

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED LOK SABHA QUESTION NO. 1840
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020/PHALGUNA 12, 1941 (Saka)
“TASK FORCE ON SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT”**

1840. Shri T.N.Prathapan

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the meetings held by the Task Force;
- (c) whether the Task Force has drafted the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay in drafting the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to address the concerns of economic, environmental and human rights in the public procurement policy?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. A Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) has been constituted by Department of Expenditure with the following Terms of Reference (ToR):

- (i) Review international best practices in the area of Sustainable Public Procurement
- (ii) Inventorise the current status of SPP in India across Government organizations
- (iii) Prepare a draft Sustainable Procurement Action Plan
- (iv) Recommend an initial set of product / service categories (along with their specifications) where SPP can be implemented.

Six meetings of the Task Force have been held till now wherein issues related to SPP were discussed with stakeholders.

- (c) & (d) Not Sir. Preparation of Action Plan is a complex process, requiring balancing the interest of all stakeholders.
- (e) Para 2.2 of the Manual for Procurement of Goods, 2017 issued by Ministry of Finance stipulates that procuring authority should ensure that specification should provide level playing field and ensures the widest competition. It further stipulates that specification should comply with sustainability criteria and legal requirements of environment or pollution control and other mandatory and statutory regulations.
