkhand during the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the works undertaken by the ministry of culture for the development of culture in the country during the said period?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE AND
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. A proposal for construction of new Tagore Cultural Complex (TCC) at Deoghar, Jharkhand has been received from the State Government of Jharkhand. The same was placed before the Sub-Committee which has recommended certain changes in drawing. The matter regarding approval of drawing of the building plans by local civic body has been taken up with the State Government.
- (d) No fund has been allocated to the State Government of Jharkhand during the last three years.
- (e) Ministry of Culture preserves, promotes and disseminates all forms of art and culture.

Appendix - IV

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
MEMORANDUM No. 256

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 14 dated 21.06.2019 regarding "Hospital/PHC at Lakshadweep".

On 21 June, 2019, Shri Mohammed Faizal P.P., M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 14 to the Minister of Health and Family Welfare. 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 Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare) within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare) *vide* OM No. H-11020/01/2019-NHM-IV dated 19 December, 2019 have stated as under:

"The matter was taken up with the Government of Lakshadweep for fulfillment of the Assurance. The Lakshadweep Administration has intimated that the Hospitals/Health Centres are being funded from UT budget and that there was no change in the status of construction of the projects from what was reported to the Lok Sabha except for the one at Sl. No.1. As regards construction of 100 bedded District Hospital/Super Specialty Hospital at Kavaratti, which was mentioned at Sl. No. 1, Lakshadweep has replied that the old block of DH at Kavaratti has been handed over to the PWD, which will demolished soon for making way for the new hospital. However, from a perusal of the progress of the construction of the health centres already attached with the reply to the PQ, it is seen that except for Sl. No. 3, which is expected to be completed by 2020, all other projects are at initial stages. The projects are therefore, unlikely to be completed shortly or any time-frame can be fixed for their completion in near future."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated:- 05/08/2020

New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 14
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JUNE, 2019

HOSPITAL/PHC AT LAKSHADWEEP

14. MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Lakshadweep administration for construction of a building for hospital or Primary Health Centre(PHC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) if not, whether the Government is planning to do so; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a): The Government has not received any proposal from Lakshadweep administration for construction of a building for hospital or Primary Health Centre (PHC).
- (b): In view of (a) above, there is no question of taking any action by the Government.
- (c) & (d) Public Health and hospitals being a State subject, it is the prerogative of the States/UTs to project their requirements including for construction of buildings for hospitals or Primary Health Centre(PHC) as per felt need through Programme Implementation Plans, which is appraised by the Central Government through National Programme Coordination Committee for financial assistance.

However, the Lakshadweep Administration has reported various stages of planning/construction of hospitals and PHCs, which is placed as per Annexure.

Infrastructure Projects in Different Stages of Planning/Construction in Lakshadweep

Sl. No.	Project Name	Present status
1.	Construction of 100 bedded District Hospital/Super Specialty Hospital at Kavaratti	It is proposed to upgrade 50 bedded hospital to 100 bedded Super Specialty Hospital. The proposal will be finalized after confirmation of land availability.
2.	Construction of 50 bedded hospital at Androth	The proposal to construct 50 bedded hospital at Androth has been approved. The EOI already floated and meeting to be convened shortly for finalization of drawings/design.
3.	Construction of New PHC building at Kalpeni	The ground floor of the building was completed and first floor of the building work is in progress. By 2020 entire works of construction will be completed.
4.	Re-Construction of PHC Building at Kilthan	The plan sketch already prepared and awaiting Administrative Approval to start the construction work.
5.	Re-Construction of Govt. Hospital at Minicoy	Proposal is in initial stage.
6.	Construction of 20 bedded PHC at Chetlat	Proposal is in initial stage.
7.	Construction of 50 bedded hospital in new site at Amini.	Land is being identified for acquisition.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
MEMORANDUM No. 265

Appendix - B

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4684 dated 22.07.2019 regarding "Taxpayers"

On 22 July, 2019, Smt. Mala Roy and Shri Rajan Vichare, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4684 to the Minister of Finance. The text of the Question along with the reply of the Minister is 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 Finance (Department of Revenue) within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) *vide* OM F. No. 390/18/2019-IT (B) dated 14 January, 2020 have stated as under:

"As similar Rajya Sabha question was treated initially as Assurance but later dropped that. The Scheme for grant of privileges to honest taxpayer is being examined by the Government and no decision has yet been taken, we may request to drop the Assurance in the similar lines, as it has been treated in Rajya Sabha."

