

## **CHAPTER VIII ASSURANCES**

8.1 During the course of reply given to a question or a discussion, if a minister gives an undertaking which involves farther action on the part of 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 Govt. Assurances of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha, are given at Annexure-3 and Annexure-3A respectively. As assurances are required to be implemented within specified time limit, care will be taken by all concerned to restrict the use of these expressions only to those occasions when it is clearly intended to give an assurance in these terms.

8.2 When an assurance is given by a minister or when the Presiding Officer directs the Govt. 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.

8.3.1 If the administrative department has any objection to treating such an item as an assurance or finds that it would not be in the public interest to fulfil it, it will write to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs if it relates to the Lok Sabha and to the Rajya Sabha Sectt. direct with a copy to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs if it relates to Rajya Sabha within a week of the receipt of such communication for getting it deleted from the list of assurance. Such action will require the prior approval of the Minister.

8.3.2 Ministries/Departments should make request for dropping of assurances only in rare cases where they are fully convinced that the assurances could not be implemented under any circumstances and there was no option left with them but to make a request for dropping. Such requests in so far as Lok Sabha assurances are concerned should invariably accompany with the request for extension of time without waiting for the expiry of the prescribed period of three months.

8.4.1 An assurances given in either House in required to be fulfilled within a period of three months from the date of the assurance. This time limit has to be strictly observed.

If the Department finds that it is not possible to fulfill the assurance within the stipulated period of three months or within the period of

extension a ready granted, it will seek an extension or, as the case may be, a further extension of time from the Committee on Government Assurances as soon as the need such extension becomes apparent, indicating the reasons for delay and the probable additional time required. Such a communication will issue with the approval of the Minister.

8.4.2 All correspondence in respect of assurances given on the floor of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha will be addressed to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. However, in the case of Rajya Sabha assurances, request for dropping of assurance or for extension of time for fulfillment of assurance, may be sent direct to the Rajya Sabha Sectt under intimation to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

8.5.1 The particulars of every assurance will be entered by the Parliament Unit in a register as Annexure 4 where after the assurance will be passed on to the concerned section.

8.5.2 Even ahead of the receipt of communication from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the section concerned will take prompt action to fulfil such assurances and keep a watch thereon in a register as at Annexure 5.

8.5.3 The registers referred to in paras 8.5.1 and 8.5.2 will be maintained

separated for Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, entries therein being made sessionwise.

8.6.1 The section officer in-charge of the concerned section will:

(a) scrutinise the registers once a week;

(b) ensure that necessary follow-up action is taken without any delay whatsoever;

(c) submit the register to the branch officer every fortnight 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 cases of delay.

8.7.1 Every effort will be made to fulfil the assurance within the prescribed

time. 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 will be supplied to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in part fulfillment of the assurance, within the prescribed time limit. However, efforts will 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 fulfillment of an assurance will 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 will be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. It however, the information being furnished is in response to an assurance given in reply to a question asked for by more than one member, an additional copy of the completed proforma (both in Hindi and English) will be furnished in respect of each additional member. A copy of this communication will 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 Sectt. No advance copies of the implementation Reports are to be endorsed to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Sectt. However, in case of Lok Sabha Assurances only a copy of the covering letter under which an implementation report is forwarded to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs may be endorsed to the Lok Sabha Sectt.

8.8 The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, after a scrutiny of the information, 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 Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to the member as well as the department concerned. The Parliament Unit and the concerned section will, on the basis of this statement make a suitable entry in their registers.

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 fulfillment of the obligation, independent of the assurance given. After this is done, information in formal implementation of the paper was laid on the Table will be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in the prescribed proforma (Annexure-6) in the manner already described in para 8.7.2.

8.10 Each House of Parliament has a Committee on Government Assurances nominated by the Speaker/Chairman. It scrutinises the nature of and the time taken in the fulfilment 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 be followed strictly.

8.11 On receipt of the reports of the two committees, the department will, in

consultation with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, scrutinise the reports for remedial action wherever called for.

8.12 On dissolution of Lok Sabha, all assurances, promises or undertakings

pending implementation are scrutinise 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 as regards pending assurances to be implemented by Government.