

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, March 17, 2022/ 26 Phalgun, 1943 (Saka)

(Ministries : Prime Minister; Atomic Energy; Culture; Development of North Eastern Region; Earth Sciences; Environment, Forest and Climate Change; External Affairs; Information and Broadcasting; Labour and Employment; Law and Justice; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Science and Technology; Space; Tourism; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions -- 15

Appointment of judges from various communities

166 **Shri P. Wilson:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government with regard to ensuring appointment of judges in High Courts and the Supreme Court, belonging to SC, ST, OBC, women and minority, the data relating to the judges of these communities from 2019 to 2021; and
- (b) the details of the action taken by the Government on various recommendations of the Department related Parliamentary Committee of the Ministry in this regard?

Melting of glaciers

167 **Dr. C.M. Ramesh:**

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether glaciers are undergoing mass loss at an alarming rate that may lead to formations of glacial lakes due to melting snow and cause overflow or burst leading to flash floods, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government is considering long term glacier monitoring programmes to study likely impact on agriculture and water availability, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Protection and preservation of ancient temples in West Bengal

168 **Smt. Shanta Chhetri:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has a plan for protection and preservation of ancient temples in the State of West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the amount of funds to be provided for this purpose and the nodal department through which the protection and preservation work is going to be carried out; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Central Media Accreditation Guidelines

169 **Shri Derek O' Brien:**

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has specific methodology to determine if acts of a journalist fit under specified criteria, with reference to the Rules under Central Media Accreditation Guidelines -2022;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government held consultation with necessary stakeholders before formulating new rules, if so, the details thereof?

FDI inflows in Direct to Home sector

170 **Shri M.V. Shreyams Kumar:**

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in Direct to Home (DTH) sector under broadcasting carriage service; and
- (b) the details of the FDI inflows to various service providers in the field?

Indian fishermen in custody of Pakistan

171 **Shri Shaktisinh Gohil:**

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that still many Indian fishermen are in the custody of Pakistan as on 1st January, 2022;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government for the release of fishermen; and
- (c) whether any specific actions are being taken to get back the fishing boats?

Strike call by trade unions

172 **Shri Elamaram Kareem:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware about the two days' general strike call given by national trade unions on 28th and 29th March, 2022;
- (b) the demands raised by the unions and the actions taken by Government on these; and
- (c) whether Government considered any of the demands raised by trade unions in the previous general strikes, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Recruitment drive in Aspirational Districts

173 **Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any special recruitment drive is likely to be launched for backlog vacancies in the ensuing period and if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the backlog vacancies are likely to be filled;
- (b) the details of the vacant posts of all the departments, department-wise; and
- (c) whether there is any plan to launch separate recruitment drive in Aspirational Districts especially in the State of Karnataka and if so, the details thereof?

Modernization of district courts of Madhya Pradesh

174 **Shri Vivek K. Tankha:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the poor situation of the litigants including women lawyers, attending witnesses and public and even the dismal standard of courtrooms of judges which requires immediate attention especially the District Courts of Shahdol, Mandla, Narsinghpur, Katni, Hoshangabad, Gwalior, Morena, Datia, Ujjain, Seoni, Chhindwara and Satna in Madhya Pradesh; and
- (b) whether Government proposes to modernize the District Courts and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Effectiveness of smog towers

175 **Shri Mahesh Poddar:**

Will the Minister of **Environment, Forest and Climate Change** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the smog towers installed in Delhi have been effective in countering air pollution in the city, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the measures that have been taken by Government to expand its coverage if found effective, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount of environmental cess that has been collected so far and amount that has been utilized till date, the details thereof?

Extension of Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana

176 **Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had received any request from individuals/organizations to extend the Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana for a period of another two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken a decision in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Demand to increase minimum pension under EPF Pension Scheme

177 **Shri M. Shanmugam:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is receiving demands from stakeholders like trade unions and public representatives for increasing the minimum pension under the EPF pension scheme;
- (b) if so, the demands of the stakeholders and the response of Government;
- (c) whether Government would consider positively the hike in minimum pension for the EPF holders, in view of rise in the cost of living index and hike in wages;
- (d) if so, by when it is expected to be announced; and
- (e) if not, the justifiable reasons for not increasing the minimum pension?

Snow sculpture in Ladakh

178 **Smt. Rajani Ashokrao Patil:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched any scheme for snow sculpture in Ladakh; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Abolition of child labour

179 **Dr. V. Sivadasan:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 100 per cent abolishment of child labour has been achieved;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is having the data of the child labour in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise;
- (e) the details of the districts and States in the country that are having the most number of child labour cases viz-a-viz the least number of child labour cases; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to overcome the problem of child labour?

Proposal to amend Hindu succession laws

180 **Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that there is discrimination against females in Hindu succession laws through the scheme of devolution under Section 15 of the Hindu Succession Act;
- (b) whether Government is aware that Section 15 of the Hindu Succession Act is in violation of India's commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
- (c) whether Government has any plans to amend Section 15 of the Hindu Succession Act;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons, therefor?

New Delhi
The 10th March, 2022
 19 Phalgun, 1943 (Saka)

P. C. Mody,
 Secretary-General.

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