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

The Committee may consider.

Dated:- 05/08/2020

New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4684

TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY THE 22nd July 2019
31, ASHADHA 1941 (SAKA)

TAXPAYERS

4684. MS. MALA ROY:

SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of people in the country who are paying tax and filing income tax returns;
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to increase the tax base and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide facilities to the honest taxpayers such as priority in school admission of children, priority check-in at the airport, free facility of VIP lounge at the airport, entry from separate lane at toll plaza so as to encourage them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

- (a) The number of taxpayers for Assessment Year 2018-19 was 8.44 crore, which included persons who filed a return of income for Assessment Year 2018-19 as well as persons who did not file a return of income but in whose case tax has been deducted at source during Financial Year 2017-18 (relevant to Assessment Year 2018-19).
- (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has fixed a target of adding 1.3 crore new income tax return filers during the current financial year as against 1.1 crore new filer added during FY 2018-19.

For achieving this target, various measures are being taken including identification of potential non-filers through centralized Non-filer Monitoring System (NMS), formulation of region-specific strategies for identifying potential non-filers, issue of statutory notices to enforce compliance, holding of outreach programmes to encourage voluntary compliance, use of mass media for creating awareness, simplification in income-tax returns and filing process to encourage voluntary filing, etc.

(c) & (d) The recommendations of a Committee which examined the feasibility of granting certain privileges to eligible taxpayers are under consideration of the Government.

Appendix - VI

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
MEMORANDUM No. 266

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 5139 dated 24.07.2019 regarding "Illegal Migration".

On 24 July, 2019, Shri K. Subbarayan, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 5139 to the Minister of External 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 External Affairs within three months from the date of the reply but the Assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of External Affairs *vide* OM No. T-125/31/2019 dated 02 March, 2020 have stated as under:

"The statement of Minister of State while answering the Question: "A special team of Kerala police has been constituted for investigation" was a statement of fact. The Committee was established in January 2019 and had already submitted its report during the period January-March 2019."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of External Affairs, have requested the Committee to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may consider.

Dated:- 05/08/2020

New Delhi

Annexure

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5139
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2019**

Illegal Migration

5139. SHRI SUBBARAYAN K.:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the incident regarding a boat that sailed with 243 migrants and went missing;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether there is a well-coordinated operation to smuggle out men, women and children, particularly Sri Lankan Tamils settled in Delhi to unknown foreign countries; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken to check such illegal migration of the people through Indian ports/ harbours?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) & (b) As per the information made available by the Ministry of Home Affairs, around 105 persons, sailed out of Munambam Harbour in Kerala, on 12.01.2019, on a fishing boat named 'Daya Matha-2'.

The Indian Coast Guard launched an intensive search operation to locate the boat using ships, hovercraft and aircraft. Information related to the case has been shared with the Interpol and other agencies in order to locate the missing boat and its occupants. No information about the whereabouts of the boat has been received as yet.

(c) & (d) The Government remains strongly committed to ensuring a legal, safe, orderly and humane migration process, and continues to take necessary measures to prevent and curb any form of illegal migration. In the instant case, criminal cases have been registered by Kerala Police under Sections 468, 471, 109 and 120 B of IPC, 12(1) (a) of Passport Act, 14 A (b) & (c) of the Foreigners Act and 24(1) (a) of Immigration Act and 3 persons who assisted the illegal movement have been arrested. A special team of Kerala police has been constituted for investigation.

17

Appendix-VII

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
MEMORANDUM NO. 267

Subject: Request for dropping of Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 645 dated 26.11.2012 regarding "Coast Guard Airport".

