

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, February 10, 2022/ 21 Magha, 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

Central assistance for tourism development in Bihar

91 # **Shri Satish Chandra Dubey:**

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to provide financial assistance to the State of Bihar for development of tourism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of projects being selected and considered for development;
- (d) the details of financial assistance being approved for each project; and
- (e) the details of the projects earmarked especially for West Champaran, East Champaran, Gopalganj and Sitamarhi districts of Bihar?

Fake news and propaganda by communication agencies

92 **Shri Sanjay Singh:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware about the extent of fake news and propaganda run by various communication agencies for their benefits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government plans to assess the impact of such fake news in promoting ills in the society like communalisation and terrorism; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the other measures being undertaken by Government to address this issue of fake news?

Journalist Welfare Scheme

93 **Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:**

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

- (a) the total number of beneficiaries who have been given financial assistance since 2017 under the Journalist Welfare Scheme;
- (b) the total amount sanctioned from the fund since 2017, year-wise; and

(c) whether Government intends to sanction ex-gratia financial assistance to the family members of the journalists who died on Covid duty and the details thereof?

Development of banks of Ganges for tourism in Varanasi

94 # Smt. Seema Dwivedi:

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

- (a) the plan contemplated upon by Government for developing both the banks of Ganges for promoting tourism in the oldest city, Varanasi and by when it is targeted to be completed; and
- (b) whether there is any scheme for superior arrangement for lodging and smooth movement of tourists on both the banks of Ganges keeping in view the urban population and dense settlement in the city?

Funds for tiger conservation in Madhya Pradesh

95 # Shri Ajay Pratap Singh:

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

- (a) whether any special scheme is being implemented by Government for conservation of tigers in the State of Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details of funds being provided to Madhya Pradesh under this scheme; and
- (c) the details of the efforts being made to increase funds as the State Governments require more funds for tiger conservation projects?

Measures to prevent decline in forest cover

96 Shri Binoy Viswam:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of declining forest cover in the country, State and year-wise data of the forest cover from 2017;
- (b) the reason behind not pledging to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 at COP26, Glasgow;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to counter the declining forest cover; and
- (d) the number of Government projects that required deforestation since the year 2017 and the total forest land lost for such projects?

Utilization of Compensatory Afforestation Fund

97 Dr. Narendra Jadhav:

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

- (a) the details of activities undertaken by Government using its share of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority funds under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016, since the year 2018; and
- (b) whether any initiatives were undertaken by Government in the States of Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh by using these funds since the year 2018, if so, the details thereof?

Continued increase in unemployment

98 # Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that unemployed persons have stopped searching for jobs in despair due to the continued increase in unemployment and job loss in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of jobs provided by public and private sectors during the last three years; and
- (d) the details of jobs lost in public and private sectors during the last three years?

Review of definition of non-forest activities

99 Shri Tiruchi Siva:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that construction of non-permanent structures for eco-tourism has been removed from the ambit of non-forest activities;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the construction of even non-permanent structures may harm forest areas and create disturbances in local ecology; and
- (d) the steps that Government has planned to ensure that these areas remain protected?

Blue Dot Framework

100 Shri Sujeet Kumar:

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

- (a) whether there has been any formal invitation to India to join the Blue Dot Framework by either of the other three members, and the subsequent decision of Government;
- (b) if not, whether it intends to be a participant in the same for development of infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region; and
- (c) the reasons for which India doesn't want to be a part of the 'Blue Dot Framework'?

Declining forest cover in States

101 Shri Sanjay Raut:

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

- (a) whether the forest cover in the country, particularly in 11 states are continuously declining as per the recently released India State of Forest Report (ISFR)-2021;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that many environmental experts have objected to using current method to observe forest cover in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government response thereto; and
- (e) the details of steps taken by Government to increase tree cover up to 33 percent in the forest area?

Funds for sports infrastructure in Tamil Nadu

102 Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu:

Will the Minister of ***Youth Affairs and Sports*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has allocated any funds to the State of Tamil Nadu for development of Sports infrastructure and training facilities during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to establish the Regional Centre of Sports Authority of India and National Sports Academy in Chennai?

Data on deaths of tigers in the country

103 **Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:**

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

- (a) details of tiger population in country over the last three years and number of tigers out of their population living in tiger-reserves, State-wise;
- (b) measures taken to increase the population of tigers living in protected reserves, details thereof;
- (c) number of tiger deaths owing to man made causes during the last three years, State-wise alongwith causes that led to tiger deaths;
- (d) whether Government has taken cognisance of rising tiger deaths in country;
- (e) if so, details of measures taken to curb tiger deaths; and
- (f) arrests made during the last three years in relation to tiger poaching after investigations?

Discontinuation of Urdu service of All India radio

104 # **Shri Digvijaya Singh:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Urdu service of All India Radio has been discontinued by Government; and
- (b) if so, the reasons behind its discontinuation and whether Government is planning to restart it?

Problems of workers in unorganised sector

105 # **Shri Ram Nath Thakur:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that workers associated with the unorganised sector are borrowing money from different sources to meet their day to day expenses; and
- (b) the steps taken to solve the problems of workers associated with the unorganised sector during the last two years?

New Delhi
The 3rd February, 2022
 14 Magha, 1943 (Saka)

P. C. Mody,
 Secretary-General.

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