On 26th November, 2012, Shri Hamdulla A.B. Sayeed, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 645 to the Minister of Defence. 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 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. 3(1)2013-D(CG) dated 29th January, 2016 had requested to drop the Assurance on the following grounds:-

"That earlier, Airports Authority of India (AAI) had plans to construct an air strip and allied infrastructure at Minicoy and the Coast Guard was required to develop a limited set up for undertaking flying operations and MoD had accorded approval in principle for setting up a Coast Guard Air Enclave at Minicoy Island. However, the AAI has informed that they have inspected the Minicoy Island, Lakshadweep and it was found feasible to develop an air strip for small aircraft having seating capacity 6/8 in fair weather condition. Lakshadweep Administration had further not shown any interest to develop the air strip for an airport. AAI has no future plan to develop an Airport at Minicoy Island for civil operation. M/s Civil Aviation was requested to clarify whether there was any proposal of AAI to set up Civil Airport at Minicoy (either approved by Ministry of Civil Aviation or unapproved). M/o Civil Aviation *vide* OM dated 27.11.2015 has stated that an AAI CHQ team inspected the Minicoy Island in March 1999 and established that *prima facie* it is feasible for construction of mini air strip of dimensions 700mx60m with runway of dimensions 500m 23m in the north-south direction. Thereafter the Lakshadweep Administration was also requested to ensure that the required land is made available and obstructions (trees) are removed as identified by AAI team. The Lakshadweep Administration was also requested in April 1999 to provide a map of the Island including the air strip and windrose diagram for the last 10 years to finalise orientation of the air strip. The requisite information has not been provided by the Lakshadweep administration so far. Further, AAI had informed that it does not have any proposal for construction of Airport at Minicoy as there is no demand from airlines to operate scheduled services to that Island. Indian Coast Guard has proposed to develop a small air strip including construction of runway and associated infrastructure to facilitate Coast Guard fixed wing aircraft operations and in the absence of an air strip, ICG air operations from Minicoy will be restricted to helicopter operations by constructing helipad. Accordingly, the sanction for acquisition of 82,500 sqmtrs. land for establishing Indian Coast Guard Air Enclave/Helipad at Minicoy Island was accorded by this Ministry on 15.05.2015. In this regard, Coast Guard Headquarter has stated that the 82,500 sqmtrs. (20 Acres) land sanctioned on 15-05-2015 being private is subject to

New Land Act. The timeline for acquisition of the said land may not be fixed at this stage and it may take 4-5 years for establishing Coast Guard Air Enclave at Minicoy Island for rotary wing aircraft i.e. Twin Engine Heavy Helicopters (TEHH).

It is unlikely to fulfil the Assurance in the instant case for the reason mentioned above. Therefore, Lok Sabha Secretariat is requested to take up the matter with the Committee on Government Assurances for withdrawing the Assurance in the instant case."

4. The above request for dropping the Assurance was considered by the Committee at their Sitting held on 17.06.2016 and it was decided not to drop the Assurance. The Committee accordingly presented their Forty-Sixth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 15 December 2016 and urged upon the Ministry to do some concrete action to take up the matter with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Lakshadweep Administration so as to finalise a clear time limit for starting and completing the work and implement the Assurance at the earliest.

5. However, the Ministry of Defence *vide* O.M. F.No. 3(1)/2013-D(CG) dated 29th June, 2020 have stated as under:-

"The issue of construction of Airport at Minicoy has been considered during the 3rd meeting of Island Development Agency (IDA) held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Home Minister on 24-04-2017. Indian Coast Guard has not received any land from Lakshadweep Administration. In April 2018, Indian Air Force (IAF) agreed to take up this strategic project at Minicoy as a Joint-Use Airport including use by Indian Coast Guard.

For giving ownership rights to the Pandaram people of Lakshadweep including Minicoy Island, M/o Law & Justice (Legislative Department) issued legislation and necessary notification on the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Island Land Revenue and Tenancy (Amendment) Regulation, 2020 on 18th March 2020, and the Lakshadweep Gazette published the same on 2nd June, 2020.

Lakshadweep Administration is now preparing necessary guidelines for acquiring land from local Pandaram people. Though the main bottleneck to acquire land in Lakshadweep have been cleared through the said notification, it is not possible to give the exact timeline to set up the Airport at Minicoy. However, it is presumed that more than two years may be required to process the case to accomplish the project."

6. In view of the above and since the Assurance is very old and there is no foreseeable timeline to implement the Assurance, the Ministry, with the approval of the Raksha Rajya Mantri have once again requested to drop the Assurance.

The Committee may reconsider.

NEW DELHI:
DATED: 05/08/2020

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 645

ANSWERED ON: 26.11.2012

COAST GUARD AIRPORT

HAMDULLA A. B. SAYEED

Amendment

- (a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Coast Guard Airport in Lakshadweep Islands;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the stipulated time period for completion of the airport?

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:-

ANSWER

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): Government has approved the setting up of Coast Guard Air Enclave at Minicoy on 30th September 2010. 20 acres of land has been identified for the said purpose and the proposal for acquisition of the land is in progress. The Airport will be operationalised in due course after obtaining necessary clearances / approvals.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

(2019-2020)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

THIRTEENTH SITTING

(11.08.2020)

The Committee sat from 1100 hours to 1215 hours in Committee Room "C", Parliament House Annex, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Agrawal - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
3. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
4. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
5. Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete
6. Shri Santosh Pandey
7. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Pawan Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Lovekesh Kumar Sharma - Director
3. Shri S.L. Singh - Deputy Secretary

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened to (i) review the

pending Assurances of the 14th Lok Sabha; (ii) consider 17 Memoranda containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping or otherwise of 18 pending Assurances; and (iii) for taking oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence) regarding pending Assurances.

3. The Committee then took up the aforesaid 17 Memoranda (Memorandum Nos. 251 to 267) for consideration for dropping or otherwise of the relevant Assurances. After considering a few Memoranda, the Committee authorized the Hon'ble Chairperson to decide the Memoranda. The Chairperson subsequently decided to drop 12 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-III* and to pursue the remaining 06 Assurances as per details given in Annexure-IV for implementation by the Ministries/Departments concerned.

The Committee then adjourned.

* Not enclosed

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2019-2020)

Annexure-IV

Statement Showing Assurances not dropped by the Committee on Government Assurances (2019-2020) at their sitting held on 11.08.2020

S.No.	Memo No.	SQ/USQ No. and date	Ministry/ Department	Subject	Remarks
1.	253	USQ No. 4072 dated 04.01.2019	Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare)	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis	The Committee have been informed that the Expert Group on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis constituted at National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has submitted its recommendations and action has started on the same. The Committee feel that the matter should be brought to its logical conclusion. The Committee, therefore, direct the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide the Implementation Report to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs at the earliest for being laid on the Table of the House and fulfil the Assurance.
2.	255	USQ No. 1218 dated 11.02.2019	Culture	Funds Sanctioned for Cultural Development in Jharkhand	The Ministry has requested for dropping of the Assurance stating that the proposal of the State Government of Jharkhand has been approved with a total cost of ₹ 19,72,16,835/- out of which ₹ 11,83,30,101/- will be the central share subject to the condition that project authority may carry out certain modifications in the existing proposal. The Committee feel that, in sum and substance, the Assurance has been fulfilled. The Committee desire that the requisite Implementation Report may be furnished to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for being laid on the Table of the House.

S.No.	Memo No.	SQ/USQ No. and date	Ministry/ Department	Subject	Remarks
3.	256	USQ No. 14 dated 21.06.2019	Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare)	Hospital/PHC at Lakshadweep	The Ministry has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance on the ground that except for one project, which is expected to be completed by 2020, all other projects are at initial stages and therefore unlikely to be completed shortly and no timeframe can be fixed for their completion in near future. The Committee feel that the issue is crucial for providing health services to the people living in the isolated Union Territory. Moreover, once an Assurance is given, it has to be pursued till its logical conclusion. The Committee understand that such matters may take time but at the same time the Ministry needs to take action in the matter with alacrity and specific timeline. The Committee urge upon the Ministry to pursue the matter with Lakshadweep Administration at the highest level and implement the Assurance at the earliest.
4.	265	USQ No. 4684 dated 22.07.2019	Finance (Department of Revenue)	Taxpayers	The reason cited by the Ministry for dropping of the Assurance that a similar Rajya Sabha Question initially treated as Assurance was later dropped, cannot be a valid ground for dropping the Assurance by the Committee. The Committee, therefore, cannot accede to the request of the Ministry for dropping of the Assurance. The Committee expect the Ministry to take expeditiously an appropriate decision on the scheme for grant of privileges to honest taxpayers in order to fulfill the Assurance without further delay.

S.No.	Memo No.	SQ/USQ No. and date	Ministry/ Department	Subject	Remarks
5.	266	USQ No. 5139 dated 24.07.2019	External Affairs	Illegal Migration	The Ministry has stated that the Committee (a special team of Kerala Police) which was established in January 2019 had already submitted its report during the period January-March 2019. Thus, in sum and substance, the Assurance has been fulfilled. The Committee desire that the requisite Implementation Report may be furnished to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for being laid on Table of the House.
6.	267	USQ 645 dated 26.11.2012	Defence (Department of Defence)	Coast Guard Airport	The Ministry has requested for dropping of the Assurance on the ground that it is not possible to give the exact timeline to set up the Coast Guard Airport at Minicoy, Lakshadweep. The Committee note that considerable progress has been made in the matter and the main bottleneck to acquire land in Lakshadweep for taking up this strategic project has been cleared. The Committee feel that there is no airstrip or air base at such a strategic island as Minicoy which does not augur well for the country's coastal security and development of coastal tourism. The Committee feel that the matter should be pursued vigorously as it plays a crucial role in development of the Island's economy through tourism and enhancing the country's defence preparedness. The Committee urge upon the Ministry to take action in the matter with alacrity and specific timeline and pursue the matter with the Lakshadweep administration at the highest level and implement the Assurance.

MINUTES

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2020-2021)
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)
SECOND SITTING
(22.12.2020)**

The Committee sat from 1100 hours to 1215 hours in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Agrawal - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

2. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
3. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
4. Shri Santosh Pandey
5. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Pawan Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Lovekesh Kumar Sharma - Director
3. Shri S.L. Singh - Deputy Secretary

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At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened to (i) consider Memorandum No. 27 regarding request of the Ministry of Coal on the need for seeking extension of time once Implementation Reports have been furnished/uploaded; (ii) consider and adopt 04 draft Reports; and (iii) take oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs) regarding pending Assurances. Thereafter, the Committee considered the Memorandum regarding request of the Ministry of Coal on the need for seeking extension of time once Implementation Reports have been furnished/uploaded. The Ministry of Coal had proposed that the extension of time for fulfillment of any Assurance may be deemed as granted once the requisite Implementation Report is submitted and response is awaited. If the Implementation Report is not accepted then, a fresh timeline may begin. The Committee, however, decided not to accede to the request of the Ministry and to continue with the extant practice of treating an Assurance as pending until the Implementation Report of the Assurance is laid in the House or the Assurance is dropped by the Committee. The Ministries/Departments concerned have to continue to seek extension of time as usual till the relevant Implementation Report is laid in the House.

2. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the following four (04) Draft Reports without any amendments and authorized the Chairperson to present the same:

- (i) Draft Thirty-first Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)';
- (ii) Draft Thirty-second Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)';
- (iii) Draft Thirty-third Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue); and
- (iv) Draft Thirty-fourth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Labour and Employment'.

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XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX

The Committee then adjourned.

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2019 - 2020)**

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay
3. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
4. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
5. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel
6. Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik
7. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar
8. Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete
9. Shri Santosh Pandey
10. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras
11. Shri Parbatbhai Savabhai Patel
12. Shri M.K. Raghavan
13. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu
14. Dr. Bharatiben Dhirubhai Shyal
15. Smt. Supriya Sule

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Pawan Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Lovekesh Kumar Sharma - Director
3. Shri S. L. Singh - Deputy Secretary

* The Committee was constituted w.e.f. 09 October, 2019 *vide* Para No. 609 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 09 October, 2019

